

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 via an online meeting. Present were Directors Edward Andres, Susan Baxter, Cedric Dettmar, Bryan Eichfeld, Michael Karabin, Tracy Magnotta, Dr. Shamim Pakzad, Sandra Miller and Shawn Welch. Also present were Dr. Craig B. Butler, Superintendent; David Bonenberger, Board Secretary and Mark Fitzgerald, District Solicitor.

- I. **Call to the Order** – 7:12 pm - *Dr. Shamim Pakzad, President, presiding*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance** – *David Bonenberger, Secretary*  
7-yes, 2-absent (Andres, Karabin)
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Director Baxter, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve the Agenda. Vote: 7-yes, 0-no, 2-absent (Andres & Karabin)
- V. **Announcement of Executive Session** – August 25, 2020
- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – Director Welch, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020. Vote: 7-yes, 0-no, 2-absent (Andres & Karabin)
- VII. **Recognition** – None
- VIII. **Presentation** –None
- IX. **Superintendent’s Report** – *Dr. Craig Butler, Superintendent*

Director Karabin arrived 7:15 pm.

**X. Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only**

K. Riefenstahl – spoke as a coach and that all the athletes have been following the rules, he then commented as a parent about students having to be in the same seat for six hours a day some of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders sitting on stools all day.

R. Bender commented that her daughter’s zoom class got hacked. She would like to know what the protocol is moving forward if this happens again.

R. Svitilla commented on the governor’s recommendations for a hybrid learning approach. He would like to see daily testing.

K. Kane spoke about the sports program and that they have been following all the rules and the children need sports since COVID has taken everything else away from the students, they need sports for a sense of normalcy and their mental health.

K. Leayman stated that due to the district being less flexible she has decided to home school her child but was not allowed

L. Wieder asked that the student athletes be allowed to play, COVID cases are on the decrease but mental health episodes are increasing. The students are using sports as a way to deal with their mental health issues.

E. Bruchak thanked the coaches and would like the sports to continue this fall.

**XI. Presentation of Bills – David Bonenberger**

- A. General Expenditures – \$763,858.02
- B. Cafeteria Expenditures – \$2,654.32
- C. Health Benefits –\$470,401.72
- D. Capital Projects – None

1. Approve the above presentation of bills.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Miller moved to approve the Presentation of the Bills. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

**XII. Treasurer’s Report – Cedric Dettmar/David Bonenberger**

- A. Cash Investment and Bond Activity
- B. Condensed Board Summary Report
- C. Capital Project Finance Report
- D. Budget Transfers – None
- E. Middle School Activity Report – None
- F. High School Activity Report – None

1. Approve the above Treasurer’s Report.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

**A. Education**

- A. Academic and Personnel Committee Summary – August 18, 2020

1. Approve the Emergency Instructional Time Template Section 520.1

Director Miller, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve Education Item #1. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

2. Approve the following dates for fall sports interscholastic official seasons to commence:

Golf, Tennis, Cross Country – Begin competition as stated below

**Golf** ~ 1st Competition – August 27, 2020

**Tennis** ~ 1st Competition – August 31, 2020

**Cross Country** ~ 1st Competition – September 11, 2020

**Volleyball, Football, Field Hockey, and Soccer** – Continue under the guidelines of the Saucon Valley Athletic Re-Socialization Plan through September 8, 2020. In the event the Colonial League and/or District 11 proceeds with interscholastic competition involving the aforementioned sports, the Board of Directors shall convene to determine District participation in these sports for the fall 2020 season

**Cheerleading** ~ Practice until football games begin

Director Welch, seconded by Director Miller moved to approve Education Items #2.

Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

## **B. Personnel**

- B. Congratulate the following professionals on receiving tenure on August 22, 2020:

Kaitlin Dennington  
Kelly Lozowski  
Hannah Pasda

1. Approve the resignation of Dr. Kristine Rosenberger, assistant superintendent. Her last day will be September 11, 2020.

The Board gave Dr. Rosenberger their well wishes.

Director Miller, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve Personnel Item #1.

Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

2. Approve the MOU and retirement of Cameron Fowler, high school science teacher effective August 18, 2020.

Director Pakzad acknowledged Mr. Fowler's year of service and dedication to the students of Saucon Valley School District.

3. Approve the retirement of Christa Laudenslager, middle school paraprofessional, effective August 13, 2020.

4. Approve the resignation of:  
Amanda Davis – Paraprofessional, effective July 14, 2020

Director Miller, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve Personnel Items #2-4.

Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent

5. Approve the following professional appointments:

Brian Welsko as high school physics teacher effective August 20, 2020, at a salary of \$53,182 (B, Step 1). Mr. Welsko is replacing Cameron Fowler, who retired.

6. Approve the following sabbatical leaves:

Thomas Baldo, middle school guidance counselor, for the first semester for the 2020-21 school year, for restoration of health.

Nadine Snyder, elementary kindergarten teacher, for the first semester for the 2020-21 school year, for restoration of health.
7. Approve the following Family Medical Leaves:

Melissa Janis – Intermittent for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester  
~~Robert Svitilla – August 24, 2020 through November 13, 2020~~ - This item is removed for further review.
8. Approve the following Family First Coronavirus Response Act leaves:

Stacey Anthony – August 31, 2020 through November 25, 2020  
Christina Higgins – September 8, 2002 through November 16, 2020  
Matthew Shaw – August 24, 2020 through November 16, 2020
9. Approve the following long term substitutes:

Caitlin Adams, middle mathematics long term substitute, beginning August 19, 2020 and continue until approximately November 30, 2020. Base salary is \$53,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Ms. Adams is replacing Amanda Holveck, who will be on maternity leave during this time.

Owen Divers, fourth grade long term substitute, beginning August 31, 2020 and continue until approximately November 25, 2020. Base salary is \$53,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Mr. Divers is replacing Stacey Anthony, who will be on FFCRA leave during this time.

Jade Gery, kindergarten long term substitute, beginning August 19, 2020 and continue for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. Base salary is \$53,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Ms. Gery is replacing Nadine Snyder, who will be on sabbatical during this time.
10. Approve the following transfers:

Jason Male and Donna Traves from Part Time Bus Driver to Full Time Driver, with benefits per the current Support Professionals contract, effective August 24, 2020.

John Rosado and Frank Kulla from Full Time Bus Driver to Part Time effective August 24, 2020

Director Miller, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve Personnel Items# 5-10 with the removal of Item #7. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

11. Approve the following mentors for the 2020-2021 school year. Salary for mentor is per the current professional agreement which will be prorated.

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Inductee</u>
Amanda Hicks	Lauren Amann (Elementary Guidance)
Jessica Sloan	Carol Corso (HS Special Education)
Kimberly Mertz	Brian Welsko (HS Physics)
Mario Marcozzi	Christina Harrison (HS Social Studies)
Elizabeth Ravier	Owen Divers (Grade 4)
Eric Focht	Felicia Johnson (HS Science)
Jen Falcaro	Mary Pope (HS English)
Jeremy Kittek	Logan Hanley (HS Social Studies)
Amber Sams	Danielle Zeda (Family Consumer Science)

12. Approve the following middle school team leaders and high school department chairs for the 2020-21 school year. Salary is \$2,000 per team leader.

**Middle School Team Leader**

Dana Russo – Special Education  
Scott Roberts – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**High School Department Chairs**

Jessica Friday – Social Studies – First Semester (salary pro-rated)  
Robert McHugh – Social Studies – Second Semester (salary pro-rated)

13. Approve the following co-curricular/extra duty appointments for the 2020-21 school year. (See NOTE below)

**High School**

Cheri Chisesi – Class of 2021 Co-Advisor- \$970.50\*\*

Katie Roberts – Class of 2021 Co-Advisor - \$970.50\*\*

(Mrs. Roberts also Student Government, MiniThon)

Michael Marini – Drill Writer – not to exceed \$2,000

(Matt Piatek was previously hired for this position but has resigned)

\*\* - splitting stipend

14. Approve the following 2020-21 fall coaches. (See NOTE below)

**MS Football**

John Chaffier - Assist. Coach - Volunteer

Ian Csicsek - Assist. Coach – Volunteer

**MS Field Hockey**

Jillian Allwein - Assist. Coach - \$2,623

**Golf**

Chuck Austin - Assist. Golf - \$725

***NOTE:*** *The District's obligation to pay the coaches and supplemental positions above is subject to the District's ability to hold and/or participate in the activity in light of the COVID-19 Crisis. In the event (1) the District is closed or providing modified services, (2) unable to hold the activity as the result of direction from outside agencies such as PDE, PIAA, the CDC, the Governor's Office, District XI, etc., or (3) the Administration determines not to hold such activities for the safety of the students and community, the District shall have no obligation to pay athletic and non-athletic contracts appointed herein. In the event the fall sports and/or activities are reduced, the athletic and non-athletic contracts approved above shall be paid a pro-rated amount of the stipend based on the percentage of the season/activity that was held and students participated. The decision to cancel and/or discontinue the activities or sports season shall be at the exclusive discretion of the Administration based, in part, on guidance from the Center for Disease Control, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, other health agencies, and student participation in such activities.*

15. Approve the following 2020-21 substitute teacher(s):

Maria Flores – School Nurse, SV Emergency Certification

Marie Jeanne Haba – SV Emergency Certification

Logan Hanley – Social Studies

Christina Harrison – Social Studies

Minh Hubert – SV Emergency Certification

Felicia Johnson – Science/Biology

Paul Mickelson – IU Emergency Certification

Mary Pope – English 7-12, Social Studies 7-12 (pending paperwork)

Director Miller, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve Personnel Items #11-15. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

**C. Facilities**

A. Facilities Committee Summary – August 19, 2020

1. Authorize administration to advertise for Cooling Tower Replacement bids.

Director Eichfeld, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve Facilities Item #1. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent, (Andres)

**D. Finance**

A. Finance Committee Summary – August 12, 2020

1. Approve the quote from Simplex/Johnson Control for the replacement of the District Fire Panel in the amount of \$76,048.99

pending review and approval of the solicitor. The money will be coming from the Transportation Budget.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve Finance Item #1.  
Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

Director Miller made a special thanks to John McCabe and his staff that they made sure the children made it to school safe.

**E. Community Outreach – SV Partnership – Michael Karabin and Shawn Welch**

**F. Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School – Cedric Dettmar and Bryan Eichfeld**

**G. Colonial Intermediate Unit – Sandra Miller**

**H. PSBA – Sandra Miller**

**I. Hellertown/Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce – Michael Karabin**

**J. Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation – Tracy Magnotta**

**K. Northampton Community College – Susan Baxter**

**L. New Business –** Director Eichfeld questioned sharing curriculum with home schooled students.

**M. Old Business**

**XIII. Citizens' Inquiries and Comments –**

J. Straub asked the board to please consider hiring building subs we are not having enough coverage. She commented that desks are in front of the classroom sinks and the class spends 95 minutes of each day washing hands. Also she is requesting addition person for tech support for families.

S. Donahue commented that he is please to have had the option to have his children to attend school in person. His is disappointed that there was no vote on when Volleyball, Football, Field Hockey and Soccer competition will begin.

M. Salgado asked about the following: how safety drills will be done, classroom coverage during class changes, social distancing in classrooms, input and members on the Pandemic Team, discrepancies between the FAQ and the Health & Safety Plan, courtesy stop measurement, fire panel safety.

L. Basara – Urged the board to give Ms. Vlasaty the resources she needs to support 5<sup>th</sup> grade special education needs.

T. Scherer – Thanked Mr. Sakelarides and the Elementary School and Mr. Deegan and Mr. Halcisak for all they have done. She thanked Mr. McCabe and his staff for the before and after care transportation.

**XIV. Announcements**

**Future Meetings ~**

- September 8, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – TBD
- September 22, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – TBD
- October 13, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – TBD

**XV. Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Welch moved to adjourn the meeting.  
Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

9:19 pm

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
President