

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 12, 2024

The regular meeting of the Freeport Area School District Board of School Directors scheduled for 7:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Freeport Area High School, 625 South Pike Road, Sarver, Pennsylvania, was called to order by Mr. Gary Risch, Jr., Board President, at 7:12 p.m.

Roll call:

Ms. Davies	Present
Mr. DiGiacobbe	Present
Mr. Haven	Present
Mr. Huth	Present
Ms. Maxwell	Present
Mr. Risch	Present
Mr. Ritter	Present
Mr. Selinger	Present
Ms. Zembrzuski	Absent

Administrators present were Mr. Magness, Superintendent; Mr. Robb, Program Director; and Mr. Walker, Director of Finance and Operations. Also participating was District solicitor Mr. Daniel Conlon.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Risch welcomed members of the public and asked for comments on any agenda item. No public comments were offered.

Reports

1. It was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Mr. Haven, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 8, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
2. The Board Secretary reported that the Board met as follows since the last report to the Board at the Regular Meeting on May 8, 2024: The Board met in Executive Session on June 5, 2024, to discuss Personnel, Contracts and Negotiations, and Confidential Student Matters. The Board held a Committee Meeting on June 5, 2024. The Board met in Executive Session on June 12, 2024, to discuss Safety and Security and Personnel Matters.
3. During the Board's May 1, 2024, Committee Meeting, Mr. Walker presented his 2024-2025 Final General Operating Budget Update.
4. Mr. Risch noted that the school year ended safely. He commended the district's teachers and administrators on another great school year.

5. Mr. Huth reported that Lenape Technical School's Joint Operating Committee would be meeting the following week.
6. Mr. Haven presented the Building Committee's report.

Personnel

It was moved by Ms. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Haven,

- a. To accept the resignation of Erin L. Joyce, Educational Assistant, effective May 31, 2024.
- b. To accept the resignation of Sandra A. Laidlaw, part-time Cafeteria Worker, effective May 31, 2024.
- c. To accept the resignation of Alyssa A. Cadamore, Teacher, effective June 30, 2024.
- d. To accept the resignation of Erika L. Planavsky, Teacher, effective July 31, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. DiGiacobbe, and seconded by Ms. Maxwell,

- e. To approve the request of Employee No. 2373 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.
- f. To approve the request of Employee No. 4121 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.
- g. To approve the request of Employee No. 1757 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.
- h. To approve the request of Employee No. 2236 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- i. To approve the employment of the individuals listed on the attachment as Substitute Custodians, from June 13, 2024, through August 15, 2024, at the rates provided on the attachment.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Haven,

- j. To approve the employment of Makayla A. Bowersox and Michael J. Williams as full time Custodians, at an hourly wage rate of \$15.50, effective July 1, 2024, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.
- k. To approve the employment of Deborah J. Pastoria as a part-time Cafeteria Worker, at an hourly wage rate of \$12.75, effective August 1, 2024, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre employment requirements.
- l. To approve the employment of Julie A. Fry as a School Nurse Assistant, at an hourly wage rate of \$24, effective August 1, 2024, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Ms. Maxwell,

- m. To accept the resignation of Julie A. Fry, part-time Cafeteria Worker, effective August 1, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Huth,

- n. To approve the employment of the individuals listed on the attachment as Professional Learning Mentors and New-Teacher Mentors for the 2024-2025 school year, with salaries in accordance with contracted terms of remuneration approved by the Board.
- o. To approve the employment of the paid and volunteer individuals listed on the attachment for the District's 2024-2025 Athletics Programs, with salaries in accordance with contracted terms of remuneration approved by the Board and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.
- p. To approve the employment of the paid and volunteer individuals listed on the attachment for the District's 2024-2025 Extracurricular Programs, with salaries in accordance with contracted terms of remuneration approved by the Board and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

Curriculum and Technology

It was moved by Ms. Davies, and seconded by Mr. Haven,

- a. To approve the attached student handbooks/codes of conduct for the 2024-2025 school year.
- b. To approve the attached assessment schedule for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Davies, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- c. **TO TABLE** an item to approve the attached Affiliation Agreement with Duquesne University School of Education for its field placements, student teaching, and internships, from June 1, 2024, to June 1, 2029.
- d. **TO TABLE** an item to approve the attached School Affiliation Agreement with the University of Phoenix for placement of its students in District schools, from April 15, 2024, until the Agreement is terminated by either party.

Motion **TO TABLE** items 4.c. and 4.d. carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Huth,

- e. To approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding with Wilkes University, regarding its Education Certification Programs, from May 13, 2024, through December 1, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

Athletics and Activities

It was moved by Ms. Davies, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe,

- a. To approve a performance by the District's Marching Band at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, on August 14, 2024.
- b. To approve the participation of High School students in the Foundation Cross Country Invitational to be held on September 20 and September 21, 2024, in Hershey, Pennsylvania, as described on the attachment, at no cost to the District.
- c. To approve the request of Jennifer A. Dell, South Buffalo Elementary School Play Director, for approval of the 2024-2025 South Buffalo Elementary School student production of *The Entire American Revolution (in 40 Minutes or Less!)*

- d. To grant pre-approval for a Music Department High School student field trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in the spring of 2025, described on the attachment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Policy

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- a. To approve the adoption of the attached revised School Board Policy No. 222 (Tobacco and Vaping Products).
- b. To approve the adoption of the attached revised School Board Policy No. 227 (Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia).
- c. To approve the adoption of the attached revised School Board Policy No. 323 (Tobacco and Vaping Products).
- d. To approve the adoption of the attached revised School Board Policy No. 351 (Drug and Substance Abuse).
- e. To approve the adoption of the attached revised School Board Policy No. 707 (Use of School Facilities).

Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Huth,

- a. To approve the attached Change Order HC-3 to Contract #2 HVAC Construction with East West Manufacturing & Supply Company, Inc., for the Freeport Area High School Boiler and Electrical Projects, for a decreased cost in the contract sum of \$9,055.
- b. To approve the attached final payment application from East West Manufacturing & Supply Co., Inc. (Contract No. 2 - HVAC Construction) for the High School Renovations Project.
- c. To approve the appointment of Sylvia A. Crytzer, Aven J. Heavner, Emma G. Michelini, Lucia A. Danko, Dawson J. Gaillot, Mario P. Lesko, Himani Harrell, and Peyton A. Los as Student School Board Members for the 2024-2025 school year.
- d. To approve the appointment of the firm of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. as school board solicitor for the 2024-2025 school year as per the firm's attached proposal dated May 23, 2024.

- e. To approve the election of Tracy Bowser as the Lenape Joint Operating Committee and Armstrong County Area Vocational-Technical School Board Treasurer for a one-year term expiring on June 30, 2025.
- f. To approve the attached Mutual Aid Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Management with the other districts and vocational technical schools in Armstrong and Indiana counties.
- g. To approve the attached Student Assistance Program Agreement with Butler County Human Services Center for Community Resources for the 2024-2025 school year.
- h. To approve the attached Agreement with Armstrong Indiana (ARIN) Intermediate Unit 28 for Licensed Professional Counselor services to be provided during the 2024-2025 school year, at a cost to the District not to exceed \$80,000.
- i. To approve the attached Agreement with the Caring Foundation, for grief support services for students and their families through the Highmark Caring Place Center for Grieving Children, Adolescents and their Families, for a 24-month term, at no cost to the District.
- j. To approve the appointment of Elizabeth Cassisi as School District Dentist for the 2024 2025 school year at an annual rate of \$150, plus the cost of supplies not to exceed \$100.
- k. To approve the attached Agreement with Buffalo Township for police officer traffic control services to be provided during the 2024-2025 school year, at an hourly rate per officer of \$115.
- l. To accept the attached proposal from School Health Corporation, for automated external defibrillator (AED) service, maintenance, and inspection services, from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$3,135.
- m. To approve the renewal of the District's device damage protection program for 2024-2025 through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. Risk Management, as described on the attachment, at no cost to the District.
- n. To approve the attached proposal from n2y, LLC, for renewal of one license to use its News2you solution, from August 29, 2024, through August 28, 2025, at a cost of \$249.99.
- o. To approve the attached proposal from NWEA, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, for one license to its MAP Growth Foundations Online solution, including up to 950 student records, from August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025, at a total cost of \$14,775.

- p. To approve the attached proposal from Edulink, Inc., for license to use its PA-EETEP electronic teacher evaluation portal during the 2024-2025 school year, at a total cost of \$8,267.
- q. To approve the attached proposal from Edulink, Inc., for license to use its COMPLY Software / Act 48 Module solution during the 2024-2025 school year, at a total cost of \$4,033.
- r. To approve the attached proposal from Lexia Voyager Spris Inc., for a license to use its Acadience Learning Online (ALO) Reading K 6 Manual Entry solution for 850 users during the 2024-2025 school year, at a total cost of \$2,550.
- s. To approve the attached proposal from IXL Learning, for a 3-year license to use its Professional Learning Services solution, from March 29, 2024, through March 29, 2027, at a total cost of \$51,942 (\$27,271 for year 1, \$12,336 for year 2, and \$12,335 for year 3).
- t. To approve the attached proposal from Harris Education Solutions/OnHand Schools, for a license to use its EdInsight Instructional Management System during the 2024-2025 school year and including a 10-hour coaching package, at a total cost of \$6,800.
- u. To approve the attached proposal from Clever Inc. for 2,144 student user licenses to its Clever Identity Management (IdM) solution, from June 30, 2024, through June 30, 2027, at a cost of \$8,683.20.
- v. To approve the attached Planned Maintenance Service Agreement with CS&E Combustion Service & Equipment Co., for boiler inspection and maintenance services to be provided from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$3,475.
- w. To approve the attached proposal from Tobey Karg Service Agency, Inc., for preventative maintenance services to be provided to chiller equipment at Freeport Area High School, Buffalo Elementary School, and South Buffalo Elementary School, in 2024, at a cost of \$7,550.
- x. To approve the attached proposal from Tobey Karg Service Agency, Inc., for preventative maintenance services to be provided to chiller equipment at Freeport Area Middle School in 2024, at a cost of \$2,250.
- y. To approve the attached proposal from Allegheny Refrigeration Sales Co., for purchase and delivery of the freezer equipment described in the proposal, for the Buffalo Elementary School cafeteria, at a cost of \$14,250.
- z. To approve the attached proposal from Great Lakes Ventures, dba Great Lakes Hotel Supply, for purchase, delivery, and installation of the a la carte

serving equipment described in the proposal, for the Freeport Area High School cafeteria, at a cost of \$10,395.99.

- aa. To approve the attached proposal from Great Lakes Ventures, dba Great Lakes Hotel Supply, for purchase, delivery, and installation of the warmer equipment described in the proposal, for the Freeport Area Middle School cafeteria, at a cost of \$7,681.
- bb. To approve the attached proposal from Singer Equipment Company, for the purchase and delivery of the mixer equipment described in the proposal, for the South Buffalo Elementary School cafeteria, at a cost of \$6,156.44.
- cc. To approve the attached Agreement with Merakey Pennsylvania for educational services which may be provided to resident students, from August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025, with fees as provided on Exhibit A to the Agreement.
- dd. To approve the attached Clinical Support Tuition Service Agreement with Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc., for services to be provided to a resident student in accordance with the student's IEP during the 2024-2025 school year, at a cost of \$18,176.76.
- ee. To approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Pennsylvania State Police Troop D / Butler Barracks for school years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.
- ff. To approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Pennsylvania State Police Troop D / Kittanning Barracks for school years 2024-2025 and 2025 2026.
- gg. To approve the attached independent contractor agreements with Craig A. Chodkowski and John R. Michelli, to serve as School Police Officers, at the hourly rate of \$31.00, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-appointment requirements.
- hh. To authorize the District solicitor to file the attached Petitions for Appointment of School Police Officers with the Court of Common Pleas of Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, and the Court of Common Pleas of Butler County, Pennsylvania.
- ii. To authorize administration to submit an Environmental Repairs Grant application via the Public School Environmental Repairs Program.
- jj. To accept the Band Uniform Bid Award to Stanbury Uniforms, LLC, in the amount of \$93,027.20 based on the bid application process conducted by the District for the purchase of new Band Uniforms.

- kk. To accept the donation valued at approximately \$4,000 of six belt swings and two zero gravity swing chairs (including the cost of installation) for the Buffalo Elementary School playground, from the Buffalo Elementary School PTO.
- ll. To approve a Student Disciplinary Agreement for Student A, as recommended by Administration.

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance

Mr. Walker provided an overview of the attached Finance Report.

It was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe,

- g. **TO TABLE** an item to authorize and direct Administration to publicize on the Freeport Area School District website an itemized listing of real estate tax delinquencies, including the names of the delinquent taxpayers and the amounts owed, with delinquent taxpayer information coordinated and updated via the Armstrong County and Butler County tax offices on an annual basis per the County office timelines.

Motion **TO TABLE** item 8.g. carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- a. To approve the attached May 2024 financial reports.
- b. To approve the bills for payment listed on the attachments.
- c. To approve the attached list of budgetary transfers.
- d. To approve the transfer of \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund, as budgeted during the 2023-2024 school year.
- e. To authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to make final year-end 2023-2024 budgetary transfers, which will be reported to the Board for approval in September 2024, as recommended by the state auditor.
- f. To approve the student activity accounts listed on the attachment for the 2024-2025 school year.
- h. To award workmen's compensation insurance coverage for the 2024-2025 school year to UPMC for the premium amount of \$49,246, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

- i. To award property and casualty insurance coverage for the 2024-2025 school year to Utica Mutual Insurance Company for the premium amount of \$85,817, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- j. To award auto liability insurance coverage for the 2024-2025 school year to Utica Mutual Insurance Company for the premium amount of \$3,666, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- k. To award umbrella liability insurance coverage for the 2024-2025 school year to Utica/Graphic Arts Mutual Insurance Company for the premium amount of \$11,676, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- l. To award liability insurance coverage for the 2024-2025 school year to Travelers Insurance Company, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., for the premium amount of \$13,881.
- m. To award environmental liability insurance coverage for the 2024-2025 school year to Ironshore Specialty Insurance Co. for the premium amount of \$13,157, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe,

- n. To adopt the proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year on form PDE-2028 as presented to the School Board as a Final Budget for the School District General Fund in the amount of \$38,447,833 (-10.42% and 61.83 mills for Armstrong County and 3.56% and 176.37 mills for Butler County).

Roll call vote requested:

Ms. Davies	Yes
Mr. DiGiacobbe	Yes
Mr. Haven	No
Mr. Huth	No
Ms. Maxwell	Yes
Mr. Ritter	Yes
Mr. Selinger	No
Ms. Zembrzuski	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Risch	Yes

Motion carried on a vote of five (5) to three (3).

It was moved by Mr Huth, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- o. To approve the attached Annual Tax Levy Resolution providing for the levy of taxes for school purposes for the school year beginning July 1, 2024, subject to the provisions of the Local Tax Collection Law and in accordance with the tax rates approved on Form PDE-2028.
- p. To authorize a homestead and farmstead real estate tax assessment exclusion for the school year beginning July 1, 2024, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), in accordance with the attached resolution and the tax rates approved on Form PDE-2028.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meetings

Mr. Risch announced that the Board would not hold any meetings in July and that it would hold a Special Meeting/Committee Meeting on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 7:00 pm and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 7:00 pm, in the High School Audion.

Comments from the School Directors

Ms. Davies noted that the Board will need to consider raising taxes in future years in order to maintain the District's staff and buildings.

Mr. Haven noted that Buffalo Township residents' taxes were increased as a result of the Budget passed by the Board, due to the STEB [State Tax Equalization Board] rebalance.

Mr. Selinger commended the Board and Administration for operating with the budgets the Board has approved.

Mr. Risch noted that he voted for the budget approved during the meeting because he could not justify cutting the District funding.

Comments from the Public

Jackie Gaughan of South Buffalo Township commented on the District's 2024-2025 budget approved during the meeting and the STEB rebalance. Jennifer Libengood of Freeport Borough commented on the District's 2024-2025 budget. Miranda Virone of Buffalo Township commented on the STEB rebalance and lobbying for changes to the STEB rebalance legislation. Antonette Urik of Buffalo Township commented on the District's buildings and building projects. Tom Younkings of Buffalo Township commented on property tax increases.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Selinger, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Risch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

/s/ Gary L. Risch, Jr.

Board President

/s/ Mary Dobransky

Board Secretary