

**CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP/SPECIAL ACTION MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMONS AREA**

**March 8, 2018**

**1.0 Meeting Opening**

A. Call to Order

The Workshop/Special Action Meeting of the Chartiers Valley Board of School Directors was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Mazzarini in the Middle School Commons.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

**Present**

Mr. Tony Mazzarini, President  
Mr. Mark Kuczinski, Vice President  
Mr. Jeff Choura  
Mr. Eric Kraemer  
Mr. Robert Kearney  
Mrs. Julie Murphy  
(Via Phone)  
Mr. Brian Kopec  
Mrs. Sandy Zeleznik  
Mr. Darren Mariano

**Also Present**

Mr. Scott Seltzer, Interim Superintendent  
Mr. Don Palmer, Solicitor  
Dr. Jillian Bichsel, Director of Secondary  
Education

D. Public Comments

**2.0 Action/Discussion**

Mr. Mazzarini said, tonight is an historic evening. This is a special meeting and we have a special motion. After several months and a lot of hard work, late nights and weekends, I can say collectively, this board came to a unanimous decision about the next leader of our school district. We are very excited to start this motion.

- 2.1 Motion to elect Dr. Johannah Vanatta to the position of District Superintendent to the Chartiers Valley School District for a term of 5 years commencing April 1, 2018 with an annual salary of \$160,000 and accordance with the negotiated contract of employment, section 1071 of the Public School Code.

**Motion to approve item 2.1 listed above.**  
**MOVED by Mr. Kuczinski, seconded by Mr. Choura.**  
**On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Mazzarini said, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone for attending tonight's special meeting. I also want to thank anyone that participated in our stakeholder meetings, or who filled out a survey online regarding concerns about who our new Superintendent should be. This board spent a lot of time and it took a lot of hard work and collaboration and I really appreciate what this board did and the way we worked together.

In getting to know Dr. Vanatta, it has been obvious to me and the rest of us that she is a very passionate leader with 18 years' experience in public education. Dr. Vanatta served most recently as the Assistant Superintendent with the McGuffey School District and prior to that, the Assistant Superintendent for 10 plus years with the North Hills School District. Prior to serving in education administration, Dr. Vanatta was a teacher at the middle and high school level, teaching students both English and History. Her educational background is extensive, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from West Virginia University, Masters of Arts in Secondary Education with an emphasis in English, also from West Virginia University, and K-12 Principal Certification from California University of Pennsylvania. She earned her Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility from the University of Pittsburgh where she also completed her doctorate in education. Dr. Vanatta's dissertation is entitled "Going from Good to Great, a Study of Teacher Induction Programs", to me is extremely fitting for where I see her taking the Chartiers Valley School District.

As Assistant Superintendent for North Hills School District, she re-envisioned the secondary schools creating a true middle school/high school model from a junior/senior high school model. She worked on facility improvements and projects with her time at North Hills, which is critical coming into the construction project in our facilities. She transformed the middle school building and the high school library, adding state-of-the-art technology infrastructure, STEAM centers, fitness areas, and a new collaborative space, much like what we have built here on this campus.

Dr. Vanatta sits on a variety of past-secondary advisory boards, such as LaRoche College, and Chatham University's Board for Sustainability. It is apparent to me that she is in tune and in time with what's going on with education in Western Pennsylvania. When doing some of the background reference work, I came across a former colleague of Dr. Vanatta's, and a long serving member of a school board in a district where Johannah was a long time employee and I asked him if there was anything he could share with me about Dr. Vanatta, his comment was, I quote, "She may be the finest person I've ever worked with in an educational setting", that says a lot. Dr. Vanatta is also a committed wife and mom. Her husband Aaron and their two daughters make their home in Avella PA and I believe it's also a compliment and a real show of her dedication to this district going forward, that she will be educating her two children in Chartiers Valley. We are thrilled to have her and her family as part of our family.

The board is anxious to get started and we look forward to working with her to shape and envision the new chapter of excellence in education here at Chartiers Valley.

Dr. Vanatta thanked the school board for their vote of support through this entire process and of course, this evening and those very kind words. I am very excited, honored and humbled to be and serve as the Superintendent of the Chartiers Valley School District. I understand that I have some big shoes to fill and I am eager to do so. I am also looking forward to meeting and serving each one of you and being a part of this community and great district.

### **3.0 Public Comments**

Frank Brown said that he wanted to recognize Mr. Seltzer's efforts, he's led our district and he's done a great job.

Mr. Bane said that Mr. Seltzer held the district together, made it work and I'm glad you're still part of the team. Chartiers Valley has always been great, but I think now it's going to be greater.

Mr. Choura said that Mr. Mazzarini and Mr. Kuczinski kept this process moving, kept us on track and it's probably one of the best processes I have gone through. You two gentlemen are to be commended for a job well done.

Maya Vaughan thanked the board for allowing the faculty to be involved in the process. It was nice to feel like our voices were heard and that we felt that we were part of the process.

Mr. Mazzarini said that it was important for us to hear your voices because in reality, in education, the teachers are really the ones with the keys to success. You are there, you're the forefront of education. We really appreciate everyone who participated.

Mr. Mazzarini read Mrs. Murphy's comments into record. "Dear Mr. Mazzarini, unfortunately I will be out of the country March 8, 2018 due to business travel. This is the same meeting on which we are considering Dr. Johannah Vanatta for the role of Chartiers Valley School District Superintendent. I plan to call in for the vote with the assistance of Mr. Mariano. In the event that we have technical difficulties, please accept this letter of my affirmation of Dr. Johannah Vanatta for the role of Chartiers Valley School District Superintendent. I firmly believe Dr. Vanatta will be an excellent leader to move our school district forward as our next Superintendent. Please kindly read the italicized underlined statement for the record if I have technical difficulties. Kind Regards, Julie S. Murphy.

### **4.0 Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.  
MOVED by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Mariano.  
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Wiseman  
Acting Board Secretary

