

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 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** – 7:09pm - *Susan Baxter, President, presiding*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance** – *David Bonenberger, Secretary*
9-present, 0-no
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Director Welch, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve the Agenda. Vote: 8-yes, 1-no (Miller)
- V. **Announcement of Executive Session** – February 23, 2021
- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – Director Welch, seconded by Director Karabin moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2021. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no
- VII. **Recognition** – None
- VIII. **Presentation** – None
- IX. **Superintendent’s Report** – *Dr. Craig Butler, Superintendent*
- X. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only** – *Visitors should state their*
Director Miller commented that Policy 903 does allow faculty/staff to speak during the public comment section of a board meeting.
Director Pakzad agrees that employees should be able to speak but if it is an administrative issue then it would go through Dr. Butler.
R. Phillips – encouraged the Board to continue with the Zoom option once they return to in-person meetings to help keep the community interested and engaged.
- XI. **Presentation of Bills** – *David Bonenberger*
 - A. General Expenditures – \$630,859.22
 - B. Cafeteria Expenditures – \$10,188.00
 - C. Health Benefits – \$326,769.03
 - D. Capital Projects – None
 1. Approve the above presentation of bills.

Director Dettmar, 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 - None
- D. Budget Transfers - \$1,450.00
- E. Middle School Activity Report – January 31, 2021
- F. High School Activity Report – January 31, 2021

1. Approve the above Treasurer's Report.

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

A. Education

- A. Update on Remediation Program

The Board thanked the Administration for doing this program.

Director Pakzad, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve amending the Agenda. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

Director Pakzad, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve extending the Remediation Program for 2 more weeks until the next Board meeting. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

B. Personnel

1. Approve Michael Buddock as a full time custodian at an hourly rate starting at \$22.66 and benefits per the current Educational Support Professionals contract, effective March 1, 2021.
2. Approve the following resignations:
Rachel Kade, cafeteria monitor, her last day will be February 19, 2021.
Frank Kelly, bus driver, effective January 1, 2021.
Mary Pope, high school English teacher, effective February 22, 2021.
3. Approve the following unpaid days:
Margaret Miller, Food Service, March 16, 17 and 18, 2021
4. Approve Rachel Kade as a substitute non-instructional paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$9.99, on a "call as needed basis", effective February 22, 2021.
5. Approve the following health sabbatical request:
Melissa Janis, middle school speech and language teacher, extension of current health sabbatical. Mrs. Janis was to return March 3, 2021. She will now return on March 29, 2021.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve Personnel Items 1-5. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

6. Approve the following 2020-21 spring coaches: *(New coaches are in italics.)* (See NOTE below)

Baseball:

Gary Laub - Head Coach - \$5,600
 Chris Moughan - Assist. Coach - \$1,865.50
 Michael Kiak - Assist. Coach - \$1,865.50
 Robert Kessler - Assist. Coach - \$2,985
 Robert Frey - Volunteer

Softball:

Michael Barbera - Head Coach - \$5,600
 Nicole Barbera - Assist. Coach - \$2,731
 Jeff Rudolf - Assist. Coach - \$1,000
 Jose Gonzalez - Assist. Coach - \$2,985
 Brenda Anthony - Assist. Coach - \$1,035

Boys Lacrosse:

Charles Austin - Head Coach - \$5,226
 Patrick Kowalski - Assist. Coach - \$1,585.50
 Nathaniel Brolsma - Assist. Coach - \$1,585.50

Girls Lacrosse:

Helen Deegan - Head Coach - \$5,226
Erin Steskal - Assist. Coach - \$3,171
 Jen Zavacky - Assist. Coach - Volunteer
 Hanna Doerner - Assist. Coach - Volunteer
 Todd Doerner - Assist. Coach - Volunteer

Boys Tennis:

Michael Krentz - Head Coach - \$4,106
 Deborah Philpotts - Assist. Coach - \$776

Track & Field:

Edward Kolosky - Head Coach - \$5,226
 Brad Trembler - Assist. Coach - \$3,731
 Martin Lewis - Assist. Coach - \$3,731
 Philip Russell - Assist. Coach - \$3,731
 Robert Davis - Assist. Coach - Volunteer

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

High School

Josh Trachtenberger – Production Staff - \$900

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 Dettmar, seconded by Director Karabin moved to approve Personnel Items 5 & 6.
 Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-abstention (Miller)

C. Facilities

1. Approve the attached list of Surplus/Obsolete items.

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

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

D. Finance

2021-2022 Budget Timeline for the 2019-2020 School Year

May 31, 2021 - *District Deadline* to adopt the 2021-2022 proposed final budget and upload the signed Certification of Use of PDE-2028 into the Consolidated Financial Reporting System application.

June 10, 2021 (20 days prior to final budget adoption deadline) – *District Deadline* to make the 2021-2022 Proposed Final Budget available for public inspection on PDE-2028.

June 20, 2021 (10 days prior to final budget adoption deadline) – *District Deadline* to offer public notice of its intent to adopt the 2021-2022final budget.

1. Approve the Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 General Operating Budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the total amount of \$3,750,550.00. Saucon Valley's portion is \$23,444.83, a 0% increase from 2020-2021.

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

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

2. Approve the purchase of a John Deere X758 Signature Series Tractor with Snow attachments in the amount of \$20,982.79
3. Approve the purchase of a walk behind Floor Burnisher in the amount of \$10,788.09

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve Finance Items #2&3.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

4. Approve the attached Resolution for a 3% tax increase for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Director Pakzad, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve Finance Item #4.

Vote: 0-yes, 8-no, 1-abstention (Miller)

5. Approve the attached Resolution for a 0% tax increase for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Director Pakzad, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve Finance Item #5.

Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-abstention (Miller)

E. Resolutions

1. Motion by the board to approve a modification to its current all virtual school board meeting format so as to allow for increased in-person board and public participation in the regular school board meetings of the District. By approving this motion, the administration shall be so authorized to advertise in-person board meetings that meet the requirements of the current mitigation orders of the Governor of Pennsylvania as well as comply with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act and current District policy. The motion shall also allow for email public comment opportunities for members of the community who cannot attend the board meetings in-person. The administration shall advise the District community via the District's website of the process to make public comment via email. Board meetings shall continue to be broadcast via the District's YouTube channel. This motion herein shall remain in place until June 30, 2021. Beginning July 1, 2021, and to the extent allowable by law, the School Board shall hold school board meetings as they had been held prior to March 13, 2020.

Director Welch, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve the above resolution.

Director Miller asked what is the value of the Board going face-to-face. How is it more transparent and how is this more responsive to the public?

Director Dettmar & Director Eichfeld asked if we can video the screen to project it to another room.

Director Miller wanted to know why this can't be tabled until it is worked out.

Director Dettmar agrees to test but we won't know what works until we test it.

Director Eichfeld wants to wait two more weeks until we have some of these issues worked out.

Director Miller, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved amend the above resolution to move the in person Board meeting for an additional 2 weeks so the public can see screen better, address the microphone issues, and public can participate better.

Vote: 7-yes, 2-no (Andres and Pakzad)

Director Welch, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve the amended resolution. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-abstain (Pakzad)

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

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

H. Colonial Intermediate Unit – *Sandra Miller*

I. PSBA – *Sandra Miller and Shamim Pakzad*

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

K. Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation – Tracy Magnotta

L. Northampton Community College – Susan Baxter

M. New Business

N. Old Business

XIII. Citizens’ Inquiries and Comments –

V. Optgof-Cordero – Commented that it is very helpful to parents to be able to participate in the Board meetings via Zoom platform. She also commented that the District should not be taking away positions they should be adding them.

M. Salgado – Commented on future plans for inclement weather and possible virtual days. He feels the parent survey was crafted in a way to make the district look better. He said that the usual YouTube streaming of the board meeting is not conducive to participation by the board or parents that wish to attend virtually. He asked about the limit of people allowed in the Audion and how spontaneous questions will be asked. He asked the Board to start Executive Sessions earlier so meetings can start on time. He also reiterated that all Board members should be on camera.

D/Lloyd – Commented that Director Pakzad commended the teachers working on the virtual platform. He would like the Board to consider virtual instruction for snow days.

T. Scherer – Expressed that she is happy that the Administration is looking into remediation for elementary grades. She asked how will the spectator overflow happen when the meetings go live.

V. Opthof-Cordero – Commented that she appreciates that snow days are not used for virtual instruction days.

XIV. Announcements

Future Meetings ~

March 9, 2021 – 7 pm – Business Meeting – Zoom

March 23, 2021 – 7 pm – Business Meeting – TBD

April 13, 2021 – 7 pm – Business Meeting – TBD

XV. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

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

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

8:58 pm

ATTEST: _____

Secretary

President