

SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
JANUARY 4, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dan Wertz, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Smethport Area Elementary School.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Davis, Learn, McKean, O'Day, Okerlund, Stratton, Wertz. All members attended virtually, except Stratton and Wertz.

Members Absent: Shonts, Tronetti.

Administrators Present: Benson (Virtual), Jordan, London, Zona (Virtual).

Mrs. Woodard, Mrs. Anderson (Virtual), and Mr. Kolivoski (Virtual) were also present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss safety and personnel issues.

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – None.

Allegations regarding students or employees are to be provided to the Administration. They are not to be discussed in public. Speakers may be held liable for untrue statements.

V. REPORTS

Ms. Zona discussed her Elementary Newsletter. She announced that Elementary Report Cards are going out in a couple weeks, and Mrs. Newton will begin the Bullies to Buddies Program. She reported that she had decent attendance during the Elementary scheduled shutdown in the week and a half prior to the Christmas break. She said that the instruction was much more advanced than what occurred in the Elementary during the Spring shutdown of all PA schools.

Mrs. Anderson reported that some of the Special Education students did come in during that scheduled shutdown before Christmas to receive services. She told the Board that there was much better communication this time. She also mentioned that all registrations for the PASA testing have been submitted.

Mr. Benson reported that 75% of our families have chosen in-person instruction following the Christmas break. He said that PDE is placing emphasis in computer science which will be an add-on certification area for teachers. They have also added courses in computer science-related programs. He announced that today the PIAA winter season was resumed with Girls and Boys Basketball teams beginning practices. He reported that spectators will still be limited with 2 passes for family members given to each athlete, and many of the events will be live streamed, so that others can watch them, too. Mr. Benson told the Board that PSSA and Keystones are still moving forward and ready to go. He also announced that virtual concerts will still be held, although they have been postponed.

Mr. Kolivoski announced that Bryan Nelson thanked the District for the last 3 ½ years that he worked in the Technology Department. He recently resigned to take a new job. Mr. Kolivoski reported that in December he gained some ground on the 100 open support tickets. Over Christmas break he also did server and network maintenance work to be sure everything was running properly.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS - The following items were discussed:

1. To consider the Smethport Area Jr.-Sr. High School Student Activities Account for the period ending December 31, 2020.
2. To consider the hiring of a Superintendent effective July 1, 2021.
3. To consider a Maternity Leave of Absence from Malari Lapp from approximately April 12, 2021 to June 8, 2021.
4. To consider a Letter of Resignation from Bryan Nelson effective December 31, 2020.
5. To consider approving changes to Job Descriptions in the IT Department.
6. To consider hiring an Assistant Technology Coordinator.
7. To consider approving the following addition(s) to the Substitute Support Staff list for the 2020-21 school year:
Rebecca Bussman, Smethport, Teacher's Aide/Clerical
8. To consider approving changes and adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan and recommendations for the practices associated with short-term closures and shifts to remote instruction.
9. To consider action regarding a Student discipline situation.
10. To consider an agreement with Potter Co. Ed. Council to provide a Career Counselor for SASD.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- January is Board Recognition Month.
- Review 2021-2022 School Calendar.
- The Board of Education will be given the following policies for first reading with subsequent approval in February, 2021:
 - #103 – Title IX
 - #218.3 – Discipline of Student Convicted of Sexual Assault
 - #252 – Dating Violence
 - Act 84 – Compliance Update – Publication of School Director Email Addresses
 - #626 – Procurement Updates – Pricing Thresholds for Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
 - ❖ The amounts reported in the most recent Bulletin on December 12 have increased for the new calendar year: the amount for purchases subject to public bid is \$21,300, and the amount for purchases subject to written or telephonic price quotation is \$11,500; effective January 1, 2021.

INFORMATION ITEMS (Continued):

- Negotiating Committee for Support Staff Contract has been appointed by the Board President:
 - Ray Learn, Kraig Okerlund, and Dan Wertz

COMMENDATIONS:

- Congratulations to the following **DECA** Members who participated virtually in the District Competition on December 1st – 4th and who are advancing to the State Competition in February:
 - Chase Burdick ~ Accounting Applications – Took 1st place and is advancing
 - Ava Costa ~ Human Resources Management
 - August Cox ~ Quick Serve Restaurant Management – Took 1st place and is advancing
 - Kassidy Didomizio ~ Food Marketing – Took 2nd place and is advancing
 - Ella Forquer ~ Principles of Business Management and Administration – Took 1st place and is advancing
 - Cadence Gamet ~ Hotel and Lodging Management – Took 2nd place and is advancing
 - Jenna Gregory ~ Retail Merchandising – Took 1st place and is advancing
 - Brandon Higley and John Adamoski ~ Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making – Took 1st place and are advancing
 - Emily Higley ~ Entrepreneurship Individual Series – Took 2nd place and is advancing
 - Emma Hill ~ Apparel and Accessories Marketing
 - Parker Jack ~ Business Services Marketing – Received the highest role play and overall score for Smethport
 - Richie McDowell and Trevor Zuver ~ Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making – Took 2nd place and are advancing
 - Jordan Pavlock ~ Personal Financial Literacy – Took 1st place and is advancing and also received the highest cluster exam score for Smethport
 - Kaylee Swanson ~ Automotive Services Marketing
 - Alyn Thomas ~ Principles of Marketing – Took 1st place and is advancing

- Congratulations to Head Football Coach Adam Jack for receiving the Small School North League Coach of the Year. Congratulations to the following **football players** who were honored in Offense & Defense for Small School North All-Stars, Big 30 All-Star Team, & Players of the Year awards:
 - Noah Lent – North Quarterback & Offensive MVP, OTH PA Big 30 All-star Team, & Offensive Player of the Year
 - Adenn Stevens – North Offensive Line & Offensive Lineman Player of the Year, OTH PA Big 30 All-star Team, & Co-offensive Lineman of the Year
 - Ryli Burritt – Wide Receiver
 - Braedon Johnson – Running Back & OTH PA Big 30 All-star Team
 - Travis Cooney – Linebacker & OTH PA Big 30 All-star Team
 - Kameron Rounsville – Defensive Line
 - Logan Christie – Cornerback
 - Trevor Zuver – Honorable Mention

- Congratulations to the following **Students of the Month**: Katelyn Dunn – High School and Owen Rounsville – Jr. High.

COMMENDATIONS (Continued):

- Congratulations to Mrs. Heather Costa and her current 8th grade Math class for participating nationally in the **LearnStorm** tracker program and finishing 10th out of 42,000 groups! LearnStorm is a Khan Academy's free, flagship motivational program to drive student mastery of skills, track and honor students' learning. This year, Khan Academy and UNICEF Kid Power collaborated to develop mid-program prizes that will motivate students to work together and give back globally! Over 42,000 teachers nationwide enrolled in LearnStorm 2020 and Mrs. Costa's group finished 5,550 assignments to reach level 74. The students' progress unlocked life-saving packages that will be delivered on behalf of each class to under-resourced kids and families all over the world! Some of the items that were purchased were: Meals for families; Water-treating tablets; Jump Ropes; Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). Thank you Mrs. Costa and her 8th grade Math class consisting of: Jocelyn Alfieri, Adrianna Claycomb, Brayden Cospier, Lila Costa, Jacqueline Davis, Mylee Davis, Gracee Donovan, Lily Dow, Justin Dunn, Kaylee Edgar, Elena McKeirnan, Autumn Meeks, Jordan Mixter, Emilie Rainey, Kaydn Riekofsky, Dominic Ritts, Owen Rounsville, Kyra Shields, Rylan Shields, Searah Shutt, Emily Snyder, Karlee Tanner, Emma Thomas, Raygn Walker, and Trinitee Williams.

- Congratulations to Mrs. Kelly Tarbox and the following Gifted students who competed and placed in the **Elementary/Middle School Academic Virtual Quiz Bowl**: ELEMENTARY TEAM – Zadoc Angell and Jack Sherry took 2nd place; MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM – Mara Ours, Haydn Riekofsky, and Fisher Szuba tied for 1st place.

Her students also competed in the **2020 Virtual Geography Fair**. Through collaboration with other IU9 districts, the students participated in a Geography Fair where they researched a country of their choice and created a presentation using Google Slides. Students recorded their presentations and they were uploaded to a Google Map for viewing. The 3rd/4th Division team of Zadoc Angell took 3rd place on Netherlands; The 5th & 6th Division team of Jack Sherry took 1st place on Italy; and the 7th & 8th Division teams of Mara Ours took 1st place on Greece and Fisher Szuba took 2nd place on Norway.

NOTE: Executive Session may be held between tonight's meeting and the next board meeting.

- IX. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – GENERAL ITEMS – None.
Allegations regarding students or employees are to be provided to the Administration. They are not to be discussed in public. Speakers may be held liable for untrue statements.

- X. ADJOURNMENT
Moved by Stratton, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Jordan
Secretary of the Board