

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on September 9, 2019

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on September 9, 2019.

A moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance preceded the meeting.

The President, Ms. Bowman, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Other members present were Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Fox, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Kloss, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, and Mr. Zimmerman. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; Ava Zimmerman, student representative; one reporter, and two citizens.

There were no presentations, visitors' comments for agenda items only, or information items.

Ms. Bowman presented the following items for action at the September 16, 2019 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the list of school bus drivers employed by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2019-2020 school year.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the list of school bus runs by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2019-2020 school year.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Transportation Contract between Linville Hill Mennonite School and the Octorara Area School District for the 2019-2020 school year.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, first reading:
 - 000 – *Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations*
 - 001 – *Name and Classification*
 - 002 – *Authority and Powers*
 - 003 – *Functions*
 - 004 – *Membership*
 - 005 – *Organization*
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the deletion of the following policies:
 - 008 – *Organizational Line and Staff Relations*
 - 011 – *Board Governance Standards/Code of Conduct*
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the agreement between CRITICARE and the Octorara School District from August 15, 2019 through August 15, 2020.
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP as the District solicitor for the 2019-2020 school year.
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve a partnership with Susquehanna Service Dogs to acquire a service/facility dog for the Octorara Elementary School. Such service/facility dog will be owned by Sally Welk who will serve as the lead facilitator/handler. OASD employees Michelle Moran, Brian Dikun, and Andrea Weaver will also be trained as handlers/facilitators. OASD's initial partnership with Susquehanna Service Dogs will be fully funded by an anonymous donor. A fundraising plan will be developed to provide for the long term needs of this project.

- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Blake Aponte’s request for a leave of absence for the 2019-2020 season as a JV softball coach. Ms. Aponte will return for the 2020-2021 season.
- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors vote for the following PSBA officers:
 - President Elect – Art Levinowitz
 - Vice-President – David Hein
 - Central At Large – Julie Preston
 - Section 1 Advisor – Sabrina Backer
 - Section 3 Advisor – Ron Cole
 - Section 5 Advisor – Marsha Pleta
 - Section 7 Advisor – Tricia Steiner
 - PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee– Kathy K. Swope } Vote for 2
 - PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee – Mark B. Miller } Vote for 2
 - Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee – Crystal Mance } Vote for 3
 - Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee – Jamie Lynn Zimerofsky } Vote for 3
 - Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee – Jennifer Davidson } Vote for 3

Resignation Approvals:

- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Mr. Scott Cullen as Assistant Musical Director effective August 26, 2019. (Hired for the 2016-2017 school year)
- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Mr. Larry Clevenstine as a custodian at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective December 31, 2019. (Hired March 11, 2002)

Hiring Approvals:

- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Tammy Simon as a long term substitute social studies teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 19, 2019 through January 17, 2020. Ms. Simon’s salary will be \$52,017 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor’s Scale. (Ms. Simon is a current employee and is replacing a medical leave.)
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contract for the 2019-2020 school year:
 - Dennis Baumgardner Jr. High Asst. Football Coach 4 pts @ \$620 \$2,480
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following changes in salary due to graduate credits earned:

Ashley Whiteman	From M+15 (\$64,186) to M+30(\$66,240)	Step 14 to MAX
Alysyn Hoffman	From M+45 (\$69,969) to M+60 (\$73,126)	Step 13 to MAX
Alison Manetta	From M+45 (\$70,795) to M+60 (\$73,968)	Step 12 to MAX
Dan Lefever	From M+30 (\$86,936) to M+45 (\$89,243)	MAX
Samantha Pittman	From M (\$56,535) to M+15 (\$61,678)	Step 17 to MAX
Mark Durante	From M+30 (\$83,594) to M+45 (\$86,039)	Step 2 to MAX
Anthony Slusher	From M (\$59,205) to M+15 (\$64,186)	Step 14 to MAX
Jason Ralson	From M (\$60,095) to M+15 (\$65,022)	Step 13 to MAX

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman said the Committee discussed policy 123.1 *Participation by Opposite Gender Members on School Athletic Teams* in regards to a female wanting to play football. There is some ambiguity in the policy as it relates to PIAA, consequently the policy will be reviewed in the near future. The student will be allowed to try out for the team. In regards to policy 915 *Booster Organizations*, Ms. Bowman said the Board started the review of this policy in the spring as a result of Title IX and Act 82 – not as a result of any booster club. The Board discussed changes over multiple public meetings. The new athletic director did not initiate the

changes; the changes were started prior to her being hired. Ms. Bowman directed that if there are any questions regarding the policy, they should be addressed with Ms. Gaido or Dr. Orner.

The Booster Parent Pledge was removed from this policy; the Board will work with the athletic director to get something in place in the near future.

The Committee also discussed the policies on this agenda, first reading. The Board is working with PSBA to review all policies and adhere to legal updates.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the Committee discussed the purchase of furniture for the Jr. High Hub at a cost of \$45,000. They also discussed the replacement of the custodial retirement, copier leases, and a change order for the parking lot work done this summer. The Committee was given an update on the cleaning services. Mr. Norris asked for everyone to be patient as there was some down time before Interstate came in July and they are working diligently to get everything caught up.

There were no other items or concerns or visitors' comments for items in general.

Under administrator comments, Mr. Peticca announced a postcard detailing Octorara K-12 Virtual Academy was sent out last week to parents of charter and cyber school students. The message on the card is OVA can offer a high quality personalized learning experience that directs students toward achieving their goals. OVA currently has 42 students enrolled overall – 36 in a daytime program and five in the p.m. program. Of the 36 daytime students, four are fulltime online students. OVA students are fully supported by administration, counselors, and teachers. Mr. Peticca reported there have been conversations with other districts who run elementary virtual learning programs and Ms. Peticca and Ms. Cross are having collaborative meetings to ensure the elementary and secondary programs are aligned. OVA is also supporting students in the CTE programs by offering graduation requirements virtually, allowing students to spend more time in their CTE program.

Ms. McNamara applied to receive state funding for the Technical Assistance Program (TAP). TAP supports our CTE teachers with literacy and math and will begin this month. She reported Mr. Graydus and Ms. Martin are implementing the Agriculture CASE curriculum. Ms. McNamara announced she will be repelling off the five-story building of the Chester County Public Safety Training Campus as a result of her promise to do so when both a.m. and p.m. classes of the Octorara Homeland and Protective Services Academy have at least 20 students each. There are currently 45 students enrolled from every district in Chester County except Phoenixville. Ms. McNamara reported Senator Dinniman has awarded another \$50,000 grant to this program.

Dr. Tachau reported the secondary level is implementing EdInsight Benchmark testing for all tested subjects. This data will be used for two primary purposes:

1. By the classroom teacher to inform instruction and need for differentiation.
2. By the MTSS team to identify students in need of intervention beyond core instruction.

At the elementary level, there will be a K-6 Parent and Family Engagement meeting on Thursday, Sept. 26 from 7 pm-8 pm in the OES Library. The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Review the K-6 Literacy Program
2. Gather parent and family feedback regarding our parent and family engagement policies

Ms. Lease announced the school year is off to a great start and Back-to-School Night was well attended. Beth Peticca has been named Kindergarten Transition and K-6 OVA teacher. She is reaching out to eight different preschools in the area in addition to programs on our campus, Room to Bloom, YMCA, Early Intervention, and Head Start to discuss kindergarten transitioning. Ms. Peticca has reached out to both IU 13 and IU 24 as well as setting up meetings with school districts who have elementary virtual programs. Ms. Peticca will be attending the Education Committee meeting in September to give an update on kindergarten transition and the OVA elementary program. Ms. Lease said the PTO is offering a new Birthday Gram program this year as a fundraiser and it is proving to be popular. The first PTO meeting will be September 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the PLC library.

Ms. Michalowski reported dental hygienist, Ms. Christine Robinson, arranges free dental clinic services for students in need.

Dr. Haller said the Intermediate School had a great start. He announced Thursday is the first day of Mileage Club. Ms. Feather and Mr. Slusher run the club and there are typically between 125-150 students come to school early to exercise and social with other students.

Mr. Dikun reported the Elementary School has had a great start to the school year. Mr. Dikun expressed his hope that the Board approves the service dog.

Dr. Propper said the Orientation Program for students in grades 7 and 9 was a great event. Approximately 200 students attended and were able to meet their teachers, participate in a scavenger hunt, learn about activities that are offered, and had a cook-out provided by the staff. Dr. Propper reported that students in grades 7-12 have received their Chromebooks and are utilizing them in the classroom. Students have learned the website security works well. Dr. Propper announced Back-to-School Night will be held on Wednesday, September 11 for the Sr. High and Thursday, September 12 for the Jr. High.

Ava Zimmerman, student representative said new student council officers have been elected and are transitioning into their roles.

Dr. Orner announced the District now has an official Facebook page as part of the Communication and Community Engagement Plan that was approved in June. The page is managed by the Superintendent's Office. As part of the action plan, Ms. McNamara will be presenting OABEST Expo at the PSBA Conference in Hershey in October and at the Integrated Learning CTE Conference in Penn State in November. Dr. Orner reported the district is currently making corrections to the website and making it ADA compliant. The role of the website and how it will be managed will be a discussion at the leadership team meeting on October 14. Another step in the Community Engagement Plan will be the October 28 Education Committee Meeting will be held at the Parkesburg Point. Dr. Orner said she will provide monthly updates on where we are with the action plan.

Under board comments, Mr. Fox requested a regular update on the School Improvement Plan. He asked if the district is participating in the instructional snow day plan this year.

Dr. Orner said the district will not participate this year and is waiting until PDE clarifies the language in the plan.

Ms. Bowman welcomed the students back to a new school year.

Ms. Bowman announced upcoming meetings to be held:

Executive Session for Personnel and Security – Monday, September 9, 2019 – Following the Work Session in the District Office Conference Room

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, September 16, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, September 16, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, September 23, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 in the Jr. High School.

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present.

This Board meeting can be viewed in its entirety on You Tube.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary
Octorara Board of School Directors