

RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT
400 Main Street
New Eagle, PA 15067

Special Ringgold Board of School Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Ringgold Board of School Directors, for General Purposes, was held at 6:00 P.M. 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. *All Members attended the meeting on a virtual platform and the community was also given the information to join on this platform.

II. ROLL CALL

President
First Vice President
Second Vice President

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

Also Participating

Superintendent
Board Secretary
and also
Director of Operations
& Financial Services
Solicitor
Recording Secretary

Ms. Megan Marie Van Fossan
Mr. Randall S. Skrinjorich

Mr. Timothy R. Berggren
Mr. Anthony Piscioneri

III. Announcement of Executive Session

An Executive Session was held on March 23, 2020 for reasons of personnel.

IV. Visitor's request to address the Board

Jude Urso of Monongahela, PA – **Topic:** Mr. Urso discussed the state of education and his thoughts in regards to the continuation of education in the district.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. Acceptance of Resignation and Appointment of Acting Superintendent

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the nine members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Ms. Bobnar, to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the School District entered into an employment contract effective April 18, 2018 (“the Contract”); and

WHEREAS, the Contract allows the Superintendent to resign her employment with the School District; and

WHEREAS, section 9.05 of the Contract provides that:

In the event that Ms. Van Fossan should tender her resignation to the Board, and there are not proceedings for termination as set forth herein, Ms. Van Fossan agrees that she will continue her employment in the District for at least sixty (60) days after the acceptance of her resignation by the Board; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Superintendent tendered her resignation to the Board of School Directors (“the School Board”) via email to the School Board saying:

I am tendering my resignation from employment as Superintendent of Ringgold School District pursuant to Section 9.05 of my Employment Contract dated April 18, 2018. I am willing to continue as Superintendent for 60 days after your acceptance of my resignation as set forth in this Section;

NOW, THEREFORE, *be it resolved*, that:

1. The Superintendent’s resignation is hereby accepted effective immediately; and
2. Randall Skrinjorich is hereby appointed as Acting Superintendent until further action by the School Board.

2. **Resolution for Appointment of Substitute Director of Pupil Services**

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the nine members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mrs. Garry, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the School District has lost a number of administrators either temporarily or permanently; and

WHEREAS, the School District is facing unique challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors (“the School Board”) desires to provide a rich educational experience to its students while schools are closed and believes that additional administrative assistance is needed to ensure that such educational experiences are effectively provided;

NOW, THEREFORE, *be it resolved*, that:

1. Dr. Cathy Taschner (“Taschner”) is hereby employed as an Administrator on Special Assignment to perform those administrative duties as assigned by the Acting Superintendent;

2. As long as the Director of Pupil Services is on a leave of absence, Taschner shall perform the duties and have the authority of the Director of Pupil Services and shall serve as Substitute Director of Pupil Services;

3. Taschner shall be chiefly in charge of developing the educational program to be offered while school is closed and shall have the supervisory authority over other administrators and staff as reasonably necessary to achieve this objective;

4. Due to the emergency nature of the COVID-19, Taschner will be permitted to work remotely, and shall have no direct contact with students as defined in applicable law until she has submitted all required clearances and examinations and shall obtain all required clearances and examinations as promptly as possible;

5. Taschner shall work on those days as assigned by the Acting Superintendent;

6. Not having a set schedule, Taschner agrees and represents that she is not entitled to be paid for any day which she is not asked to work by the Acting Superintendent and that any wage continuation legislation triggered by the COVID-19 emergency and school closings does not apply to her position; and

7. Taschner shall be paid at the rate of Four Hundred and Sixty Dollars and No Cents (\$460.00) per day for days or parts of days that she actually is assigned to work and does work, which is defined as a minimum of 7 ½ hours per day. She shall be paid a prorata amount for any partial day worked. She shall not be paid extra for any extra hours. She will not be provided any benefits. However, the parties recognize that her time is counted for purposes of PSERS and as an employee, she is protected under the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act and the District’s liability insurance policies, all subject to the terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions of the Act and the policies.

3. **Approval of Educational Continuity Plan**

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the nine members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mrs. Flament, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, at its public meeting on March 18, 2020, the Board of School Directors ("the School Board") directed the Superintendent and her staff to plan appropriately and to recommend to the Board of School Directors what educational services are to be provided during the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and staff conferred for the purpose of recommending an educational continuity plan; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the Superintendent provided the plan attached hereto as Exhibit "A" ("the Educational Continuity Plan") for the consideration by the School Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, *be it resolved*, that:

1. The Educational Continuity Plan is hereby approved by the Board of School Directors subject to the following terms, conditions and limitations;
2. The Acting Superintendent is authorized to determine implementation timelines and is not required to adhere to any timelines stated in the Educational Continuity Plan;
3. The Acting Superintendent is authorized to make such changes to the Educational Continuity Plan as may be reasonably necessary and desirable in order to best deliver instruction to students under the circumstances and as may be necessary to comply with applicable law;
4. Additional devices, supplies and equipment may be purchased as necessary to enable the Educational Continuity Plan to be implemented for all students effectively;
5. All teachers and administrators are expected to have internet access at their cost at their residence or other location if they want to work remotely for purposes of implementing the Continuity of Instruction Plan;
6. In the event that any teacher or administrator does not have internet access, he or she must report to school to provide access and must comply with CDC guidelines for social distancing, etc.; and
7. Nothing in the Educational Continuity Plan or in this Resolution is intended to limit the authority of Senior Management as provided in the Emergency Resolution approved by the School Board on March 18, 2020.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the nine members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Flament, seconded by Mrs. Gary, to adjourn.

The Board adjourned at 6:46 P.M.



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