



**Antietam School District**  
Minutes of the Hybrid Board Meeting  
**Monday, December 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

The Antietam School District Board met in person and in a Teams meeting for their combined Cow/Voting meeting on Monday, December 11, 2023. Mr. Roberts, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, December 11, 2023. Mr. Roberts noted that the board would meet in executive session regarding litigation at the conclusion of this meeting and they would not reconvene. Mr. Roberts asked if there if there were any corrections to the agenda the discussion item formerly under Superintendents report would be moved to Policy and discussed during that part of the meeting.

**Present:**

Rebecca DiSarro	Amanda Stief
Jennifer Miller	Lorraine Storms
Wayne Modeste	Michael Roberts
David Okonski	
Kyla Ramsey	

**Also Present**

Dr. Heidi Rochlin	Superintendent
Tracy Detwiler	Director of Finance & Business
Ken Bonkoski	Supervisor of Maintenance and Facilities
Anthony DiSarro	Supervisor of Technology and Security Coordinator via Teams
Becky Kohr	Director of Student Services
Staci Fink	Supervisor of Special Ed
Dr. Felice Stern	Principal, Antietam Middle Senior High School
Zachary Williams	Assistant Principal, Antietam Middle Senior High School
Kelly Landherr	Principal, Mt. Penn Elementary Center
Nicole Schieck	Principal, Mt. Penn Primary Center
Amanda Munson	MTSS Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Mt. Penn Elementary Center
Brian F. Boland	Kozloff and Stoudt
Jennifer Reeves	Board Secretary

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Tatum Reece, vice president of student council started her report noting that Student Council had been busy. In October they were fortunate to meet with Senator Judy Schwank with junior and seniors and another student representative. They discussed how they are feeling with the current situation and progress for the future. They also discussed possible after school programs for students who feel they are not getting enough help at the moment. they have not revisited that subject with student council or Senator Schwank but is something they are taking into concern. November, they hosted their annual veteran's day dinner Shuttled veterans from Keystone Villa in Douglasville and was catered by Vincenzo's restaurant it was an overall enjoyable time. Today, they

participated at the Salvation Army Angels program to sort gifts by case number, those gifts will be distributed in a few weeks to less fortunate families around the holidays. FBLA gave student council 2,000 because it has not practiced in a long time and they are using those funds to host a movie night for the student body on Thursday, December 21, 2023.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Rochlin took a moment to recognize and congratulate two students, Cae Storms and Oliver Bell who participated in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Card Contest and their artwork was featured on this years Holiday card that would be mailed to school district throughout Berks County. They received a \$25.00 gift card and a certificate.

She also wanted to Remind the Board, of the mandatory PSBA training, that will take place on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Mt. Penn Elementary Center Library.

Mr. Roberts noted the minutes of the Monday, November 13, 2023, meeting had been distributed and asked if there were any corrections. None were noted. A poll by a voice vote resulted in the minutes being approved.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Roberts started a discussion about contracting with a public relations firm to temporarily assist the district with communications. Helping us getting the positive messages out to the community and making sure the correct information gets out instead of the disinformation that seems to be making it's way out to the community.

Dr. Rochlin stated she hasn't received any costs in regards to this as of yet, but she is expecting to be expensive, there is a lot of misinformation getting out to the community and getting infront of the misinformation is tough for our small team to get ahead of. It can be a fulltime job in itself.

Mrs. DiSarro questioned how it would improve things being they are still receiving the information from us and information can still be twisted. With the financial situation as it is she asked what the benefit would be.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Roberts, in Mr. Weldele's absense reported Revenue Year to Date \$17,221,917.11, Expenditures Year to Date (\$ 8,282,953.07) and a Fund Balance (Unaudited) November 30, 2023 \$17,884,202.53

Mr. Roberts motioned, Ms. Ramsey seconded, to approve the Tresurer's Report, Cash and Investments as of November 30, 2023 - \$17,726,851.11 and Approval of bills listed for December 2023.

**A roll call vote of the Board resulted in the following vote:**

**Yes: 8 Mmes. DiSarro Miller, Ramsey, Stief, Storms; Messrs. Modeste, Okonski, and Roberts**

**Motion carried.**

Mr. Roberts motioned seconded by Mrs. Storms to Authorize the administration and officers to pay bills and salaries during the month of December.

Ratify acknowledgement of the M&T Bank Custody Services Fees, for the new Capital Projects account, as follows:

- o Initial Custodian Fee (payable at settlement) - Waived
- o Annual Fee (guaranteed for a period of 3 years) – payable in advance - \$3,000

Approve the Service Agreement between the Antietam School District and Facilities Management Express, LLC (FMX) for Technology and Maintenance ticket requests, as well as Building Schedule requests, pending final review by the District Solicitor. The annual fees are as follows:

- o 2023-2024 = \$5,242.81 (includes one-time setup fees and reflects pro-rated costs through 6.30.2024)
- o 2024-2025 renewal = \$5,250

Approve the 5-year Contract between the Antietam School District and Finalsite for District Website hosting, pending final review by the District Solicitor. The annual fees are as follows:

- o 2024-2025 = \$9,474
- o 2025-2026 = \$10,812
- o 2026-2027 = \$11,164
- o 2027-2028 = \$11,532
- o 2028-2029 = \$11,913

Approve the agreement between the Antietam School District and Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams LLP for fees, costs, and expenses for representation in Special Education matters for the 2024-2025 school year. Hourly rates are as follows:

- o Routine Matters:
  - Attorneys - \$200/hour
  - Legal Assistants - \$150/hour
- o Non-Routine Matters:
  - Attorneys - \$220/hour
  - Legal Assistants - \$150/hour

Approve the agreement between the Antietam School District and Aequor Healthcare Services, LLC to provide contractors to function as staff for the District and it’s sites until a permanent District employee can be hired, pending final review by the District Solicitor. Discipline and hourly rates are as follows:

Speech Language Pathologist	\$85
Occupational Therapist	\$80
Special Education Teachers	\$80
School Psychologist	\$125
Physical Therapist	\$80
BCBA	\$115
Paraprofessionals	\$50
RN	\$85
LPN	\$75
CNA	\$60
Social Worker	\$70-90

Orientation and Mobility	\$80
Teachers of the Deaf	\$80
Teachers of the Visually Impaired	\$80

Accept the donation from Exeter Township School District Food Service Department in the amount of \$52.00 to put toward the rebuilding due to the flood.

Approve the waiver agreement and release for 12th grade student 2023-5.

Approve the settlement agreement and release for 10th student 2023-6.

Approve the Assignment Confirmation for Aequor Candidate Marlene Barrett, special ed teacher @ \$80.00 per 30 hours minimum per week December 4, 2023, through May 31, 2024. 30-day cancelation.

**A roll call vote of the Board resulted in the following vote:**

**Yes: 8 Mmes. DiSarro, Miller, Ramsey, Stief, Storms; Messrs. Modeste, Okonski, and Roberts**

**Motion carried.**

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Storms started a Discussion in regards to Pennside Lease Agreement with a question and answer session between board members with questions regarding Long term lease versus purchase to house k-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Mrs. Stief asked if we have talked to Lower Alsace about zoning.

Mrs. Storms started a discussion regarding grade level configurations and use of buildings for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Rochlin stated if we were to move forward with the Pennside property and put K-2 in the Pennside building it will remove the traffic from pick up and drop off traffic in the Borough. The recommendation of Administration would be to turn the Mt. Penn Primary Center building back into a high school grades 9-12 which was originally what is was meant for. It has a fullsize gym and Auditorium as it was orginally set up as a high school. The elementary center would be able to accommodate grades 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and it has a playground. She also stated 7-12 housed together is not the best and the primary center does not have a playground for grades 3 through 8. Which brings us into the Zoning issues discussion. Solicitor Boland then explained the timeline on the options and noted that the Borough has the power to change the zoning for the now Primary Center and or Elementary Center so that we are able to house upper grades in the buildings we currently own. Mr. Roberts explained why he thought the Mt. Penn Primary Center should be the high school. There was more discussions on parking and not letting high school students drive and keeping the high school students self contained instead of walking to the Primary Center for sports or musical and classes.

After the discussion, Mr. Roberts asked for a straw poll so that they can pick a direction, The results of the straw poll as to what building you feel would be best for the high school were as follows:

- Mt. Penn Primary Center as new high school: RD, LS, WM, JM
- Mt. Penn Elementary Center as new high school: AS, DO
- Unsure: KR

Mr. Roberts stated that the Board will hold of planning for a moment and will assign a committee and go from there.

Mrs. Storms moved seconded by Ms. Ramsey, to Accept the donation of materials for the projects “Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn – Snack Rewards”, “Keep Our STEM Cart Charged” and “Super Storage for Super Students” from Donors Choose.

**A roll call vote of the Board resulted in the following vote:**

**Yes: 8 Mmes. DiSarro, Miller, Ramsey, Stief, Storms; Messrs. Modeste, Okonski, and Roberts**  
**Motion carried.**

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Modeste started a discussion regarding Merger invitation letters and responses from five neighboring school districts. Mr. Roberts stated that . Reading response is willing to discuss. Exeter put it on their agenda and they were not moving forward with discussions. Oley would be discussing at their meeting this week. Muhlenberg is not in a position to help us at this time. Dr. Rochlin hasn’t heard anything from Governor Mifflin. The decision was made to move forward with discussions with Reading School District. Mr. Roberts has questions concerning the kids that currently attend BCTC. Mr. Roberts asked that if Board members had questions for him to ask during the discussion with Reading School District to please email them to him.

There was discussion on the formation of a new committee, three board members, to act as liaison to the Mt. Penn Borough and Lower Alsace Township. David Okonski, Wayne Modeste, and Michael Roberts will be appointed to the committee.

Mr. Modeste moved seconded by Ms. Ramsey to approve the new residency affidavits for one kindergarten and two 7th grade students for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

**A roll call vote of the Board resulted in the following vote:**

**Yes: 8 Mmes. DiSarro, Miller, Ramsey, Stief, Storms; Messrs. Modeste, Okonski, and Roberts**  
**Motion carried.**

**ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Stief moved seconded by Ms. Ramsey to Ratify adding Rock Band to the co-curricular contract at Tier Level B-7 with a base rate of \$924.

Ratify adding Jazz Band to the co-curricular contract at Tier Level B-7 with a base rate of \$924.

Approve the Class of 2024 Senior Trip to Knoebels Grove Campground, May 16, 2024-May 18, 2024. The individual cost is \$190 and includes all food, transportation, entry to the park and housing paid by the student.

**A poll of the Board resulted in the following vote:**

**Yes: 8 Mmes. DiSarro, Miller, Ramsey, Stief, Storms; Messrs. Modeste, Okonski, and Roberts**  
**Motion carried.**

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

Mrs. DiSarro started a discussion regarding Science lab options for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Rochlin stated since there was no direction as to what building the high school students will be in recommended by the Board she not be able to plan for the Science labs and this will have to be added back in later. Dr. Rochlin also stated we will have to come up with virtual reality science labs to pilot for this, next and the year after. If we had a direction tonight we could plan for the science labs.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Ms. Ramsey moved, seconded by Mrs. Storms to ratify the 2023-2024 Winter Coaches list, as presented.

Ratify William Wagner as Rock Band advisor for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$924.

Ratify William Wagner as Jazz Band advisor for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$924.

Amend the FMLA leave dates for Olivia Fenstermacher to November 28, 2023 through February 26, 2024 with a return to work date as February 27, 2024.

Ratify Melissa Bashoum as LTS Kindergarten teacher for Olivia Fenstermacher Bachelor’s Step 1, \$50,000.00 prorated to actual days worked, no benefits, effective from November 28, 2023 through February 27, 2024, which will be an overlap day.

Ratify the following additions to the 2023-2024 BCIU Guest Teacher/Sub list: Nicole Rosella, Sammuell Kerstead

Ratify the updated mentor list for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

Accept the letter of resignation from Jason Dusko, Secondary Special Ed, effective November 29, 2023.

Accept with regret the letter of retirement of Cathy Hartman, Administrative Office, effective February 2, 2024.

**A poll of the Board resulted in the following vote:**

**Yes: 8 Mmes. DiSarro, Miller, Ramsey, Stief, Storms; Messrs. Modeste, Okonski, and Roberts**

**Motion carried.**

Mrs. DiSarro questioned since the board didn’t have a direction tonight what is it we are going to be voting on in January. Mr. Roberts stated that hopefully the new committee will have met with the Borough and get their input and direction. The committee will recommend a direction of the Primary or the Elementary. That way in January we have a direction to go.

Dr. Rochlin stated, if we had direction this evening we could plan what students will be housed where we could plan. Now we will have to have them design for both because we have to keep moving forward so we have a place for our students next year. Mr. Roberts stated we can have special meetings of the Board, we will just need to advertise.

During Public Comment:

Marina McGuff stated that she wants to urge the school board to make decisions and you need to make them fast. She needs a plan for her children and a plan for their future.

Nancy stated she would like to ask for the Board to always put the students first.

Tianna Schaeffer stated that she has 2 children in the district. She would like to urge the board to consider what is going on with the students and how they are going to handle these changes from going smallest district to the largest.

With no further business, Mr. Roberts announced that the board would now go into executive session regarding litigation and they would not reconvene the meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm

Submitted by:



Jennifer Reeves  
Board Secretary