

CALL TO ORDER At 7:03 p.m. the January 4, 2021 meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of School Directors was called to order by President Jesse Rawls, Sr.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS Mr. Majid Ali, Ms. Josie Byzek, Mr. Scott W. Campbell, Dr. Michael Cohen, Mr. John F. Dietrich, Mr. Jesse G. Gantt, Mr. Jesse Rawls, Sr., President, Mrs. Ilceia C. Voughs, Ms. Zoe Jackson, Student Representative, Ms. Paige Mullen, Student Representative

DISTRICT OFFICE PRESENT Mr. Olswen Anderson, Jr., Mr. Justin Green, Mr. Mark Holman, Dr. Richard Kaskey, Dr. Douglas L. Nyce, Ms. Ann-Marie Rathmell, Dr. Tamara Willis, Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Engle, Esq., District Solicitor.

ABSENT Ms. Julieann Newill

EXECUTIVE SESSION The President announced that executive session was held immediately prior to the meeting and on Monday, December 28th, for the purpose of personnel matters.

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Willis, Superintendent, congratulated the Senior Student Representative, Zoe Jackson, for her acceptance at Spelman College. Dr. Willis noted that Spelman College is ranked first in the nation among Historically Black College and Universities and is the alma mater of such prominent leaders as Pulitzer Prize Winning Author, Alice Walker and Former House of Representatives Minority Leader, Stacey Abrams. She stated that we know that you will represent the Susquehanna Township School District very well! Dr. Willis reported that, over the weekend, she sent a video message to parents regarding the districts' plan to return students to in-person learning on Monday, January 11th. She stated that she wants to clarify that our return to in-person learning refers only to those students who were attending school before we closed in November. She noted that students who were learning from home via ARA or who attended the Hanna Cyber Academy before we closed in November will continue to attend school virtually on January 11th until the end of the second marking period. Dr. Willis went on to note that, as she stated in her message to parents, the final determination about our return on the 11th will be based upon data gathered this week. She noted that she is awaiting a call from our contact at the Department of Health to learn more about trends in our area and hope to make that final determination in the next few days. She noted that, while the Department of Health does not make recommendations about whether to return students to in-person learning, the data on positivity rates and trends related to infection rates within our area are *critical* in helping the district make an informed decision that will protect students and staff alike. Finally, Dr. Willis noted that January is School Director Recognition Month! She reminded the public that PA school directors are locally elected officials who voluntarily devote an average of 10 hours per month to school board business. She noted that we'd like to thank you, STSD school directors, for your service! She noted that the directors are appreciated and shared that school

directors have a challenging and vital role in our public schools. She stated that each director will receive a certificate of recognition and a small token of the district's appreciation in recognition of their service.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY 4, 2021

MOTION TO APPROVE

2.A. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Byzek, to approve the meeting agenda for January 4, 2021.

Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

2.B. Board Member Comments

SPEAKER

Mr. Gantt noted that his former exchange student at STHS, Lars Schuster, applied to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for early entrance as a physics major. Mr. Gantt noted that, with help from STHS faculty, he was admitted to MIT. Mr. Gantt proudly noted that this is a feather in the cap of the district and what we can produce.

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

SPEAKER

None.

IV. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

PRESENTATION

4.A. Dr. Tamara Willis, Superintendent, presented the Proposed 2021-2022 School Calendar. (attached to BoardDocs)

V. MINUTES

None.

VI. PROGRAM

None.

VII. PERSONNEL

MOTION TO APPROVE

7.A.B.C. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Byzek, to approve Items 7.A.B.C. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

7.A. Approve the resignation of Meredith McDonald as Assistant III at the Susquehanna Township Middle School, effective January 5, 2021.

7.B. End Lola Itzhaki's assignment as LTS K-2 Teacher at the Sara Lindemuth / Anna Carter Primary School, effective January 4, 2021.

7.C. Amend Kayla Low as Assistant III (Life Skills PCA) at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a rate of \$15.53 per hour (Tier 2-1) from effective date to be determined to effective January 4, 2021. Ms. Low will be replacing Joy Bechtel.

VIII. FINANCES

MOTION TO APPROVE

8.A.B.C.D. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Gantt, to approve Items 8.A.B.C.D.
Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

8.A. Approve the payment of Activity Fund bills from the First National Bank Activity Fund Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$1,197.00. (attached to BoardDocs)

8.B. Approve the payment of Capital Reserve PSDLAF Checking bills from the Capital Reserve PSDLAF Checking as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$186,328.71.

8.C. Approve the payment of First National General Fund Checking bills from the First National General Fund Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$3,057,376.98. (attached to BoardDocs)

8.D. 1. Approve the following Personal Tax Refund:

Taxpayer Name: Mitchell Edman
Bill #: 225
Year: 2019
Refund Amount: \$283.50
Reason: Mitchell Edman was not a Susquehanna Township resident in 2019; he paid the taxes in error.

IX. CONTRACTS

MOTION TO APPROVE

9.A.B.C.D. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Dr. Cohen, to approve Items 9.A.B.C.D.

9.A. Approve the Agreement with Vector Solutions to provide Professional Development to paraprofessionals. This agreement is for Diversity Training. (attached to BoardDocs)

9.B. Approve the Master Services Agreement with Navigate 360, LLC to provide ALICE Instructor Certification Training for Susquehanna Township School District. (attached to BoardDocs)

9.C. Approve the Amendment to the Sunbelt Staffing Agreement to provide temporary contracted nursing services until a permanent replacement is found. This

Amendment will extend the agreement until January 29, 2021. (attached to BoardDocs)

9.D. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Susquehanna Township School District and Dauphin County Probation Services Office for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. (attached to BoardDocs)

This agreement authorizes deployment and use of Dauphin County Probation Services Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) to work with STSD toward providing both the physical security and safety of STSD students and staff.

FOR THE RECORD

Ms. Voughs insisted that the term “offenders” should not be used in connection with education.

Mr. Gantt noted the issue, and asked administration if a motion to table Item 9.D. due to the MOU terminology used, and referring the item to the Discipline Committee, would cause any issues for the district.

Dr. Willis responded that such a move would constrain the sharing of information and the relationship with Dauphin County Probation.

Mr. Rawls, Sr. noted that the MOU does not use the word “offender” in it, and that the use of the word in the context of education is a State problem. He asserted that tabling the item will not solve this problem, but that board members should do what they believe to be right.

Mr. Gantt noted that he just wanted to be sure that Ms. Voughs’ concerns are addressed and discussed, as they are valid ones.

Dr. Willis assured the board that the issue would be on the agenda for the next discipline meeting.

Ms. Byzek asked if Ms. Voughs was comfortable with that move.

Ms. Voughs replied that she believes there is no need to throw out the MOU. She just noted that we have to start somewhere, to connect and have conversations longer term, reviewing some things.

Mr. Rawls, Sr. repeated Mr. Gantt’s query about whether tabling the MOU would cause any problems.

Dr. Willis noted that the MOU allows the district to work with probation officers, reminding the board that we do have students on probation. She explained that the MOU articulates the partnership that we have with Dauphin County Probation, including that administration have found it to be a beneficial relationship so far, in terms of getting information on students who have been missing or in trouble, and how we may support them in school.

Mr. Rawls, Sr. asked Dr. Nyce to put the discussion in the record. He went on to wonder how much play the District Attorney’s office has in relation to the terminology.

Dr. Willis noted that the terminology used comes from much higher up than the Dauphin County Probation Office. She stated that she could reach out to them about how we label students, about the use of terminology.

Ms. Voughs noted that she recently had an indirect conversation with an IU official on this subject. She noted that the official know more about this and the conversation raised questions with her regarding the history of the terminology of student labeling and disproportionate labeling in particular. She noted that she sees it as a wrong that needs to be corrected.

Dr. Willis stated that we can make those contacts and then discuss the matter in the Discipline Committee, inviting someone from Dauphin County Probation to attend all Discipline Committee meetings.

Mr. Dietrich inquired about Item 2, the Navigate 360 ALICE program. He asked what the district is getting for this. He asked if he was correct that a few staff would be trained to then train others. He also asked if it was virtual.

Dr. Willis responded that the district is looking to get 15 staff trained in the ALICE drill, active shooter training. She noted that there is a PCCD grant for funds, but that we were unable to spend those funds for the training. She stated that the grant monies had to be spend by June 30th, unless we are granted another extension. She noted that we had three people trained previously, but all of them have left the district. She explained that this is a train the trainer model and is virtual. She noted that the training should have been concluded by the end of last school year, but that we were granted an extension due to the Covid pandemic.

Motion passed: 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye:	Mr. Ali, Mr. Dietrich, Mr. Rawls, Sr., Ms. Byzek, Mr. Campbell, Dr. Cohen, Mr. Gantt, Mrs. Voughs.
Nay:	None.
Abstain:	None.
Absent:	Ms. Newill

DISCUSSION

9.E. Discuss the agreement between Susquehanna Township School District and J.P. Harris & Associates, LLC as attached for the collection of the district’s 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Current & Delinquent School Per Capita and School Occupation Taxes at the fee structure cited within the agreement. It is noted that this 4-year agreement is identical in cost to the existing agreement and reflects no increases in collection rates. As further noted in the agreement, either party can terminate the

agreement for any reason, with or without cause, upon written notice of termination at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of every year of any term of the agreement. (attached to BoardDocs)

Note: Annual Summary of Cost

Current Taxes:

Base Fee: \$22,500 and \$.75 cents for the processing of each paid and interim billing

Printing Fee: \$13,500 for the printing regular and interim bills of approximately 20,000 inclusive of receipt, exoneration form, instructional information

The above also covers the cost of postage for mailing, as well as window envelopes.

Delinquent Taxes:

There is no cost to STSD for the collection of Delinquent Taxes; all expenses are incurred directly by the delinquent taxpayer as identified below:

\$30.00 Fee for processing of delinquent School Occupation

\$14.00 Fee for processing of delinquent Per Capita

DISCUSSION

9.F. Discuss the agreement between Susquehanna Township School District and J.P. Harris & Associates, LLC as attached for the collection of the district's 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Current Real Estate Taxes at the fee structure cited within the agreement. It is noted that this 4-year agreement is identical in cost to the existing agreement and reflects no increases in collection rates. As further noted in the agreement, either party can terminate the agreement for any reason, with or without cause, upon written notice of termination at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of every year of any term of the agreement. (attached to BoardDocs)

Note: Annual Summary of Cost

Base Fee: \$13,500 and \$.75 cents for the processing of each paid and interim billing

Printing Fee: \$7,500 for the printing regular and interim bills of approximately 10,000

The above also covers the cost of postage for mailing, as well as window envelopes.

CLARIFICATION

Mr. Anderson noted the prior agreements to be replaced by those in Items 9.E.F. expire following the issuance of our 20-21 tax billings. He noted that he is recommending a new 4-year agreement as they've done a good job with no increase in costs.

X. POLICY

None.

XI. OTHER

11.A. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Byzek, to approve Item 11.A.

Motion passed: 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

11.A. Appoint STSD Board of School Directors Jesse Rawls and John Dietrich as representatives for the Dauphin County Technical School (DCTS) Joint Operating Committee (JOC) Board and Jesse Gantt as an alternate representative.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

13.A. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Byzek, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed: 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


Julieann Newill
Board Secretary

