

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, November 10, 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*
9-present, 0-absent
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Director Welch, seconded by Director Karabin move to approve the Agenda. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no
- V. **Announcement of Executive Session** – November 10, 2020
- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – Director Miller, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve the minutes of October 27, 2020. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no
- VII. **Recognition** – None
- VIII. **Presentation** –None
- IX. **Superintendent’s Report** – *Dr. Craig Butler, Superintendent*
Dr. Butler thanked parents, faculty, staff, and administration for working together to keep the schools open during this time.
- X. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only** – None
- XI. **Presentation of Bills** – *David Bonenberger*
 - A. General Expenditures – \$ 404,632.88
 - B. Cafeteria Expenditures – \$12,498.47
 - C. Health Benefits – None
 - 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: 9-yes, 0-no
- XII. **Treasurer’s Report** – *Cedric Dettmar/David Bonenberger*
 - A. Cash Investment and Bond Activity – None

- B. Condensed Board Summary Report – None
- C. Capital Project Finance Report – None
- D. Budget Transfers – \$1,216.71
- E. Middle School Activity Report – None
- F. High School Activity Report – None

1. Approve the above Treasurer’s Report.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Miller moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

A. Education

- A. Academic and Personnel Committee Summary – November 4, 2020
- B. Discussion of Winter Sports

Director Eichfeld proposes we withdraw from winter sports because all the closures happened due to extracurricular activities.

Director Dettmar asked if we have had spread with extracurricular activities.

Director Magnotta thinks it is too early to jump to that conclusion.

Director Miller would like to see how winter sports go before we decide to shut it down.

Director Pakzad has a hard time seeing how we keep separate the extracurricular compared to the education.

Director Baxter is not comfortable with starting winter sports without masks.

Director Miller, seconded by Director Andres moved to approve Winter Sports to begin practices and follow administrative protocols and for the administration to schedule games and competitions. Coaches are to report back to the administration and the Board as to how everything is going. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

1. Approve the attached lists of Surplus/Obsolete items.
2. Approve the first reading of the following policies:
 - 217 – Graduation Requirements
 - 247 – Hazing
 - 249 – Bullying/Cyber bullying

Director Welch is concerned about Policy 247 & 249 that we are covering out of school settings. He is concerned about the area of private residence that we are intruding and others have jurisdiction.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve Education Items #1 & 2 with changes made to Policy 249.

Director Welch, seconded by Director Baxter moved to amend Policy 249 by removing “private residence, commercial establishments, non-school public places”.

Vote: 7-yes, 2-no (Dettmar and Magnotta)

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

B. Personnel

1. Approve the following professional retirements:

James Colbert, middle school social studies teacher, effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Linda Castner, first grade teacher, effective November 16, 2021.

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

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

Directors Miller and Pakzad expressed their appreciation to both teachers for all they have done for the school.

2. Approve the resignation of Kimberly Reilly, high school paraprofessional; her last day was October 30, 2020.
3. Approve the ratification of furloughs due to school closure and lack of work from November 2, 2020 through November 13, 2020 for the following food service employees:
 - David Rasich
 - Sonja Miller
 - Susan Adams
 - Wanda Luybli
 - Margaret Miller
 - Cindy Kichline
4. Approve the following sabbatical leave:
 - Jennifer Campbell, kindergarten teacher, for the first semester of the 2021-22 school year for study. Mrs. Campbell will return to her position on the first day of the second semester.
5. Approve the following Family First Coronavirus Response Act leaves:
 - Christina Higgins, middle school special education teacher – extending her leave until November 27, 2020. She was to return November 16, 2020. She will now return on November 30, 2020.
 - Kristin Schlotter, middle school science teacher – November 11, 2020 through December 23, 2020. She will return on January 4, 2021.

6. Approve transferring James Bartley from Part Time Bus Driver to Full Time Bus Driver pending completion of requirements.
7. Approve the following long term substitutes:

Shannan Clayton, first grade long term substitute, beginning approximately November 30, 2020 and continue through approximately April 30, 2021. Base salary is \$53,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Ms. Clayton is replacing Julie Bechtold, who will be on maternity leave during this time.

Owen Divers, fourth grade long term substitute, beginning November 30, 2020 and continue for the remainder 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. Divers is replacing Vivian Demko, who is on leave then retiring.
8. Approve the first reading of the following job description:
Assistant to the Superintendent
9. Approve the following co-curricular/extra duty appointments for the 2020-21 school year. (See NOTE below)
High School
Michael Yoder – 9th Grade Class Advisor – \$746

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 Eichfeld moved to approve Personnel Items #2-9.
Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

C. Facilities

1. Credit change order for unused material allowances in the amount of \$7,295.00 from CMG of Easton, Inc.

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

D. Finance

No Reports of Recommendations

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 Pakzad, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve allowing the Superintendent to decide when to close the schools to do contact tracing and cleaning. The Superintendent will also determine the length of time the schools will be closed based upon the totality of cases and after consultation with the medical team. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

M. Old Business**XIII. Citizens' Inquiries and Comments –**

C. Shirk – Wanted to be able to answer any questions the Board had about Wrestling.

D. Lloyd – Is concerned that we are not going to be following CDC guidelines, Dr. Butler should not be overriding CDC guidelines.

K. Roberts – Is concerned about not following our Health and Safety Plan. Concerned we are picking and choosing what we are adhering to.

S. Donahue – Feels that canceling winter sports would be a mistake; the Athletic Re-socialization plan is too strict.

K. Riefenstahl – Commented that it is excessive and overbearing to shut down winter sports before something has happened.

Mark – Commented that we should pay attention to what is going on, cases are rising.

J. Banonis – Commented that there is political messaging on campus and the District should be neutral.

M. Lanning – Health & Safety Plan mandates mask wearing but some students are not required to wear a mask. She is concerned about how many exceptions are being made.

T. Scherer – Is concerned with the high school students coming down to the middle school for band.

K. Danubio – Is concerned about teachers personal political views being spoken at the high school to the students.

XIV. Announcements

Future Meetings ~

December 1, 2020 – 7 pm –Reorganization and Business Meeting – TBA

XV. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

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

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

9:48 pm

ATTEST: _____

Secretary

President