

CALL TO ORDER At 7:02 p.m. the February 1, 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, Ms. Julieann Newill, Mr. Jesse G. Gantt, Mr. Jesse Rawls, Sr., President, Mrs. Ilacia C. Voughs, Ms. Zoe Jackson, Student Representative, Miss 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

ABSENT None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION The President announced that executive session was held immediately prior to the meeting for the purpose of personnel matters.

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS **Dr. Willis, Superintendent**, congratulated senior Nkemdilim Nnochirionye Taft on being selected as a winner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Black History Month Writing Contest. She noted that he has been invited to read his poem, “Black Mother Dearest” on Tuesday, February 16 at the Black History Month celebration which is an annual event sponsored by the City of Harrisburg. Dr. Willis went on to express pride in five (5) Scholastic Arts and Writing winners at STHS: Helen Tesfay receiving the Gold Key, her piece being automatically entered into the national competition, Dayvia Miranda receiving the Silver Key, Jamie Haskins receiving the Silver Key, Laelani Porter receiving the Honorable Mention and Ockacha Guthrie receiving the Honorable Mention. Dr. Willis congratulated senior Jordan Plempel for being awarded a *Silver Key* in the 2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for her sculpture “Coexistence.” Dr. Willis noted that this is the first time that Jordan has ever submitted her artwork for any competition! Dr. Willis noted that students Lalasa Blanco and Elauynee Blanco, recently travelled to Washington D.C. to participate in their father’s change of command ceremony at the White House. Dr. Willis stated that their father is taking command of the HHC Headquarters and Headquarters Company, which is the White House Communication Command in Washington DC. Finally, Dr. Willis thanked everyone who participated in our district-wide dress down day on January 28th. She reported that the STSD raised funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and that **this** year’s fundraising efforts were in honor of Grant Jones, our first-grade student that we lost to leukemia last school year. She noted that our goal was \$2,020 and we raised \$4170.82. She noted that \$1475 of that total was from district staff on our dress down day!

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2021

MOTION TO APPROVE **2.A.** Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Byzek, to approve the meeting agenda as presented for February 1, 2021.
Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

2.B. Board Member Comments

SPEAKER

Mr. Dietrich noted that at the board's last meeting the board approved the preliminary budget for the 2021-22 school year. He recalled that three board members voted against the motion. He expressed hope that the members could carve out some time in the next meeting to hear those three members' thoughts, in an effort to develop an understanding of their concerns. He noted that if this was not possible, that he would certainly call the individuals. He noted that there were three opposed, five in favor and one absent and that this concerns him as we come upon June when the board would be asked to approve the budget. He stated that it is important to understand what their reasoning was. He asked that it may be put on the agenda at the next meeting, or perhaps putting it in discussion time during the Finance Committee meeting or as a part of the finance presentation at the board meeting.

SPEAKER

Mr. Rawls noted that the Finance Committee will be meeting on the 18th and that the conversation could take place then or at the next meeting.

SPEAKER

Mr. Gantt asserted that there is no problem having a discussion, and that it is a good discussion to have. He stated that he would be happy to have the discussion at the Finance Committee meeting about the avoidance of raising taxes at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Willis asked that any members who have questions they would like to be addressed should please forward those questions to administration prior to the meeting so that Mr. Anderson may have information ready for you at the meeting.

SPEAKER

Mr. Rawls invited all board members to participate in the ZOOM meeting on the 18th at 4 p.m.

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

SPEAKER

None.

IV. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

PRESENTATION

4.A. Kristi Prime, Middle School Principal, Patty Frye, Middle School Academic Team Lead, Jillian Fletcher, Middle School Academic Team Lead, Tobi Hanks, Middle School Student, and Kenya Thuku, Middle School Student, presented an STMS Mass Customized Learning (MCL) Update. (attached to BoardDocs)

V. MINUTES

None.

VI. PROGRAM

MOTION TO APPROVE

6.A. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Gantt, to approve Item 6.A.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion passed 7-2, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

6.A. Approve the 2021-2022 STHS Course Planning Guide. (attached to BoardDocs)

VII. PERSONNEL

MOTION TO APPROVE

7.A.B.C.D.E. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Ali, to approve Items 7.A.B.C.D.E.

Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

7.A.1. Amend the resignation of Trista Rhoads as Speech Pathologist at the Sara Lindemuth / Anna Carter Primary School from effective December 16, 2020 to effective February 12, 2021.

7.A.2. Approve the resignation of Kayla Low as Assistant III (Life Skills PCA) at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School, effective January 21, 2021.

7.B.1. Approve the transfer of Deanna Salenieks as Night Custodian at the Susquehanna Township High School to Night Custodian at the Sara Lindemuth / Anna Carter Primary School, effective January 25, 2021. Ms. Salenieks will be replacing Ty Henderson.

7.B.2. Approve the transfer of Paul Winn as Night Custodian at the Susquehanna Township High School to Night Custodian at the Sara Lindemuth / Anna Carter Primary School, effective January 25, 2021. Mr. Winn will be replacing Chris Seigle.

7.C. Approve the termination of Calvin Hynson as Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach at the Susquehanna Township High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

7.D. Approve Janice Walls as Part-Time Food Service Worker at the Susquehanna Township Middle School at a rate of \$12.00 per hour, effective February 3, 2021. Ms. Walls will be replacing Michelle Hammond.

7.E.1. Approve Krystal Rucker as Crossing Guard at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a rate of \$28.39 per hour for the 2020-2021 school year.

7.E.2. Rescind Ben Lebo as Assistant Indoor Track Coach at the Susquehanna High School at a stipend of \$1,200.00 for the 2020-2021 school year.

7.E.3. Rescind Ben Wiker as Science Fair Advisor at the Susquehanna Township High School at a stipend of \$320.00 for the 2020-2021 school year.

7.E.4. Approve the payment of 4.5 personal days at \$150.00 per day for a total of \$675.00 for Laura Best.

7.E.5. Approve the payment of 1.5 personal days at \$150.00 per day for a total of \$225.00 for Lola Itzhaki.

7.E.6. Approve the payment of 11.75 vacation days at \$353.08 per day for a total of \$4148.69 for Lindsay Lester.

7.E.7. Approve the payment of 5.5 personal days at \$150.00 per day for a total of \$825.00 for Celia Pharris.

7.E.8. Approve the payment of 7.0 vacation days at \$111.60 per day for a total of \$781.20 for Christopher Seigle.

7.E.9. Approve the payment of 2.5 personal days at \$150.00 per day for a total of \$375.00 for Courtney Egal.

MOTION TO APPROVE

7.F. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Byzek, to approve Item 7.F.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion passed 8-1, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

7.F. Approve the evaluation of Superintendent, Dr. Tamara Willis, with a rating of Satisfactory. This evaluation, prepared in November for the 2019-2020 school year, was completed by the School Board of Directors. (attached to BoardDocs)

INFORMATION

7.G. November and December Conference attendance. (attached to BoardDocs)

VIII. FINANCES

MOTION TO APPROVE

8.A.B.C. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Gantt, to approve Items 8.A.B.C. Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

8.A. Approve the payment of Capital Reserve PSDLAF Checking bill from the Capital Reserve PSDLAF Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$77,841.50. (attached to BoardDocs)

8.B. 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 \$1,593,949.96. (attached to BoardDocs)

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

Taxpayer Name: Geoffrey Morrow

Bill #: 25

Year: 2020

Refund Amount: \$274.40

Reason: Geoffrey Morrow was not a Susquehanna Township resident in 2020; he paid the taxes in error.

8.C.2. Approve the following Personal Tax Refund:

Taxpayer Name: Douglas Ruzanski

Bill #: 14932

Year: 2020

Refund Amount: \$294.00

Reason: Douglas Ruzanski was not a Susquehanna Township resident in 2020; he paid the taxes in error.

IX. CONTRACTS

MOTION TO APPROVE

9.A.B. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Gantt, to approve Items 9.A.B. Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

9.A. Approve the New Story Tuition Agreement and Amendment for student #2020-2021/006 for the 2020 – 2021 school year as discussed in executive session.

9.B. Approve the Agreement with Aya Healthcare, Inc. to provide temporary contracted special education services until permanent replacements can be found. (attached to BoardDocs)

DISCUSSION

9.C. Discuss the Local Education Agency Letter of Agreement (LEA), Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program Roles and Responsibilities between Susquehanna Township School District (STSD) and Region 2 - Berks County Intermediate Unit. This Agreement ensures compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act. (attached to BoardDocs)

9.D. Discuss the agreement between Active Internet Technologies, dba Finalsite and Susquehanna Township School District to develop the districts website for launch during the 2021-2022 school year. (attached to BoardDocs)

X. POLICY

None.

XI. OTHER

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

11.A. Approve the addendum to the confidential settlement agreement for student #2020-21/005. (Discussion of the agreement held in executive session)

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Campbell suggested that Ms. Byzek should resign or face disciplinary action for swearing at a board member in the meeting this evening.

Mr. Gantt suggested that it was Ms. Byzek's First Amendment right so to do and that she should not face disciplinary action.

Mr. Rawls, Sr. called for adjournment.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

13.A. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Gantt, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed: 8-1 (Mr. Campbell opposed), 0 abstentions, 0 absent

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.


Julieann Newill
Board Secretary