

RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT
400 Main Street
New Eagle, PA 15067

Regular Ringgold Board of School Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Ringgold Board of School Directors, for General Purposes, was held at 7:00 PM. 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 to the call of the roll: Mrs. Garry, Mrs. Glaneman, Mrs. Ott, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Mountain, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Stein live, and Mrs. Flament attending on a virtual platform.

ROLL CALL

President	Mr. William C. Stein, Jr.
First Vice President (Participating through virtual platform)	Mrs. Carol F. Flament
Second Vice President	Mrs. Sherrie L. Garry
	Mrs. Maureen A. Ott
	Mrs. Gail A. Glaneman
	Mr. Gene R. Kennedy
	Mrs. Sarah Fine
	Mr. Paul M. Mountain

Also Present

Superintendent	Mr. Randall S. Skrinjorich
Assistant Superintendent	Mr. Thomas Grierson
Solicitor	Mr. Timothy R. Berggren
Director of Finance & Board Secretary	Ms. Kimberley Moore

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – MR. SKRINJORICH

Mr. Skrinjorich recognized our maintenance and custodial departments for their hard work on the renovations to the Administration Building. He also recognized the swim team for a great season and wished them good luck as they compete at States. Mr. Skrinjorich announced Capri Cox and Gianni Traeger of the Mon Valley YMCA swim team will be competing at West Virginia University on March 26 in the PA YMCA state swim competition.

Mr. Skrinjorich reported recently we celebrated Read Across America. Ringgold Elementary School North's celebration concluded with a Zoom visit from Roberto Clemente's eldest son, Luis Clemente! I had the pleasure of reading to students on Dr. Seuss day on March 2 at both RESN and RESS. Thank you, students and staff, I had a great time!

Lastly Mr. Skrinjorich congratulated cast, crew, and staff of their wonderful performance of Mamma Mia!

III. SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

A. Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, February 15, 2023

V. MON VALLEY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER REPORT – MR. KENNEDY

No report.

VI. SHASDA REPORT – MRS. OTT

There will be a SHASDA meeting on March 30, 2023.

VII. PSBA REPORT – MRS. OTT

Mrs. Ott reported in the governor's proposed budget there is no charter school reform. PSBA has highlighted a mandated cost gap of almost 4 billion dollars. There is an increased mandated cost of 6 billion dollars and only 2 million dollars in increased funding. 80% of the cost of increased funding is due to pension, charter, and special education funding. PSBA Advocacy Day is April 18, 2023. If you need any help signing up, please contact Mrs. Ott. You are invited to talk to legislatures on this day.

VIII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT – MR. BERGGREN

No Report.

IX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MR. STEIN

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

- A. Litigation Matters, and to Receive Legal Advice and Information**
- B. Student Discipline Issues**
- C. Personnel**
- D. Receive Information from the Administration**

Mr. Stein announced that Motion B 1 would be taken out of order and would be acted upon at the end of the meeting.

X. VISITORS' REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Christine Cox	Monongahela, PA	<u>Topic:</u> Communication
Paula Harshaw	Eighty Four, PA	<u>Topic:</u> International Students, Reading Program, Raise Craze and Elections
Stephanie Green	Monongahela, PA	<u>Topic:</u> Safety

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Business And Financial Services – Chairperson: Mr. Kennedy Co-chairpersons: Mrs. Flament and Mrs. Glaneman

1. Treasurer's Reports

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Glaneman, seconded by Mrs. Ott, to accept the Treasurer's Reports as presented. A copy of the Treasurer's Reports can be found in the Appendix of these minutes.

2. Payment of Bills

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Glaneman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to pay the Bills as presented. A copy of the Bills can be found in the Appendix of these minutes.

3. Approval of Change Order EC-1 from Allegheny City Electric, Inc. - Phase 1 Renovation Ringgold High School Project

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Glaneman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to accept a change order from Allegheny City Electric, Inc., approved by the architects HHSDR, in the amount of \$748.00 for Phase 1 Renovation Ringgold High School (Natatorium and Locker Rooms) project. A copy of Change Order EC-3 was attached for review.

4. Final Payment to Allegheny City Electric, Inc. - Phase 1 Renovation Ringgold High School Project

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Glaneman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to approve final payment to Allegheny City Electric, Inc., approved by the architects HHSDR, in the amount of \$28,229.10 for the Phase 1 Renovation at Ringgold High School (Natatorium and Locker Rooms) project. Payment of final invoice #13 will be made from the Capital Projects Fund.

5. Payments for Phase 2 Renovation Ringgold High School (Natatorium and Locker Rooms) project.

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Glaneman, seconded by Mrs. Garry, to approve payment to A-1 Electric, Inc. For Invoice #5 in the amount of \$16,390.12 for Phase 2 Renovation Ringgold High School (Natatorium and Locker Rooms) Project. Payment of the invoice will be made from the Capital Projects Fund.

6. Payment to Minniefield Demolition Services Invoice #1 – Finley Middle School Demolition

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Glaneman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to approve payment to Minniefield Demolition Services in the amount of \$121,410.00 approved by the architects HHSDR, for the Finley Middle School Demolition project. Payment of invoice #1 will be made from the Capital Reserve Fund.

7. Approval of Resolution - WCTCD

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Glaneman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to adopt a resolution of the Washington County Tax County Board of Delegates amending the bylaws to authorize voting of delegates by proxy provided to the Executive Committee. A copy of the Resolution is enclosed in the Board packets.

8. Approval of Juul Settlement Agreement

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Glaneman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to approve the Government Entity Release of All Claim as presented and to authorize the appropriate officers and officials of the School District to execute such documents and instruments necessary to effectuate the resolution of the claims against the settling defendants in the case of Ringgold School District v. Juul Labs, Inc., et al, in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Case No. 2:20-cv-01989. A copy of the Settlement Agreement was enclosed in the Board packets.

**B. Personnel and Administration – Chairperson: Mrs. Flament
Co-chairpersons: Mrs. Glaneman and Mrs. Garry**

2. Resignation of Personnel

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Garry, seconded by Mrs. Ott and Mrs. Glaneman, to approve the resignations of the following personnel.

Gabrielle Lucas – BCIT Teacher for the Ringgold Middle School, effective end of the day June 7, 2023.

Travis Sears – Eight-Hour Custodian for the Ringgold Elementary School South, effective end of the day February 24, 2023.

Jodi Patton – Accounts Payable Specialist for the Ringgold School District, effective end of the day February 15, 2023.

Tom Yonek – Police Officer for the Ringgold School District, effective end of the day March 10, 2023.

3. Employment of Personnel

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Garry, seconded by Mr. Glaneman, granting permission to employ the following individuals, pending receipt of proper documentation:

John Alukonis – Full-time Bus Driver for the Ringgold School District.

Will Gaffey – Full-time Paraprofessional for the Ringgold School District.

Heather Segina - Instructional Support Staff for the Ringgold Elementary School South.

Jonathan Keefer - Social Studies Teacher for the Ringgold Middle School at a salary of \$42,000.00 - Step 1 – Bachelor’s Degree.

4. Approval of Employment Contract

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Garry, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to hire Jason Shawley as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, pending receipt of proper documentation and approve the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds contract. Approval of the contract is subject to final review by the Solicitor and Administration. A copy of the contract was enclosed in the Board packets.

5. Addition to the Substitute Roster

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Garry, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, granting permission to add the following individuals to the substitute roster, pending proper documentation:

Custodian

Sierra Trunzo Monongahela, PA
Richard Poland New Eagle, PA

6. Requests To Attend A Conference

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Garry, seconded by Mrs. Glaneman, granting permission for the following conference requests:

PJAS State Competition - State College Penn State University
John Laukaitis - Science Department
May 14, 2023 - May 16, 2023
Total \$557.73

Realistic De-Escalation Instructor Course Online
Clayton Shell and Nevin Beatty - Police Department
Online Course (no specific date)
Total \$750.00 (\$395.00 per person)

C. Curriculum, Education & Technology – Chairperson: Mrs. Ott Co-chairpersons: Ms. Bobnar and Mrs. Fine

1. Approval of Resolution - Charter School Funding Reform

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mrs. Glaneman and Mrs. Garry, to adopt a resolution calling for charter school funding reform. A copy of the Resolution is enclosed in the Board packets.

2. Exclusion of Students

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mrs. Garry, to accept and approve the Agreements between the District and:

*The parents of Student “23DA01”, whereby Student “23DA01” shall be excluded from in-person instruction under the terms contained in the Agreement; and

*The parents of Student “23DA02”, whereby Student “23DA02” shall be excluded from in-person instruction under the terms contained in the Agreement.

3. Readmission of Expelled Student

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mrs. Fine, readmitting students Student 22K, and Student 23A from their expulsions, subject to any conditions determined appropriate by the Administration.

4. Summer Credit Recovery

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mrs. Fine, to contract with Intermediate Unit One to provide summer credit recovery opportunities for students in grades 9-12. A copy of the contract has been provided in the Board packet. Approval is subject to final review by the Solicitor and the Administration.

5. Approval of K-12 School Guidance Plan

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mrs. Glaneman, to approve the RSD K-12 School Guidance Plan for July 2023 – June 2026. A copy of the plan was included in the Board packets.

D. Athletics – Chairperson: Mrs. Garry Co-chairpersons: Mrs. Flament and Mr. Mountain

1. Renewal of Coach

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Garry, seconded by Mrs. Fine, to renew the following coach’s contract pending receipt of proper documentation. The salary will be based on the 2023-2024 budget. Clearances and other required paperwork have been obtained and appointments are subject to contract documents prepared by the Administration and Solicitor.

1. Luke Smith – Wrestling

2. Resignation of a Coach

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Garry, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to accept the following resignation:

1. Matt Rowland - Varsity Boys Basketball Coach

3. **Appointment of Coaches**

The Board, by a unanimous vote to the call of the roll of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Garry, seconded by Mrs. Ott, to hire the following coaches. Salaries will be based on the 2022-2023 budget. Appointments are subject to contract documents prepared by the Administration and Solicitor.

Coaches

1. **Middle School Girls Basketball**

- a. **Zac Smith** - 8th Grade Head Coach at a salary of \$2,550.00 (annual contract)
- b. **Eric James** - 7th Grade Head Coach at a salary of \$2,550.00 (annual contract)
 - i. 2nd year – 2% Raise

2. **Track & Field**

- a. **Zack Casagrande** – Varsity Assistant at a salary of \$2,400 (contract follows head coach)

3. **Baseball**

- a. **Troy Lux Jr.** - Volunteer JV Baseball Assistant Coach (annual contract)

E. **Health and Nutrition – Chairperson: Mrs. Glaneman Co- chairpersons: Mr. Mountain and Mrs. Fine**

No report.

F. **Safety and Security – Chairperson: Mr. Mountain Co-chairpersons: Mrs. Ott and Mr. Kennedy**

Mr. Mountain reported that he visited the Ringgold Middle School to monitor the safety and security of the building. All systems and personnel were operating as they should.

G. **Facilities, Planning, and Transportation – Chairperson: Mrs. Fine - Co-chairpersons: Mrs. Garry and Ms. Bobnar**

1. **Use of Facility Requests**

The Board, by a unanimous voice vote of the eight members participating, approved a motion by Mrs. Fine, seconded by Mrs. Garry, to approve the following Use of Facilities requests:

1. **Ringgold Swim Boosters (Amanda Rahr)**

- a. Use of High School cafeteria for booster meeting on March 27, 2023 from 6:00pm-7:00pm.
- b. Fees - No fees associated with this usage as the request occurs during normal operating hours.

2. **SADD – Students Against Destructive Decisions (Dr. Brownfield)**
 - a. First Annual Spaghetti Dinner hosted by SADD – This will be for the SADD Scholarship.
 - b. Fees – Cafeteria labor \$28/hr, Custodial Services \$30/hr, Security \$20/hr if needed and outside of normal business hours.
 - c. Kitchen use contingent on staffing or catering.
3. **Union Finley Midget Football Association (Jeana Quattrone-Resnik)**
 - a. The use of the old middle school football field in Finleyville for youth football practices. They will start in July on Tuesdays/Thursdays, August Monday-Thursday and once school starts Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 6:00pm-8:00pm.
 - b. Fees - No fees associated as the request does not require the presence of custodial or security personnel.
4. **RMS Football Boosters (Jenica Lowe)**
 - a. The use of the Middle School cafeteria for booster meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month starting in April and ending in October from 7:00pm-8:00pm.
 - b. Fees - No fees associated with this usage as the request occurs during normal operating hours.
5. **We Care For Kids (Yancey Taylor)**
 - a. The use of the Middle School gymnasium and RESS gymnasium for youth basketball practices for the month of May from 6:00pm-8:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - b. Fees - No fees associated with this usage as the request occurs during normal operating hours.

**2. Personnel and Administration (continued)– Chairperson: Mrs. Flament
Co-chairpersons: Mrs. Glaneman and Mrs. Garry**

1. Motion to Appoint Board Member to Vacant Seat

A motion was made by Mrs. Flament, and seconded by Mrs. Fine, to appoint Steven Toprani to the vacant seat currently existing on the Board of School Directors. This person shall hold this seat until the first Monday of December 2023.

Before a vote was taken, Mrs. Ott read the following statement into the minutes: “I would like to make a discussion and I’m going to get straight to the point. I think that the process that Ringgold has used to find a replacement for this open Board seat has some serious flaws. I think that the letters of interest I think we had letters of interest and we solicited for them, we got 13 people to apply. It was wonderful to see so many letters of interest from the community. Following the receipt of the letters, Board members were not given any opportunity to provide input regarding how the field should be narrowed or how the voting would be conducted. We were told that each candidate would be allotted 15 minutes for an interview and the interviews would consist of six questions for each candidate. Three of those questions required only a yes or no answer and they were already

largely addressed in the letters of interest. No follow up questions were permitted from the Board. The average interview lasted less than five minutes. Not all Board members were present for the interviews. We are being asked to base our decision tonight on the letters of interests and those interviews. Contrast this with a process used in a neighboring district when they recently had a board vacancy. They received letters from 16 qualified candidates, they held multiple rounds of interviews, and multiple votes in public to methodically narrow the field from 16 down to nine then to four then finally two candidates before they made their final votes. They did this over the course of three meetings because they were making a sincere effort to identify the individual best suited to fill the vacancy. It is regrettable that our Board is unwilling to put forth a similar effort. We talk about wanting the best effort from our students, our faculty, our administration. We should expect the same from our Board. My understanding, and it seems to be the case, that we are having one person nominated tonight and we will be asked to vote yes or no on that person. To say this is a biased process is an understatement. Board members may find more than one candidate acceptable but with this process the first nominee will win. That doesn't mean they are the best candidate. Either the field should be narrowed by having a yes or no vote on every candidate or multiple candidates should be nominated and Board members should be given the opportunity to vote for their choice until one candidate receives the majority vote. Furthermore, if a Board member was not present for interviews votes tonight for any candidate, if that Board member votes for any candidate it indicates that that person did not respect the interview process either otherwise I do not understand (inaudible) without being present for the interviews. And to all the candidates who applied thinking there would be an impartial process in which they can be considered for the vacancy, I apologize to you for thinking you had a fair chance.”

Before a vote could be taken, a motion was made by Mrs. Ott, seconded by Mr. Mountain, to table this motion. The motion to table failed by a 2-6 vote by a call of the roll of the eight members participating.

Voting Yes – Messrs: Mountain, Mesdame: Ott

Voting No – Messrs: Kennedy and Stein, Mesdames: Glaneman, Fine, Garry, and Flament

The motion to appoint Steven Toprani to the vacant seat currently existing on the Board of School Directors passed by a 5-3 vote by a call of the roll of the eight members participating.

Voting Yes – Messrs: Stein, Mesdames: Glaneman, Fine, Garry, and Flament

Voting No – Messrs: Mountain and Kennedy, Mesdame: Ott

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Board adjourned at 7:50 PM.



Kimberley Moore Burchill
Secretary of the Board
Ringgold Board of School Directors