

RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT
400 Main Street
New Eagle, PA 15067

Regular Ringgold Board of School Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Ringgold Board of School Directors, for General Purposes, was held at 6:45 P.M (immediately following the re-organization meeting). Notices of this meeting were sent to all Board Members and it was properly posted and advertised. The meeting was called to order by President William Stein Jr. and the following Board Members were present/participating to the call of the roll. **Ms. Bobnar, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Mauro, and Mr. Stein attended the meeting on a virtual platform with Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Ott, Mr. Gerard and Mrs. Flament attending the meeting live and the community was given the information to join on a virtual platform.

II. ROLL CALL

President
First Vice President

Mr. William C. Stein, Jr.
Mrs. Carol F. Flament
Ms. Harley Bobnar
Mr. James R. Dodd
Mr. Jason H. Gerard
Mr. Gene R. Kennedy
Mr. Lawrence L. Mauro
Mrs. Maureen A. Ott

Absent

Second Vice President

Mrs. Sherrie L. Garry

Also Present/Participating

Superintendent & Board Secretary
Assistant Superintendent
Solicitor
Accounting & HR Specialist

Mr. Randall S. Skrinjorich
Dr. Cathy Taschner
Mr. Timothy R. Berggren
Mrs. Mariah Carpenter

III. ACTING SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – MR. SKRINJORICH

No Report

IV. SECRETARY’S REPORT

No Report

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Gerard, to accept the following minutes as presented:

A. Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, November 18, 2020

VI. MON VALLEY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER REPORT - MR. KENNEDY

The Mon Valley Career and Technology Center is fully remote.

VII. INTERMEDIATE UNIT I REPORT –MRS. OTT

No Report

VIII. SHASDA REPORT – MRS. OTT

No Report

IX. PSBA REPORT – MRS. OTT

No Report

X. SOLICITOR’S REPORT - MR. BERGGREN

Nothing to report

XI. PRESIDENT’S REPORT - MR. STEIN

Mr. Stein announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to tonight’s meeting, to discuss the following:

- A. Receive Legal Advice**
- B. Personnel Issues**
- C. Contract Advice**

Mr. Stein thanked the staff for doing an admirable job.

XII. VISITORS' REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Donna Rodriguez –Donora, PA **Topic:** Ms. Rodriguez has a son who is on the basketball team and she would like the Board to reconsider allowing practices to resume while the District is remote.

Amanda Butler- Donora, PA **Topic:** Ms. Butler has a son who is senior on the basketball team and she would like for practices to resume. It is better for mental health and allowing practices will put kids in a better position because they will be playing in a controlled environment where rules are followed.

Matthew Regula-Blairsville, PA **Topic:** Mr. Regula is the Head Girls Basketball coach and he discussed the continuity of remote learning and the postponement of winter sports. His concern is that kids are going out and playing basketball at playgrounds on own with others with no supervision.

Roni DiBenedetto-Finleyville, PA **Topic:** Ms. DiBenedetto asked that the Board reconsider practicing for boys' basketball.

**Mr. Stein exited the meeting and asked that Mrs. Flament continue the meeting*

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Business And Financial Services - Chairperson: Mrs. Flament - Co-chairpersons: Ms. Bobnar, Mr. Gerard and Mrs. Ott

1. Approval of Cypher & Cypher Annual Audit

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Flament, seconded by Mr. Gerard, to accept the Cypher & Cypher Annual Audit and Interfund Transfers and Budget Transfers for the school year ending June 30, 2020.

2. Resolution Regarding a Tax Increase

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Flament, seconded by Mrs. Ott, to adopt a resolution that the District will not raise the rate of any tax for support of its public schools for the 2021-2022 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education that is 4.0% for the Ringgold School District.

3. Participation in Law Suit and Engagement of Law Firm

The Board, by a vote of 6-1 to the call of the roll of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Flament, seconded by Mr. Gerard, to approve the attorney-client fee agreement with the Frantz Law Group, APLC; Dillon McCandless King Coulter & Graham LLP; and the Levin Legal Group, P.C., as presented, and to participate in the litigation against e-cigarette manufacturers.

Voting Yes - Messrs.: Gerard, Kennedy, and Dodd. Mesdames: Bobnar, Flament, and Ott

Voting No – Messrs.: Mauro

4. **Approval and Acceptance of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Recipient Agreement and Grant Certification Forms**

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Flament, seconded by Mrs. Ott, to approve the Coronavirus Relief Fund Recipient agreement and authorizing the filing of the Application and the individual who signs this Agreement to execute this Agreement on behalf of Recipient, to act as its representative with respect to the Application, and to provide such additional information as may be required.

5. **Confirming the Attestation**

The Board, by a vote of 3-4 to the call of the roll of the seven members participating, failed to approve a motion by Mrs. Flament, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to confirm the attestation ensuring the implementation of mitigation efforts that was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Voting Yes - Messrs.: Mauro and Dodd. Mesdames: Bobnar

Voting No – Messrs.: Gerard and Kennedy. Mesdames: Flament and Ott

**Mr. Skrinjorich noted that for the record he is recommending that the District continues to follow the guidance and continue with remote learning.*

6. **Reconsider Motion # 5--Confirming the Attestation**

The Board, by a vote of 3-4 to the call of the roll of the seven members participating, failed to approve a motion by Mr. Mauro, seconded by Mr. Dodd, to confirm the attestation ensuring the implementation of mitigation efforts that was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Voting Yes - Messrs.: Mauro and Dodd. Mesdames: Bobnar

Voting No – Messrs.: Gerard and Kennedy. Mesdames: Flament and Ott

**Mr. Mauro noted that he would like it noted in the minutes that the Board has acted very irresponsibly in this decision tonight, and Mr. Dodd also agreed with his statement.*

**Mr. Stein rejoined the meeting.*

**Mr. Dodd was experiencing technical difficulties and was disconnected from the meeting.*

7. **Motion # 5--Confirming the Attestation**

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mrs. Flament, to reconsider the Motion to confirm the attestation and to confirm the attestation previously submitted ensuring the implementation of mitigation efforts that was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Mr. Dodd rejoined the meeting.*

8. **Re-submit the Attestation to Return to In-Person Instruction**

The Board, by a vote of 4-4 to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, failed to approve a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mr. Gerard, to re-submit the attestation ensuring the implementation of mitigation efforts to the Pennsylvania Department of Education that would allow for the District to return to in-person instruction on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Voting Yes - Messrs.: Gerard and Kennedy. Mesdames: Flament and Ott

Voting No – Messrs.: Mauro, Dodd, and Stein. Mesdames: Bobnar

**Mr. Stein exited the meeting.*

B. **Personnel And Administration – Chairperson: Mrs. Ott Co-chairpersons: Mrs. Flament, Mrs. Garry And Mr. Dodd**

1. **Employment of Personnel**

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mrs. Flament, to employ the following individuals, pending proper documentation:

Stephen Scorpion, Health and Physical Education Teacher at Ringgold High School at a salary of \$40,000 – Step 1 – Master’s Degree.

Lauren Masucci, Special Education Teacher at Ringgold Elementary School North at a salary of \$48,800 – Step 11 – Bachelor’s Degree.

2. **Granting Teacher Tenure**

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mr. Gerard, granting tenure to David Kostelnik.

C. **Curriculum, Education & Technology – Chairperson: Mr. Mauro Co-chairpersons: Mrs. Bobnar, Mr. Gerard and Mrs. Garry –**

D. Athletics – Chairperson: Mrs. Garry Co-chairpersons: Mr. Gerard, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Mauro

1. Coach Leave of Absence

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mr. Gerard, seconded by Mrs. Ott, to accept the following Leave of Absence.

Angela Gorman- Assistant Track Coordinator – effective December 2020 through June 2021

2. Appointment of A Coach

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mr. Gerard, seconded by Mrs. Ott, to appoint the following coaches. Coaching appointments are subject to contract documents prepared by the Administration and Solicitor. Individuals are required to sign a contract and the Coach’s Code of Ethics and Conduct documents as a condition of their employment. All clearances and a drug test are mandatory and have been received.

Winter Coaches

1. Boys Basketball

- a. **Jay Latimer** – Assistant Varsity Coach at a salary of \$4,000.00 (contract follows head coach)

3. PIAA Championship Requests

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mr. Gerard, seconded by Mrs. Ott, authorizing any athlete(s) and/or team(s) to attend the PIAA State Championships, if they were to qualify. The following are the dates for each trip:

- 1. **Competitive Spirit** – January 29-30, 2021 in Hershey, PA
- 2. **Wrestling**
 - a. Team Championships – February 11-13, 2021 in Hershey, PA
 - b. Individual Championships – March 11-13, 2021 in Hershey, PA
- 3. **Swimming & Diving** – March 18-20, 2021 at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA
- 4. **Boys & Girls Basketball** – March 25-27, 2021 in Hershey, PA

**Each trip would include lodging, travel (transportation & tolls), and meals for all coaches and athletes. Exact estimate would be calculated based on the size of each team or how many individuals qualify.*

4. **Approval of the amended District's Athletic & Activities Health and Safety Plan**

The Board, by a vote of 4-3 to the call of the roll of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mr. Mauro, seconded by Mr. Gerard, to amend the Board action of November 18, 2020 approving the Amended District's Athletic & Activities Health and Safety Plan, to permit student athletes to participate in practice for winter sports with the student athletes being masked unless it would be unsafe for them to do so. Students who are engaged in high-intensity activities, like running, wrestling or swimming, may be permitted to temporarily remove their mask if it causes difficulty breathing, creates or exacerbates a medical or respiratory condition, or creates a safety concern.

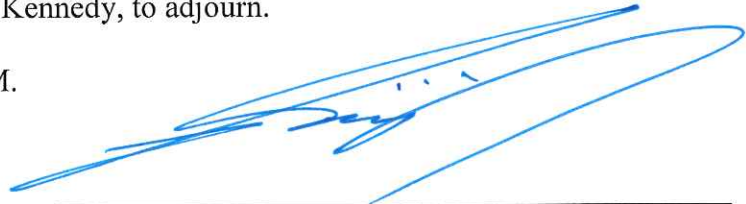
Voting Yes - Messrs.: Gerard, Kennedy, and Mauro. Mesdames: Flament

Voting No – Messrs.: Dodd. Mesdames: Bobnar and Ott

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the seven members participating, approved a motion by Mr. Gerard, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to adjourn.

The Board adjourned at 9:00 P.M.



Randall S. Skrinjorich
Secretary of the Board Ringgold Board of School
Directors