DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 12, 2020 Minutes
Regular Board Meeting

The Danville Area School Board met at the Danville Primary School on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, President.

ROLL CALL - Board Members

Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, Mrs. Christina Fish, Dr. Yohannes Getachew, Mr. Kyle Gordon, Dr. Jennifer Gurski, Mr. Castan Kiersch, Dr. Victor Marks and Mr. Derl Reichard were present. Mr. Chris Huron was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Ricki Boyle, Acting Superintendent; Mrs. Bobbi Ely, Business Manager; Mrs. Dawn Brookhart, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology; Mrs. Donna Christensen, Director of Special Education; Mr. Jeffrey Ryan, Director of Network Administration; Mr. Christopher Johns, Director of Student Affairs; Mr. Ken Berkich, Director of Building and Grounds; Mr. Jeremy Winn, High School Principal; Mrs. Amy Willoughby, Assistant High School Principal; Mr. David Snover, Interim Middle School Principal; Mr. Pelle Nejman, Interim Assistant Middle School Principal; Mrs. Terri Faust, Board Secretary; Attorney Carl Beard, Solicitor and approximately 50 members of the staff, public and news media.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **January 22, 2020**

Motion: (To approve the minutes from the January 22, 2020 meeting)
A motion was made by Mrs. Christina Fish to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2020 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Yohannes Getachew.
The motion was approved on a voice vote: 8 -Yes – Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, Mrs. Christina Fish, Dr. Yohannes Getachew, Mr. Kyle Gordon, Dr. Jennifer Gurski, Mr. Castan Kiersch, Dr. Victor Marks and Mr. Derl Reichard; 0 – No;
1- Absent – Mr. Chris Huron.
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I. BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

A. Reports:
- Columbia-Montour Vocational Technical School – Chris Huron
- CSIU – Yohannes Getachew
- Finance Committee
- Project Committee

B. The Board will take action to appoint Yohannes Getachew to represent the Danville Area School District on the CSIU Board of Directors.

Finance Committee:
Castan Kiersch reported that the Finance Committee met February 11, 2020 to begin going over the 2020-2021 School Budget. There is another meeting set for March 3, 2020.

Project Committee:
Bonnie Edmeads, Kyle Gordon, and Victor Marks met with Ken Berkich before the executive session and discussed the maintenance building going to bid which will come to the Board for approval at the February 26th Board meeting. Future consideration for other buildings was also discussed. There has not been a date set for a future meeting at this time.

Motion: (To approve item B in Board Administrative Announcement)
A motion was made by Mr. Castan Kiersch to approve item B under Board Administrative Announcement. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Christina Fish.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 -Yes – Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, Mrs. Christina Fish, Dr. Yohannes Getachew, Mr. Kyle Gordon, Dr. Jennifer Gurski, Mr. Castan Kiersch, Dr. Victor Marks and Mr. Derl Reichard; 0 – No;
1- Absent – Mr. Chris Huron.

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Enrollment Report (Enclosure 1)
- Celebrate Dr. Seuss Week
- Middle School Vocabulary Bowl
- Liberty Valley Blankets

Dr. Boyle started her report with a brief summary of District enrollment which is sustaining and even slightly increasing.
Dr. Seuss week at Liberty Valley will be March 2nd – 6th. There will be various activities during the week. Also, students made and delivered blankets to local people in need.
Middle School Students participated in the Vocabulary Bowl and are ranked in the top 10 in Pennsylvania. We rank 2nd in Pennsylvania and 56th in the nation.
The High School will be hosting the District Band concert on February 15, 2020.

There was a Math Family Night at the Primary School on January 30th and information for Kindergarten registration was in the newspaper and is available on the website.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (Max. of 3 minutes each for agenda items only)

There was no public comment at this time.

Add Addendum item C to the Agenda
At this time Addendum Item C under Property & Supplies was added to the agenda by the Board. The Addendum was added to alleviate potential change orders for the Maintenance Building Project.
There was no public comment on this addendum.

Consent Agenda Items
***The Board will take action to approve the consent agenda items.**

Motion: (To approve Consent Agenda Items)
A motion was made by Mrs. Christina Fish to approve the Consent Agenda Items.
The motion was seconded by Dr. Yohannes Getachew.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 -Yes – Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, Mrs. Christina Fish, Dr. Yohannes Getachew, Mr. Kyle Gordon, Dr. Jennifer Gurski, Mr. Castan Kiersch, Dr. Victor Marks and Mr. Derl Reichard; 0 – No;
1- Absent – Mr. Chris Huron.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/OUTSIDE GUESTS (Max. of 5 minutes each)

A. Mr. Kenneth Wagner, CPA – Wagner, Dreese, & Associates, P.C. Presentation of the 2018-2019 Financial Statements

B. Board Statement

C. Chris Johns – District Initiative Regarding Mental Health Supports

Mr. Kenneth Wagner, JR., CPA presented an overview of the financial status and financial statements of the Danville Area School District for the year ended June 30, 2019. Mr. Wagner gave an overview of the various schedules of the financial statements and spoke about the adoption and reporting requirement of the Post-Employment Benefits under GASB 75. In summary the district is in a positive financial position, has good internal controls, and there were no findings reported. The federal programs were audited, and there were no findings reported. The District qualifies as a low-risk auditee.

A Board Statement was read by Dr. Victor Marks at this time:
Over the course of the past few months, the Danville School District administration has begun preparing for the long range planning process. During this time, there have been numerous administrative meetings and staffing discussions in conjunction with the district and the board, including open discussion in recent board meetings,

and a public presentation of district and building level data to the School board in January by every building principal and the student services coordinator, indicating the need for a social and emotional learning curriculum, the additional posting and hiring of a personalized learning position at the high school, and a focus on mental health supports district wide.
Additionally, the curriculum committee held an open public meeting, to discuss current programming in the middle and high school and address concerns over the length of the school day, credits and grading. In each of these presentations and meetings there was an overwhelming need conveyed to minimize the pressures on our students and provide additional student supports through staffing and curriculum, which led to the recommendations and action taken by the members of this school board.
Following tonight's meeting, the members of the school board encourage you to schedule a meeting with the acting superintendent, Dr. Boyle, if you have additional questions.
At this time, Mr. Johns, the Director of Student Affairs and Services, will provide the public with an update on staffing as part of this larger, long range planning effort by the district leadership team.

Mr. Johns addressed the district initiative regarding mental health supports. He provided data specifically pertaining to our guidance and intervention specialists across the district. The American School Counselors association recommends a student to counselor ratio of 250:1. Our ratio is currently 300:1 which is close to the recommendation and comparable to some districts although there are many districts which do not come close to the recommendation. He presented a list of at least 15 items which cause pressure and stress to students in all grades in the district on a daily basis. We have been talking more about introducing a Social/Emotional Curriculum across the district. Between 16% and 20% of students across the district have received services form counselors and intervention specialists. Some of the supports they provide are group and individual counseling, school-wide positive behavior and incentives, classroom guidance lessons, career readiness, mindful meditation, personalized learning options, college & career planning, SAP (Student Assistance Programs) teams, and communication with outside agencies for students to receive supports they need outside of the school system. This is a list of just some of the goals we would like to include in our Comprehensive Plan relating to behavior and mental health. We are also increasing communication between the members of our guidance staff. Our school Psychologist, Dr. Kalberer, helps to identify issues in the district. We are also working with Geisinger to help our students connect with resources which are available to them concerning social/emotional mental health.
Dr. Boyle finished by explaining that we are providing professional development for our staff to help with the students and their own well-being.

V. SCHOOL PROPERTY & SUPPLIES

A. The Board will take action to approve the APL Associates Consultants Agreement in the amount of $13,600 as presented. The expense will be paid out of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. (Enclosure 2)

B. The Board will take action to approve the payment of Invoice #9308 in the amount of $7,091.85 to Mid-Penn Engineering Corporation for the Maintenance Building Project as presented. (Enclosure 3)

C. The Board will take action to approve scheduling a pre-bid inspection of our maintenance building at a cost of $500. **(Addendum)**

Motion: (To approve School Property and Supplies Items A, B, and C)
A motion was made by Dr. Jennifer Gurski to approve School Property and Supplies items A, B, and C. The motion was seconded by Dr. Victor Marks.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 -Yes – Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, Mrs. Christina Fish, Dr. Yohannes Getachew, Mr. Kyle Gordon, Dr. Jennifer Gurski, Mr. Castan Kiersch, Dr. Victor Marks and Mr. Derl Reichard; 0 – No;
1- Absent – Mr. Chris Huron.

VII. ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES

*A. The Board will take action to accept the resignation of Brian Raup as Assistant Baseball Coach. (Enclosure 4)

*B. The Board will take action to accept the resignation of Mary Jo Baum as Boys Head Tennis coach. (Enclosure 5)

C. The Board will take action to approve the coaching list for Spring 2020 as presented pending all required documentation. The stipend will be paid at the end of the season consistent with the 2019-2020 budget. (Enclosure 6)

D. The Board will take action to approve the Spring Musical stipends as presented. (Enclosure 7)

E. The Board will take action to approve Kristy Farrell as Fall Cheer Advisor pending all required documentation. The stipend will be consistent with the 2020-2021 budget.

F. The Board will take action to approve Dave Tumolo as Head Girls Soccer Coach (12-week season; Year11, Fall 2020; Middle School Girls Soccer Coach (9-week season; Year 11; Spring 2020). The stipends will be paid at the end of each season in accordance with the coordinating year's budget. **(Addendum Item)**

Motion: (To approve Athletics/Activities item F)
A motion was made by Mr. Castan Kiersch to approve Athletics/Activities item F. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Christina Fish.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 -Yes – Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, Mrs. Christina Fish, Dr. Yohannes Getachew, Mr. Kyle Gordon, Dr. Jennifer Gurski, Mr. Castan Kiersch, Dr. Victor Marks and Mr. Derl Reichard; 0 – No;
1- Absent – Mr. Chris Huron.

Mr. Johns introduced Dave Tumolo to the Board. Mr. Tumolo thanked the Board.

Motion: (To approve Athletics/Activities items C, D, & E)
A motion was made by Mrs. Christina Fish to approve Athletics/Activities items C, D, & E. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jennifer Gurski.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 -Yes – Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, Mrs. Christina Fish, Dr. Yohannes Getachew, Mr. Kyle Gordon, Dr. Jennifer Gurski, Mr. Castan Kiersch, Dr. Victor Marks and Mr. Derl Reichard; 0 – No;
1- Absent – Mr. Chris Huron.

Mr. Johns introduced Jim Nizinski to the Board. Mr. Nizinski is happy to be here.

VIII. CURRICULUM AND MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mrs. Fish announced there is a Curriculum Committee at the High School February 19, 2020 at 5:30PM.

IX. SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

*A. The Board will take action to approve the Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee Members.

- Approval of the following members:
  - Parents:
    - Nancy Weigle
    - Lesley Yeich
    - Sashi DeHaan
  - Community Representatives
    - Sarah Marks
    - John Grabusky
  - Business Representatives
    - Robin Drogin
    - Jeff Emanuel
  - Board Members
    - Christina Fish
    - Jennifer Gurski
    - Yohannes Getachew
    - Kyle Gordon

- Administrators
  - Dawn Brookhart
  - John Bickhart
  - Lee Gump
  - Dave Snover
  - Jeremy Winn
  - Amy Willoughby
- District Employees
  - Megan Geise
  - Andrea Baney
  - Shelly Craig
  - Angela Rush
  - Stephanie Bower
  - Lisa McCarthy
  - June Heeter
  - Cheryl Cooper
  - Christy Worhach
  - Emily Morgan
  - Pelle Nejman
  - Rebecca Pritchard
  - Dave Fortunato
  - Kelly Smith-Wells
  - Tracy Niehoff
  - Gary Grozier

X. FINANCE

A. General Fund- Revenues and Expenditures Summary (Enclosure 8)

B. Local Revenues - Actual vs. Budget (Enclosure 9)

C. State Revenue – Actual vs. Budget (Enclosure 10)

D. Federal Revenues – Actual vs. Budget (Enclosure 11)

E. Investments (Enclosure 12)

F. Cash Receipts (Enclosure 13)

G. The Board will take action to approve the 2020-2021 preliminary General Operating Budget for the CSIU at a total of $886,527 as presented. (Enclosure 14)

Motion: (To approve Finance Item G)
A motion was made by Dr. Victor Marks to approve Finance item G.
The motion was seconded by Mr. Castan Kiersch.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 9 -Yes – Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, Mrs. Christina Fish, Dr. Yohannes Getachew, Mr. Kyle Gordon, Mr. Chris Huron, Mr. Castan Kiersch, Dr. Victor Marks and Mr. Derl Reichard;
1 – Abstain – Mrs. Jennifer Gurski; 0 – No.

XI. PERSONNEL

*A. The Board will take action upon the recommendation of the acting Superintendent to approve the 2019-2020 substitute list as presented pending all required documentation. (Enclosure 15)

*B. The Board will take action to accept the retirement of Susan Hancock as District Accountant/ Human Resources effective April 30, 2020. (Enclosure 16)

*C. The Board will take action to accept the resignation of James Poole as a Paraprofessional at Danville Primary School effective January 31, 2020.(Enclosure 17)

XII. POLICY & INSURANCE

XIII. TRANSPORTATION

XIV. BOARD CONCERNS & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

Mr. Kyle Gordon took a moment to thank the Girls Basketball Team for having a Suicide Awareness Night and a bake sale for the Jason Gordon Scholarship Fund. As of February 7th there were 163 donations and there is $24,402 in the fund. It is the fastest growing fund in the Central Susquehanna Foundation and that will allow a one-time scholarship of $1,000 to a Danville student. Moving forward the scholarship will increase as the fund increases.

Mrs. Edmeads announced that the Board will be going back into executive session following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 PM a motion was made by Dr. Jennifer Gurski and seconded by Mrs. Christina Fish to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was approved by voice vote.

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Terri Faust
Board Secretary