

Members Present	Members Absent
Albert D. Marazas	Angela M. DeMario
Kevin Wigoda	Christopher M. Bowers
Cynthia Lubinsky	Michael Mistishen
Jessica M. McGrath	

The regular monthly meeting of the Minersville Area Board of Education was held in the Career & Counseling Center of the Junior-Senior High School and Zoom on Wednesday evening, August 23, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Michael Mistishen at 7:00 PM.

On roll call, the following responded: Michael Mistishen, Keith Adams via telephone, Albert D. Marazas, Kevin Wigoda, Cynthia Lubinsky, Jessica McGrath, Angela M. DeMario, and Christopher Bowers.

Others present: Dr. Carl G. McBreen, Superintendent; Brittany K. Doyle, Business Manager; Michael Maley, High School Principal; Nannette Bentz, Elementary Principal; Todd Rizzardi, Assistant Principal; Jill Atkinson, Special Education Director; Nicholas A. Quinn, District Solicitor; and Barbara Conville, Secretary to the Superintendent/Assistant to the Secretary.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by McGrath to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 26, 2023. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Approve Meeting
Minutes of 07/26/2023

AGENDA

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by Marazas to approve the following "Use of Facility" requests approved by the Superintendent under standing policy:

Use of Facilities

- a. October 2023 through September 2024 - Shamrock's Basketball practice - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Llewellyn and/or High School gymnasiums as available coordinated through the Athletic Office.

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by DeMario, seconded by Wigoda to approve payment for credits earned to:

- a. Alyssa McDonald - 3 credits @ \$516 = \$1,548

One roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by DeMario to authorize proper signatures to Apple Tree Educational Associates, LLC for contracted School Psychological Services effective August 16, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year on an as needed basis for contracted school psychologist services including IDEA Evaluations, Re-Evaluation, Gifted Written Reports and Re-evaluations at a rate of \$1,000 and records review at \$550.

Apple Tree Education
Assoc. 2023-2024

On a roll call vote, all members in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by McGrath to authorize proper signatures to account service contract with Acorns to Oaks Consulting, LLC, Pottsville, PA to contract Ms. Jocelyn Oakill to provide School Psychologist Services beginning September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Service amounts range from \$70/hour to \$1,750/bilingual evaluation.

Acorns to Oaks 2023-
2024

All in favor on roll call vote. Motion carried. Dr. McBreen added that MASD has been advertising for our own internal psychologist position.

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by Wigoda to ratify Superintendent signature to contract with Berkshire Systems Group, Reading, for Fire Alarm, Sprinkler Tests, and Inspection Systems for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at High School and Elementary Center at a cost of \$7,500.

BSGI 2023-2024

On the question, DeMario inquired as to what the contract covers. Dr. McBreen stated yearly inspections at each site and any maintenance needed. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by McGrath to Renew Short-term (STD) and Long-term (LTD) Disability coverage for Minersville Area School District employees with Sun Life through Kathleen Farr-Parker, Inc. Orwigsburg, PA at a yearly cost of \$2,175 for STD and \$5,079 for LTD. Note: STD no change; LTD rate increase from 2022, less than 1% increase.

Sun Life STD/LTD
renewal 2023-2024

All in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by Bowers to ratify Superintendent signature to contract with Birch Agency, Inc, Williamston, MI. 48895 for contracted Guidance Counselor services for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$55 per hour with a maximum of 30 hours per week.

Birch Agency 2023-
2024 - Guidance
Counselor

All in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by DeMario, seconded by Marazas to approve Superintendent to sign an agreement with New Story, Wyomissing, PA for a placed student through the 2023-2024 school year at a daily rate of \$425 per day.

New Story 2023-2024

On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by DeMario to authorize proper signatures on the 2023-2024 Nonpublic Title I Agreement between the Minersville Area School District and the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29. The District will be invoiced monthly by the IU#29, September 1, 2023 through June 14, 2024 for a yearly total of \$11,275.

Title I Agreement
2023- 2024

On unanimous roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Wigoda, seconded by McGrath to Authorize Superintendent to sign a three-year maintenance agreement with Automated Logic Contracting Services, Inc. (ALCS), Harrisburg, in the amount of \$29,750 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; \$31,238 for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025; and \$32,800 for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Automated Logic 2023-
2026 contract

On the question, DeMario asked what does this company do? Dr. McBreen responded that this service controls the entire HVAC system. On roll call, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by McGrath, seconded by Bowers to approve the following to Extra-Curricular staff positions on recommendation of the Activities/Athletic Director for the 2023-2024 school year:

Add'l Extra-curricular
staff 2023-2024

Name	Position	Salary
Emily Beil	Choir Director, EC	\$1,392
Emily Beil	Assistant Band Director	\$2,853

On roll call, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by Wigoda to increase Highridge Industrial Development Authority, HIDA, yearly maintenance fee to \$66,836 effective January 1, 2024. Note: 2023 tax revenue to MASD totaled \$2,382,019.09.

HIDA payment
increased 2024

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION by Marazas, seconded by McGrath to authorize administration to prepare letter of interest, in conjunction with Raymond James Public Finance, with relation to Renewable Energy & USDA loan program with the understanding this is not a binding board decision.

Renewable Energy -
proceed with inquiry

On unanimous voice vote, motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by DeMario to approve on recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Danielle Raczka as Homeless Liaison and Foster Care Point of Contact effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year at a stipend of \$1,500.

D. Raczka Homeless Liaison

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by McGrath to approve on recommendation of Mrs. Jill Atkinson, Special Education Director the following appointments and stipends effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Add'l Lead teachers 2023-2024

Name	Position	Salary
a. Emily Williams	Special Education Lead Teacher, HS	\$500
b. Rochelle Jones	Special Education Lead Teacher, EC	\$500

All in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by Wigoda to approve the addition of the following staff members as teacher mentors for the 2023-2024 school year at a salary of \$500 each:

Add'l mentors 2023-2024

- a. Ashley Hopkins - Elementary School staff
- b. Rachelle Jones - High School Guidance Counselor

All in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Wigoda, seconded by McGrath to ratify additional summer hours for Special Education Teachers to perform various duties related to Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) at a rate of \$30 per hour, maximum of 5 hours per IEP, under the supervision of the Special Education Director and Superintendent.

Add'l days for Guidance Counselor

On the question, DeMario asked Mrs. Atkinson to clarify the need. Atkinson responded that this motion covered only IEP that fell outside of contractual obligations that needed to be completed over the summer months for the benefit of the students. All in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by Bowers accept with regret the following resignations from the following employees:

Resignations

Name	Position	Effective Date	Years of Service
a. Margaret Burns	Professional Employee	08/16/2023	25.5 years
b. Kayla Felty	Temp. Professional Employee	08/16/2023	1 year
c. Christina Hoptak	Professional Employee	07/26/2023	22 years
d. Cara Sanfilippo	Licensed Professional Counselor & Avidium Advisor	08/16/2023	5 years
e. Tami Bensinger	Professional Employee	08/14/2023	4 years Hold
f. Melinda Harrison	Social Worker, EC	08/07/2023	1.5 years
g. Margaret Schultz	PT, Crossing Guard	07/31/2023	34 years
h. Alyssa Wenner	PT, Instructional Aide	08/03/2023	2 months
i. Mandy Eckert	PT, Instructional Aide	08/14/2023	9 years

On the question, Dr. Lubinsky asked if we had candidates to fill positions. Dr. McBreen responded the hiring pool is slim. There are very few people going into the profession. All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

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MOTION - by DeMario, seconded by Lubinsky to approve the hire of the following:

New employees 2023-2024

Name	Position, subject to assignment	Effective Date	Step	Salary
a. Morgan Houser	Temp. Professional Employee, HS, Social Studies	08/16/2023	B001	\$40,000
b. Kimberly Clay	Professional Employee, EC, Gr. 4	08/16/2023	M012	\$58,225
c. Sofie Smith-Frantz	Temp. Professional Employee, LL, Kindergarten	08/16/2023	B001	\$40,000
d. Kelly Boyer	Professional Employee, EC, Gr. 6	08/16/2023	B010+15	\$53,725
e. Emily Ehlinger	Temp. Professional Employee, HS, English	08/16/2023	B001	\$40,000
f. Amanda Laubach	PT, Instructional Aide, Title I, LL	08/23/2023	n/a	\$14.73/hr.
g. Sha'kyrah Bethea	PT, Instructional Aide, Title I, EC	08/23/2023	n/a	\$14.73/hr.
h. Joselyn Skeen	PT, Instructional Aide	08/23/2023	n/a	\$14.73/hr.
i. Patricia Donlin	PT, Instructional Aide	08/23/2023	n/a	\$14.73/hr.

j. Chloe Bledsoe PT, Instructional Aide 08/23/2023 n/a \$14.73/hr.

All in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried. Dr. McBreen thanked the Administration for their participation and input in the hiring process.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by McGrath to authorize on recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the waiver of tuition for children of non-resident school district faculty and staff members upon approval of the Superintendent or designee effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Should the employee cease working for the district or go on any extended leave exceeding one (1) calendar year, other than Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave, the non-resident tuition rate will apply on a pro rata basis. No special transportation will be provided. Tuition of non-resident students will be based on the Annual Financial Report supplied by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from the previous school year.

Change to Non-resident students of faculty and staff 2023-2024

On this question, Adams asked if this was this issue a factor in losing staff? Dr. McBreen responded that several employees were leaving to work at their district of residence because their children were not able to come to our district and if they could, yes, teachers would have considered staying. On a roll call vote all voted in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by DeMario, seconded by Lubinsky to approve the proposed Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TSI) Title I School Plan for the specific Population at the Minersville Elementary Center for the 2023-2024 school year.

A-TSI Plan approved 2023-2024

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Wigoda, seconded by McGrath to adopt the updated 2023-2024 District LIEP Plan for the Minersville Area School District.

LIEP Plan 2023-2024

On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Maley updated the Board on the first day of school. He also commended the custodial staff for their prep of the building and grounds.

Staff Reports

Bentz also commented on the first day stating that the building looks great and many staff members commented on the refresh of the building.

Rizzardi said it was a good day, joking that all Edmentum students were present today.

Atkinson elaborated on the BCBA services that this service is to be proactive and get out ahead of issues. Solicitor Quinn told the Board that his tax appeal date is September 26th with approximately 50 appeals. Tammy McHugh will be appraising residential properties and Frank Gownly will handle business appraisals.

Dr. McBreen voiced his appreciation to all for their efforts. Also stating the need for a crossing guard in Llewellyn following the retirement of Mrs. Schultz. And he was the afternoon crossing guard for day 1.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by Wigoda to approve the Treasurer's Report as prepared and submitted. On a voice vote, all in favor; Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

MOTION - by Wigoda, seconded by Lubinsky to ratify the payment of bills for May from the General Fund in the amount of \$1,521,387.44; Cafeteria Account in the amount of \$0.00; 21st CCLC - Schuylkill Achieve Account in the amount of \$3,251.50; Federal Programs Account in the amount of \$67,461.50; High School Athletics in the amount of \$29,265.64; High School Activities Account in the amount of \$1,677.74 for a total bills payable \$1,623,043.82.

Pay bills

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by McGrath to approve Statement of Taxes as prepared and submitted. All in favor on a voice vote. Motion passed.

Statement of Taxes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wigoda reported that a Building & Grounds meeting would be held within the next two weeks. The date will be communicated once set. McGrath asked for an Executive Session for personnel following the conclusion of this meeting where no action would be taken.

Committee Reports

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Correspondence

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Old Business

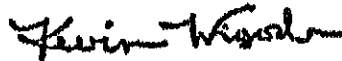
NEW BUSINESS

None.

New Business

There being no further business to report or discuss, the meeting adjourned on MOTION by Lubinsky seconded by Wigoda at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Wigoda, Secretary



Barbara J. Conville, Assistant to the Secretary