DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 16, 2019 Minutes
Special Meeting

The Danville Area School Board held a special meeting at the Danville Primary School on Monday, December 16, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads, President, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL - Board Members

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Ricki Boyle, Acting Superintendent; Mrs. Bobbi Ely, Business Manager; Mr. Jeremy Winn, High School Principal; Mrs. Terri Faust, School Board Secretary; and approximately 20 members of the staff, public, and news media.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT (on agenda items)

There was no public comment at this time.

II. BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

A. As of December 12, 2019 Dawn Koons-Gill has not taken the oath of office after being elected as a member of the Board of School Directors. The position was advertised as an anticipated opening and the deadline to send letters of interest was on December 12, 2019.

The District received Letters of Interest from 3 candidates:

- Scott Shultz
- Randy Keister
- Castan Kiersch

III. INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

The candidates were asked 3 questions:

1. Financial resources are often limited: What in your opinion, can be done to help our district gain support for spending our finances on areas of need?

2. What do you see as the future opportunities and challenges for our school district?

3. Please describe your past experience with resolving conflict.

Mr. Scott Shultz was the first candidate to be interviewed. Mr. Shultz answered the 1st question saying that taxpayer funds should go toward education and maintenance of already standing buildings. “Fluff” items such as nicer buildings should come from donations and fundraising. Any education such as vocational training, college prep or special needs should be our primary goal for the district. For the 2nd question Mr. Shultz stated that some of the challenges would be getting a new superintendent, teacher contracts, and the Vo-Tech project. He thinks having a new Board is phenomenal. He hopes that having a new Board will provide a more cohesive atmosphere. For the last question he believes he has worked in the past to resolve conflict concerning the education of his own son through communication between all the parties involved. Mr. Shultz hopes to move on to a new fresh Board. He looks forward to the future with a new superintendent, teacher contracts and Vo-Tech project. He is excited for the future of the District and would like to make fond memories for future graduates.

Mr. Randy Keister was the second candidate to be interviewed. Mr. Keister responded to the 1st question by saying that we need to first look at the overall budget and try to use all resources and look into grants before raising taxes. We need to be sure not to over calculate or over appropriate funds. Mr. Keister then answered the 2nd question. He believes all of our buildings will be a future challenge. The Middle School is in a very bad location. The location of Liberty Valley is also a challenging location. The ideal situation would be to make a full campus here in one location which would have many benefits including bussing. Mr. Keister has had experience resolving conflict in the district during his tenure on the Board. We need to examine all data and be sure all processes and procedures are followed whether there is a positive or negative outcome. Mr. Keister would like to offer his help with his past experience, background and knowledge of the Board for the past 17 years.

Mr. Castan Kiersch was the last candidate to be interviewed. Mr. Kiersch believes the Board should be very transparent with the taxpayers and give them a clear understanding of the finances of the District. He thinks taxpayers who have a clear understanding of the processes will be more willing to support the District. For the 2nd question Mr. Kiersch answered by saying that some of the challenges include location of the buildings and continuing growth of the District. He believes there is potential to add to the District and have all students on the same campus.
Mr. Kiersch has had experiences resolving conflict in his professional career

including the need to terminate employees. He has also needed to put the needs of the organization, on which he was serving on the Board, above his personal feelings because it was in the best interest of the organization. Mr. Kiersch is here for the betterment of the District and the students. He believes he is qualified. In his professional life he deals with patients of all ages. He tries to find common ground with people and believes he can help the Board move forward.

Upon returning to the room Dr. Boyle commented that new Board freshness is what we need. We need a Board to work together and support administrators and school leadership. She encouraged the Board to select someone they could work together with to have a positive impact on the District.

At this time the board secretary asked the Board to choose their candidate:

- Mrs. Fish – Castan Kiersch
- Dr. Getachew – Castan Kiersch
- Mr. Gordon – Castan Kiersch
- Dr. Gurski – Castan Kiersch
- Mr. Huron – Castan Kiersch
- Dr. Marks – Castan Kiersch
- Mr. Reichard – Castan Kiersch
- Mrs. Edmeads – Castan Kiersch

IV. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

A. The Board will take action to appoint **Castan Kiersch** as Director for the Danville Area School District School Board, to replace Dawn Koons-Gill who did not take the oath of office by December 12, 2019. The appointed director's term will run from December 16, 2019 through December 1, 2021.

Motion: (To appoint Castan Kiersch)
A motion was made by Dr. Jennifer Gurski to appoint Mr. Castan Kiersch as Director for the Danville Area School District School Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Christina Fish.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 – Yes – Mrs. Christina Fish, Dr. Yohannes Getachew, Mr. Kyle Gordon, Dr. Jennifer Gurski, Mr. Chris Huron, Dr. Victor Marks., Mr. Derl Reichard and Mrs. Bonnie Edmeads; 0 – No.

Mrs. Laura Renno, Notary Public for the Danville Area School District, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Castan Kiersch.

The Board welcomed Mr. Kiersch.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

ADJORNMENT

At 6:30 pm a motion was made by Mrs. Christina Fish and seconded by Dr. Victor Marks to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was approved by voice vote.

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Terri Faust
Board Secretary