

CALL TO ORDER	At 7:05 p.m., the November 1, 2021, meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of School Directors was called to order by President Jesse Rawls, Sr.
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Mr. Majid Ali, Dr. Diana Brown, Mr. Scott Campbell, Dr. Michael Cohen, John F. Dietrich, Ms. Julieann Newill, Mr. Jesse Rawls, Sr.
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS	None
DISTRICT OFFICE PRESENT	Mr. Oslwen Anderson, Jr., Mr. Mark Holman, Dr. Tamara Willis Ms. Ann-Marie Rathmell, Mr. Justin Green, Mr. Jonathan Bishop, Mr. Vince Champion, Esq., District Solicitor
DISTRICT OFFICE PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS	Dr. Richard Kaskey, Mrs. Takia Colston-Krow
ABSENT	Ms. Josie Byzek, Mr. Terry Heller
EXECUTIVE SESSION	The President announced that executive session was held immediately prior to the meeting for the purpose of personnel and litigation matters.
INTRODUCTIONS/ GUEST PRESENTATIONS	None
REPORTS	<p>Mr. Rawls reported that the Facilities committee met and discussed the repairs to the middle school chiller, the high school and middle school auditorium renovations, and roof repairs. There is a bid opening on November 10, 2021, for work to be done in the parking lot area and the rest of the building.</p> <p>Mr. Dietrich added that they discussed renovations of the concession stand. On November 7, 2021, there will be a site survey.</p> <p>Mr. Anderson noted that the summer and fall 2021 projects have been completed.</p> <p>Dr. Willis, Superintendent, reviewed the district's COVID-19 dashboard and reminded everyone to visit the district's website to view the dashboard for current and archived information. Staff and Student reporting forms are also located there. She acknowledged a letter sent to the district from Penn State Health and the Four Diamonds thanking STSD students for raising \$4,931.27 to fund life-saving research and world-class care for kids and families fighting childhood cancer. Despite COVID students were able to embrace the challenge and hold the event virtually. During the 2020-2021 school year, 161 schools raised \$2,832,826.81 to help conquer childhood cancer. Dr. Willis congratulated our field hockey team for their excellent game against Oley Valley. They will move on to the consolation round and their next game</p>

will be at home on Wednesday. Dr. Willis also acknowledged the boys and girls cross county teams for their success at District competition. Out of 153 runners, Landon Faulkner finished in 75th place and Connor Morris finished in 82nd place. Out of 121 runners, Cassy Zart finished 28th and missed states by 4 places, which was only 10 seconds off from qualifying. Cassy is also a member of the field hockey team. Alecia Greene finished 69th, Carleigh Welsh finished 92nd and Arianna Whitehead finished 107th. She reported that some of our runners also experienced their personal best during the championships. Dr. Willis encouraged everyone to continue to support our student athletes.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 1, 2021

MOTION TO APPROVE

2. A. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Ali, to approve the meeting agenda for November 1, 2021.

Motion passed 7-0, 0 abstentions, 2 absent

2.B. Board Member Comments

SPEAKER

Mr. Campbell thanked everyone who showed up for the field hockey playoff games and commented that was nice to see administration and staff support the team. Mr. Campbell reported on upcoming games.

SPEAKER

Mr. Rawls also congratulated the field hockey team and coaches and encouraged board members to come out and support the team.

SPEAKER

Mr. Dietrich thanked Christine Waters, a parent of one of our field hockey players, for emailing the board with upcoming game details.

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

FOR THE RECORD

Ms. Newill read the following statement:

The board provides for an opportunity to hear from the public. During this section of the meeting any resident and taxpayer may address the Board on any items with the law in the Board Policies and Procedures. The purpose of this section of the meeting is to be heard and as such the board will not engage in a dialogue, but will listen to your concerns and follow up with directly or through assigned administration as appropriate.

Please begin your public comment by stating your full name and address. Each member of the public may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes. At the end of 3 minutes, your time will expire. Speakers may comment only once during each meeting.

Any comments to the board must be directed to the board president and not individual board members or administrators. Concerns, related to specific Schools, or

buildings should first be addressed at the school level, and follow the chain of command before coming to the board. Any comments that are considered disruptive, obscene, abusive, slanderous, or defamatory will either be interrupted or terminated. No complaints may be made against specific employees, community members, or board members. Private information related to any student is prohibited.

SPEAKER

Hilary Holmes addressed the board regarding her concerns with mass customized learning at the middle school. She understands that mass customized learning is teaching kids to want to learn and make choices for themselves but feels that some middle school students are too young to have the ability to motivate themselves. She acknowledged that Dr. Willis has been responsive in her request for data. She would like to know if anyone in the district is measuring the success of mass customized learning and how students will be evaluated for moving to the next grade.

Mr. Campbell asked the Solicitor, Mr. Champion, how to make a motion to remove mass customized learning for next school year.

Mr. Champion noted that the Sunshine Law has recently been amended and the item would have to be placed on the agenda at least 48 hours prior to a meeting. He stated that he could ask the board president and superintendent to add it to the agenda. If that does not work, there a mechanism within the law.

Mr. Campbell stated that he would like the new board in place before this was placed on the agenda. He asked Mr. Champion to have a conversation with him prior to the next meeting on how to start the process.

Mr. Rawls stated that there is a certain line that board members do not cross. He stated that board members are not curriculum experts. Their job is to put policy in place. If the superintendent brings something to them, they always have the option of voting it down.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

PRESENTATION

4.A. Dr. Tamara Willis, Superintendent, presented School District Mascot/Logo Selection Process Update (attached to BoardDocs)

V. MINUTES

None

VI. PROGRAM

None

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 7-0, 0 abstentions, 2 absent

7.A. Approve the retirement of Frank Fant as Night Custodian at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School, effective January 3, 2022. Mr. Fant has been with the district since 1993.

7.B. Approve the resignation of Laura Arahovas as 5th Grade Teacher at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School, effective November 5, 2021.

7.C. Approve the termination of employment of Tiana Washington for not meeting the probationary period as Part-Time Food Service Worker at the Susquehanna Township High School, effective October 15, 2021.

7.D. Approve the change of status for Megan Archer from temporary professional employee to professional employee, effective October 29, 2021.

7.E.1. Rescind Ben Wiker as Science Fair Advisor at the Susquehanna Township High School at a stipend of \$320.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

7.E.2 Approve Philip Orris as Volunteer Football Videographer at the Susquehanna Township High School for the 2021-2022 school year.

7.E.3. Approve Michelle Yeagy as Sponsor for Kimberly Clay at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

7.E.4. Approve Elizabeth Miller as Mentor for Jenifer Strohm at the Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter Primary School at a stipend of \$500.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

MOTION TO APPROVE

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

Motion passed 4-3, 0 abstentions, 2 absent

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye:	Dr. Cohen, Dr. Brown, Mr. Ali, Mr. Rawls
Nay:	Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dietrich, Ms. Newill
Abstain:	None

Absent: Ms. Byzek, Mr. Heller

Motion passed 4-3, 0 abstentions, 2 absent

7.F. Approve the Act 93 salary adjustments as discussed in executive session effective July 1, 2021.

VIII. FINANCES

MOTION TO APPROVE

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

8.A.B.C.D.E.

Motion passed 7-0, 0 abstentions, 2 absent

8.A. Approve the payment of Activity Fund bill from the First National Bank Activity Fund Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$701.29.

8.B. Approve the payment of Capital Reserve PSDLAF checking bill from the Capital Reserve PSDLAF Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$56,559.73.

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 \$2,878,109.97.

8.D. Approve the payment of Food Service bills from the Food Service Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$108,500.05.

8.E. Approve the following Personal Tax Refund:

Taxpayer Name: Bereket Degefe

Bill #: 18224

Year: 2020

Refund Amount: \$283.50

Reason: Bereket Degefe made less than \$5,000.00 in 2019; paid the taxes in error.

IX. CONTRACTS

DISCUSSION

9.A. Discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between Dauphin County Technical School (DCTS) and Susquehanna Township School District for implementation of special education services for students attending DCTS.

9.B. Discuss agreements with Caring Foundation to provide both virtual and school-based peer support groups for grieving students at Susquehanna Township High School.

X. POLICY

DISCUSSION

10.A. Discuss the retirement of 4 digit polices which are outdated or redundant. The list of policies is attached. (attached to BoardDocs)

XI. OTHER

MOTION TO APPROVE

11.A. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Ali, to approve Items 11.A.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye:	Dr. Cohen, Dr. Brown, Mr. Ali, Mr. Rawls, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dietrich, Ms. Newill
Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Ms. Byzek, Mr. Heller

Motion passed 7-0, 0 abstentions, 2 absent

11.A. Approve the adjudication of student # 2021-22/0017 as discussed in executive session

DISCUSSION

11.B. Discuss the proposed 2022 STSD School Board meeting dates. (attached to BoardDocs)

Discussion ensued among board members regarding moving meeting dates due to various religious holidays. The board will continue to discuss and revisit the proposed dates at a future meeting.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

SPEAKERS

Mr. Dietrich asked to have additional discussion regarding MCL (mass customized learning). He suggested that Dr. Willis do a presentation to clarify how progress is measured in MCL. He would like to know if the district is using surveys to measure progress.

Mr. Campbell requested that any information and data for the presentation be given to board members one week prior to review.

Dr. Willis explained that flexible groupings is an instructional practice that has been used for decades in school districts as interventions. As students progress, they move to a different group. Customized learning provides interventions all day for every student. Dr. Willis feels that there is a lack of understanding of Customized Learning.

Mr. Campbell expressed his opinion that “fake” information is being presented and gave suggestions on survey questions. He feels that MCL is failing.

Mr. Dietrich interjected and suggested that the board remain respectful in its interactions with each other and the superintendent in order to move forward. He agrees that there may be misunderstanding of MCL.

Mr. Campbell stated he feels only one side is being presented at a board meeting. He referenced the mascot survey. He gave suggestions on MCL survey questions. He stated he is concerned students are not learning.

Mr. Dietrich feels that we (the board) should be able to work as a group with the administration.

Mr. Ali stated that he was cautious with MCL and the board agreed that they were going to give MCL a pilot year. We should not change anything this year and evaluate at the end of the current school year. He stressed that he wants to give administration and teachers the time to implement MCL.

Mr. Dietrich agreed with Mr. Ali and suggested a survey at the end of the school year. He would like to continue discussion with Dr. Willis on how we are going to measure success.

Dr. Cohen stressed that any pilot program evolves as you move along and how you evaluate changes as you move along. He asked Dr. Willis to include information as to where things were and where we are now with the pilot program. He stated that is tough for any program to have success in one year.

Dr. Willis stated that this is the first year the middle school is using customized learning in all subject areas. She stated that for the first time there are a group of middle school students going to the high school for math and also a group of middle school students earning high school English credit. She expects to see more middle school students earning high school credit.

Mr. Rawls stated that he feels customized learning gives all students the opportunity to be successful.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Ali to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed: 7-0, 0 abstentions, 2 absent

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.


Julieann Newill
Board Secretary