

MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2021 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Meyersdale Area School District was held Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Media Center, 309 Industrial Park Road, Meyersdale, PA. The meeting was only available to the public via Zoom, due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Jeff McKenzie.

Dr. Karlie opened the meeting with an invocation and led those present in the flag salute.

Roll Call: Members present: Gidget Brooks, Brian Deist, Jeffory McKenzie, Brian Witherite, Heather Reese, Tammy Witherite, Ron Donaldson, Jami Gindlesperger, Bryan Stanczyk.....9  
Members absent: .....0

Dr. Karlie announced that all attendees on Zoom must provide first and last name. Any persons without first and last name listed will be removed from the meeting and should re-enter the meeting using first and last name.

Others present: Tracey Karlie-Superintendent, Shannon Brant-Bus.Mgr./Bd. Sec., Wayne Miller-MS Principal, Devin Pritts-Elem. Principal, Craig Gindlesperger, Dan Johnson, *with others attending via zoom*: Doug Horne, John Wiltrout, Ian Edwards, Tammy Witherite, Connie Stewart, Brandy Paulman, Katie Howard, Chloe Thomas, Ed Martz, Rene Hay, Chris Hutzell, Rod Reedy, Parent Group, Jill Luster, James Kretchman, Damon Katz, Patty Crouse, Denise Grove, Ashley Yachere, Cay Helinski, Christine Custer, Brooke DiFebo, Candace Donaldson, John Porter, Brenda Haer, Megan Edwards, Kristi Blubaugh, Ginger Geiger, Gala Wassilchalk, James Kretchman, Olivia Miller, Scott Hutchinson, Amy Rough, Ashley Barron, Katie Steinberg, Ashley Shaffer, Mindy Johnson, Marissa Deist, William Murray, Maci Moore, Elizabeth Caton, Kelli Smith, Stacy Kucenic, Monica Sandy, Celeste Decker, Tom Miller, Ronald Repak, Julia Smith, Angela Boutiller, Jennifer Sines, Angie Benning, Kayla Sines, Kathy Emert, Theresa Piatak, Kristi Sines, Ryan Donaldson, Lincoln Arnold, Jackie Donaldson, Kim Brown, Jennifer Valentine, Melissa Leasock, Joey Emerick, Doreen Jamison, Tosha Ritchey, Jami Reese, Angela Blank, Jessica Rosenberger, Lucas Sell. Matt Gombita, Jessica Deakins, Elizabeth McClintock, Beth Romesberg, Diane Caton, Trevor Gnagey, Jodi Delancey, Danielle Hetz, Buffy Schurg, Christa Porter, Trevor Gnagey, Nicole Walters, Rick Irwin, Stacy Kucenic, Austin Jacobs, Amy McKenzie, Jenifer Krause, Darren Gnagey, Jeanne Klink, Robert Brown.

Correspondence: Dr. Karlie announced:

- A satisfactory Single Audit was received from PDE for school year 2019-20.
- Many parents have been providing feedback in regards to the re-opening of school
- A teacher survey was conducted and the results have been shared with the board.
- During the public comment portion each person speaking should state their first and last name and address. Only individuals who are district residents may address the board at this time.

Jeff McKenzie announced that an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and safety matters.

A motion was made by Tammy Witherite, seconded by Gidget Brooks, to recommend approval of the November and December minutes as presented.

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Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Witherite, seconded by Brian Deist, to approve the November treasurers' reports:

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>		<b>MEYERSDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>		
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>January 6, 2021 for November</b>		
		Somerset Trust Company		<b>PSDLAF</b>
		Athletic	General	
<b>Cash Balance 11/01/2020</b>		<b>\$ 6,997.46</b>	<b>\$ 652,611.28</b>	<b>\$ 1,872,544.96</b>
<b>RECEIPTS FOR NOVEMBER</b>				
Taxes			133,542.96	
Interest on Investments		0.88	39.07	88.30
Investments Cashed				
Miscellaneous/Refunds		195.00	222.67	
Commonwealth of PA/IUO8				131,527.63
Retiree BC/BS Payments			7,307.12	
Cafeteria				84,778.18
Rentals				
Contribution from Private Source			152.52	
Transfer from general		10,500.00	500,000.00	
Gate Receipts				
Student Fees			50.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>10,695.88</b>	<b>641,314.34</b>	<b>216,394.11</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS &amp; BEG. BAL.</b>		<b>17,693.34</b>	<b>1,293,925.62</b>	<b>2,088,939.07</b>
<b>LESS EXPEND. NOVEMBER</b>		<b>\$ 14,973.30</b>	<b>\$877,846.26</b>	<b>\$ 761,976.65</b>
<b>Balance 11/30/2020</b>		<b>\$ 2,720.04</b>	<b>\$ 416,079.36</b>	<b>\$ 1,326,962.42</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>				
PLGIT			\$368,751.44	
PSDLAF POOL/CD			\$4,499,536.50	
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>			<b>\$ 4,868,287.94</b>	
<b>Capital Reserves Fund</b>				
PLGIT		<b>\$ 379,132.94</b>		
Somerset Trust Co.		<b>\$ 42.20</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 379,175.14</b>		
To be used for capital projects only				

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<b>CAFETERIA TREASURER'S REPORT</b>				
<b>January 6, 2021 for November</b>				
<b>Balance 11-1-2020</b>				<b>\$ 4,353.75</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>				
Breakfast Sales		94.15		
Lunch Sales		478.65		
Ala Carte Sales		1,283.35		
Funds in Trust		(400.91)		
Interest		3.39		
Subsidies		89,358.26		
Other revenue		44.45		
Payroll		-		
<b>Total Receipts for NOVEMBER</b>				<b>90,861.34</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>				
Salaries/Benefits				
Contracted Service-Nutrition		24,258.37		
Cafeteria Repairs		-		
Returned Check		10.00		
Misc		291.80		
<b>Total Expend. for NOVEMBER</b>				<b>24,560.17</b>
<b>Balance 11-30-2020</b>				<b>\$ 70,654.92</b>

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bryan Stanczyk, seconded by Heather Reese, to approve payment of the general fund bills in the amount of \$201,693.90 and the athletic fund bills in the amount of \$2,032.79.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

#1 Ginger Geiger – 1755 Berlin St, Garrett, PA. Speaking as a parent in the district. It is too difficult to teach children in the online format. This is not a learning experience, as described on the school website, that will allow each student to meet their full potential. A hybrid option will present a challenge for SCTC students. Fears mental and physical damage is being done to students. Worries about children left alone at home who have parents who are working full time. The resources provided are not working, parents are dealing with constant stress, they are tired and fed up.

#2 Jessica Murray – 143 Old House Lane, Garrett, PA. Concerned with H.S. students. Online learning is not working. Students are missing sports. The teachers are trying to help but it is not working. Parents are not teachers. Custodians and teachers are doing a good job with social distancing measures and following the rules. Kids are still going to daycare and babysitters. Feels the school is a safer place for our students.

#3 Jolene Ludy – no response

#4 Jodi Delancey – 1414 Mountain Rd, Meyersdale PA. 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent – grades are a huge problem. Some teachers are doing videos, while some are not. Online learning needs to be more structured with more instruction on how to do things included. Kids need to be in school.

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#5 Danielle Hetz – 1866 Baeshore Rd, Garrett, PA. Parent of Elem and M.S. students. Virtual learning is not working. School work is not getting done. Kids need to be with their peers. Other schools in area are in session – they (our students) need to be back in school.

#6 Diana Meyers – 317 Salisbury St. Meyersdale, PA. Parent of a special needs student. The child is regressing. Every day is a struggle. Students need to be back in school, it will be better for students mentally.

#7 Aleigha Oakes – 308 Olinger St., Meyersdale, PA. Has a 7-yr. old elem. student. Parents are working full time and feels it is not the babysitters job to do learning. Teachers are doing a good job but it just takes too much time in the evening to get all the work done. Teachers kids should not be able to come to school if other children can't.

#8Taryn Moore Hutchinson – No response

#9 Scott Hutchinson – No response

#10 Celeste Decker – No response

#11 Jolene Ludy -161 Decker St., Garrett, PA (Read by Dr. Karlie) Wants kids back in school for one-to-one instruction.

#12 Tosha Ritchey – 3562 Greenville Rd, Meyersdale PA. Online learning is very difficult. Had to buy new hotspot, videos will not load, has to call the school daily. Other schools are hybrid by last name, we should be able to do it to.

#13 Celeste Decker – 215 Olinger St., Meyersdale PA. Wants kids back in school. Having child at home and learning every day daily activities is good, but online learning is tough. Teachers are doing a great job but students need to get back into a rhythm. There is nothing for kids to look forward to. The school is doing a great job, custodian, cafeteria and teachers. Parents are tired – this education is not as good as it is in school. Other schools are in session – why aren't we? For the mental health of the students – we need to be back in school.

#14 Amy Rough letter presented to board and read by Dr. Karlie.

#15 Ashley Barron (new parent in district, typed comment read by Dr. Karlie) Failing grades – online learning is not working.

#16 Taryn Moore Hutchinson – 212 Salisbury St, Meyersdale PA. (typed comment read by Dr. Karlie) Kids need to come back to school. Has honors students and this is too challenging for parents. Kids look forward to sports – they need this.

A motion was made by Heather Reese, seconded by Brian Deist, to recommend approval of the following Personnel items:

1. Recommend approval to accept the resignation of Austin Christner, Technology and Classroom Support Specialist, retroactive to December 30, 2020.
2. Recommend permission be granted to the administration to hire a Technology and Classroom Support Specialist with the approval of the Board President and the Chairman of the Personnel Committee pending completion of all relevant clearances and other paperwork and acceptance thereof by the district.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Heather Reese, seconded by Brian Witherite, to allow one-time virtual attendance for tonight's police interviews.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ron Donaldson, Brian Deist, Heather Reese, Brian Witherite, Tammy Witherite, Jami Gindlesperger, Gidget Brooks, Jeff McKenzie, Bryan Stanczyk.....9

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Nayes:.....0

A motion was made by Gidget Brooks, seconded by Jami Gindlesperger, to recommend approval for the Emergency Instructional Time, Section 520.1.

Copy in folder attached to minutes.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Gidget Brooks to open the floor for discussion in regards to when students should return for face-to face instruction.

Various comments by board members: Nurse Rough recommendation to stay virtual temporarily, Ashley Berkley from Health and Safety Committee recommends to remain virtual temporarily, the teacher survey showed 51.9% of teachers would remain virtual for the time being, teacher comments suggest there are problems with going hybrid. Transportation, buses may need to run double runs, Connie Shankle estimated \$500-600 per day in additional costs to run double runs, but it is doable.

A motion was made by Heather Reese, seconded by Jami Gindlesperger, to recommend approval for students to return to face-to-face instruction on Monday, January 11, 2021 in a full instructional model.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brian Deist, Heather Reese, Jami Gindlesperger, Gidget Brooks, Jeff McKenzie.....5

Nayes: Bryan Stanczyk, Brian Witherite, Tammy Witherite, Ron Donaldson .....4

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Deist, seconded by Gidget Brooks, to recommend the following Athletic items:

1. Recommend the following coaches be approved, as listed, for the 2020-21 winter sporting season, pending completion of all relevant clearances and other paperwork and acceptance thereof by the district:
  - a. Tim Miller – Head Softball
  - b. Jen Knopsnyder – Volunteer Softball
  - c. Paul Howsare – Head Baseball
  - d. Glen Hetz, Jr. – Assistant Baseball
  - e. Wayne Miller – Volunteer Baseball
  - f. Matt Blubaugh – Volunteer Baseball
  - g. Riley Christner – Volunteer Baseball
  - h. Brady McKenzie – Volunteer Baseball
  - i. Jerry Donaldson – Volunteer Baseball
  - j. Dara Seibert – Assistant Girls Track
  - k. Ian Edwards – Volunteer Tack
  - l. Danyelle Burkholder – Volunteer Track
2. Recommend approval to start a Junior High (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade) spring baseball and softball 10 game season schedule, as of 2022. With soccer now defunct, those funds can cover this proposition with no increase to the budget.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

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A motion was made by Brian Deist, seconded by Heather Reese, to recommend extra-curricular activities resume on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brian Deist, Heather Reese, Jami Gindlesperger, Gidget Brooks, Jeff McKenzie Bryan Stanczyk, Brian Witherite, Ron Donaldson.....8

Nayes: Tammy Witherite.....1

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Witherite, seconded by Heather Reese, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm and move into executive session.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Dr. Karlie announced that there may be official business conducted after the executive session.

Following police interviews at 10:20 pm, a motion was made by Tammy Witherite, seconded by Heather Reese, to enter executive session.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Deist, seconded by Heather Reese, to end executive session.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bryan Stanczyk, seconded by Heather Reese, to recommend approval for the administration to be given permission to pursue George Slokaft as school police officer for the district.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Deist, seconded by Jami Gindlesperger, to adjourn the meeting.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.