



## **BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MONTHLY ACTION MEETING MINUTES** **Thursday, February 22, 2024**

*Generated by Renai Cardillo on Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

**Members present:** William Brong, Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Ken Keith, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

**Members absent:** Nicholas Braccio

**Others present:** Lisa Ball, Frank Gallagher, Timothy Gilsbach, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Michael Taylor, and Megan Zweiback

### **1. Welcome**

#### 1.1 Call to Order - Board President

Mr. Keith called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

#### 1.2 Meeting Protocol

Mr. Keith outlined meeting protocol:

- Persons wishing to address the Board about an item(s) listed on the agenda must sign in on the **blue** sign-in sheet and specify the item(s) that they wish to address. They will be called to the podium by the President.
- Persons wishing to address the Board on a matter(s) not listed on the agenda must sign in on the **yellow** sign-in sheet, and a brief description of the matter(s) that they wish to address. They will be called to the podium by the President.
- All statements are to be directed to the Board President; no participant may address or question Board members individually, unless directed by the presiding officer.

Mr. Keith thanked everyone for their civility and gave a reminder to be respectful to differing opinions.

#### 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Keith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 1.4 Roll Call - Board Secretary

Mr. Taylor called the roll. Eight board members were present

### **2. Souderton Spotlight**

#### 2.1 Calming Corners

Dr. Gallagher introduced Director of Pupil Services, Mrs. Zweiback who gave an overview of the video supporting mental health and wellness initiatives in our schools.

### **3. Report of the Student Representatives to the Board**

#### 3.1 Student Representatives Update on Activities and Events at Souderton Area High School

Junior Amelia Messina shared about recent high school events that included student participation in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, a first place finish for Indoor Guard, and several local and regional music achievements by student band, orchestra and choral members. Amelia also commented on the upcoming Pep Rally, the Art & Soul Fest, and other High School musical events.

### **4. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

#### 4.1 Public Comment

Ms. DeGeiso thanked the Board for their response to the public request to broadcast all of its board meetings. She stated her belief that it takes the necessary steps for community involvement. Ms. DeGeiso also asked the Board to implement livestreaming and to archive all meeting footage indefinitely.

Ms. Wisser stated appreciation for the Board's willingness to revise its broadcast policy. She also stated that it does not go far enough and that all meetings should be livestreamed and meeting video should be stored indefinitely. Ms. Wisser also expressed concerns about consent action agenda attachments not being available for public viewing.

## **5. Report of the President**

### 5.1 Report on Executive Session Meeting(s) held by the Board

Mr. Keith reported that an Executive Session was held on February 14, 2024 to discuss labor negotiations. The session lasted approximately 30 minutes. He also stated that an Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues. The session lasted approximately 30 minutes.

## **6. Report of the Superintendent**

### 6.1 The Superintendent will report on school district items

Superintendent Gallagher noted that on the agenda this evening is the recommended approval of Mr. O'Hara as the new Coordinator of Community Education. Mr. O'Hara was in the audience and was welcomed to the new position.

Dr. Gallagher also commented on other events and activities in the district including the public elementary celebration of the 100th Day of School. He also commented on the Polar Plunge fundraising noting that students raised over \$10,000 for Special Olympics. Dr. Gallagher also commented on recent student achievement including the High School Academic Decathlon team, and the Girls Wrestling team which won the Suburban One League Championship. He noted that students would be recognized at future meetings.

## **7. Consent/Action Agenda**

### 7.1 Consent/Action Agenda Protocol

The Superintendent made a recommendation to the Board for a motion to approve the Consent/Action item(s) listed. Board members were invited to remove items from the Consent/Action agenda if further discussion is needed.

### 7.2 Approve School Board Meeting Minutes from January 2024

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED FOR JANUARY 2024

### 7.3 Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND CHECK LISTINGS FOR JANUARY 2024.

### 7.4 Approve Request(s) to Attend Conferences/Workshops

The Administration is seeking Board approval of conference/workshop requests as listed below:

Meredith Ehst  
Staff Developer - Data  
2024 PDE Data Summit  
Hershey, PA  
March 11-12, 2024  
\$691.92  
Funding: Curriculum

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST(S) TO ATTEND CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS AS LISTED.

### 7.5 Approve Request(s) for Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips

The Administration is seeking approval for out-of-state/overnight field trips:

High School Varsity Baseball Team  
Baseball scrimmages/team building  
Ripken Experience  
Aberdeen, MD  
March 15-16, 2024  
20 students / 8 adults

Funding: Athletic booster club

High School Track & Field student athletes  
Qualifiers for Nike Nationals  
Armory Track & Field Center  
New York, NY  
March 8 – 10, 2024  
15 students / 5 adults  
Funding: High School Athletics

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE/OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST(S) AS LISTED.

#### 7.6 Ratify Out of State / Overnight Field Trip

The administration is requesting a ratification of the following out-of-state field trip:

SAHS Cheerleading Squad  
National Cheerleading Competition  
ESPN Center  
Orlando, Florida  
February 8 - 12, 2024  
17 students / 4 adults  
Funding: Student / fundraising

Resolution: RATIFY REQUEST FOR OUT OF STATE / OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

#### 7.7 Approve Low Incidence Curriculum

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE LOW INCIDENCE CURRICULUM

The Administration is recommending the approval of Low Incidence Curriculum (special education) as presented and discussed at the February 14, 2024 Education-Personnel Meeting.

#### 7.8 Approve Revisions to Elementary K-5 Music Curriculum

The Administration is seeking approval of revisions to K-5 Music Curriculum as discussed the the February 14, 2024 Education-Personnel Meeting.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO ELEMENTARY K-5 MUSIC CURRICULUM

#### 7.9 Approve Third Reading and Final Adoption of Policy 251 - Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability

The Administration is seeking a Third Reading and Final Adoption of Policy No. 251 - Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THIRD READING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF POLICY NO. 251 - STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FOSTER CARE AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTABILITY

#### 7.10 Approve Final Reading of Policy 006.2 - Broadcasting Board Meetings

The Administration is seeking a waive the Second Reading and approve Final Adoption of revisions to Policy 006.2 - Broadcasting Board Meetings. The waiver of the second reading is being recommended to allow for prompt broadcast of the upcoming March Committee Meetings.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE FINAL READING OF POLICY 006.2 - BROADCASTING BOARD MEETINGS

#### 7.11 Approve Second Reading of Policy 102 - Academic Standards

Administration is seeking a Second Reading of revisions to Policy 102 - Academic Standards.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF POLICY 102 - ACADEMIC STANDARDS

#### 7.12 Approve Second Reading of Policy 105 - Curriculum Development

The Administration is seeking a Second Reading of revisions to Policy 105 - Curriculum Development.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF POLICY 105 - CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

#### 7.13 Approve Personnel Items - Administrative Staff

<b>NEW HIRE</b>	
O'HARA, JOSEPH Replacement for Brenda Oelschlager (Retired)	Coordinator of Community Education ACT 93 POSITION <u>Effective:</u> February 8, 2024 <u>Education:</u> Cabrini (BS) 2017 Cabrini (MS) 2019 <u>Experience:</u> Sept 2012-present - Owner/Coach, O'Hara Fitness <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$60,824 (pro-rated based on start date)

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

7.14 Approve Personnel Items - Professional Staff

<b>NEW HIRES</b>	
MILLIGAN, LAURA Replacement for Karen Franks (Resigned)	Special Education Teacher, West Broad Street Elementary School PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE <u>Effective:</u> February 26, 2024 <u>Education:</u> Cabrini (BS) 2010 Holy Family (MEd) 2013 <u>Experience:</u> Jan 2023-present - Wilson Language Training, Literacy Specialist; 2018-2022 - North Penn School District, Special Education Teacher; 2015-2018 - SpringFord School District, Special Education Teacher; 2011-2015 - Franklin Towne Charter Elementary School, Special Education Teacher <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$67,725 (pro-rated based on start date) - M (5)
SEBASTIAN, JOSHUA Replacement for Bryan McKeever (Resigned)	Special Education Teacher, Souderton Area High School PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE <u>Effective:</u> On or before April 10, 2024 <u>Education:</u> Univ. of Maryland (BA) 2009 Univ. of Phoenix (MA) 2011 <u>Experience:</u> Jan 2021-present - Pottstown School District, Special Education Teacher, Pottstown High School; June 2016-Dec 2020 - Pennsbury School District, Special Education Teacher, Pennsbury High School; Feb 2015-March 2016 - Khepera Charter School, Special Education Teacher; Oct 2012-Feb 2015 - Carson Valley Children's Aid, Special Education/Social Studies Teacher <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$67,725 (pro-rated based on start date) - M (5)

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - PROFESSIONAL STAFF

7.15 Approve Personnel Items - Additions to Winter 2024 Community Education Instructors

<b>Name</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Rate/Hours</b>	<b>Salary</b>
Lisa Burger	Crochet - Beginner (Second Session)	6 Hours/\$20 per Hour	\$120
Lisa Burger	Crochet - Next Step (Second Session)	6 Hours/\$20 per Hour	\$120
Lisa Burger	Dinner Club (Second Session)	10 Hours/\$20 per Hour	\$200
Michelle Deimeyer	Selling on eBay (Second Session)	6 Hours/\$25 per Hour	\$150

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - ADDITIONS TO WINTER 2024 COMMUNITY EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS

7.16 Approve Personnel Items - Spring 2024 Coaching Staff

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Salary</b>
Thomas Lavella	Head Baseball Coach	Indian Crest Middle School	\$4,189
Jeremy Lias	Head Track/Field Coach	Indian Crest Middle School	\$4,211
Leah Pro	Assistant Track/Field Coach	Indian Crest Middle School	\$2,596
Jeremy Steglik	Head Softball Coach	Indian Crest Middle School	\$3,616
Tina Bachman	Head Lacrosse Coach	Indian Crest Middle School	\$3,911
Ray Gerhart	Head Track/Field Coach	Indian Valley Middle School	\$3,780
Emily Freer	Assistant Track/Field Coach	Indian Valley Middle School	\$2,520
Brittany McCauley	Assistant Track/Field Coach	Indian Valley Middle School	\$2,520
Courtney Lepping	Head Softball Coach	Indian Valley Middle School	\$3,616
Kimberly Dudek	Head Lacrosse Coach	Indian Valley Middle School	\$4,189
Matthew Musselman	Head Boys Volleyball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$5,562
William Cush	JV Boys Volleyball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,106
Karli Gilbert	Head Girls Lacrosse Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$5,562
Lisa Clark	Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$5,095
Leah Goodwin	JV Girls Lacrosse Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,311
Craig Hunsberger	Head Boys Lacrosse Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$6,015
Joseph Szatmary	Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,106
Eric Fernandez	JV Boys Lacrosse Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,106
James Stevenson	Head Boys Track/Field Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$6,382
Elijah White	Assistant Boys Track/Field Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,946
Robert Hinson	Assistant Boys Track/Field Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,311
Anthony Pace	Head Girls Track/Field Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$6,015
David Klein	Assistant Girls Track/Field Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$5,095
Richard Hess	Assistant Girls Track/Field Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$5,298
Carol Atkinson	Head Softball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$6,701
William McGinley	JV Softball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,311
Douglas K. Souder	Assistant Softball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$5,095
Michael Childs	Head Baseball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$7,393
T. Joshua Myers	Assistant Baseball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,946
Paul Meara	JV Baseball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$5,298
Clint Passarella	Freshman Baseball Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,106
James O'Neill	Head Boys Tennis Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$4,511
Tristan Boyd	Assistant Boys Tennis Coach	Souderton Area High School	\$3,451

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SPRING 2024 COACHING STAFF

7.17 Approve Personnel Items - Additions to Substitute Teacher List

The following personnel are recommended to be added to the Substitute Teacher List:

Morgan Croak  
Alyssa Katz  
Evan Morse  
Reid Sinkinson  
Hilary York

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - ADDITIONS TO SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST

7.18 Approve Personnel Items - Mentors & Peer Coaches

Name	Position	Term	Salary
Sharon Streff	Peer Coach for Laura Milligan	Remainder of School Year	\$112

Resolution: APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - MENTORS & PEER COACHES

7.19 Approve Personnel Items - Support Staff

RESIGNATIONS	
BURBAN-SCOTT, SAVANNAH	Part-Time Custodian, Indian Valley Middle School Effective: February 9, 2024
MEYER, CATHERINE	Aquatics Assistant Manager Effective: January 19, 2024
SABO, TAYLOR	Cafeteria/Playground Aide, West Broad Street Elementary School Effective: June 13, 2023
WEST, KARISSA	Special Education Instructional Assistant, West Broad Street Elementary School Effective: January 25, 2024
NEW HIRES	
BENDER, ARLENE Replacement for Kaycie Wolper (Resigned)	Intervention Teaching Assistant, Oak Ridge Elementary School Effective: February 9, 2024 Wage: \$20.15 per hour - Hours: 5.5 per day
DANNER, ALEXANDER Replacement for Robert Dodd (Transfer)	Part-Time Custodian, EMC Elementary School Effective: February 5, 2024 Wage: \$13.45 per hour - Hours: 4 per day
OLBERDING, RILEY Replacement for Catherine Meyer (Resigned)	Assistant Aquatics Manager, Aquatics Program Effective: February 7, 2024 Wage: \$20.00 per hour - Hours: As Needed
TRESSLER, TROY Replacement for Michelle Stinger (Resigned)	Part-Time Custodian, Souderton Area High School Effective: February 5, 2024 Wage: \$13.45 per hour - Hours: 4 per day
YORK, HILARY Replacement for Lauren Smith (Transfer)	ESL Intervention Teaching Assistant, EMC Elementary School Effective: January 29, 2024 Wage: \$17.78 per hour - Hours: 5.5 per day
TRANSFER	
ECKERT, MARY Replacement for Corrine Geiger (Resigned)	From: Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Oak Ridge Elementary School To: Intervention Teaching Assistant, Oak Ridge Elementary School effective: march 1, 2024 Wage: \$19.36 per hour - Hours: 5.5 per day

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SUPPORT STAFF

7.20 Approve Personnel Items - Supplemental Contracts

The following are changes made to previously approved items on the September 28, 2023 board agenda.

Name	Position	School	Salary
Bryan Fagan	Unified Sports Co-Advisor	Souderton Area High School	\$900 *Previously approved at \$775
Emily Vollrath *Additional advisor	Unified Sports Co-Advisor	Souderton Area High School	\$262.50

Leticia Clark	Unified Sports Co-Advisor	Souderton Area High School	\$387.50 *Previously approved at \$775
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Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

7.21 Approve YMCA Agreement

The Administration recommends approval of an agreement with the Indian Valley YMCA to authorize three partnership programs between the parties: KidsCare Childcare Program, Summer Day Camp Program, and Promotional Services.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH INDIAN VALLEY YMCA

7.22 Approve Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budget

As required by PA School Code, the Board must vote on the membership services budget for the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2024-2025 MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT MEMBERSHIP SERVICES BUDGET

7.23 Approve Proposed 2024-2025 School Year Calendar

The Administration will present the proposed calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.

7.24 APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

Motion by William Brong, second by Stephen Nelson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: William Brong, Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Ken Keith, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

**8. Discussion/Action Agenda**

There were no Discussion/Action agenda items.

**9. Future Meetings**

9.1 Future Meetings

DATE	ORGANIZATION	TIME	LOCATION
February 28 2024	MCIU Board of School Directors Meeting	6:45 PM	Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 2 w. Lafayette St. Norristown
March 13 2024	SASD Board Committee Meetings	6:30 PM	District Administrative Office
March 18 2024	NMTCC Joint Operating Committee Meeting	7:00 PM	NMTCC 1265 Sumneytown Pike Lansdale

March 21  
2024

SASD  
Board Action  
Meeting

7:00  
PM

District  
Administrative  
Office

## **10. Report of the Solicitor**

### 10.1 Report of the Solicitor

There was no report.

## **11. Unfinished/New Business of the Board**

### 11.1 Unfinished/New Business from the Board

There was no unfinished or new business of the Board.

## **12. Public Comments**

### 12.1 Public Comments

Mr. Verbeke stated his appreciation of the policy passed this evening as it relates to the broadcasting of board committee meetings. Mr. Verbeke commented on his tenure as a School Board member when a similar decision was made to broadcast board action meetings to inform the public on the construction of the new new high school. Mr. Verbeke also suggested that school board members consider hosting an informal meet and greet for the public to get to know them beyond the dais. Mr. Keith thanked Mr. Verbeke for his comments and his service to the school district.

Ms. Jamison commented on recent hate crimes in the nation targeting LGBTQ youth and thanked the Board for not passing any policies that would jeopardize the safety and wellness of its LGBTQ students. Ms. Jamison also requested that the board consider implementing a policy, rather than an administrative directive that clearly defines the district's intention to address a student's desire for privacy as it relates to their sexual preference.

Ms. DeGeiso requested that attachments and documents referenced in the Board Docs agendas be made available for public viewing.

Ms. Marion stated her affiliation as a President of the Souderton Charter School Collaborative (SCSC) Trustees and was speaking this evening to correct what she believes is misinformation spoken at the February 14 school district Committee meetings. Ms. Marion stated that she believes that the SCSC has a very open and active relationship with Drs. Gallagher and Hey and was very upset to learn of inaccurate and misleading content shared at the above referenced meeting. Ms. Marion reiterated that the SCSC is not permitted to inquire whether an IEP is associated with a prospective student. Ms. Marion stated that the lottery system used for SCSC enrollment is a fair process and open to the public. Ms. Marion also stated that the special education enrollment of the SCSC is relative to the overall percentage of special education students within the district schools.

Ms. Marion thanked the Board for the opportunity to correct the record and educate the public on the enrollment process of the SCSC.

Mr. Willouer stated that he believes the Board spends a disproportionate amount of time in discussion that the SCSC receives too much money. Mr. Willouer also stated his disappointment of the comments made at the February 14 meeting referencing the SCSC enrolling students with IEP's in order to receive additional funding. Mr. Willouer stated that these comments are inaccurate, unethical and unfair to the constituents of the school district. Mr. Willouer asked for a formal statement of retraction.

Ms. Willouer thanked Mr. Waldenberger for his video documenting the comments from the February 14 meeting. Ms. Willouer requested that the Board and the administration make a formal apology and issue a statement to retract the comments about charter school enrollment from that meeting.

Ms. Elwell introduced herself as a senior at the Souderton Area High School and member of RTC (Recycle the Cycle). Ms. Elwell explained the RTC as a service organization supporting the lack of access to period products and asked the school district to support making period products readily available to all students. Ms. Elwell stated that currently period products are only available in the nurse's office and she would like to see them available in all of the school restrooms. Ms. Elwell cited statistics supporting student hygiene and attendance when period products are made available.

Ms. Rivera stated unfounded allegations surrounding the comments made at the February 14 committee meeting. Ms. Rivera asked the board to represent all of their constituents and stop spreading misinformation about the SCSC. She also challenged the board to change their mindset and promote the success of all students at all of the schools.

School Board member Mr. Nelson commented on his visit to a High School Special Education class today to observe first-hand the implementation of Low Incidence Curriculum practices. Mr. Nelson praised the teachers, aides and support staff that are leading this curriculum to serve some of our most challenged students. Mr. Nelson expressed pride in the classroom operations.



### **13. Adjournment**

#### 13.1 Adjournment of the Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' MEETING.

Motion by William Brong, second by William Formica.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: William Brong, Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Ken Keith, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Taylor".

Michael Taylor, C.P.A.

Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs