

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, September 22, 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** – 7:10 pm - *Dr. Shamim Pakzad, President, presiding*

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Recording of Attendance** – *David Bonenberger, Secretary*  
8-present, 1-absent (Andres)

**IV. Motion to Approve Agenda** - Director Welch, seconded by Director Miller moved to approve the agenda with the modifications to the contract of the Assistant to the Superintendent. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)

**V. Announcement of Executive Session** – September 22, 2020

Director Andres arrived 7:11

**VI. Approval of Minutes** – Director Miller, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

**VII. Recognition** – None

**VIII. Presentation** –None

**IX. Superintendent's Report** – *Dr. Craig Butler, Superintendent* Dr. Butler reported that the district will have 2 dedicated day to day substitutes per building. He also reported on the current COVID cases in the district.

**X. Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only** - None

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

A. General Expenditures – \$553,833.32

B. Cafeteria Expenditures – \$4,431.03

C. Health Benefits – \$404,699.59

D. Capital Projects – None

1. Approve the above presentation of bills.

Director Miller, seconded by Director Karabin moved to approve the Presentation of the Bills. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

**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 – August 31, 2020

F. High School Activity Report – August 31, 2020

1. Approve the above Treasurer's Report.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

#### **A. Education**

1. Approve the request of student #11568 to complete an Accounting III Independent Study Course.
2. Approve the attached list of Surplus/Obsolete books.

Director Miller, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve Education Items 1 & 2. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

#### **B. Personnel**

- A. Congratulate the following professional on receiving tenure on September 27, 2020:

Mercede Burger

1. Approve Mrs. Jaime Vlasaty as the Assistant to the Superintendent effective September 23, 2020 at a salary of \$124,000 (which will be prorated). Mrs. Vlasaty's agreement will run until September 21, 2023.

Director Welch, seconded by Director Baxter moved to approve Personnel Item #1. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

2. Approve the following Family Medical Leaves:
  - Jasmine Kozero, elementary special education teacher, unpaid intermittent leave beginning September 25, 2020.
  - Robert McHugh, high school social studies teacher, beginning on October 6, 2020, through January 5, 2021. Mr. McHugh will return at the beginning of the second semester.
3. Approve the following unpaid medical leave:
  - Michelle Horvath, high school social studies, beginning November 20, 2020 and continue until the end of the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.
4. Approve the following long term substitutes:
  - Logan Hanley, high school social studies 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. Mr. Hanley is replacing Robert McHugh.

Christina Harrison, high school social studies long term substitute, beginning November 20, 2020 and continue until the end of the first semester. Base salary is \$53,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Ms. Harrison is replacing Michelle Horvath.

5. Approve the transfer of Jay Faillone from Part Time Bus Driver to Full Time Bus Driver with salary and benefits per the current Support Professional Contract effective September 23, 2020. Mr. Faillone is replacing Steve Hanner who retired.
6. Approve October 8 & 9, 2020 as unpaid days off for Michael Stebelski, bus driver. He is using personal days for October 5-7, 2020.
7. Approve the following mentor for the 2020-2021 school year. Salary for mentor is per the current professional agreement which will be prorated for the first semester.
8. Approve the following 2020-21 substitute teacher(s):  
Michael Yoder – Social Studies, Emergency Certification
9. Approve the following co-curricular/extra duty appointments for the 2020-21 school year. (See NOTE below)

Mentor

Rachel Alderfer

Inductee

Jeanne Reilly (MS Guidance Counselor)

**Elementary School**

Emily Aragona-Young – Panther Players – \$1,769

(Dr. Aragona-Young also Chorus, Student Community Council)

Emily Aragona-Young – Chorus – \$2,239

Amanda Hicks – Girls on the Run – \$531

**Middle School**

David Jost - Archery Club - \$868

(Mr. Jost also Swimming Director)

David Jost - Swimming Director 1- \$868

Rosemary Butterly - Stage Band/Jazz Band - \$2,623

**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.*

Director Welch, seconded by Director Miller approved Personnel Items 2 - 9.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

10. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Saucon Valley Education Association involving clarification of work year language and co-curricular positions and rates.

Director Welch, seconded by Director Miller approved Personnel Item 10.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

**C. Facilities**

- A. Facility Committee Summary – September 16, 2020
- B. Presentation on District Facilities Projects – John McCabe

1. Approve the repair/restoration of the district baseball and softball fields with money coming from the Athletic and Maintenance budgets.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve Facilities Item 1.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

Director Baxter commented that if the District would close we could still utilize the staff to maintain the athletic fields.

**D. Finance**

- A. Finance Committee Summary – September 9, 2020

1. Approve the Seamless Summer Option Food Service Program extended waiver to provide free breakfast and lunch to all children, under 18 years of age, in the Saucon Valley School District until December 31<sup>st</sup> or funds run out.

Director Welch, seconded by Director Karabin moved to approve Finance Item 1.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

**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**

Director Miller commented that the PSBA is working on a liability initiative.

**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 Andres, seconded by Director Magnotta moved to approve if the General Assembly veto's the House Bill #2787 to extend the capacity of athletic visitors as long as meeting CDC guidelines, social distancing and mask wearing.

Director Andres withdrew his motion.

Director Andres, seconded by Director Pakzad moved to allow having up to six family members attend all outdoor athletic events except for football and volleyball and not to exceed 250 and follow CDC guidelines unless there is a change in law.

Director Baxter is not comfortable approving this, feels administration should bring this to the Board, she will vote no.

Vote: 7-yes, 2-no (Karabin & Baxter)

Director Andres, seconded by Director Eichfeld move to allow for the sport of volleyball to have all participants present and if not playing be masked.

Director Dettmar feels uncomfortable approving this; he doesn't have experience in this.

Director Miller feels this should come from the league.

Director Eichfeld feels the 25 number is just arbitrary and ridiculous; he is in favor of this motion.

Director Baxter commented that she is not in favor of this.

Director Welch commented that the administration and attorney should come up with what we should do and what is appropriate.

Vote: 2-yes (Andres & Eichfeld), 7-no Motion failed.

Director Baxter asked that we bring new items to the agenda prior to the meeting so administration can vet the motion before the agenda.

Director Karabin wants to know are we looking to have in person meetings.

Director Pakzad brought up Wi-Fi issues, mask wearing and the possible need for voice amplifiers.

**M. Old Business** - Dr. Butler would like to thank John McCabe and his custodial staff on cleaning the classrooms.

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

V. Opthof – Commented that the District faces liability exposure if they don't listen to recommendations of doctors at CDC and their health guidelines.

J. Riefenstahl – Asked about the regulations surrounding attendance at football games.

V. Opthof – Commented that we are not following health guidelines and fears that we are making it a political issue not a health issue.

C. Scuba – Thanked teachers and administrators, commented that the teachers are concerned about their jobs, wished that the COVID communication would have been sooner and asked about siblings if a student is quarantined.

M. Salgado – Asked about the COVID case and what we are doing, asked if Policy 302 was followed in regarding to hiring a new Assistant to the Superintendent, commented that we are having difficulty keeping administrators and we replace them but not teachers, asked about the change in Title IX coordinator, asked about the new video requirement and why the board does not follow the same rules, he feels the directors should look into the camera and not at their phones.

**XIV. Announcements**

**Future Meetings ~**

October 13, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – Audion

October 27, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – Audion

November 10, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – Audion

**XV. Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

Director Baxter, seconded by Director Miller moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

9:20 pm

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

Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_

President