

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR VOTING MEETING HELD ON September 19, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Cindy Cook, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present:

Cindy Cook, President
Terri Ellinwood, Secretary
Tom Karczewski, Member
Michele Manno, Member
Ronald Miller, Vice President
Darcelle Slappy, Member
Susan Smith, Treasurer
Kayla Stevenson, Member
Dr. Donna Nugent, Superintendent
Tony Giglio, Solicitor
Gary Ceccarelli, Business Manager
Joyce Depenhardt, Director of Student Services
Mary Beth Leeman, Special Education Compliance Director
Doug Rowe, High School Principal
Dave Woods, High School Assistant Principal
Bryan Fabyanic, Central Elementary Principal
Jonell Egan, Central Elementary Assistant Principal
Chad Thomas, Big Beaver Principal
John Cleckley, Technology Director
Jim Carbone, Athletic Director
Chris Posset, Director of Physical Plant

Absent:

Carla Schriver, Member
Kayla Stevenson, Member
Josh Ginther, Middle School Assistant Principal
Tom House, Middle School Principal

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Darcelle Slappy and seconded by Michele Manno that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Voting Meeting held on August 15, 2024.

Motion was passed unanimously

V. APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Motion was made by Ron Miller and seconded by Darcelle Slappy that the Board approve the following bills for payment:

General Fund for August 2024-\$1,837,638.89

Motion was passed unanimously.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion was made by Tom Karczewski and seconded by Susan Smith that the Board approve the following financial reports:

- Treasurer’s Report – August 2024
- Budget Recap – August 2024
- Student Activities Fund – August 2024

Motion was passed unanimously.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

PRESENTATION: Lena Hannah from PSBA will present Cindy Cook and Terri Ellinwood with a plaque for 25 years of service.

1. PERSONNEL

A. Appointment

- 1. The Administration and BOE recommends appointing Tyler Domenico as the High School Social Studies teacher at a Step 1 Bachelor salary of \$47,900.00 effective September 23, 2024.

MOTION

Motion was made by Ron Miller and seconded by Susan Smith that the Board approve appointing Tyler Domenico as the High School Social Studies teacher at a Step 1 Bachelor salary of \$47,900.00 effective September 23, 2024.

Motion was passed unanimously.

- 2. The Athletic Director recommends appointing Dan Swanson as an Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach at a salary of \$1,700.00 effective the 2024/2025 school year.

MOTION

Motion was made by Darcelle Slappy and seconded by Michele Manno that the Board approve appointing Dan Swanson as an Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach at a salary of \$1,700.00 effective the 2024/2025 school year.

Motion was passed unanimously.

B. Leave of Absence

- 1. Melissa Howard is requesting an unpaid leave of absence beginning Wednesday, September 18, 2024 due to a medical procedure for up to 6 weeks.

MOTION

Motion was made by Darcelle Slappy and seconded by Susan Smith that the Board approve Melissa Howard’s request for an unpaid leave of absence beginning Wednesday, September 18, 2024 due to a medical procedure for up to 6 weeks.

Motion was passed unanimously.

2. Carly Dunmyer is requesting a Family and Medical Leave of Absence beginning Monday, December 9, 2024 for 60 days.

MOTION

Motion was made by Susan Smith and seconded by Ron Miller that the Board approve Carly Dunmyer's request for Family and Medical Leave of Absence beginning Monday, December 9, 2024 for 60 days.

Motion was passed unanimously.

C. Custodial Substitute List

The Building and Grounds Director recommends adding Nicole Hunter pending receipt of clearances and Dmitri Nesmith to the custodial substitute list at a rate of \$14.00 per hour and no benefits.

MOTION

Motion was made by Susan Smith and seconded by Tom Karczewski that the Board approve adding Nicole Hunter pending receipt of clearances and Dmitri Nesmith to the custodial substitute list at a rate of \$14.00 per hour and no benefits.

Motion was passed unanimously.

D. Cafeteria Substitute

The Food Service Director recommends adding Ms. Tajuana Pratt, pending receipt of clearances and Gertrude Worrell to the cafeteria worker substitute list at a rate of \$14.00 per hour and no benefits.

MOTION

Motion was made by Darcelle Slappy and seconded by Michele Manno that the Board approve adding Ms. Tajuana Pratt, pending receipt of clearances and Gertrude Worrell to the cafeteria worker substitute list at a rate of \$14.00 per hour and no benefits.

Motion was passed unanimously.

E. Additions to the 2024/2025 Instructional Substitute List

The Administration recommends approving the additions to the 2024/2025 Instructional Substitute List.

MOTION

Motion was made by Susan Smith and Ron Miller that the Board approve the additions to the 2024/2025 Instructional Substitute List.

Motion was passed unanimously.

1. Tax Assessment Appeal Settlements**A. Beaver Falls Properties Tax Assessment Appeals Settlement**

The Administration recommends approving the settlement in the Beaver Falls Properties tax assessment appeals for eleven parcels of property located in the City of Beaver Falls as recommended by the solicitor. The settlement decreases the total 2024 reassessment of all parcels from \$3,314,100 to \$1,500,000 which reflects a school tax reduction of \$20,862 from the original 2024 reassessment. The settlement reflects an overall school tax increase of \$2,035 from 2023 to 2024 due to the countywide reassessment.

MOTION

Motion was made by Darcelle Slappy and seconded by Susan Smith that the Board approve the settlement in the Beaver Falls Properties tax assessment appeals for eleven parcels of property located in the City of Beaver Falls as recommended by the solicitor. The settlement decreases the total 2024 reassessment of all parcels from \$3,314,100 to \$1,500,000 which reflects a school tax reduction of \$20,862 from the original 2024 reassessment. The settlement reflects an overall school tax increase of \$2,035 from 2023 to 2024 due to the countywide reassessment.

Motion was passed unanimously.

B. Hutch & Home LLC Tax Assessment Appeal Settlement

The Administration recommends approving the settlement in the Hutch & Home LLC tax assessment appeal for a parcel of property located at 1224 7th Avenue in the City of Beaver Falls as recommended by the solicitor. The settlement decreases the total 2024 reassessment of the parcel from \$502,600 to \$200,000 which reflects a school tax reduction of \$3,480 from the original 2024 reassessment. The settlement reflects an overall school tax increase of \$351 from 2023 to 2024 due to the countywide reassessment.

MOTION

Motion was made by Darcelle Slappy and seconded by Michele Manno that the Board approve the settlement in the Hutch & Home LLC tax assessment appeal for a parcel of property located at 1224 7th Avenue in the City of Beaver Falls as recommended by the solicitor. The settlement decreases the total 2024 reassessment of the parcel from \$502,600 to \$200,000 which reflects a school tax reduction of \$3,480 from the original 2024 reassessment. The settlement reflects an overall school tax increase of \$351 from 2023 to 2024 due to the countywide reassessment.

Motion was passed unanimously.

C. PGH Refractories Inc. Tax Assessment Appeal Settlement

The Administration recommends approving the settlement in the PGH Refractories Inc. tax assessment appeal for a parcel of property located at 528 Elmwood Boulevard in Big Beaver Borough as recommended by the solicitor. The settlement decreases the total 2024 reassessment of the

parcel from \$2,689,100 to \$1,000,000 which reflects a school tax reduction of \$19,425 from the original 2024 reassessment. The settlement reflects an overall school tax increase of \$3,346 from 2023 to 2024 due to the countywide reassessment.

MOTION

Motion was made by Darcelle Slappy and seconded by Susan Smith that the Board approve the settlement in the PGH Refractories Inc. tax assessment appeal for a parcel of property located at 528 Elmwood Boulevard in Big Beaver Borough as recommended by the solicitor. The settlement decreases the total 2024 reassessment of the parcel from \$2,689,100 to \$1,000,000 which reflects a school tax reduction of \$19,425 from the original 2024 reassessment. The settlement reflects an overall school tax increase of \$3,346 from 2023 to 2024 due to the countywide reassessment.

Motion was passed unanimously.

2. FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

- A. Miss Manno and Mrs. Tessier are requesting permission to take 70 students to CCBC to attend the Youth Ambassador Fall Event on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.
- B. Miss Martinez is requesting permission to take 4-6 students to Westminster College on Thursday, October 3, 2024 to attend the PEMA Honors Chorus Auditions.
- C. Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. House, Miss Sudano and Mrs. Peterson are requesting permission to take 80 students to Iron Mills Pumpkin Patch in New Wilmington on Friday, October 4, 2024.
- D. Mrs. Gossett is requesting permission to take 2-4 students to the Highmark Caring Place in Wexford to attend the Caring Place Team Summit on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.
- E. Mrs. Markle and Mrs. Gossett are requesting permission to take 30 students to Robert Morris University in Moon Township to attend Accounting Career Day on Thursday, October 17, 2024.
- F. Mr. Shakespeare and Miss Manno are requesting permission to take 30 students to PNC Park for the 12th Annual Steel City HBCU Fair on Thursday, October 17, 2024.
- G. Mrs. Ezop and Mrs. Wilson are requesting permission to take 40 students to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh on Friday, October 18, 2024 where they will explore medical career opportunities.
- H. Central Elementary Kindergarten teachers are requesting permission to take their classes to Apple Castle in New Wilmington on Friday, October 18, 2024.
- I. Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Troyan are requesting permission to take approximately 25 students to the CCBC Dome in Monaca to participate in the Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Partnership's Pathways Career Awareness on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

- J. Mr. Maruca, Miss Benn, Mrs. Ezop and Mrs. Wilson are requesting permission to take approximately 40 students to STEAM symposium in Pittsburgh on Wednesday, October 23, 2024.
- K. Ms. Muhl, Mrs. Lambright and Mr. DeLuca are requesting permission to take their Kindergarten classes to Soergel's Orchard in Wexford on Friday, October 25, 2024.
- L. Rachel Prince and Jaime Dando are requesting permission to take 4 students to the Loft Conference Center-Southpointe in Canonsburg on Thursday, October 31, 2024 to attend the Special Olympics Youth Summit.
- M. Mrs. Gossett and Mr. Sheffield are requesting permission to take 20 students to the 171st Air Refueling Wing in Coraopolis on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.
- N. Mrs. Cobb and Mr. Maruca are requesting permission to take 40 students to the BCCTC in Monaca on Thursday, November 14, 2024 for students who may want to attend the CTC next year.
- O. Mrs. Kuriger, Mrs. Prince, Ms. Polinsky and Mrs. Merrick are requesting permission to take 45 students to Sims Bowling Lanes to participate in Special Olympics Bowling on Friday, December 6, 2024.
- P. Mrs. Gaul is requesting permission to take 20 students to the Byham Theater in Pittsburgh to attend A Musical Christmas Carol on Thursday, December 19, 2024.
- Q. Mrs. Gaul is requesting permission to take 34 students to the O'Reilly Theater in the Strip District to see Trouble in Mind on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.
- R. Mrs. Hendrickson, Mrs. Herrington and Mrs. Barber are requesting permission to take their 2nd grade classes to the National Aviary in Pittsburgh on Thursday, May 22, 2025.
- S. Ms. Muhl, Mrs. Lambright and Mr. DeLuca are requesting permission to take their Kindergarten classes to the Children's Museum in Pittsburgh on Friday, May 23, 2025.
- T. Mrs. Janectic, Mrs. Henney, Mr. Verba and Ms. Halligan are requesting permission to take their 4th and 5th grade classes to the Carnegie Science Center and Sports Works in Pittsburgh on Wednesday, May 28, 2025.
- U. Mrs. Acon, Mrs. Jewell and Miss Cain are requesting to take their 3rd grade classes to the Carnegie Museum of Art & Natural History in Pittsburgh on Thursday, May 29, 2025.

MOTION

Motion was made by Darcelle Slappy and seconded by Susan Smith that the Board approve the field trip requests on dates and at locations as listed above.

Motion was passed unanimously.

3. BUILDING REQUEST

- A. Beaver Falls Christian Assembly Church is requesting permission to use the High School gym and cafeteria for their Annual Free Christmas Day dinner on December 25, 2024 for approximately 1000 people.

MOTION

Motion was made by Susan Smith and seconded by Terri Ellinwood that the Board approve Beaver Falls Christian Assembly's request to use the High School gym and cafeteria for their Annual Free Christmas Day dinner on December 25, 2024 for approximately 1000 people.

Motion was passed unanimously.

- B. Portobello Cultural Life & Arts Center is requesting permission to use the High School LGI for a film festival on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, 2026 for approximately 250 people.

MOTION

Motion was made by Susan Smith and seconded by Terri Ellinwood that the Board approve Portobello Cultural Life & Arts Center's request to use the High School LGI for a film festival on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, 2026 for approximately 250 people.

Motion was passed unanimously.

4. ELECTRICITY AND GAS RATES

The Administration recommends approving the Business Manager to authorize locking in electricity and gas rates as needed.

MOTION

Motion was made by Susan Smith and seconded by Ron Miller that the Board approve the Business Manager to authorize locking in electricity and gas rates as needed.

Motion was passed unanimously.

VIII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

An Executive Session was held on September 12, 2024 after Discussion Meeting to discuss personnel and tax litigation matters.

IX. BVIU AND CTC UPDATES

Ron Miller gave an update on the CTC and BVIU.

X. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT-Adyson Hiwiller

This year's Homecoming Court consists of Taja Bridges, Eviana Ikard, Hannah Harrington, Aniyah Harris and Dayves Thomas.

The queen will be crowned at Homecoming on September 27, 2024.

BFHS held its first outdoor Open House/Meet the Teacher night along Tiger Alley on August 29, 2024.

The BFHS Students of the month for September are Mason Colonello and Aubri Wright.

The Rotary Student of the Month for September is Ethan Chen.

Cosso Benn, Drew Mattern and Sam Gibson represented BFHS in the annual MAC Golf Tournament last week and competed in the WPIAL Qualifiers on Monday, September 16, 2024.

The Varsity Football Team will look to retain the Little Brown Jug on October 11, 2024 vs New Brighton. The Fighting Tigers also have home games coming up vs Freedom on September 27, 2024 and Riverside on October 18, 2024.

BFHS kicked off the PRIDE Program this week. Students with good attendance and no office referrals for discipline will be invited to field trips throughout the year. This year's trips include Topgolf, Fun Fore All and a Pirates game.

BFHS held a virtual Club Sign Up Day this week. Over 20 different clubs are being offered this year. In all, over 300 students registered to participate in at least one club.

The Beaver Falls Band program recently received instrument donations from the DooWop Doctors, a local band featuring former Beaver Falls Band Director Len Cersosimo. These instruments were refurbished and delivered to the school for Elementary, Middle and High School band students in need of instruments to use.

The marching band had a successful performance of their 2024 production "Love Story" at the annual Beaver County Band Invitational. The band's next performance will be in the Geneva College Homecoming Parade on September 28, 2024.

We are one week away from opening night of our Fall musical, Six:Teen Edition. The six girls (Kylah Allen, Avery Miller, Adyson Hiwiller, Aubri Wright, Hannah Harrington, Persephone Pangikas-Miller) and the crew have been working hard and are excited to perform. Tickets are still available for each of the performances.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Darcelle Slappy and seconded by Susan Smith that the Board adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Terri Ellinwood, Secretary

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