



BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MONTHLY ACTION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Monday, January 13, 2020

Members present: William Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren, Courtney Barbieri

Members absent: Nicholas Braccio and Thomas Kwiatkowski

Others present: Henry Franz, Frank T. Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Brian Pawling, Sam Varano and Megan Zweiback

1. Welcome

1.1 Call to Order - Board President

Mr. Keith called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

1.2 Meeting Protocol

Mr. Keith announced meeting protocol for public comment.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Keith led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Roll Call - Board Secretary

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

2. Student Recognition

2.1 Recognition of National Merit Scholarship Commended and Semi-Finalist Students

Superintendent Gallagher introduced Souderton Area High School Principal Dr. Varano who recognized the following National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist:

Erica Stover

and the following commended National Merit Scholarship students:

Siddhartha Buddhadev

Ellie Nguyen

Emma Smith

Resolution: MOTION TO RECOGNIZE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

MOTION TO RECOGNIZE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

Motion by Donna Scheuren, second by Stephen Nelson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

3. Report of the Student Representatives to the Board

3.1 Student Representatives Update on Activities and Events at Souderton Area High School

Senior Representative Naila Neely spoke about the recent S.A.V.E. greenhouse event which was open to the public for a plant sale and a visit with Santa. Naila also spoke about the beginning of Winter Sports season, and the Cultural Awareness Club sock collection for the homeless. Junior Caroline Kelly noted the wrap up of the holiday concert season, and the annual Winter Workshop which gives all district first graders the opportunity to visit the high school and engage in activities and create a craft with high school students.

Caroline also mentioned that January will bring final exams and the end of the first semester.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items

4.1 Public Comment

Mr. Andy Souchet of Franconia Township inquired about agenda item 5.1 which appear to have a typographical error. Mr. Keith responded that the sentence had been completed at the end of the Executive Session, adding details.

Mr. Souchet asked what is an Executive Session and how is it different than a Committee Meeting. District Solicitor Mr. Sultanik responded that the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law has a number of exceptions that have been codified into law that are permitted to take place in an Executive Session when a public discussion of these issues would be otherwise inappropriate or ill-advised. One of the exceptions would be real estate, so that we can discuss the purchase or acquisition of real estate. If we were to say what our authorizations is to acquire or sell a property, it would defeat the purpose to do that in public.

Mr. Sultanik also added that quasi-judicial deliberations would include student discipline related issues and teacher termination issues as they are not discussed in public. There is an overall personnel and collective bargaining exemption that once again is done in the privacy of an Executive Session. Sharing the legal advice of legal counsel to deal with issues is appropriate for Executive Session. In addition, information items where there is no Board deliberation are also appropriate for an Executive Session.

Mr. Souchet also inquired about the renewal process of the Souderton Charter School Collaborative and how the process works. Mr. Keith responded that under School Law the School District is obligated to review and renew or decline the charter of the Souderton Charter School Collaborative every five years. Mr. Sultanik added that when we get to that portion of the agenda that addressed the Charter School renewal, that the Administration and the Board President will have a statement.

Maria Souchet of Franconia addressed the Board indicating that she is a student of the Souderton Charter School Collaborative. Miss Souchet also indicated that she previously attended West Broad Street Elementary School. Miss Souchet commended her school principal and teachers for their commitment to teaching and ability to know student learning style.

Another student identifying herself as a friend of Miss Souchet, stated that she has been a student at SCSC for eight years it has been an amazing experience not only for herself, but for her family as well.

Mr. Keith thanked each of the students for their comments and for sharing their perspective.

Mr. Souchet commented on the review and renewal process of the SCSC charter. He acknowledged his understanding of flawed Charter School Funding laws and asked the Administration and the Board not to victimize students, parents and teachers for the errors that exist because of state legislation.

Mr. Keith thanked Mr. Souchet for his comments and agreed that changes do need to occur with state legislation.

5. Report of the President

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

Mr. Keith reported that an Executive Session was held on December 11 to discuss the renewal application of the Souderton Charter School Collaborative and lasted approximately 30 minutes. He also reported that an Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel items and the renewal application of the Souderton Charter School Collaborative. The session lasted approximately 15 minutes.

6. Consent/Action Agenda

6.1 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 are invited to remove items from the Consent/Action agenda if further discussion is needed.

6.2 Approve School Board Meeting Minutes from November 6 and November 21, 2020

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 6 AND NOVEMBER 21, 2020 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

6.3 Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND CHECK LISTINGS FOR NOVEMBER 30, 2019

6.4 Approve Request to Attend Conferences/Workshops

The Administration is requesting Board approval of the following workshop/conferences as listed:

Beverly Hanrahan
 E.M.C. Teacher
 Institute to Support High Leverage Writing Instruction for Students Learning English
 Teachers College Reading & Writing Project
 New York, NY
 Jan. 12-14, 2020
 \$835.99
 Funding: Title II Funds

Carolyn Rosenberger
 District Office Staff Developer
 Institute to Support High Leverage Writing Instruction for Students Learning English
 Teachers College Reading & Writing Project
 New York, NY
 Jan. 12-14, 2020
 \$1,599.88
 Funding: Title II Funds

Tamara Callahan
 E.M.C. Principal
 Institute to Support High Leverage Writing Instruction for Students Learning English
 Teachers College Reading & Writing Project
 New York, NY
 Jan. 12-14, 2020
 \$1,486.88
 Funding: Title II Funds

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST(S) TO ATTEND CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS AS LISTED

6.5 Ratify Request(s) to Attend Conferences/Workshops

The Administration is seeking Board to ratify conference/workshop requests as listed below:

Tessa Colucci
 Elementary Staff Developer
 National Council of English Teachers National Conference
 National Council of English Teachers
 Baltimore, MD
 November 22 - 24, 2019
 \$1,034.00
 Funding: Curriculum Budget

Renee Wagner
 S.T.A.R.R. Program Teacher
 Pa Community on Transition Conference
 State College, PA
 July 17-18, 2019
 \$455.51
 Funding: Special Ed/Life Skills Budget

Resolution: MOTION TO RATIFY REQUEST(S) TO ATTEND CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS AS LISTED.

6.6 Approve Request(s) for Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips

The Administration is seeking approval for a request for an out-of-state/overnight field trip.

SAHS Wrestling team
 Wrestling Tournament/competition
 Chambersburg High School
 Chambersburg, PA
 December 27-28, 2019
 18 students / 4 adults
 Funding: Booster club

High School Cheerleaders
 National HS Cheer Competition
 Orlando, FL
 February 6-10, 2020
 15 students / 3 adults
 Funding: Student

High School Students
 High School Academic Decathlon Regional Finals
 Penns Valley High School
 Spring Mills, PA
 February 7-8, 2020
 15 students / 3 adults
 Funding: Student Activities Account

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE/OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST(S) AS LISTED:

6.7 Ratify Request for Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip

The Administration is seeking to ratify the following request for an overnight field trip:

SAHS Wrestling team
 Wrestling Tournament/Competition
 Penn Manor High School
 Millersville, PA
 Dec. 13-14. 2019
 18 students / 4 adults
 Funding: Booster club

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE/OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

6.8 Approve Mentors and Peer Coaches

Administration will be seeking approval for the following peer coaches and/or mentors:

Gina Shoemaker	Peer Coach to Tricia Veverka (pro-rated)	\$188
Cindy Vesey	Mentor to Brittany McCauley (pro-rated)	\$379

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE MENTORS AND PEER COACHES FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

6.9 Approve Personnel Items - Professional Staff

NEW HIRE	
BROWN, TIMOTHY	School Counselor, Souderton Area High School TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL
Replacement for Anne Grant	Effective: January 3, 2020 Education: West Chester (BS) 2013

(Retired)	Gwynedd Mercy (MS) 2019 <u>Experience:</u> Sept. 2019-present – Souderton Area School District, LTS School Counselor, Souderton Area High School; 2018-Aug. 2019 - Souderton Area School District, School Counseling Intern; Aug. 2013-June 2017 - Souderton Area School District, Special Education Instructional Assistant, Souderton Area High School <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$55,792 (pro-rated based on start date) - M (1)
SHELDON, KAREN Replacement for Colleen Schneider (Sabbatical)	Learning Support Teacher, Franconia Elementary School LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE Effective: Second Semester of 2019-2020 School Year <u>Education:</u> Univ. of Scranton (BS) 2007 St. Joseph's Univ. (MS) 2008 <u>Experience:</u> Aug. 2019-present - Souderton Area School District, Long-Term Substitute Learning Support Teacher, Salford Hills Elementary School; 2012-2017 - Kent City School District, Ohio, Intervention Specialist; 2009-2012 - George Crothers Memorial School, Ohio, Special Education Teacher <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$27,896 - M (1)
VEVERKA, TRICIA Replacement for Tara Voorhees (Childrearing)	6th Grade ELA/Social Studies Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE Effective: December 9, 2019 through remainder of 2019-2020 school year <u>Education:</u> Univ. of Mary Washington (BA) 1996 <u>Experience:</u> Aug. 2018-present - Souderton Area School District - Long-Term Substitute/Building Substitute/Extended Per-Diem Substitute Teacher; Aug 2016-Aug. 2018 - Central Bucks School District, Special Education Assistant; Jan 2012-June 2016 - Doylestown United Methodist Church, Pre-School Teacher; 2003-2007 - Central Bucks School District, Fifth Grade Teacher; 1998-2002 - Stafford County Public Schools, VA, Fifth Grade Teacher <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$49,442 (pro-rated based on start date) - B12 (1)
REQUEST FOR CHILDREARING LEAVE	
RAPPO, JULIANA	Math/Science Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School Request for Childrearing Leave, following 12-weeks leave under FMLA, through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Rappo plans to return for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CHILDREARING LEAVE	
HORTON, SAMANTHA	School Counselor, Indian Crest Middle School Request for extension of childrearing leave through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Horton plans to return to work for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - PROFESSIONAL STAFF

6.10 Approve Personnel Items - Support Staff

RESIGNATIONS	
DINIC, GREGORY	Custodian, Indian Crest Middle School Effective: November 27, 2019
LONG, MELISSA	Intervention Teaching Assistant, Salford Hills Elementary School Effective: December 20, 2019
NEW HIRES	
BENFIELD, CHERAMIE New Position due to Class Enrollment	Classroom Instructional Assistant, Franconia Elementary School Effective: December 12, 2019 Wage: \$12.04 per hour - Hours: 2.5 per day
KIEFER, MELANIE New Position due to Class Enrollment	Classroom Instructional Assistant, Franconia Elementary School Effective: December 9, 2019 Wage: \$12.04 per hour - Hours: 5 per day
ROSADO, WANDA Replacement for Conner Hoffman (Resigned)	Site Support Technician, Souderton Area High School Effective: November 20, 2019 Wage: \$22.79 per hour - Hours: 7.5 per day, 261 days per year
SOLLIDAY, KAY Replacement for Emily Benner	ESL Intervention Teaching Assistant, E. Merton Crouthamel Elementary School Effective: December 2, 2019 Wage: \$16.15 per hour - Hours: 2.75 per day

(Transfer)	
WAGNER, PHILIP	Part-Time Substitute Custodian Effective: November 21, 2019 Wage: \$12.65 per hour - Hours: As Needed
TRANSFER	
ASCHER, ANDREW Replacement for Gregory Dinic (Resigned)	From: Part-Time Custodian, Souderton Area High School To: 2nd Shift Custodian, Indian Crest Middle School Effective: November 25, 2019 Wage: \$19.99 per hour - Hours: 8 per day
NELSON, FAITH Replacement for Terry Ottinger (Retired)	From: Food Service Assistant, E. Merton Crouthamel Elementary School To: Food Service Manager, E. Merton Crouthamel Elementary School Effective: January 2, 2020 Wage: \$14.89 per hour - Hours: 7.5 per day, 193 days per year

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SUPPORT STAFF

6.11 Approve Personnel Items - Supplemental Contracts

Name	Position	Building	Amount
Heather Fisher	Head Guard Instructor - Indoor Drumline	Souderton Area High School	\$2,543
Kaitlyn Kratz	Assistant Guard Instructor - Indoor Drumline	Souderton Area High School	\$1,614
Timothy Wilson	Head Percussion Instructor - Indoor Drumline	Souderton Area High School	\$3,250
Lisa Platow	Assistant Percussion Instructor - Indoor Drumline	Souderton Area High School	\$1,663
Allyson Williams	Assistant Instructor - Indoor Drumline	Souderton Area High School	\$1,200 To be paid by Band Boosters
Alyssa Ascher	Assistant Instructor - Indoor Drumline	Souderton Area High School	\$1,200 To be paid via Purchase Order by Band Boosters
Ja'Quil St. Valle	Assistant Instructor - Indoor Drumline	Souderton Area High School	\$1,200 To be paid via Purchase Order by Band Boosters

The following is a change to a previously approved contract on November 21, 2019:

Name	Position	Building	Amount
Jeremy Thomas *replacing Brian Bisacquino	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$2,981

The following is a change to a previously approved contract on September 26, 2019:

Name	Position	Building	Amount
Allyson Williams *replacing Richard Freda	Elementary Honors Chorus Co-Advisor	District	\$350

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

6.12 Approve Personnel Items - Winter/Spring 2020 Community Education Staff

INSTRUCTOR	COURSE	RATE	SALARY
Barnett, Michael	Discover Your Intuitive Self	\$18 Per Hour/14 Hours	\$252
Barnett, Michael	Intro to Tarot	\$18 Per Hour/12 Hours	\$216
Barnett, Michael	Margaret Fuller	\$18 Per Hour/14 Hours	\$252
Barrick, Susan	Recreational Volleyball - Mon @ SH	\$10 Per Hour/22 Hours	\$220
Berry, Theresa	Volleyball Supervisor - Tues @ IC	Workshop Fee	\$500
Berry, William	Volleyball Supervisor - Wed @ IC	Workshop Fee	\$500
Berry, William	Volleyball Supervisor - Mon @ IV	Workshop Fee	\$500

Burger, Lisa	Book of the Month Club	\$20 Per Hour/8 Hours	\$160
Burger, Lisa	Crochet - Beginners	\$20 Per Hour/6 Hours	\$120
Burger, Lisa	Crochet - Crowd	\$20 Per Hour/8 Hours	\$160
Burger, Lisa	Crochet - The Next Step	\$20 Per Hour/6 Hours	\$120
Burger, Lisa	Crochet - C2C	\$20 Per Hour/6 Hours	\$120
Burger, Lisa	Dinner Club	\$20 Per Hour/8 Hours	\$160
Burger, Lisa	Dump and Go	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Burger, Lisa	Route 66	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Burger, Lisa	Trip Chaperone	\$100 Per Trip/4 Trips	\$400
Clark, Diane	Dump and Go	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Clark, Diane	Route 66	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Cohan, Lorraine	Total Body Sculpting	\$30 Per Hour/26 Hours	\$780
Cohan, Lorraine	EZ Toning	\$30 Per Hour/14 Hours	\$420
Cohan, Lorraine	Yoga - Beginner	\$30 Per Hour/14 Hours	\$420
Crouthamel, Cindy	Knitting - Beginner	\$20 Per Hour/6 Hours	\$120
Crouthamel, Cindy	Sewing - Beginner	\$20 Per Hour/6 Hours	\$120
DeRogatis, Diane	Awesome Acrylics	\$20 Per Hour 12 Hours	\$240
Dornstreich, Judy	Yoga for Beginners	\$25 Per Hour/9 Hours	\$225
Dornstreich, Judy	Yoga Postures, Relaxation, Meditation	\$25 Per Hour/9 Hours	\$225
Earl, Robyn	Country - Popular Line Dances	\$37.50 Per Hour/12 Hours	\$450
Gandy, Yuliya	Russian	\$20 Per Hour/15 Hours	\$300
Geiger, Clarke	Basketball - Wednesday	\$15 Per Hour /30 Hours	\$450
Geiger, Clarke	Basketball - Monday	\$15 Per Hour /39 Hours	\$585
Jones, Jamie	Recreational Volleyball	\$10 Per Hour/28 Hours	\$280
Kerr, Bekki	HIIT Boot Camp	\$20 Per Hour/6 Hours	\$120
Kerr, Bekki	Butts & Guts	\$20 Per Hour/6 Hours	\$120
Lapp, Will	IVVC Volleyball Director	Session Fee	\$3,000
Lapp, Will	Volleyball Supervisor - Thurs @ IV	Workshop Fee (1/2)	\$250
Malc, Stan & Jan	Beginner Ballroom	\$20 Per Hour/16 Hours	\$320
McDowell, Patrick	Recreational Volleyball - Mon @ SH	\$10 Per Hour/22 Hours	\$220
Musselman, Barbara	Reiki I	\$20 Per Hour/12 Hours	\$240
Oelschlager, Brenda	SACE Walking Club	Gratis	\$0
Palazzo Serratore, Anita	Cake Decorating	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Palazzo Serratore, Anita	Italian Meal	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Palazzo Serratore, Anita	Sugar Cookies	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Palazzo Serratore, Anita	Pies	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Palazzo Serratore, Anita	Abstract Acrylic Painting	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Randall, Denise	Gentle Yoga	\$20 Per Hour/15 Hours	\$300
Roncoroni, Sue	French Potpourri	\$20 Per Hour/9 Hours	\$180
Sparks, Matthew	Volleyball Supervisor - Thurs @ IV	Workshop Fee (1/2)	\$250
Stiles, Kristen	Recreational Volleyball	\$10 Per Hour/28 Hours	\$280
Stoudt, April	Designer Greeting Cards	\$20 Per Hour/10 Hours	\$200
Stoudt, April	Designer Greeting Cards	\$20 Per Hour/10 Hours	\$200
Thompson, Brent	Starting Business	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Thompson, Brent	Financial Statements	\$20 Per Hour/4 Hours	\$80
Thurman, Melissa	Ceramics Open Studio	\$20 Per Hour/10 Hours	\$200
Thurman, Melissa	Painting- Open Studio	\$20 Per Hour/10 Hours	\$200
Vigorita, Sam	Fly Tying - Intermediate	\$20 Per Hour/12 Hours	\$240
Walters, Alyssa	Essentail Oil for Beginners	Gratis	\$0
Walters, Alyssa	Essentail Oil - Hormones	Gratis	\$0
Walters, Alyssa	Essentail Oil - Outdoors	Gratis	\$0

Walters, Alyssa	Essentail Oil - Aging Backwards	Gratis	\$0
Willits, Timon	Volleyball Supervisor - Tues @ IC	Workshop Fee	\$250
INSTRUCTORS / BUSINESSES TO BE PAID ON PURCHASE ORDER			
INSTRUCTOR	COURSE	RATE	SALARY
Alderfer Auction	What Would You Like To Do Now?	Gratis	\$0
C.D. Baker - Todd Moyer	Understanding Insurance	Gratis	\$0
Community Music School	Guitar for Beginners	Pay CMS \$126 per student	
Community Music School	Ukulele for Beginners	Pay CMS \$126 per student	
Community Music School	String Ensemble	Pay CMS \$105 per student	
Community Music School	New Horizons Band	Pay CMS \$105 per student	
Dog Gone Good Training	Manners & More two 6-week sessions	\$165 per student paid to Leah Pacitto	
Dog Gone Good Training	Greeting People	\$53 per student paid to Leah Pacitto	
Everence Financial	Fundamentals of Investing Matt Novak	Gratis	\$0
Financial Services Profess.	Securing Social Security	Gratis	\$0
Financial Services Profess.	American Dream	Gratis	\$0
Indian Valley Scuba	Paid to SACE for rent of pool	\$300 per class paid to SACE	
Mark Cashatt Studios	Family Self Defense	\$15 per family Paid to Cashatt Studio	
Mark Cashatt Studios	Adult Self Defense	\$15 per student Paid to Cashatt Studio	
Mark Cashatt Studios	Tai Chi	\$30 per student Paid to Cashatt Studio	
Maternity Care Coalition	Babysitting 101	\$85 per student Paid to Maternity Care Coalition	
RE/MAX	Homebuyer's Seminar	Gratis	\$0
RE/MAX	Investing in Real Estate	Gratis	\$0
RE/MAX	Selling Your House	Gratis	\$0
Responsible Driving School	Driver Education (2 sessions)	\$120 Per Student	
Stardust Ceramics	Pallet Painting	\$20 Per Hour/3 hours	\$60
Stardust Ceramics	Ceramic Bird Bath	\$20 Per Hour/9 hours	\$180
Stardust Ceramics	Painting - Canvas	\$20 Per Hour/3 hours	\$60
Such A Voice	You're on the Air - Voice Over Class	Gratis	\$0
Tevlin, Kyle	Obituary Writing	Workshop Fee	\$75
Tevlin, Kyle	Throw a Party	Workshop Fee	\$75
Wholistic Fitness	Zumba - Thursday	\$42.00 Per Student Paid to Wholistic Fitness	

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - WINTER/SPRING 2020 COMMUNITY EDUCATION STAFF

6.13 Approve Third Reading and Final Adoption of Revised Policy No. 007 - Policy Manual Access

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THIRD READING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF REVISED POLICY NO. 007 - POLICY MANUAL ACCESS

6.14 Approve Third Reading and Final Adoption of Revised Policy No. 246 - Student Wellness

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THIRD READING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF REVISED POLICY NO. 246 - STUDENT WELLNESS

6.15 Approve Second Reading of Revised Policy No. 611 - Purchases Budgeted

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE A SECOND READING OF REVISED POLICY NO. 611 - PURCHASES BUDGETED

6.16 Approve Second Reading of Revised Policy No. 612 - Purchases Not Budgeted

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF REVISED POLICY NO. 612 - PURCHASES NOT BUDGETED

6.17 Approve Second Reading of Revised Policy No. 620 - Fund Balance

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF REVISED POLICY NO. 620 - FUND BALANCE

6.18 Approve Second Reading Policy No. 625 - Procurement Cards

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF POLICY NO. 625 - PROCUREMENT CARDS

6.19 Approve Second Reading of New Policy No. 824 - Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF NEW POLICY NO. 824 - MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL ADULT/STUDENT BOUNDARIES

6.20 Approve the Proposed 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

6.21 Approve a Resolution Naming Five (5) Additional Local Holidays

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION NAMING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL LOCAL HOLIDAYS

6.22 Approve School Club for 2019-2020 School Year

The Administration recommends the approval of a student club for the 2019-2020 school year.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE A SCHOOL CLUB FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

6.23 Approve Per Capita Tax Exemptions

The Administration recommends approval of the Per Capita Tax exemption list for next year's taxes.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE PER CAPITA TAX EXEMPTIONS

6.24 Approve 2020-2021 Act 1 General Fund Budget Opt-Out Resolution

The Administration will present a resolution to not exceed the Act 1 Index for a real estate tax increase for the 2020-2021 General Fund Budget.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 1 OF 2006, THE TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT, REGARDING THE 2020-2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

6.25 Approve the Stipulations to Settle with Arbor Square LP for Property Assessment Appeal

The administration recommends approval the Stipulations to Settle with Arbor Square LP for Property Assessment Appeal - pending final legal review.

Resolution: The administration recommends approval the Stipulations to Settle with Arbor Square LP for Property Assessment Appeal - pending final legal review.

6.26 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.

Motion Carries

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

7. Discussion/Action Agenda

7.1 Consider the charter renewal application of the Souderton Charter School Collaborative for a five-year period effective January 19, 2020

The Administration will consider the charter renewal application of the Souderton Charter School Collaborative which seeks to renew the charter for a five-year period effective January 19, 2020.

Superintendent Gallagher read the following statement:

"At this time the administration is recommending a renewal of the charter for the Souderton Charter School Collaborative to be effective on January 19, 2020 for a period of five years. The resolution that you are voting on places two conditions on the new charter. If passed, the resolution will require the charter school to obtain appropriate certification for at least 75% of its teachers. The charter school will also be required to provide the same health care to its employees as our school district provides, as is required by state law. The charter school will have until September 2020 to comply with these conditions.

Mr. Keith, the Board and the Administration take seriously the Level II Certificate for Pennsylvania traditional school public teachers and believe that, that should also be the case for Charter School teachers. PDE treats schools as private schools when it comes to certification requirements and the original charter school law states 75% teachers should be Level II certified.

Mr. Keith, I ask that the Board now consider this conditional renewal of the school's charter."

Mr. Keith asked for a motion to consider the charter renewal and stated that a roll call vote would be taken and that Board members would have the opportunity to comment.

Resolution: MOTION TO CONSIDER THE CHARTER RENEWAL APPLICATION OF THE SOUDERTON CHARTER SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE

MOTION TO CONSIDER THE CHARTER RENEWAL APPLICATION OF THE SOUDERTON CHARTER SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE

Motion by Matt Holliday, second by Donna Scheuren.

Motion Carries

Mr. Keith read the following statement:

"Tonight we are voting whether to approve a conditional renewal of the Souderton Charter School Collaborative's charter for a five-year period. If approved, this renewal will allow the charter school to continue operation, but it will also require them to address two important issues. Our oversight of the school has revealed the facts that this charter school is not complying with two parts of the Pennsylvania charter school law. The first of these has to do with teacher certification and the second with health insurance. Charter schools are required to have at least 75% of their teachers appropriately certified by the state and the Souderton Charter school does not meet this threshold. Charter schools are also required to provide the same health insurance to employees as we do and the Souderton Charter school does not. While these issues may seem like technicalities, we believe it is important for the charter school to adhere to the law and we cannot approve their renewal without their being addressed. We believe that the public deserves to know these facts and that there should be a level playing field for charter schools and traditional public schools.

All of the children in this district deserve a great education. Our schools provide this and I know that the Souderton Charter school also serves its students well. I do not fault them for their service to students, but I do take issue with a broken system that allows charter schools to benefit at the expense of others. Charter schools like to advertise that they are "public schools" yet even our own Department of Education acknowledged that they are treated like private schools with this certification issue. If you want to be a public school, then play by the same rules as public schools. Parents who choose our schools can be assured that their children's teachers are fully credentialed and certified. If the charter school wants public dollars, it should commit to the same standards as we have. I think it's this Board's responsibility to inform the public that many charter school teachers are not as thoroughly qualified as our teachers.

This is not about school choice. I respect the decisions that parents make for their children's futures. I also have no quarrel with the Souderton Charter School's mission and I know that parents who choose the charter school feel passionately about their school. I do have a problem with the charter school law, however. Even the Pennsylvania Auditor General has said that the Pennsylvania law is "simply the worst charter school law in the United States." Tonight we're discussing two specific ways in which the Souderton Charter School bypasses regulations and doesn't compete with our district on a level playing field. I welcome competition with the charter school, because I know how great our schools are. Tonight I will vote to pass a resolution which seeks to level that playing field.

As a board member, I can't in good conscience vote to renew the Souderton Charter School's charter without addressing the two issues that are part of tonight's resolution. Charter school officials will say that they're following the law. I dispute that. The law says they must offer the same health care as us – they don't. The law says that 75% of their teachers must have "active and valid" certificates – they do not. I'm told that the department of education uses a different standard for teacher certification for charter school teachers than it does for our teachers – it treats charter school teachers the same as private school teachers. If the Souderton Charter School wants to promote "public school choice" and fashion itself as a public school, it should want to have fully certified teachers, just like we do in our schools.

We provide high-quality health insurance for our employees at low costs. Our local taxpayers fund a large portion of the cost of this health insurance, and they have entrusted us with making sound decisions which promote the health of our workforce. Even though the Souderton Charter School receives millions of dollars from our taxpayers each year, they choose to offer lesser health insurance to their employees. This is neither legal nor equitable.

I hope that the charter school addresses these two issues. If this resolution passes, they will have until next September to do so. I don't see these issues as particularly burdensome for them to come into compliance. Once they do, we'll have a more level playing field and I am happy to compete with them. I will always have an issue with the way charter schools are funded until that law changes. That is not our fault and it is not the Souderton Charter School's fault, but there are powerful interests in Harrisburg that want to keep your tax dollars flowing to charter schools. The residents in Souderton Area pay enough in taxes – the legislature needs to fix the broken law and give them a break."

Mr. Keith reiterated that there is "no beef" with the SCSC, it never has been and never will be. It is with the laws that cause the funding challenges.

Mr. Keith announced that he was going to read a statement from absent Board member Mr. Nick Braccio:

"Mr Keith, I would like to start by acknowledging that SCSC does a good job of educating students but Souderton also does a very good job of educating students. The intent of charter school law is not about providing a redundancy for students, it is about an opportunity to explore and use innovative methods of teaching that can be used in traditional public schools. This hasn't happened. While a multi-age classroom setting is different, it is not innovative. This has been used in Montessori schools for over a century.

The majority of SCSC students will return to SASD high school and enjoy a quality education with an abundance of extra curricular activities that prepares them for their next step in life. SCSC students come to SASD with no advantage over students that have been in SASD all along. This can be shown if you utilize the methodology developed by Stanford University that is used in the C.R.E.D.O. report.

My major concern is that with the state's continued efforts to seize public schools revenue stream and limit funding while allowing mandate costs to go untethered, in time it will undermine SASD ability to provide the opportunities that are now available for all students. This will hurt both SASD and SCSC students."

Mr. Keith asked other Board members for additional comments.

Board Member Mr. Brong stated that as an elected official who has been serving for 14 years, and has received many pieces of correspondence from constituents who have requested that he vote no on the Charter School renewal.

Mr. Keith asked Mr. Pawling to conduct a roll call vote and the results are as follows:

Aye: Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren, Courtney Barbieri
Nay: William Brong

Mr. Keith indicated that the Charter School Renewal with conditions passed.

8. Future Meetings

8.1 Future Meetings

DATE	ORGANIZATION	TIME	LOCATION
Jan. 8, 2020	SASD Board Committee Meetings	6:30 P.M.	District Administrative Office
Jan. 22, 2020	MCIU Board of School Directors Meeting	6:45 P.M.	Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 2 West Lafayette Street Norristown
Jan. 22, 2020	NMTCC Joint Operating Committee Meeting	7:00 P.M.	North Montco Technical Career Center 1265 Sumneytown Pike Lansdale
Jan. 23, 2020	SASD Board Action Meeting	7:00 P.M.	District Administrative Office
Jan. 28, 2020	Indian Valley Regional Planning Commission	7:00 P.M.	Franconia Township Building 671 Allentown Road Telford

9. Report of the Solicitor

9.1 Report of the Solicitor

There was no report.

10. Unfinished/New Business of the Board

10.1 Unfinished/New Business from the Board

11. Public Comments

11.1 Public Comments

Ms. Carina Urbach who listed 118 E. Broad Street as her address on the public non-agenda items sign-in sheet, stated that she would like to speak on the Charter School renewal. Mr. Keith asked if her comments were regarding the Charter School, and she acknowledged that they were. Mr. Keith reminded her that her comments were regarding an agenda item and that while there had been a previous opportunity to comment on agenda items, she may proceed.

Ms. Urbach stated thank you and that she appreciated the accommodation. "I would just like to speak to two things, first of all I am a Board member of the SCSC and we do actually meet our 75% certified staff based on how the rules are written in the law. So I would like to correct that. Second of all, when it comes to the health insurance, you all are self-insured. The only way that we can offer the same health insurance as you would be to buy into your plan. We have asked you to do that and you have refused us. So I believe that you are putting forth information that is incorrect. Thank You."

Mr. Sultanik asked a question to clarify and asked "am I correct that the SCSC Board would be willing to replicate the health benefit program that is in place for the Souderton Area School District in the event that you were to participate in our health benefit program? Is that what you are saying today?"

Mrs. Urbach responded "I think that's a loaded question. So I'm wanting to understand are you asking me if we were to ... if we could buy into your plan?" Mr. Sultanik stated "I thought you indicated that you made a request to participate in our health benefit program is what you're saying today that during the time period, and there will be a time period, where we could have discussions to address this issue prior to the deadline imposed in the resolution that the board voted on, are you saying today that you would be willing my behalf of the state of the SCSC board to commit to replicating the district's health benefit program by joining the district's health benefit program?" Mrs. Urbach responded with "no, that's not exactly what I'm saying". Mr. Sultanik responded "so then what are you what are you saying? Ms. Urbach stated "that we have asked to buy into your plan" Mr. Sultanik asked "and if we were to say yes, then you would, do it?" Ms. Urbach replied " We would have to approve that as an entire board." Mr. Sultanik stated "because there is time and no immediate deadline on that issue the Souderton School Board and the Administration would be open to that kind of discussion and also a discussion to address your certification issues, none of which we believe on the Souderton School District's prospective to be unduly burdensome on the school itself." Ms. Urbach replied "nor do we." Mr. Sultanik also stated "we are hopeful that you would consider your employees on the same level that this school board considers its employees and offering them a similar health benefit program." Ms. Urbach responded "thank you for your opinion."

Mr. Keith thanked Ms. Urbach for her comments and stated that she feel free to reach out to the Board or Administration.

Prior to adjournment, Board member Mrs. Scheuren congratulated the Indian Valley Middle School Choir on their recent win of the B101 Radio Choir Competition.

12. Adjournment

12.1 Adjournment of the Meeting

Mr. Keith adjourned the meeting at 7:46 P.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' MEETING.

Motion by Donna Scheuren, second by William Brong.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian R. Pawling
Board Secretary