### MARCH 18, 2024 Monday Evening

### SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

**CALL TO ORDER** 

At 7:10 p.m., the March 18, 2024, meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of

School Directors was called to order by President Jesse Rawls, Sr.

SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Tameka Hatcher, Keita Kalonji Johnson, Esq., Mrs. Jackie Hill

Mr. Steven H. Johnson, Ms. Elise I. LeMelle, Miss. Rebecca McCullough, Esq.,

Mr. Jesse Rawls, Sr.

SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Mr. Scott Campbell

**ABSENT** 

Mr. Majid Ali

DISTRICT OFFICE

**PRESENT** 

Mr. Oslwen Anderson, Jr., Mr. Mark Holman, Dr. Tamara Willis, Dr. Kristi Prime, Mrs. Carrie Martin, Mrs. Cara Klinger, Mr. Justin Green, Mr. Jonathan Bishop

**SOLICITOR** 

Appel, Yost & Zee LLP

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** 

The President announced that executive session was held immediately prior to the meeting for the purpose of personnel, real estate, and litigation matters. A special executive session was held on March 12, 2024, to discuss real estate.

INTRODUCTIONS/
GUEST PRESENTATIONS

None

REPORTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Board Representatives: Bessie Idan and Nicholas Mabry presented a report highlighting recent activities and events from district buildings. (attached to BoardDocs)

Alumni Association: Mr. Dwayne DeFoor shared that the annual Candy Scramble will be Saturday, April 6 @ 1:00 pm. The annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, June 21, 2024. Mr. Rhyce Hammaker, Chair of the October Pink Out Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign reported that a total of \$7,500 was raised and thanked everyone for their support. Checks in the amount of \$3,500 were presented to Ken Smeltz from Vickie's Angel Foundation and Debra Donadee from Pink Hands of Hope. Mr. Hammaker reported that this year's Color Run was dedicated to Mrs. Patty Frye and donations were made to the HANNA Pantry.

Mr. Ken Smeltz thanked the Alumni Foundation.

**Dauphin County Technical School: Mr. S. Johnson** reported that co-op student K. Dam, a Senior from Halifax School District, is helping to run her family business, Katies Nail and Spa and is learning the day-to-day business and operations. Her goal

is to open salons across Pennsylvania. K. Moore, a Senior from Central Dauphin, is working on becoming a nurse and works for Viva Assisted Living doing various jobs in food service and personal care. The following students were Students of the Month at DCTS:

 $9^{th}$  grade – A. Astidullo, Harrisburg School District, Automotive Technology  $10^{th}$  grade – C. Pechart, Halifax School District, Automotive Technology  $11^{th}$  grade – A. Henry, Central Dauphin, Landscape Greenhouse Production  $12^{th}$  grade – R. James, Central Dauphin, Landscape Greenhouse Production

Representative Justin Fleming stopped by the JOC meeting to recognize the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students.

Mr. S. Johnson shared that DCTS students participated in in the PA Home and Garden Show by building a home from the ground up with only \$500 in donations. The students were involved in every aspect of building the home, including the initial design. The house will be sold for \$140,000.

Mr. Rawls reported that the students also renovated a house in Harrisburg that will be sold. He also shared that STSD has 204 students who attend DCTS.

There will be a Finance Committee Meeting on March 21, 2024.

**Superintendent's Notes: Dr. Tamara Willis** thanked the students, student athletes, coaches, first responders and everyone who came to Sara Lindemuth to read to students for Read Across America. She thanked Mr. Martin for organizing the event. Additionally, Dr. Willis reported that STSD's Cadet Teaching Program has been featured in a number of locations and conferences. She recognized the team for presenting at the Aspiring Teacher Summit held March 1<sup>st</sup> at Shippensburg University. The group also presented at the PA Association of School Administrators last week. Dr. Willis acknowledged the teachers and students for the great job at this year's high school musical.

Dr. Willis shared that Mrs. Jennifer Halfond was recognized by the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) as Pennsylvania School Nurse of the Year for 2024.

Dr. Willis recognized student athletes who were selected for the Big 33. Cheerleader, Jade Clark and Player, Tymere Williams. She congratulated the girls' basketball team. She gave a shout out to Ava London, Skye Coles and Amber Williams who were recognized as Mid Penn Conference Capital Division All Stars. Coach Terrance Clark, Sr. was recognized as Mid Penn Conference Capital Division Coach of the Year.

The spring sports season is in full swing, please come out and support our students.

Dr. Willis shared the flyer for the Alumni Association Candy Scramble on April 6th.

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH 18, 2024

### **MOTION TO APPROVE**

2.A. Moved by Ms. Hatcher, seconded by Ms. LeMelle to approve the meeting

agenda for March 18, 2024.

Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Mr. Ali)

2.B. Board Member Comments

Ms. Hatcher on behalf of the board, apologized for the conduct of the board at the last board meeting. The board is committed to conduct themselves respectfully.

Mr. Rawls read Policy 006.1 and stated he will strictly enforce the policy.

Mr. Campbell asserted that he has a legal right to attend meetings virtually if he is

traveling for work.

Mr. Rawls recognized Susquehanna Township Commissioner, Mr. Fred Faylona in the

audience.

### III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

**SPEAKER** 

None

#### IV. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

**PRESENTATION** 

None

#### V. MINUTES

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE**

5.A. Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mr. S. Johnson, to approve Item 5.A.

Motion passed 7-1 (Mr. Campbell), 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Mr. Ali)

5.A. Approve the Minutes of the March 4, 2024, board meeting.

VI. PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

None

#### VII. PERSONNEL

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE**

7.A. Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Ms. LeMelle, to approve Item 7.A.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Aye: Mr. Campbell, Ms. Hatcher, Ms. LeMelle, Mrs. Hill, Mr. S. Johnson,

Mr. K. Johnson, Miss McCullough, Mr. Rawls

Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Ali

Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Mr. Ali)

**7.A.** Approve the appointment of Mr. Andrae Martin as Assistant Superintendent at the Susquehanna Township School District at a salary of \$142,000.00, effective July 1, 2024, subject to the provisions of his employment contract and commission which will appear on a future meeting agenda for approval.

Mr. K. Johnson commented on continuing the relationship with Mr. Martin and thanked the administration and the hiring committee.

Mr. Rawls applauded Mr. Martin and thanked him for a great job.

Mr. Martin is humbled to serve the district in this capacity. He has had many roles in his 12 years with the district.

Ms. Hatcher reminded everyone about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts in the district and reminded the board that Mr. Ali is absent because he is observing Ramadan.

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE**

**7.B.C.E.F.G.** Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Hill, to approve Items 7.B.C.E.F.G

Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Mr. Ali)

- **7.B.1**. Approve the resignation of Jennifer Rhone as Special Education Teacher at the Susquehanna Township High School, effective March 27, 2024.
- **7.B.2**. Approve the resignation of Zachary Weyhenmeyer as Special Education Teacher at the Susquehanna Township High School, effective March 15, 2024.
- **7.B.3.** Approve the resignation of Sheila Pressley as Night Custodian at the Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter Primary School, effective May 7, 2024.

- **7.B.4.** Approve the resignation of Josamarie Stalcar as Music Teacher at the Susquehanna Township Middle School, effective June 10, 2024.
- **7.B.5.** Approve the resignation of Lillian Brown as Assistant II Paraprofessional at the Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter Primary School, effective March 22, 2024.
- **7.C.** Approve the transfer of Janeen Kime as from English Teacher at the Susquehanna Township Middle School to Reading Specialist at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School, effective March 18, 2024. Ms. Kime will be replacing Michelle Yeagy.
- **7.D.** Approve change of assignment for Margaret Baum Assistant III/Paraprofessional (STESPA) at the Susquehanna Township High School to Assistant III/Paraprofessional on special assignment as Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher (STEA) at the Susquehanna Township High School. Ms. Baum will be paid a daily premium of \$127.64 for this assignment, effective March 14, 2024. Ms. Baum will be replacing Zachary Weyhenmeyer.
- **7.E.1.** Approve Nicholas Cellini as Science Teacher at the Susquehanna Township Middle School at a salary of \$60,516.00, pro-rated, effective date to be determined. Mr. Cellini will be replacing Karla Najera pending her intra-district transfer.
- **7.E.2.** Approve Nichole Smith as LTS Elementary School Teacher (K-2) at the Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter Primary School at a salary of \$52,766.00, pro-rated, effective March 18, 2024. Ms. Smith will be replacing Lynsey Myer Jessica Maxwell who is on leave.
- **7.E.3.** Approve Autumn Fair as Special Education Teacher at the Susquehanna Township High School at a salary of \$57,515.00, pro-rated, effective date to be determined. Ms. Fair will be replacing Christina Darden upon her release.
- **7.E.4.** Approve Yasmeen Bekhit as School Psychologist at the Susquehanna Township School District at a salary of \$65,265.00, pro-rated, effective date to be determined. Ms. Bekhit will be replacing Heather Bravener.
- **7.E.5.** Approve Jennifer Kirsch as Social Worker at the Susquehanna Township School District at a salary of \$65,265.00, pro-rated, effective date to be determined. Ms. Kirsch will be replacing Jasmine Willis.
- **7.F.1.** Approve Victor Rodriguez as Night Custodian at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a rate of \$17.70 per hour, effective March 11, 2024. Mr. Rodriguez will be replacing Jehvon Copeland.

- **7.F.2.** Approve Melissa Rico as Assistant III/PCA- Life Skills at the Susquehanna Township Middle School at a rate of \$16.91 per hour, effective March 18, 2024. Ms. Rico will be filling a new position.
- **7.G.1.** 1. Approve Kaitlyn Veronikis as Mentor for Jacqueline Hoffman at the Susquehanna Township Middle School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder for the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.2.** Approve Michelle McGowan as Mentor for VeAundrea Smith at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.3.** Approve Jamie McNeal-Early as Mentor for Sierra Smith at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.4.** Approve Mary Girven as Mentor for Gabrielle Jarvis at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.5.** Approve Chelsea Wagner as Mentor for Tacoya Faucette at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.6.** Approve Megan Steever as Sponsor for Juwayriyah Abdallah at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.7.** Approve Monica Beasley as Mentor for Lalita Bajgai at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.8.** Amend Emily Arnold's Mentor from Claudette Evans to Jodi Pagni at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.9.** Approve Jessica Dullen as Mentor for Autumn Fair at the Susquehanna Township High School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.10.** Amend Christian Ciotti from Volunteer Baseball Coach at the Susquehanna Township High School to JV Head Baseball Coach at the Susquehanna Township High School at a stipend of \$3,200.00 for the 2023-2024 school year. **7.G.2.** Amend Jamie

McNeal-Earley as Mentor for Kathryn Linn at the Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the 2023-2024 school year due to resignation.

**7.G.11** Approve the following Spring Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year:

| Name               | Activity                         | Location | Stipend    |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Ken Connor         | Varsity Head Baseball Coach      | STHS     | \$5,200.00 |
| Bryan Stovall      | Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach | STHS     | \$4,000.00 |
| Ken Atticks        | Assistant JV Baseball Coach      | STHS     | \$2,600.00 |
| Toni Gockley       | Varsity Head Softball Coach      | STHS     | \$5,200.00 |
| Dale Gockley       | Assistant Varsity Softball Coach | STHS     | \$4,000.00 |
| Mike Torcaso       | JV Head Softball Coach           | STHS     | \$3,200.00 |
| Jack Port          | Head Tennis Coach                | STHS     | \$4,000.00 |
| Ronald Foster, Jr. | Assistant Tennis Coach           | STHS     | \$2,500.00 |
| Dwayne McCarthur   | Head Track Coach                 | STHS     | \$3,200.00 |
| Brett Smith        | Assistant Track Coach            | STHS     | \$2,900.00 |
| Anthony Stavenski  | Assistant Track Coach- Throwing  | STHS     | \$2,800.00 |
| Erica Dickerson    | Assistant Track Coach            | STHS     | \$2,800.00 |
| Casey Lenker       | Head Boys Soccer Coach           | STMS     | \$2,700.00 |
| Bruce Searfoss     | Assistant Boys Soccer Coach      | STMS     | \$2,300.00 |
| Jason Gray         | Head Girls Soccer Coach          | STMS     | \$2,700.00 |
| Patrick Thompson   | Assistant Girls Soccer Coach     | STMS     | \$2,300.00 |
| Britanai Lawson    | Head Track Coach                 | STMS     | \$2,500.00 |
| Charles Vaughn     | Assistant Track Coach            | STMS     | \$2,400.00 |

- **7.G.12.** Approve Gary Torcaso as JV Assistant Softball Coach at the Susquehanna Township High School at a stipend of \$2,600.00 for the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.13.** Approve Jennifer Nolt as Mentor for Margaret Baum at the Susquehanna Township High School at a stipend of \$250.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.14.** Approve Reema Arif as AAP Facilitator at the Susquehanna Middle School at rate of \$31.00 per hour for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- **7.G.15.** Approve Reema Arif as Fitness Club Advisor at the Susquehanna Township Middle School at a rate of \$21.00 per hour not to exceed 40 hours.
- **7.G.16.** Approve Jordan Bour as K-2 Social Studies Academic Team Lead at the Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter Primary School at a stipend of \$875.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

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#### **MOTION TO APPROVE**

**7.H.** Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Hatcher, to approve Item 7.H. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Mr. Ali)

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Aye: Mr. Campbell, Ms. Hatcher, Ms. LeMelle, Mrs. Hill, Mr. S. Johnson,

Mr. K. Johnson, Miss McCullough, Mr. Rawls

Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Ali

Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Mr. Ali)

**7.H.** Recommend approval of STEA collective bargaining agreement, effective July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027.

#### **VIII. FINANCES**

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE**

**8.A.B.C.D.E.F.** Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mr. S. Johnson, to approve Items 8.A.B.C.D.E.F.

- **8.A.** Approve the payment of Activity Fund bill from the First National Bank Activity Fund Checking as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$310.00.
- **8.B.** Approve the payment of First National General Fund Checking bills from the First National General Fund Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$1,928,634.41.
- **8.C.** Approve the payment of Food Service bills from the Food Service Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$108,280.64.
- **8.D.** Approve the Food Service Cash Balance of \$2,012,087.72.
- 8.E. Approve the General Fund Cash Balance of \$8,327,845.29.
- 8.F.1. Approve the following Personal Tax Refund:

Taxpayer Name: Jessica Lutz Arnold

Bill#: 014368 Year: 2022

Refund Amount: \$294.00

Reason: Jessica Lutz Arnold is not a Susquehanna Township resident; paid the taxes

in error.

**8.F.2.** Approve the following Personal Tax Refunds:

Taxpayer Name: Kaitlin M Hudak

Bill#: 014157 Year: 2022

Refund Amount: \$274.40

Reason: Kaitlin M Hudak is not a Susquehanna Township resident; paid the taxes in

error.

#### IX. CONTRACTS

#### MOTION TO APPROVE

**9.A.B.** Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mr. S. Johnson to approve Items 9.A.B. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Mr. Ali)

Mr. K. Johnson stressed the importance of these agreements and thanked the administration for meeting the needs of all learners.

- **9.A.** Approve the Agreement with West Chester University of Pennsylvania for the Partnering in Raising Inclusive Zealous Educators (PRIZE) program.
- **9.B.** Approve the Local Education Agency Letter of Agreement (LEA), Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program Roles and Responsibilities between Susquehanna Township School District (STSD) and Region 2 Berks County Intermediate Unit. This Agreement ensures compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act.

#### DISCUSSION

**9.C.** Approve the agreement with Transcend to deliver professional development for staff and administration via a Learner-Centered Leadership Lab. Funding for this contract will be sourced from Title II federal grant allocations designated for professional development purposes.

#### X. OTHER

### MOTION TO APPROVE

**10.A.** Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Ms. LeMelle, to approve Item 10.A. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Mr. Ali)

**10.A**. Approve the out of state field trip for high school students to the Air and Space Museum in Chantilly Virginia via a chartered school bus.

Ms. Hatcher questioned if this was an overnight fieldtrip and if the district would be providing a meal. Dr. Willis confirmed that it is a day trip for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

#### MOTION TO APPROVE

**10.B.** Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Ms. LeMelle, to approve Item **10.A.** Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, **1** absent (Mr. Ali)

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**10.B.** Approve Student # 2023-24/024, a non-resident senior, to attend Susquehanna Township High School for the student's senior year without payment of tuition in accordance with Policy 202.

#### XI. POLICY

None

#### **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. K. Johnson inquired about the next Policy Committee Meeting. The next meeting is April 2 @ 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Hatcher acknowledged the Wayne Avenue purchase. Dr. Willis provided comments regarding the sale. The board approved the resolution at the March 4, 2024, board meeting.

#### XIII. ADJOURNMENT

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Ms. LeMelle to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Mr. Ali)

Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Rebecca McCullough Board Secretary