



## **BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MONTHLY ACTION MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Friday, April 30, 2021

Location: Souderton Area High School, 625 Lower Road, Souderton, PA 18964

**Members present:** Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren, Courtney Barbieri

**Others present:** Elisa Ball, Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Brian Pawling and Megan Zweiback

### **1. Welcome**

1.1 Call to Order - Board President

Mr. Keith called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.

1.2 Meeting Protocol

Mr. Keith noted that the meeting was being made available for virtual viewing and was being recorded. He also stated that it would be available for viewing on Comcast channel 28 and Verizon channel 46, and on the school district website.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Keith led the Pledge of Allegiance

1.4 Roll Call - Board Secretary

Mr. Pawling called the roll. Nine Board members were present.

### **2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

2.1 Public Comment

There were no public comments on agenda items.

### **3. Report of the President**

3.1 Report on Executive Session Meeting(s) held by the Board

Mr. Keith reported that an Executive Session was held on April 7th to discuss personnel and collective bargaining and lasted approximately 90 minutes.

Mr. Keith also announced that an Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters including administrative positions and staff retirements and resignations. The session lasted approximately 45 minutes.

### **4. Consent/Action Agenda**

4.1 Consent/Action Agenda Protocol

The Superintendent made a recommendation to the Board for a motion to approve the Consent/Action item(s) listed. Board members were invited to remove items from the Consent/Action agenda if further discussion is needed.

4.2 Approve School Board Meeting Minutes from March 10 and March 25, 2021

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 10 AND MARCH 25, 2021 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

4.3 Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND CHECK LISTINGS FOR MARCH 2021

## 4.4 Approve Personnel Items - Professional Staff

<b>RESIGNATION</b>	
HUGHES, ABRAM	Math Teacher, Souderton Area High School Effective: June 30, 2021
<b>RETIREMENTS</b>	
COWLEY, GRACE	Kindergarten Teacher, E. Merton Crouthamel Elementary School Effective: End of 2020-2021 School Year
FRANCIS, JANET	First Grade Teacher, West Broad Street Elementary School Effective: End of 2020-2021 School Year
HEDRICK, PATRICIA	Special Education Teacher, Oak Ridge Elementary School Effective: End of 2020-2021 School Year
KOSTRUBIAK, ELIZABETH	Special Education Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School Effective: April 16, 2021
KULP, WENDY	Kindergarten Teacher, West Broad Street Elementary School Effective: End of 2020-2021 School Year
SAYLOR, SUSAN	Special Education Teacher, Salford Hills Elementary School Effective: End of 2020-2021 School Year
SPAIDE, WENDY	First Grade Teacher, E. Merton Crouthamel Elementary School Effective: End of 2020-2021 School Year
<b>NEW HIRE</b>	
LAMARCA, CLAUDIA Replacement for Samantha Horton (Childrearing)	School Counselor, Indian Crest Middle School LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE Effective: First Semester of 2021-2022 School Year Education: Monmouth University (BA) 2017 Monmouth University (MEd) 2019 Experience: Jan. 2020-present - Souderton Area School District, LTS School Counselor, Souderton Area High School; Aug. 2019-Jan. 2020 - Souderton Area School District, School Counseling Intern, Souderton Area High School; Jan.-May 2019 - St. Rose High School, NJ, Counseling Intern; Sept.-Dec. 2019 - Joseph C. Caruso Elementary School, NJ, Counseling Intern Recommended Salary: \$28,683.50 - M (1)
MOLYNEUX, CELESTE Replacement for Elizabeth Kostrubiak (Retired)	Special Education Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL Effective: April 19, 2021 Education: Bloomsburg (BS) 2017 Experience: Nov. 2020-present - Souderton Area School District, LTS Special Education Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School; Aug. 2018-Nov. 2020 - Souderton Area School District - Special Education Assistant and Learning Support Extended Substitute Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School; Sept 2017-May 2018 - Colonial School District, Substitute Teacher Recommended Salary: \$48,479 (pro-rated) - B (1)
<b>REQUEST FOR COMPENSATED PROFESSIONAL LEAVE</b>	
DOYLE, TERESA	Family & Consumer Science Teacher, Souderton Area High School Request for Compensated Professional Leave for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year.
SMITH, DARREN	Elementary Technology Teacher, West Broad Street Elementary School Request for Compensated Professional Leave for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year.
<b>REQUEST FOR CHILDREREARING LEAVE</b>	
HORTON, SAMANTHA	School Counselor, Indian Crest Middle School Request for Childrearing Leave, following 12-weeks leave under FMLA, through the end of the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Horton plans to return for the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year.
WARREN, CAITLIN	Science Teacher, Souderton Area High School Request for Childrearing Leave, following 12-weeks leave under FMLA, through the end of the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Warren plans to return for the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - PROFESSIONAL STAFF

## 4.5 Approve Personnel Items - Support Staff

<b>RESIGNATION</b>	
ASCHER, ANDREW	Custodian, Souderton Area High School Effective: April 16, 2021
SMERECKI, JARED	Part-Time Custodial Substitute Effective: April 19, 2021
STAYTON, SANDRA	Special Education Instructional Assistant, Oak Ridge Elementary School Effective: March 30, 2021

<b>NEW HIRES</b>	
CANTONO, DYLAN Replacement for Christopher Coale (Resigned)	Part-Time Custodian, Indian Valley Middle School Effective: April 12, 2021 Wage: \$12.96 per hour - Hours: 4 per day
GARBER, ABBIE Replacement for Valerie Evans (Resigned)	Cafeteria/Playground Aide, E. Merton Crouthamel Elementary School Effective: April 12, 2021 Wage: \$11.04 per hour - Hours: 2 per day
KOZIELEC, SARA Replacement for Katrina Besnard (Transfer)	Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Vernfield Elementary School Effective: April 8, 2021 Wage: \$11.04 per hour - Hours: 2 per day, 2 days per week
LANDIS, GABRIELLE	Food Service Substitute Effective: April 6, 2021 Wage: \$10.37 per hour - Hours: As Needed
MCGANN, THOMAS Replacement for Philip Wagner (Resigned)	Part-Time Custodian, West Broad Street Elementary School Effective: March 29, 2021 Wage: \$12.96 per hour - Hours: 4 per day
RENNER, RACHAEL Replacement for Katrina Besnard (Transfer)	Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Vernfield Elementary School Effective: April 7, 2021 Wage: \$11.04 per hour - Hours: 2 per day, 1 day per week
SNYDER, STEVEN Replacement for Ryan Welsh (Transfer)	Part-Time Custodian, Indian Crest Middle School Effective: April 12, 2021 Wage: \$12.96 per hour - Hours: 4 per day
WAITE, ANNE Replacement for Vicki Nace (Resigned)	Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Vernfield Elementary School Effective: April 21, 2021 Wage: \$11.04 per hour - Hours: 2 per day, 1 day per week
YODER, JULIE Replacement for Donna Bowie (Retired)	Special Education Instructional Assistant, Vernfield Elementary School Effective: April 12, 2021 Wage: \$14.25 per hour - Hours: 6.75 per day
<b>TRANSFERS</b>	
BESNARD, KATRINA Replacement for Kenda Gardner (Transfer)	From: Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Vernfield Elementary School To: Attendance Administrative Assistant, Vernfield Elementary School Effective: April 12, 2021 Wage: \$14.59 per hour - Hours: 6 per day, 190 days per year
WELSH, RYAN Replacement for Colton Zuk (Resigned)	From: Part-Time Custodian, Indian Crest Middle School To: 2nd Shift Custodian, Indian Valley Middle School Effective: April 19, 2021 Wage: \$20.47 per hour - Hours: 8 per day

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SUPPORT STAFF

#### 4.6 Approve Personnel Items - Supplemental Contracts

Name	Position	School	Amount
Lori Maxwell	Spring Musical - Director	Souderton Area High School	\$2,625
Diane Ramage	Spring Musical - Music Director	Souderton Area High School	\$2,425

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

#### 4.7 Approve Personnel Items - Additions to Substitute Teacher List

Ann Masters  
Brenna Sowers

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - ADDITIONS TO SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST

#### 4.8 Second Reading of Policy 103 Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

Administration is seeking a Second Reading to revise Policy No. 103 - Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students. The revisions will modify the current policy to add requirements per Act 110 of 2020 on November 3, 2020, creating a new section of the PA School Code 24 P.S. Sec. 13-1318.1

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY NO. 103 - DISCRIMINATION/TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT AFFECTING STUDENTS

#### 4.9 Second Reading of Policy 236 - Mobile Devices

Administration is seeking a Second Reading to revise Policy No. 236 - Mobile Devices. The revision has been requested after review in order to make policy current.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF POLICY NO. 236 - MOBILE DEVICES

#### 4.10 Second Reading Policy 815.1 Acceptable Use of Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communications and Information Systems

Administration is seeking a Second Reading to revise Policy No. 815.1 Acceptable Use of Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communications and Information Systems. This revision has been requested after review in order to make policy current.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF POLICY NO. 815.1 ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS, NETWORK, INTERNET ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

#### 4.11 Second Reading of Policy 815.3 - Electronic Communications and Social Media

Administration is seeking a Second Reading to revise Policy 815.3 - Electronic Communications and Social Media. This revision has been requested after review in order to make policy current.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF POLICY NO. 815.3 - ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

#### 4.12 First Reading of Policy 113.1 - Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Administration is seeking a First Reading to revise Policy No. 113.1 - Discipline of Students with Disabilities. This revision will replace the current policy with the recommendations from Pennsylvania School Board Association for legal liability purposes.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF POLICY NO. 113.1 DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITES

#### 4.13 First Reading of Policy 218 - Student Discipline

Administration is seeking a First Reading to revise Policy No. 218 - Student Discipline. This revision will replace the current policy with the recommendations from Pennsylvania School Board Association for legal liability purposes.

Resolution: MOTION TIO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF POLICY NO. 218 - STUDENT DISCIPLINE

#### 4.14 Approve 2021-2022 Special Education Cost Plan with MCIU

The Administration recommends approval of the 2021-2022 Special Education Cost Plan with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU)

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 SPECIAL EDUCATION COST PLAN WITH THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT (MCIU)

#### 4.15 Approve 2021-2022 Proposed Final Budget

The Administration recommends approval of the 2021-2022 Proposed Final General Fund Budget in accordance with Special Session Act 1 of 2006. The Board further directs the Administration to make the Proposed Final Budget document available on its website in the form required by the Department of Education.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET

#### 4.16 Approve a Resolution to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds

Motion to approve a Resolution to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds. This motion allows the District to fund new money needs of the District in the approximate amount of \$9,995,000.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

#### 4.17 Approve Fox Rothschild as District Solicitor for 2021-2022

The Administration recommends approval of Fox Rothschild to serve as the District's solicitor for 2021-2022.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE FOX ROTHSCHILD AS DISTRICT SOLICITOR FOR 2021-2022

#### 4.18 Approve HIPAA Business Associate Agreement with Fox Rothschild for 2021-2022

The Administration recommends approval of the HIPAA Business Associate Agreement with Fox Rothschild, in conjunction with the approval of Fox Rothschild as District solicitor.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT WITH FOX ROTHSCHILD FOR 2021-2022

#### 4.19 Approve Sweet Stevens Katz & Williams as District Special Education Counsel for 2021-2022

The Administration recommends approval of Sweet Stevens Katz & Williams to serve as the District's special education counsel for 2021-2022.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SWEET STEVENS KATZ & WILLIAMS AS SPECIAL EDUCATION COUNSEL FOR 2021-2022

#### 4.20 Approve the 2021-2022 North Montco Technical Career Center Budget

The Administration recommends approval of the 2021-2022 North Montco Technical Career Center Budget.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 NORTH MONTCO TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER BUDGET

#### 4.21 Approve Donation to E. M. Crouthamel Elementary School

The Administration recommends approving a monetary donation from a local business to E. M. Crouthamel Elementary School per policy #702, Gifts, Grants and Donations.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE A DONATION TO E. M. CROUTHAMEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### 4.22 Approve Donation to Franconia Elementary School

The Administration recommends approving a monetary donation from a local business to Franconia Elementary School per Policy # 702, Gifts, Grants and Donations.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE A DONATION TO FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### 4.23 Approve Board of School Directors 2021-2022 Meeting Calendar

The 2021-2022 Board of School Directors Meeting Calendar is requested for approval, and will be publicly advertised in accordance with School Code requirements.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS 2021-2022 MEETING CALENDAR

#### 4.24 Approve School Clubs for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Administration recommends the approval of five (5) student clubs at the Souderton Area High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Students for Ethical Consumption Club - to educate and promote the practice of ethical consumption.
- True Crime Club - to provide a safe and appropriate space to discuss and learn about a variety of true crime cases.
- American Sign Language (ASL) Club - seeks to spread awareness of deaf culture and collectively learn American Sign Language to make a more accommodating world for the deaf.
- Queens Chess Club - to allow girls to explore their love of chess in a male-dominated sport.
- Investing Club - teach the ways of investing, the market and the economy.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SCHOOL CLUBS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

#### 4.25 Approve Act 80 Days

The Administration recommends approval of the following Act 80 days for the 2020 -2021 school year:

<b>1st - 11th Grade</b>	<b>KA / KF / KP</b>	<b>12th Grade</b>
9/8/2020	9/8/2020	9/8/2020
11/3/2020	11/3/2020	11/3/2020
11/23/2020	11/23/2020	11/23/2020
---	11/24/2020	11/24/2020
---	---	11/25/2020
3/12/2021	3/12/2021	3/12/2021

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE ACT 80 DAYS FOR THE 2020 -2021 SCHOOL YEAR

#### 4.26 Approve Colleges and Universities for Student-Teacher Partnering

Motion to Approve Colleges and Universities for Student-Teacher Partnering. Souderton Area School District will consider student-teacher placements from the following list of eligible colleges and universities for the 2021-2022 school year. The colleges/universities will furnish a credential packet on behalf of the student teacher prior to the district securing a placement. The credential packet will include: formal placement request letter, student teacher application, essay, resume, Praxis scores (if available), letter of recommendation, Act 34 Pennsylvania Criminal Record Check, Act 114 FBI Criminal History Record, Act 151 Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, Tuberculosis test results, and academic transcripts.

- Arcadia University
- Bloomsburg University
- Cabrini University
- Chestnut Hill College
- Delaware Valley University
- Drexel University
- Eastern University
- East Stroudsburg University
- Gwynedd-Mercy University
- Immaculata University
- Kutztown University
- Lehigh University
- Liberty University
- Mansfield University
- The Pennsylvania State University
- St. Joseph's University
- Temple University
- West Chester University
- Ursinus College
- Villanova University

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR STUDENT-TEACER PARTNERING

#### 4.27 Approve Confidential Release and Placement Agreement in lieu of a FAPE

The Administration is seeking approval for a Confidential Release and Placement Agreement in lieu of a FAPE for (1) Souderton Area School District student.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE CONFIDENTIAL RELEASE AND PLACEMENT AGREEMENT IN LIEU OF A FAPE

#### 4.28 Approve Student Expulsion

The Administration is seeking approval for one student expulsion. Pursuant to the laws of Pennsylvania, it is recommended that the Souderton Area School District Board of Directors approve the expulsion of Student ID# 302328 from the Souderton Area School District from April 20, 2021 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE (1) STUDENT EXPULSION FROM SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Prior to the motion to approve all consent/action agenda items, Mr. Keith stated that the approval this evening of the Proposed Final Budget is an obligatory requirement of the state and is not the final school district budget. Mrs. Scheuren also reiterated that refinement of the budget will continue in an effort to close the gap before imposing a tax increase.

Dr. Gallagher stated that the donations being approved this evening were received from A & T Chevrolet and Bergey's Inc.

#### 4.29 APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Stephen Nelson, second by Donna Scheuren.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren, Courtney Barbieri

### **5. Discussion/Action Agenda**

There were no Discussion/Action agenda items.

## **6. Future Meetings**

### 6.1 Future Meetings

Mr. Keith announced the following meetings:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
May 12, 2021	Souderton Area School District Board Committee Meetings	6:30 PM	CHANGE OF LOCATION: Indian Valley Middle School 130 Maple Avenue Harleysville
May 17, 2021	North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting	7:00 PM	Virtual
May 26, 2021	Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of School Directors Meeting	6:45 PM	Virtual
May 27, 2021	Souderton Area School District Board Action Meeting	7:00 PM	Souderton Area High School

## **7. Report of the Solicitor**

### 7.1 Report of the Solicitor

There was no report.

Mr. Sultanik thanked the Board for their forty-third year of partnership with his firm.

## **8. Unfinished/New Business of the Board**

### 8.1 Unfinished/New Business from the Board

Dr. Gallagher gave an update on the district Equity Committee, indicating that it continues to pursue its goals and that an Equity audit is planned for the entire district. Dr. Gallagher reiterated the importance of the committee and noted despite the challenges of a pandemic, efforts will move forward. He indicated that the current focus of providing in-person and virtual learning for all students, is an example of equity in action.

Dr. Gallagher stated that in a partnership with Rann Pharmacy, the high school was the site of a vaccine clinic where 444 students received their first dose of the vaccine. Dr. Gallagher also indicated that once the vaccine is approved for persons ages 12-16 years old, the district will be working toward providing another clinic.

## **9. Public Comments**

### 9.1 Public Comments

Kelsey Suder of Souderton, Rachel Irvin of Lower Salford and Alyssa Picard of Lower Salford approached the podium together. Ms. Suder expressed gratitude to the Board for giving teachers the opportunity to teach in-person as well as virtually. Ms. Suder cited several examples of how having choice benefitted teachers and families equally.

Ms. Irvin stated that the "whole child" approach has had an enormous impact on her family. She noted that it was with great pride that she teaches and lives in the Souderton Area School District. Ms. Irvin also noted that the SAOA was an exceptional experience for her child, allowing for growth and confidence.

Ms. Picard thanked the Board for keeping children first, despite the hardships and pressures that they may have encountered. Ms. Picard stated that the decision of the Board to give parents a choice for either in-person or virtual instruction, substantiated equity to the district. Ms. Picard also reiterated her opinion that in-person learning was critical for student instruction.

Jill Faulkner of Lower Salford spoke to the Board about having a special needs child and the exceptional services that have been received in the Souderton Area School District.

Anthony Petrino of Franconia Township thanked the Board for prioritizing the education and well-being of students by offering in-person instruction. Mr. Petrino stated that his family selected to attend a cyber-charter school because of the COVID protocols that the school district had adopted. He indicated that if the mask mandate was removed he would return his students to the district classrooms. Mr. Petrino asked if the school district would defy the mask mandate?

Mr. Keith responded to the question by answering that the Board has a commitment to keep students and staff safe and all decisions would be made using appropriate guidelines.

Erin Keeler of Souderton stated that she and her family had recently moved from the North Penn School District to the Souderton Area School District and she was extremely satisfied with the education that her students were receiving. Ms. Keeler praised the Board for their unwavering decision to offer in-person instruction.

Randall Moyer of Franconia thanked the Board for offering in-person instruction. He praised the teachers and the administration for leading in a time of adversity. He also thanked everyone for keeping students safe.

Kara Derstein of Franconia thanked the Board for prioritizing the ability for students to be in-school.

Kaitlin Derstine of Franconia thanked the Board for its concern for school district families. Ms. Derstine cited in-person board meetings and open public comment as several examples of school board actions which facilitated communication and commitment to the community. Ms. Derstine also stated her Board candidate preferences for the upcoming May primary election.

Mr. Keith thanked everyone for their comments.

Representative Tracy Pennycuik introduced herself as a freshman legislator in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Representative Pennycuik praised the school board for their integrity and leadership. She also praised the early decision to offer in-person instruction as well as offering a virtual option. Representative Pennycuik stated that the school board has done an outstanding job and the people of Pennsylvania are noticing it. She indicated her pride in representing the Souderton Area School District.

Mr. Keith and Dr. Gallagher thanked Representative Pennycuik for attending this evening and thanked her for her service to the community.

Dr. Gallagher thanked the teachers, staff and parents for their efforts in making in-person instruction a success. Dr. Gallagher also thanked his administrative team; Dr. Christopher Hey, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly, Mr. Pawling and Mrs. Zweiback.

Mrs. Scheuren thanked everyone who spoke this evening for speaking to fact and for sharing their real-life experiences. She praised the teachers for their extensive experience and worthiness. Mrs. Scheuren thanked the public for their trust, thanked parents for being engaged and acknowledged the difficult decisions that are encumbered upon the Board.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Hey summarized comments and questions that had been submitted by email, prior to the Board meeting. The first question was from Kelly Cole of Souderton asking for the number of SASD staff and bus drivers that had been vaccinated. Dr. Hey said that information is not available, however hundreds of employees have received the vaccine and that any faculty or staff member that wanted a vaccine, was able to secure one.

Ms. Cole also inquired about the future status of SAOA and other plans for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Gallagher responded that the school district is currently exploring if there will be a need for SAOA. He also noted that weekly communication with CHOP of Philadelphia and Montgomery County DOH continues to occur. All of this information will be used to begin forecasting for fall and the start of the new school year. Dr. Gallagher encouraged vaccination in an effort to achieve herd immunity.

Dr. Hey summarized a second question from Stephanie Bass. Ms. Bass inquired about a possible population increase and the need for more space in the schools and how to pay for a new school. Ms. Bass also inquired about needed improvements at Indian Valley Middle School.

Dr. Gallagher responded that the district is not seeing a population increase. He noted that a demographic study had been performed two years ago and reviewed at a Board Committee Meeting, reflecting that trends are not showing growth. Dr. Gallagher also responded that just this evening the Board had approved a bond issue which will be used to finance the improvements scheduled at Indian Valley Middle School. Dr. Gallagher noted that the improvements planned for Indian Valley this summer, are, in part of the Five-Year Capital Plan which includes major renovations throughout the district. He also stated that there is currently no need to build another school.

Dr. Hey summarized the comments of Erin Tynebor and Kevin Shelly who stated disappointment in the district response to equity and inclusion as well as noting an absence of the Board from a recent equity event held in Wissahickon.

Mr. Keith responded to the inquiries, noting that questions to individual Board members would not be answered in a public forum. Mr. Keith outlined the protocol for submitting questions through email or in a public meeting. Mr. Keith also listed the numerous committees, events and meetings that the School Board is obligated to participate in, therefore making it impossible to attend all public events.

In response to the equity concerns that were expressed, Mr. Keith clearly stated that the Souderton Area School District has consistently demonstrated its commitment to providing an equitable education to all students in the community. Mr. Keith cited the implementation of in-person instruction and virtual instruction, during a pandemic, as examples of equity. Mr. Keith also cited the school district adoption of the Character Counts initiative and its commitment to serve the whole child. Mr. Keith assured the public that the district Equity Committee is active both internally and externally, and its activities and actions are in place and are being experienced by students and staff alike. Mr. Keith also stated that Board members have significant experience and exposure to the equity topic in their own professional environments and are able to bring that knowledge to the school district. Mr. Keith reiterated the commitment of the Board to serve on behalf of the district's children.

Dr. Gallagher mentioned that a high school prom was going to be held on May 21st. He noted that a safe venue had been located and that all protocols would be in place to hold a safe celebration.

## **10. Adjournment**

### 10.1 Adjournment of the Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' MEETING.

Motion by William Brong, second by Donna Scheuren.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren, Courtney Barbieri

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian R. Pawling  
Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs