

- CALL TO ORDER** At 7:15 p.m., the March 7, 2022, meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of School Directors was called to order by President John F. Dietrich.
- SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT** Mr. Majid Ali, Dr. Michael Cohen, Mr. Jesse Rawls, Sr., Mr. John F. Dietrich, Julieann Newill, Mr. Keita Kalonji Johnson, Esq., Ms. Rebecca McCullough, Esq., Mr. Terry Heller
- SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE** Mr. Scott Campbell
- 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 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS** Dr. Richard Kaskey
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** The President announced that executive session was held immediately prior to the meeting for the purpose of personnel and student matters.
- REPORTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** **Commissioner Thomas Pries**, shared that Susquehanna Township has hired a new Township Manager, Mr. Davie Pribulka. The Township will be sending out their next newsletter late spring/early summer. He thanked the board members for their service and dedication.
- Dr. Tamara Willis, Superintendent**, thanked the high school PBIS team. They recently recognized over 200 students for their high academic achievement and stellar behavior for the 2nd marking period. Dr. Willis congratulated Zoe Benka Davies for finishing 5th overall in the 50 meter freestyle and qualifying for state swimming championships. She also recognized Jazmine Gutierrez for finishing 4th at the Regional High School Girls Wrestling tournament and also qualifying for state championships.

II. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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 tax payer 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.

We ask that you direct all your comments 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.

Mr. Dietrich made the following statement prior to public comment:

I would like to take a moment to clear up some misunderstandings that may exist. At the prior meeting the board did not vote to keep our name "Indians" or the Indian profile as our logo. Rather, the board did not approve support for further development of the committee recommendation to adopt the name "Lions". We will continue discussions to determine a path forward as we technically do not currently have a name, mascot or logo due to a prior action from about a year ago to discontinue the name Indians. We don't plan to solve the issue tonight, but we welcome any comment on the matter this evening and will consider such relevant comments in our deliberations.

SPEAKER

Xavier Humphey addressed the board regarding diversity in our district. He stated that one of the most significant positive things diversity brings is expansion of knowledge. He shared that through lengthy discussion we have learned that our mascot is hurting people. We must change.

SPEAKER

Paige Mullen provided a student prospective on the mascot. She is proud to be a member of Susquehanna Township. We repeat over and over that diversity is our strength, however the vote at the last board meeting does not reflect this. She shared that herself as well as her peers are ashamed to be represented by an image that has been proven to be insensitive, outdated and incorrect. They are ashamed to graduate this year under this "Indian" mascot and urged the board to please listen to information presented to them.

SPEAKER

Josh Weidler addressed the board with his concerns over the sudden ending of the fashion program in the school of the arts. He encouraged the board to continue the program for next year.

SPEAKER **Kimberly Early** expressed her appreciation of the mascot committee’s report at the February 22, 2022 school board meeting and her extreme disappointment in the board members who did not accept the committee’s recommendation. She did appreciate the board’s decision last spring to retire the Indian mascot and logo. She suggested that we do a land acknowledgement to recognize the land we live, work and play on. Additionally, she hopes the district moves forward to remove all images of the Indian from uniforms, buildings, etc.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH 7, 2022

MOTION TO APPROVE **3.A.** Moved by Mr. Ali, seconded by Mr. Rawls to approve the meeting agenda for March 7, 2022 with the following modification: move item 11.D Mascot/Logo to item 3.C.
Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

3.B. Board Member Comments

SPEAKER **Mr. Johnson** thanked the members of the community who came out and spoke during public comment.

SPEAKER **Mr. Rawls, Sr.** thanked the students for speaking up for what they believe in.

DISCUSSION **3.C. Mascot/Logo (former item 11.D.)**

SPEAKER **Mr. Dietrich** shared that currently the district does not have a mascot or logo due to the board retiring the Indian in the Spring of 2021. He would like to discuss the mascot/logo selection process moving forward.

SPEAKER **Mr. Campbell** spoke about the original mascot survey and the actions of the former board members. He feels that we should start the process again and send a survey to ask if people want to keep the Indian or change.

SPEAKER **Mr. Rawls** supported the committee’s recommendation based on the presentations and information presented by the committee. He thanked the students and the committee for their research and presentations.

SPEAKER **Miss McCullough** would like to start a new conversation with the committee and the student body to gauge everyone’s feelings.

SPEAKER **Mr. Johnson** agrees with Miss McCullough on the need for further discussion and possibly a new process to make a recommendation on a new mascot. The opinions of the student body must be taken into account.

SPEAKER Dr. Willis shared that the original survey was used to gauge how the students and community felt. The purpose of the committee was to research the history, provide education and make a recommendation.

SPEAKER Dr. Cohen questioned the board's role in the mascot selection process. He would like an opportunity for discussion between the entire board and the mascot committee to discuss the process.

Mr. Campbell left the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

SPEAKER Dr. Willis shared that the committee has asked for the board's support of the mascot committee's recommendation and that the top recommendation from the students was the HANNA Pride/Lions.

SPEAKER Ms. Newill shared that she was a member of the mascot committee and found the education provided by the committee enlightening. She suggested that the committee look at a different recommendation other than the HANNA Pride/Lions. She feels we should ask the students for additional ideas.

SPEAKER Mr. Ali feels that you can not simply base a decision on numbers and a majority vote alone. Numbers are not emotional and they do not tell if we are suppressing a population. *You will never get the minority of the people to have the majority of the vote.* He does not feel that the mascot evaluation process should start over. It is too emotional.

SPEAKER Mr. Heller felt that there was an understanding when the first survey was sent out that the majority of the population surveyed did not want to change from the Indians. He feels that we should look for some middle ground. There is always an opportunity for education.

Mr. Campbell rejoined the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Mr. Rawls left the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Mr. Rawls rejoined the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

SPEAKER Mr. Campbell stated that he felt popular decision on the initial survey was going to determine whether the mascot changed or stayed the Indians. Mr. Campbell described an alleged altercation he had with Mr. Rawls in the restroom at a prior meeting.

The board recessed at 8:39 p.m.

The board returned from recess at 8:49 p.m.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

PRESENTATION

4.A. Mr. Oslwen C. Anderson, Business Manager, presented STSD Financial Efficiency & Performance (attached to BoardDocs)

4.B. Mr. Mark Holman, Human Resources Director, presented Human Resource Updates (attached to BoardDocs)

4.C. Mr. Pat Raugh, Data and Curriculum Coordinator presented NWEA MAP Assessments. (attached to BoardDocs)

Joining in the presentation were the following:

Mr. Andrae Martin, Principal Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter Primary School

Mrs. Jacqueline Wapinsky, Principal, Thomas W. Holtzman

Mrs. Kristi Prime, Principal, Susquehanna Township Middle School

Dr. Nicole Smith, Principal, Susquehanna Township High School

V. MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE

5.A.B.C.D.E.F. Moved by Mr. Rawls, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve Items 5.A.B.C.D.E.F.

Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

5.A. Approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2021, Board Meeting.

5.B. Approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

5.C. Approve the Minutes of the October 4, 2021 Board Meeting.

5.D. Approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2022, Board Meeting.

5.E. Approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2022, Board Meeting.

5.F. Approve the Minutes of the February 7, 2022 Board Meeting.

VI. PROGRAM

None

VII. PERSONNEL

MOTION TO APPROVE

7.A.B.C. Moved by Mr. Rawls seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve Items 7.A.B.C.

Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

7.A. Approve the resignation of Ashley Minnick as Social Studies Teacher at the Susquehanna Township High School, effective June 10, 2022.

7.B. Approve Nexalie Sanchez as Assistant III/PCA at the Susquehanna Township Middle School at a rate of \$14.61 per hour (Tier 1-1), effective March 7, 2022. Ms. Sanchez will be replacing Meredith McDonald.

7.C.1. Amend Graham Kerick as Musical Director to Producer/Pit Conductor at the Susquehanna Township High School from a stipend of \$2,000.00 to \$3,250.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

7.C.2. Amend Katie Kerick as Musical Producer to Musical/Music Director at the Susquehanna Township High School from a stipend of \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

7.C.3. Amend Chris Arney as Scenic Designer/Consultant for the 2021-2022 Susquehanna Township High School Musical from a stipend of \$1,250.00 to \$1,500.00.

VIII. FINANCES

MOTION TO APPROVE

8.A.B.C.D. Moved by Mr. Rawls, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve Items 8.A.B.C.D.
Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 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 \$1,202.81.

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 \$1,932,473.37.

8.C. Approve the payment of Food Service bills from the Food Service Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$204.20.

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

Taxpayer Name: Megan Jones
Bill #: 12638
Year: 2020
Refund Amount: \$274.40
Reason: Megan Jones was not a resident in 2020; paid the taxes in error.

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

Taxpayer Name: Tracey Stakem
Bill #: 17190
Year: 2020
Refund Amount: \$283.50
Reason: Tracey Stakem made less than \$5,000.00 in 2020; paid the taxes in error.

IX. CONTRACTS

MOTION TO APPROVE

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

9.A. Approve the MOU between Londonderry Private School and Susquehanna Township School district as reviewed in executive session.

9.B. Approve the Articulation Agreement between Central Penn College and Susquehanna Township High School for dual enrollment of STHS students.

~~**9.C.** Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Susquehanna Township School District and Susquehanna Township Police Department.~~

DISCUSSION

9.D. Discuss the Agreement between STSD and CAIU for participation in the IDEA ARP Supplemental Part B Agreement, School Aged Program in the amount of \$128,863.14 (District Contract #84.027X – Award # H027X210093).

Note: This is a new agreement outlining requirements associated with one-time American Rescue Plan Elementary & Secondary School - ARP IDEA funding. This represents Susquehanna Township School District's share of ARP funding allotted to the CAIU for its local school districts.

DISCUSSION

9.E. Discuss the agreement with Yellow Breeches Educational Center, Inc., to provide outplacement services for the 2021-2022 school year.

Yellow Breeches Educational Center provides educational placements of special education students in grades 6-12 that exhibit challenging behaviors that cannot be supported in district.

DISCUSSION

9.F. Discuss the Vantage Financial Lease Schedule # SUS060320 – 006 and ancillary documents as attached and recommended by Administration. This lease represents the requested purchase of student devices for incoming 22-23 school year Kindergarten, 5th and 9th grade students. These devices will be utilized for a minimum of 4 to 5 years in accordance with our device rotation schedule.

DISCUSSION

9.G. Discuss the attached 2022 Amended Sponsorship Agreement between the Board of Trustees of Harrisburg Area Community College and the Local Sponsors of which Susquehanna Township School District is one. The agreement applies to a 5-Year Term effective the 22-23 FY through 26-27 FY inclusive of an annual 2.5% increase as outlined and reflected in both the agreement and Exhibit A.

Note: STSD and other sponsoring school districts finance a portion of the cost associated with qualifying residents attendance at Harrisburg Area Community College.

X. POLICY

MOTION TO APPROVE

10.A.B.C.D.E.F.G.H.I.J.K.L.M.N.O.P.Q.R. Moved by Mr. Rawls, seconded by Mr. Heller to approve Items 10.A.B.C.D.E.F.G.H.I.J.K.L.M.N.O.P.Q.R.
Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

10. A. Approve Policy 609: Investment of District Funds

10.B. Approve Policy 610: Purchases Subject to Bid Quotations

10.C. Approve Policy 611: Purchases Budgeted

10.D. Approve Policy 612: Purchases Not Budgeted

10.E. Approve Policy 613: Cooperative Purchasing

10.F. Approve Policy 614: Payroll Authorization

10.G. Approve Policy 615: Payroll Deductions

10.H. Approve Policy 615.1: Tax Sheltered Programs

10.I. Approve Policy 616: Payment of Bills

10.J. Approve Policy 617: Petty Cash

10.L. Approve Policy 619: District Audit

10.M. Approve Policy 620: Fund Balance

10.N. Approve Policy 621: Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights

10.O. Approve Policy 622: GASB Statement 34

10.P. Approve Policy 624: Taxable Fringe Benefits

10.Q. Approve Policy 625: Procurement Cards

10.R. Approve Policy 626: Federal Fiscal Compliance

XI. OTHER

MOTION TO APPROVE

11.A. Moved by Mr. Rawls, seconded by Miss McCullough, to approve Item 11.A.
Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

11.A. Approve the 4th month renewal of Homebound Education for Student 2021-22/024 as discussed in executive session.

MOTION TO APPROVE

11.B. Moved by Dr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Ali, to approve Item 11.B.
Motion passed 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

11.B. Approve the revised STSD 2021-2022 school calendar as attached.

MOTION TO APPROVE

11.C. Moved by Dr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Newill to approve Item 11.C.
Motion passed 7-1 (Rawls), 1 abstentions, 0 absent

11.C. Approve the district's Health and Safety Plan revisions as attached.

NOTE: Item 11.D. Mascot/Logo moved to item 3.C.

DISCUSSION

11.E. Graduation Venue

Dr. Willis shared that the stadium and field can be used as long as no sharp objects are placed on the newly installed turf. Central Dauphin Middle School is available as a back up in the event of inclement weather. She provided the board with estimated costs to have graduation at Roscoe Warner Stadium.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dietrich shared that a Disparity Study Resolution will be on the next meeting's agenda.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Rawls, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed: 9-0, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

March 7, 2022
Monday Evening

Julieann Newill
Board Secretary