

MINUTES
CATASAUQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Held Virtually at 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, March 9, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** **President, Duane Deitrich**
President, Duane Deitrich Called the Meeting to Order at 7:09 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**
The Pledge of Allegiance was given
3. **ROLL CALL**

Board Members		Non Board Members	
Carol Cunningham	V	Robert J. Spengler	V
Duane Deitrich	V	Dave Knerr	V
Jason Bashaw	V	Christina Lutz-Doemling	V
Lauren Cieslak	V	Lois Reed	V
Christy Cooper	V	Kathleen Kotran	V
Jillian Emert	V	Wayne Karess	V
Dale Hein	V	Eric Dauberman	V
Donald Panto	V	Melissa Inselmann	V
Shawn McGinley	V	Adam Schnug	V
Student Representatives		Shelley Keffer	
Janessa Ortiz		Thomas Moll	V
Trista Graser-Jewell	V	Ronald DeMaio	
		Kimberly Mooney	

X = Present
V=Virtual

4. **NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**
 - A. An Executive Session for Legal and Personnel Reasons will be Held Prior to the Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Executive Session was held from 6:00 P.M. until 7:07 P.M
5. **PRESENTATIONS/AUDIENCE INPUT ON AGENDA**
 - A. **Public attendees, during the meeting, may submit input as per the agenda by emailing:**
BoardMeetingComments@cattysd.org - *None*
6. **ADMINISTRATION/BOARD DISCUSSION & REPORTS**
 - A. Academics and Education – Christina Lutz-Doemling
Dr. Lutz-Doemling - shared with the Board Winter Keystones and WIDA Language proficiency testing should be completed by the end of this week. We had extended testing windows due to snow and also due to an increase number of test sessions. We are now preparing for spring PSSA test administration that will take place in April and May. All

tests will be online. We have a teacher in-service day scheduled for Friday, March 12, 2021 and during the in-service day we will be focusing on Classroom diagnostic tool data, analysis as well as PSSA test preparation, and a couple of Trauma 103 Trainings and that will focus on classroom inform strategies.

- B.** Finance – Robert J. Spengler
- 2021-2022 Budget Overview
Mr. Spengler provided an in depth overview of the 2021-2022 Budget
- C.** Building & Grounds – Robert J. Spengler
Mr. Spengler - A Stadium Project Design Team meeting was held today and the bid tabulations were reviewed for the field house. The Engineer was there to review. The award of the Bid will be held during a special board meeting on March 16, 2021. Mr. Spengler also updated the board with the heating pipe being replaced at the Middle School.
- D.** Policy – David Knerr
- Policy #808 – Food Services (clean) - Second Reading
Mr. Knerr – asked if anybody had any questions, he would discuss. No questions were asked.
- E.** Athletics-Thomas Moll
Spring sports started on Monday we are on day two today and numbers were good. Soccer will start during the month of March. We are hoping to be out on our fields next week. Mr. Moll thinks things are going well.
- F.** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit # 21 – Duane Deitrich
February we did not meet, therefore there is nothing new to report.
- G.** Borough of Catasauqua – Dale Hein
Mr. Hein participated in the borough meeting and workshop. Nothing was mentioned regarding the district. They did announce the borough hall will open up to public on March 15, 2021.
- H.** Borough of North Catasauqua – Jason Bashaw
Mr. Bashaw did not attend the meeting, but he did speak with the Mayor regarding a better relationship with the North Catasauqua Police Department. He would like to talk with Mr. Spengler more about fostering a better relationship with the North Catasauqua Police Department.
- I.** Hanover Township – Lois Reed
Ms. Reed had nothing to share this month.
- J.** PSBA Liaison Update – Donald Panto
Mr. Panto shared what he gleaned from the weekly “Buzz Meeting” for PSBA, some encouraging words from one of the latest meetings. During the breakout sessions, hearing from other board members from other school districts the challenges they were facing from COVID, and trying to get students back into the classrooms. Mr. Panto was encouraged in contrast how things have gone in our own district and how commendable it is that we were able to fight through the challenges this year and maintained students in the classroom.
- K.** Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Update – Carol Cunningham
Carol Cunningham shared that she received the financial and compliance report from Herbein Consultants.
- L.** Student Representatives - Janessa Ortiz & Trista Graser-Jewell
Student Representative, Trista Graser-Jewell had nothing to report this evening.

7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING(S)**

A. **School Board Meeting Held on February 9, 2021**

8. **APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2021**

9. **APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS FEBRUARY 2021**

10. **APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF ALL A/P BILLS MARCH 2021**

11. **APPROVAL TO RATIFY ALL EXPENSES OTHER THAN A/P FEBRUARY 2021**

12. **FINANCIAL**
None

13. **PERSONNEL**

A. **Approval of FMLA for Employee # 2136**

Approval for FMLA for employee #2136 effective upon exhaustion of all personal and sick leave beginning approximately April 6, 2021 until June 28, 2021.

B. **Resignations**

- 1. Employee Douglas Keller
 Status: Custodial B
 Assignment: Districtwide
 Reason: Personal
 Effective: February 10, 2021

- 2. Employee Jose Rivera
 Status: Substitute Custodian
 Assignment: Districtwide
 Reason: Personal
 Effective: December 28, 2020

C. **Intent to Retire**

Approval is requested to accept the Intent to Retire, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year:

Name	Assignment	Years of Service
Michele Bolza	Elementary Teacher	31 Years
Lisa Roth	Middle School Teacher	32 Years
Paula Semmel	High School Teacher	25 Years
Christine Snyder	Elementary Teacher	28 Years

D. Intent to Retire

Approval is requested to accept the Intent to Retire, effective October 15, 2021 (Half Day)

Name	Assignment	Years of Service
Wayne Karess	District Network Manager	21 Years

Items 7A, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13A, 13B, 13C, and 13D were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: Cunningham SECONDED BY: Emert
 AYE: Bashaw, Emert, Cooper, McGinley, Cunningham, Hein, Panto, Cieslak, Deitrich
 NAY: 0
 Nine Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

E. Substitutes

The following applicants have requested to be added to the Substitute Employment List for the 2020-2021 School Year as follows:

Name	Substitute Assignment
Janice Walenta	Teacher
Yomara Singh	Bus Driver*
Christina Deitrich	Custodian Effective 2-11-2021

*pending receipt of employment paperwork

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: Hein SECONDED BY: Cunningham
 AYE: Cunningham, Bashaw, Hein, Cooper, Cieslak, Emert, Panto, McGinley
 NAY: 0
 Abstention by Deitrich
 Eight Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

F. Removal of the Following Substitute Employees for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Name	Position	Reason
Jacqueline Schwartz	Substitute Teacher	Did Not Renew Clearances
Justin Blickley	Substitute Custodian	Did Not Renew Clearances

G. Nomination for Appointment

- 1. Name: Dru Chunko*
- Status: Custodian B
- Assignment: Districtwide
- Salary/Benefits: As Per Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Effective: Upon receipt of employment paperwork

- 2. Name: Kyle Coronado*
 Status: Custodian B
 Assignment: Districtwide
 Salary/Benefits: As Per Collective Bargaining Agreement
 Effective: Upon receipt of employment paperwork

- 3. Name: Kawaunna Waldron*
 Status: Non Certified Instructional Aide
 Assignment: Sheckler Elementary School
 Salary: \$125.00 per day
 Benefits: As Per Agreement
 Effective: Upon receipt of employment paperwork to June 11, 2021

H. Half Year Sabbatical Salary Increment Changes

Kimberly Labezius	Step	Degree	Credit	Salary
New	Step 7	M	0	\$74,204.00
Old	Step 7	BS	33	\$71,013.00
Difference				\$ 3,191.00
Half Increment				\$ 1,595

I. Approval for Days Without Pay

- 1. Name: Cynthia Bass
 Reason: Personal
 Effective: February 25, 2021 ½ day
 February 26, 2021 Full Day
 March 2-5, 2021 Full Days

J. Change in Employment Status

- 1. Name: Amanda Peters
 Previous Status: Substitute Teacher
 Current Status: 5th Grade Teacher
 Assignment: Catasauqua Middle School
 Salary: \$56,127
 Benefits: As Per Collective Bargaining Agreement
 Effective: March 22, 2021

- 2. Name: Katherine Haberern
 Previous Status: Long Term Substitute Teacher
 Current Status: Teacher
 Assignment: Sheckler Elementary School
 Salary: \$59,675
 Benefits: As Per Collective Bargaining Agreement
 Effective: August 19, 2021

- 3. Name: Jordan Schutter
 Previous Status: Long Term Substitute Teacher
 Current Status: Teacher
 Assignment: Sheckler Elementary School
 Salary: \$59,675
 Benefits: As Per Collective Bargaining Agreement
 Effective: August 19, 2021

- 4. Name: Abigail Tsihlis
 Previous Status: Long Term Substitute Teacher
 Current Status: Teacher
 Assignment: Sheckler Elementary School
 Salary: \$59,675
 Benefits: As Per Collective Bargaining Agreement
 Effective: August 19, 2021

K. Approval Unpaid Leave of Absence

Approval for Unpaid Leave of Absence for employee #1720 effective March 1, 2021, to March 31, 2021

L. Appointment of Extra-Curricular Positions for the 2020-2021 School Year

It is recommended that the names listed below of extra-curricular positions be appointed as noted for the 2020-2021 school year:

Name	Position	Stipend
Zachary Bradley	Assistant Baseball Coach	Volunteer
Kayla Cunningham Laura Gerhard	Assistant Track Coach	\$2671.00

** At this point Mr. Deitrich announced an amendment was made removing Kayla Cunningham’s name and adding Laura Gerhard to the appointment of Assistant Track Coach*

M. Appointment for Certified Aide Rate of \$162.00 Per Day for Deborah Elek, Effective March 8, 2021 to Approximately May 3, 2021

N. Approval of Unpaid Suspension, Retroactive January 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th, and 21st, 2021 for Employee #0809

Items 13F, 13G, 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K, 13L, 13M, and 13N were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

*MOTION BY: Cunningham SECONDED BY: Hein
 AYE: McGinley, Cunningham, Emert, Panto, Hein, Cooper, Cieslak, Bashaw, Deitrich
 NAY: 0
 Nine Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried*

14. CURRICULUM

None

15. BOARD APPROVALS

A. Approval of the Catasauqua Area School District LVHN Return to Sports Competitions Guidelines, Spring Sports Update in the Form Presented to the Board, Replacing "Should" with "Shall"

B. Approval of Special Education Services Agreement for the 2021-2022 School Year Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21

The Superintendent requests approval of this agreement, providing services for district students with special needs

C. Calendar 2021-2022

Superintendent requests approval of the proposed 2021-2022 school calendar.

D. Approval of Policy – Second Reading

Approval is requested for the second reading of the following policy:

Section: OPERATIONS
Policy #: 808
Title: Food Services

E. Tax Assessment Appeal – 3400 Airport Road

Authorization for the solicitor to withdraw the tax assessment appeal with regard to 3400 Airport Road (M Realestate DE LLC) (PIN 641920984303-1).

F. Approval of the BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative Interlocal Participation Agreement

G. Approval of Additional Revised Van/Bus Stops

Approval is requested of the revised Van/Bus Stops for the School Year, effective immediately. Indicated Stops are subject to change due to additional student enrollments/withdrawals, alternate educational placements, new students/changes that occur at an address that is classified by the state as a hazardous road, or change/addition to a student IEP. All revisions will be maintained by the Transportation Operation Office, and will be made available at all times. Additionally, changes are stored within the transportation software management system.

3rd & Chew St, Allentown
Donegan Elem School

Items 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 15E, 15F, and 15G were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: Cunningham SECONDED BY: Emert

AYE: Cieslak, McGinley, Emert, Hein, Bashaw, Cooper, Cunningham, Panto, Deitrich

NAY: 0

Nine Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

16. OLD BUSINESS

17. NEW BUSINESS

18. COMMENDATIONS

19. INFORMATION ITEMS

20. CORRESPONDENCE

Items 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 were combined by Board request

Wayne Karess: Thanked the Board for accepting his retirement. Mr. Karess briefly reminisced of his start at Catasauqua. He then reported his eRate filing, and Telecommunication filing and are awaiting approvals on them.

Kathleen Kotran: Expressed she will miss Wayne, but also wishes him luck on his retirement. Welcomed the new hires of this evenings board meeting; Amanda Peters, Katherine Haberern, Jordan Schutter, and Abigail Tsihlis.

Thomas Moll: Finished up the winter sport season, Derek Troxell scored his 1,000 point. "Lexie" Rushatz on the girls' basketball side was named honorable mentioned. Jaryn Hartranft and Austin Brett finished 3rd at Districts. Mikhail Haratranft, Gavin Fehr, and Jacob Nye, made it to the second day of Districts. Mr. Moll thanked the board for their continued support throughout the season.

Eric Dauberman: Thanked the Board for the hiring the new teachers. Eric also congratulated Wayne Karess and expressed how he will miss him. He also spoke about the collaboration with Nazareth SD getting their kids back to full in person. Modified Egg Hunt will take place.

Melissa Inselmann: Thanked the Board for hiring Amanda Peters. She also expressed how she will miss Wayne Karess, but also wishes him luck in his retirement. Ms. Inselmann then updated the board with what is going on at CMS.

Adam Schnug: Expressed that he is not ready to say goodbye to Wayne yet. Mr. Schnug then update the Board with what is happening at CHS.

Christy Cooper: Congratulated the new teachers, and also congratulated Wayne on his retirement.

Shawn McGinley – noted winning Top Workplace consecutive years only happens having great employees both our retirees and new hires. He also wished Wayne luck on his retirement.

Jason Bashaw: Welcomed the new Rough Riders, and wished Wayne luck on his retirement.

Donald Panto: Congratulated Wayne on his retirement and welcomed the new Rough Riders to the team.

Lauren Cieslak: Congratulated on the newly hired team members and congratulations to all the retirees.

Jillian Emert: Congratulated Wayne and thanked the Principals for all they do in helping the students.

Dale Hein: Congratulated all the Retirees, especially Wayne because of always dealing with Wayne. He also welcomed the new hires. Mr. Hein also expressed how he is hoping that we can all celebrate the retirees in June. Mr. Hein also requested that all the financials from the design team can be sent to all the board members so they can all view them before the next meeting.

Carol Cunningham: Congratulated all the new Staff and wished Wayne a happy and healthy retirement.

Trista Graser-Jewell: Expressed how the student body appreciates being able to be in the classroom and keeping things as normal as possible and also keeping the traditions. Ms. Graser-Jewell thank the Board, Administration, and staff for making it possible.

Duane Deitrich: Congratulated the Retirees and new staff.

David Knerr: Congratulated Wayne and wished him luck on his retirement.

Dr. Lutz-Doemling: Congratulated all of our retirees and expressed how hard it is to imagine our technology department without Wayne, it has always been a pleasure working with Wayne and all of our teachers who are retiring. She additionally expressed how thrilled she is to have the new hires join our team.

Robert Spengler: Spoke briefly about Wayne and how he will be sorely missed. He then welcomed the new hires.

21. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS & VISITORS

No guest or visitors

22. NEXT MEETING DATES

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| A. | Tuesday, April 13, 2021 | 7:00 PM | School Board Meeting |
| B. | Wednesday, May 5, 2021 | 4:00 PM | B & G Committee Meeting |
| | | 5:00 PM | Academics Committee Meeting |
| | | 6:00 PM | Athletic Committee Meeting |

23. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Cunningham *SECONDED BY:* Emert

Motion carried

Time Adjourned: 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Bashaw
Secretary