

SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dan Wertz, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Smethport Area Elementary School.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Shonts, Tronetti.

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

Mrs. Woodard, Mrs. Anderson (Virtual), Mr. Kolivoski (Virtual), and Mr. DeLancey (Virtual) were also present. Mr. Doug Rose attended the meeting in-person.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Wertz

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.

Mr. Benson introduced the Students of the Month at the high school, provided some information on each of the students, and presented them each with a certificate. The Junior High student is Owen Rounsville and the Senior High student is Katelyn Dunn.

V. MINUTES

Moved by Davis, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes:
Reorganization Meeting, December 2, 2020

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

Moved by Stratton, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2020.

Moved by Davis, seconded by Learn and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2020.

VII. BILL AND SALARY LIST

Moved by Okerlund, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to approve the January 2021 Bill and Salary List with the exception of the asterisk item(s).

Moved by Stratton, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to approve the January 2021 Bill and Salary List asterisk item(s) (Aveanna Healthcare check #43766).

Moved by Learn, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to approve the January 2021 Capital Project Fund Bill List.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. David E. London, Superintendent, announced that this month is School Directors Recognition Month. Mrs. Jordan read the PSBA Resolution acknowledging all school directors across the Commonwealth. Mr.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

London provided the Board Members with a Certificate of Appreciation for their service to the Board. Mr. Wertz also thanked the Board Members for their service and commitment to the students of the Smethport Area. Mr. London explained the law about the bus contract options and their impact on transportation subsidy payments to the District this school year based on a PASBO webinar he and Mrs. Jordan viewed. Mr. London reported on the estimated ESSER II federal funding that the school district will receive to continue to deal with the COVID environment in the school. The uses for the funds are quite broad and can be used through September of 2023. He gave the Board an update on student testing, summer school, COVID vaccines, COVID case counts, and the 12/31/2020 expiration date for the mandatory use of COVID paid days. He also mentioned that Tuesday, February 16th will be a school make-up day for students due to the December snow day.

X. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS (Any new hires under New Business are hired subject to the restriction that the hire will not be finalized unless all of the ACT 168 requirements relative to provisional employment have been met. He/She shall not be permitted to work with or have direct contact with children until all of the mandates of ACT 168 of 2014 have been compiled and the results are determined to be satisfactory to the District).

1. Moved by Learn, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve the Smethport Area Jr.-Sr. High School Student Activities Account for the period ending December 31, 2020.
2. Moved by Stratton, seconded by Learn and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Brice Benson as Superintendent for a five (5) year contract effective July 10, 2021 through June 30, 2026. Mr. Benson will serve as Assistant to the Superintendent under the contract salary and terms from July 1, 2021 to July 9, 2021.
3. Moved by Davis, seconded by Stratton and carried unanimously to approve a Maternity Leave of Absence from Malari Lapp from approximately April 12, 2021 to June 8, 2021.
4. Moved by McKean, seconded by Stratton and carried unanimously to approve a Letter of Resignation from Bryan Nelson effective December 31, 2020.
5. Moved by Davis, seconded by Learn and carried unanimously to create the position of Assistant Technology Coordinator.
6. Moved by Okerlund, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve changes to Job Descriptions in the Tech Department:
 - Changes to the Technology Coordinator
 - Creation of Assistant Technology Coordinator
 - Changes to the Technology Systems Specialist
7. Moved by Learn, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to appoint Douglas Rose as Assistant Technology Coordinator effective upon release from his current employer at Act 93 Administration Position salary of \$61,000. All salary and benefits will be pro-rated for the 2020-21 school year (if applicable).
8. Moved by Learn, seconded by Stratton and carried unanimously to approve the following addition(s) to the Substitute Support Staff list for the 2020-21 school year (pending proper paperwork):
 - Rebecca Bussman, Smethport, Teacher's Aide/Clerical

9. Moved by Davis, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to endorse the practices as outlined below with a vote of confidence regarding the Health and Safety Plan and recommendations for the practices associated with short-term closures and shifts to remote instruction. No changes to the Health and Safety Plan. Recommended practice for shifting to remote instruction include:
- When “countable” case numbers reach 2 to 4 cases at a school building, clean, sanitize and disinfect areas of concern, complete contact tracing, contact DOH, assess staffing situation, assess school spread, and COVID-19 situations in the immediate community. Based on results, consider a short term closure or shift to remote instruction for 1 to 5 days. School(s) may remain open for in-person instruction if cleaning and tracing are completed and other factors are workable.
 - When “countable” case numbers reach 5 cases at a school building, the school(s) will shift to remote instruction. SASD will clean, sanitize and disinfect areas of concern, complete contact tracing, contact DOH, assess staffing situation, assess school spread, and COVID-19 situations in the immediate community. Administration will monitor the local situation weekly or every two weeks after the initial shift to see if returning to school is feasible. It is likely that the next shift to remote learning will start out as a two week shift and continue with longer term potential. Students without internet and requiring specialized instruction may be permitted to attend school. Depending on circumstances either school or both schools may shift to remote learning.
 - During any shift to remote learning, available staff will report to school and work from school with all mitigation requirements in effect.
 - During any closure or shift to remote learning, all after school and extra-curricular activities at the school(s) are cancelled.
10. Moved by Stratton, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously that be it resolved that the agreement in a student (#2021-1) discipline matter is approved as presented.
11. Moved by McKean, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Potter Co. Ed. Council to provide a Career Counselor for SASD.
12. Moved by Stratton, seconded by Davis and carried 6-0 with one abstention (Okerlund) and two absent (Shonts, Tronetti) to approve the following addition(s) to the C.L. McKeirman Bus/Van Substitute Driver List for the 2020-21 school year (pending proper paperwork):
Cory McKeirman, Eldred, Van

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- January is Board Recognition Month.
- Review 2021-2022 School Calendar: PRE-Memorial Day & POST-Memorial Day Dismissal Options
- 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 12th 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 was appointed by Board President as follows:
 - Ray Learn
 - Kraig Okerlund
 - Dan Wertz

COMMENDATIONS:

- Congratulations to the following **DECA** Members who participated virtually in the District Competition on December 1st – 4th and students 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 Cosper, 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.

Mr. Wertz announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss safety and personnel matters.

- XII. 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.
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT
Moved by Learn, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Jordan
Secretary of the Board