

September 14, 2020

The board meeting of the Berwick Area School Board was held on Monday, September 14, 2020, via virtual zoom meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President, Mrs. Susy Wiegand.

PRESENT: Mrs. Susy Wiegand, Mr. Keith Hess, Ms. Carol Bodwalk, Mr. Joseph DeMelfi, Mrs. Maryann Kovalewski, Mr. Jon Morell, Mrs. Brenda Post, Mr. Ronald Robsock, Mrs. Sandra Slavick

ABSENT: None

Also **PRESENT:** Mrs. Wendy Kupsy, Attorney Bull, Mrs. Renee Jilinski, Mrs. Janet Kovach, Mr. Steven Christian, Mr. Robert Croop, Mr. Benton Culver, Mrs. Wendy Daily, Mrs. Pamela Hegland, Mrs. Jennifer McHale, Ms. Amy Melchiorre, Mr. Gregory Michael, Mr. Joseph Bo Orlando, Mr. Trevor Palmatier, Mr. Randy Peters, Mr. David Robbins, Mr. Patrick Sharkey, Ms. Jill Shipman, tax payers

Moment of Silence

Flag Salute

Reading of the Minutes:

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Brenda Post, we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings on August 10, 2020 and August 13, 2020 as everyone had received copies prior to the meeting. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - none and no abstentions.

Business Manager's Report: Renee Jilinski

Treasurer's Report:

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - None and no abstentions.

Presentation of the Bills:

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we pay the bills as listed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: "Ayes" – Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski, Joseph DeMelfi, Ronald Robsock, Brenda Post, Keith Hess, Jon Morell, Carol Bodwalk, Susy Wiegand

"Nays" – None

"Abstaining" – None

Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report: Wendy Kupsky

- Thank you to our mask makers. Mrs. Grazio has been sending thank you notes and a little gift to them. Thank you to Mrs. Grazio for coordinating it. 675 came from Berwick Bible Church, 300 from LCBC, 500 from Tri-Valley Lions in Higgins, PA, 500 from the Mask Connection/Bette Gray, 150 from Silvia Fritz, 100 from United Methodist Church. Over 2000 masks were made and collected for our students and staff.
- Starting today, our elementary cyber program switched for families that wanted to. Accelerate Educate has had an overwhelming enrollment and they have not been able to manage that amount. For grades 2nd-4th, we are providing our own live virtual synchronous instruction for students. For 5th grade, it is asynchronous. We are planning on providing live virtual instruction for K-1. We hope to have that out soon. Mrs. Daily has been working with the vendor in trying to get things straightened out for Accelerate Educate. We do appreciate all the service and support the IU has given us in trying to correct this. We are contracted with the IU on this.
- Bill 2787 still has not been signed by the Governor. This is the spectator issue at sporting events.
- Today, I was on the phone with DOH and PDE. Once again, we are in the substantial category for at risk. The numbers are coming down. We peaked in Columbia County at 19.8 of positivity rate. It has to be 10 or under to be moderate. We are still meeting the guidelines to be able to remain in session.
- We are going to be moving to five day instruction for our secondary students. It is still a day 1, day 2. We are going to have the days that the students are not present to be virtual, that they can log into the classroom. This will insure the students are getting five days of instruction. We have teachers already doing this for the students. This is necessary moving forward so we don't lose any more academics.
- House Bill 2788 is considering extending a school year for students if they want to stay an extra year for any type of academics that they have lost due to COVID.
- I will be proposing the school calendar be changed by moving the in-service day from May 27th to September 25th. This will provide the teachers at the secondary level a development day so they are more prepared in providing virtual instruction for students at home to be live in the classroom. Last day for students is May 27th and the last day for teachers is May 28th. It's all tentative based on what happens.
- We are hosting SAT's for students to take the test here.

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we add the addendum.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None.

Agenda

General:

Approve Items G-1 through G-9 With One Motion

- G-1 Approval to accept the resignation of Maryann Kovalewski as Berwick representative to the Columbia Montour Area Vo-tech JOC, effective immediately. (enc.)**

- G-2 Approval to appoint Sandra Slavick as Berwick representative to the Columbia Montour Area Vo-tech Joint Operating Committee (JOC), effective immediately.**
- G-3 Approval of Brenda Post as alternate representative to the Columbia Montour Area Vo-tech Joint Operating Committee (JOC).**
- G-4 Approval to accept a grant in the amount of \$992.50 from the Berwick Health and Wellness Fund of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. The funds will be used for the Berwick High School Cross Country Team. (enc.)**
- G-5 Approval of the revision to Policy #237 Electronic Devices. (enc.)**
- G-6 Approval of the revision to Policy # 815 Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources (enc.)**
- G-7 Approval to adopt Policy #103 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students. (enc.)**
- G-8 Approval to adopt Policy #104 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff. (enc.)**
- G-9 Approval to the revision to Policy #915 School-Related Organizations. (enc.)**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Joseph DeMelfi, we approve Items G-1 through G-9 With One Motion. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - None and Maryann Kovalewski abstaining on P-1 only.

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we add item G-10 to the agenda.

- G-10 Approval to change the school calendar to move the in-service day to September 25, 2020 for the teachers.**

On motion of Jon Morell, seconded by Keith Hess, we change the school calendar to move the in-service day to September 25, 2020 for the teachers. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - None and no abstentions.

Wendy Kupsky – We will send a letter home to the parents of elementary students, letting them know that the students don't need to come to school that day.

Academic Affairs:

- AA-1 Acknowledgement of granting tenure to Kathleen Holdren.**

Acknowledgement granted.

Budget and Finance:**BF-1 Approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Timeline. (enc.)**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we approve the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Timeline. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Keith Hess – Thanked Mrs. Jilinski for coming up with the timeline.

Extra Curricular:**Approve Items EC-1 through EC-3 With One Motion**

EC-1 Approval of the S.E.S.A.M.E. parent group as an approved booster club for Salem Elementary school for 2020-2021 school year.

EC-2 Approval to recognize the Matbackers as a Booster Club for the 2020-2021 school term.

EC-3 Approval of the P.I.N.E. parent group as an approved booster club for Nescopeck Elementary school for 2020-2021 school year. (enc.)

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we approve Items EC-1 through EC-3 With One Motion. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Transportation:**Approve Items T-1 through T-2 With One Motion**

T-1 Approval of the following as school van drivers for Gallagher Student Transportation for the 2020-2021 school term.

Justyna Sacharzewska Stephnee Mingle Catherine Templeton

T-2 Approval of the memorandum of agreement with Gallagher Student Transportation for the 2020-2021 school year. (enc.)

On motion of Jon Morell, seconded by Keith Hess, we approve Items T-1 through T-2 With One Motion. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Personnel:**Approve Items P-1 through P-16 With One Motion**

P-1 Approval to establish the crossing guard salary to \$12.00 per hour.

P-2 Approval of Cheryl Yoder as a mentor teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. Compensation will be at a stipend of \$800.00.

P-3 Approval to add the following to the day to day substitute teacher list for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Compensation will be at the rate of \$15.71 per hour.

Corinne Hock

Brittany Hess

P-4 Approval of Alexis DegBrina as an exclusive district substitute teacher, effective August 18, 2020. Compensation will be at the rate of \$20.00 per hour.

P-5 Approval to remove the following from the payroll records, effective at the start of the 2020-2021 school term, as they no longer work for the district.

Paige Kupsky

Kimberly Grasley

P-6 Approval to accept the resignation of Hayley Brown as substitute paraeducator. (enc.)

P-7 Approval to hire Hervey Yorks as a crossing guard, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Compensation will be at the rate of \$12.00 per hour.

P-8 Approval to change the status of Stephanie Heller from substitute paraeducator to part-time paraeducator. Compensation will be at the rate of \$12.96 per hour.

P-9 Approval of the following as Homebound Instructors for the 2020-2021 school year. Compensation for this position will be at the instructional rate of \$26.50 per hour.

Debra Kern

Mary Sponenberg

Jessalyn Engle

Sherri Longenberger

P-10 Approval of Harlee Mowery as yearbook advisor for the 2020-2021 school term. Compensation will be at a stipend of \$1,651.00.

P-11 Approval to accept the resignation of Hailey Stein as field hockey coach. (enc.)

P-12 Approval of the enclosed list of winter coaches for the 2020-2021 school term, pending completion of the necessary PIAA mandated education and all necessary paperwork. With this approval, the District commits to paying head varsity coaches in full regardless of external factors, such as duration of season. The stipend for assistant coaches will be prorated based upon the duration of the season. (enc.)

P-13 Approval for employee #2224 to take unpaid Family Medical Leave (FMLA) from

July 6, 2020 through October 5, 2020. (enc.)

- P-14 Approval to add the following to the substitute teacher list for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Compensation will be at the rate of \$15.71 per hour.**

**Robert Beiter
Theresa Kalanick**

**Cindee Carrathers
Cindy McGann**

**Jill Trapane
Paula Parmenteri**

- P-15 Approval to accept the resignation of Shawna Blake as substitute teacher. (enc.)**

- P-16 Approval for employee #1224 to take Emergency Paid Sick Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act from September 6, 2020 through September 20, 2020. (enc.)**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Brenda Post, we approve Items P-1 through P-16 With One Motion. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

~Addendum

Approve Items P-17 through P-18 With One Motion

- P-17 Approval to accept the resignation of Regina West as custodian, effective September 27, 2020. (enc.)**

- P-18 Approval to accept the resignation of Joseph DiPippa as custodian, effective September 25, 2020. (enc.)**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we approve Items P-17 through P-18 With One Motion. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

On motion of Joseph DeMelfi, seconded by Keith Hess, we add item P-19 to the agenda. Motion Carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

- P-19 Approval for employee #592 to take unpaid Family Medical Leave (FMLA) from September 30, 2020 through October 30, 2020. (enc.)**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we approve for employee #592 to take unpaid Family Medical Leave (FMLA) from September 30, 2020 through October 30, 2020. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

William Phillips – There was an amendment offering parents the opportunity for their kids to opt out of all standardized tests.

Wendy Kupsky – I did not receive that today.

Additional Item:

- **Election of PSBA Slate of Candidates**

On motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Ronald Robsock, we elect the following slate of candidates: David Hein (President), Sabrina Backer (Vice President), Michael Gossert (Treasurer), Michael Faccinnetto (PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee), Marianne Neel (PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee), Stephen Skrocki (Forum Steering Committee), Tracy Long (Forum Steering Committee). Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Reports:**Committee Reports:**

Susy Wiegand - We met as a Committee as a Whole on September 8, 2020.

Academic Affairs – Robert Croop

- Changes academically moving forward.
- School-wide Title I that was submitted to the State.

Athletic Committee – Joseph Orlando

- Talked about the spectators rule by the Governor. We are still at 250 outside and 25 inside. Atlantic Broadband is streaming every game live on YouTube. They did a soccer game today. There is also a tape delay on channel 10 the next day. We will have someone else cover our volleyball but we have to stay at 25. We are letting spectators in as long as we don't exceed 250. We are following policy. Everything is running smoothly so far.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Benton Culver

- Hillyard CCAP program – We finished West Berwick. We have Nescopeck to go yet.
- 3D is providing some custodial support at our athletic facilities. We want to keep our custodians in the buildings and not sending them elsewhere.
- We have quite a few work orders for HVAC. We sent TRANE in and they are providing support for us. We are only getting them in there when students are not in the buildings, like on the weekends.
- **CSIU – Susy Wiegand**
No report. Poor connection. Next meeting on Wednesday.

Vo-tech – Keith Hess

- Changed the delivery model to the hybrid (50/50 model). Students go every other day.
- We changed our school calendar because the Fair was cancelled.
- Approved the tuition rate for non-participating tuition students at \$50,730 per student.
- We approved the five year contract to include 1% salary increase in year one, ¾% increase in years 2-5 and one step increase in each year. Health, dental, vision and prescription coverage was the same across the board. It was divided by single, family, parent, child, employee and spouse. Those rates will be increased per classification each

year of the contract. The medical insurance can be negotiated after years 4 and 5 of the contract.

- Still looking for employees for some departments. Hard to find people due to the pay scale.
- Next meeting tomorrow night.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: None

Summarization of Executive Session: Susy Wiegand

- Two personnel issues and one item of collective bargaining.

On a motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Jon Morell to have a brief executive session on the one personnel item that we discussed in the prior executive session.

On a motion of Jon Morell, seconded by Keith Hess we adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye.” “Nay”- none and no abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Janet K. Kovach, Secretary to the Board