FERNDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes
Board Room
May 22, 2024

I. The May 22, 2024 Board Meeting of the Ferndale Area School Board was held in the Board Room of the Ferndale Area School District, 100 Dartmouth Avenue, Johnstown. The Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Boyle at 6:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Contemplation

Notice is given that the Meeting of the Ferndale Area School Board to be conducted in this room will be tape recorded and entry constitutes consent to the taping of any individual who comments.

Policy No. 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings is posted on the bulletin board in the Board Room.

IV. Roll Call: Present: Susan Boyle, Barry Himes, James McKendree, Jason Moschgat, Richard Pavic, John Rutledge, Stephen Thompson, Patricia Wilson. Absent: Kimberly Kinsey.

Others in attendance were Jeffrey Boyer, David Gates, William Brotz, Travis Robison, Administrators; Stephen Clawson, Athletic Director; Lynn Bennett, FAEA/Resident; Joyce Leberknight, Resident; Susan Sheesley, PSEA Retired; Josh Byer, Tribune Democrat; Patricia Craig, Recording Secretary.

V. Hearing of Citizens/Ferndale Area Education Association

Lynn Bennett stated FAEA reelected Officers: Lynn Bennett, President; Laura Miller, Vice President; Kathleen McCreery, Secretary; and Justin Ogline, Treasurer.

VI. Committees Agenda

The Board held an Executive Session on April 17, 2024 at 6:32 p.m. for personnel and legal matters. The Executive Session ended at 7:05 p.m.

The Board held an Executive Session on May 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for personnel. The Executive Session ended at 7:15 p.m.

The Board held an Executive Session on May 15, 2024 at 6:05 p.m. for a legal matter. The Executive Session ended at 6:25 p.m.

IBD-23-05/24 MTSS Highlights were presented at the May 15, 2024 Board Workshop (Maeve Hrabosky)

IBD-24-05/24 Student Board Representatives Report.

1. Board

Election of Treasurer

Section 404 of the Pennsylvania School Code " . . . during the month of May, elect a treasurer to serve for one year, beginning the first day of July following such election."

BD-49-05/24 Mrs. Boyle nominated Jason Moschgat as Board Treasurer for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, at a stipend of $1,200 per year, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

BD-50-05/24 Dr. McKendree made a motion, Mr. Pavic, to close nominations. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

BD-51-05/24 Mr. Pavic made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to elect Jason Moschgat as Board Treasurer for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, at a stipend of $1,200 per year, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

BD-52-05/24 Mrs. Wilson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Himes, to appoint Susan Boyle and Jason Moschgat as voting delegates to represent Ferndale Area School District for PSBA Delegate Assembly on Saturday, November 2, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pavic, to approve BD-53-05/24 through BD-57-05/24.

BD-53-05/24 Approve the following Resolution which approves the Greater Johnstown Schools Healthcare Consortium Second Amended Agreement/Bylaws:

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors were presented with the Second Amended Agreement, which had been previously approved by the Greater Johnstown Schools Healthcare Consortium on May 10, 2024. The Board of School Directors hereby approve and agree to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the modification and implementation of the Second Amended Agreement and Bylaws of the Greater Johnstown Schools Healthcare Consortium, Cambria County, as have been enumerated and attached herein. This Resolution, once approved, shall continue in full force and effect in compliance with the Greater Johnstown Schools Healthcare Consortium agreement.

BD-54-05/24 Approve the May 22, 2024 Board Meeting Consent Agenda items (BD-55-05/24 through W-45-05/24).

BD-55-05/24 Approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2024 and May 8, 2024 Board Meetings, as presented.

BG-20-05/24 Approve the following bus driver for Mlaker Transportation, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork and clearances:

– William Warrick

BG-21-05/24 Approve the request of Ferndale PTO, Responsible Officer Katrina Hale, to use the Elementary Gymnasium, Cafeteria, table and chairs for a 5th and 6th grade dance on May 17, 2024 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., providing that no conflicts occur with District programs. (Received certificate of liability insurance and completed use of facilities form certifying compliance with clearance requirements.)

IBG-05-05/24 Summer office hours in all buildings will be 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. All Offices will be closed on Fridays over the summer May 31 - August 16, as presented. (Employee work/hours adjusted to fit within four workdays)

E-33-05/24 Approve the graduation of the Ferndale Area School District seniors who completed the graduation requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Ferndale Area School District (tentatively 34 students).

E-34-05/24 Renew a Cooperative Agreement between Saint Francis University and Ferndale Area School District for participation in the College In High School Program for the 2024-2025 school year.

E-35-05/24 Renew a Cooperative Agreement between Mount Aloysius College and Ferndale Area School District for participation in the College In High School Program for the 2024-2025 school year.

E-36-05/24 Renew a Dual Credit Agreement between Penn Highlands Community College and Ferndale Area School District for participation in college level courses for the 2024-2025 school year.

E-37-05/24 Approve Dual Enrollment classes to be offered in the 2024-2025 school year:

Saint Francis University:
-- Human Biology (Rebecca Segar)
BIOL 105, Human Biology (3 credits)
-- Calculus (TBD)
MATH 112, Calculus (3 credits)
-- Statistics (TBD)
STAT 101, Statistics (3 credits)

Mount Aloysius:
-- Calculus (TBD)
Math 112, College Algebra (3 credits)

Penn Highlands Community College:
-- Psychology (TBD)
PSY 100 General Psychology (3 credits)

-- Sociology (TBD)
SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology
-- Introduction to Film (Justin Ogline)
FLM 110 Introduction to American Cinema (3 credits)
-- Microcomputer Applications (Christina Fosbrink)
CIT 100 Microcomputer Applications (3 credits)
-- US Government (Ronald Lasko)
GOV 100, Intro to American National Government (3 credits)
-- Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry (TBD)
MAT 131, Intermediate Algebra (3 credits)
-- Calculus (TBD)
MAT 170, Precalculus (3 credits)

F-38-05/24 Approve the Cafeteria Bills, as presented.

IF-22-05/24 Receipts and disbursements.

IF-23-05/24 The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies FASD Endowment Fund donor statement balance (January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024) is $3,503.54.

ST-119-05/24 Approve three students attendance at Saint Francis University for Senator for a Day on May 2, 2024. Cost: Transportation: $270.00. Substitute: $100.00. Total Cost: $370.00. (District)

ST-120-05/24 Approve the Interact Club (six students) attendance at Sunnehanna Country Club for a luncheon on May 8, 2024. Substitute: $100.00. (District)

Approve the following workshops/conferences:

W-45-05/24 Judith Virgin, School Nurse, *NASN 2024 "Stronger Together" Annual Conference – Virtual*, July 8-10, 2024. Cost: Registration: $320.00. (District)

IBD-25-05/24 Review Policy No. 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying as required for annual PA Safe Schools Reporting. (Jeffrey Boyer)

IBD-26-05/24 Review Revised Policy No. 827 Conflict of Interest (Jeffrey Boyer)

BD-56-05/24 Waive the First Reading of Revised Policy No. 827 Conflict of Interest.

BD-57-05/24 Approve the Second Reading of Revised Policy No. 827 Conflict of Interest, and adopt said policy.

Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, McKendree, Moschgat, Pavic, Rutledge, Thompson, Wilson. Against the motion: McKendree BD-53-05/24 only. Abstained: None. Absent: Kinsey. The motion carried.

2. Buildings and Grounds

IBG-06-05/24 A discussion on tree removal between the softball field and Ferndale Borough Park was held at the May 15, 2024 Board Workshop. (David Gates)

BG-22-05/24 Mr. Pavic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Himes, to approve having the Business Manager proceed with removing all the trees between the softball field and Ferndale Borough Park from the road to the restrooms at a cost of $8,700 with Top Notch Tree Care performing the work, pending receipt of insurance documents. New trees will be replanted after removal of existing trees. Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, McKendree, Moschgat, Pavic, Rutledge, Thompson, Wilson. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Kinsey. The motion carried.

3. Cafeteria

None.

4. Education

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rutledge, to approve E-38-05/24 through E-41-05/24.

E-38-05/24 Approve the revisions to the Junior-Senior High School Student Handbook regarding cell phones and dress code, as presented on March 20, 2024.

E-39-05/24 Approve continuing an Agreement with Ignite Education Solutions to provide substitute teachers and substitute nurses for the 2024-2025 school year.

E-40-05/24 Approve continuing an Agreement to participate in the IU8 English as a Second Language (ESL) consortium for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of $4,700 for the school year.

E-41-05/24 Approve an Addendum to Contract with CAMCO Physical and Occupational Therapy for speech therapy services for ESY summer 2024.

Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, McKendree, Moschgat, Pavic, Rutledge, Thompson, Wilson. Against the motion: Moschgat E-38-05/24 only. Abstained: None. Absent: Kinsey. The motion carried.

The following were discussed at the May 15, 2024 Board Workshop:

IE-38-05/24 District-wide Highlights (William Brotz, Travis Robison, Amy Mykut, Bernard Conway, Sutton Barron, Adam Barbe)

IE-39-05/24 GJCTC Joint Operating Committee Highlights (Stephen Thompson)

5. Finance

Mr. Pavic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moschgat, to approve F-39-05/24 through F-44-05/24.

F-39-05/24 Approve the 2024-2025 school year Final Budget as presented, using the District's Fund Balance to balance the budget. A property tax increase of .5 mills (complies with state Index), (to 97 mills) will be recorded as Unreserved/ Designated to pay for future pension obligations and health care increases. The estimated remaining Fund Balance at June 19, 2025, $920,697 shall be classified as Unreserved, Designated for future pension obligations and health care increase. The proposed Final Budget proposed $17,288,287 in Expenditures and $14,208,983 in Revenues.

F-40-05/24 Approve the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Ferndale Area School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2022, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction. The following amount is available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction:

    a. Gambling tax funds. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of $448,206.84.

2. Homestead/farmstead numbers. Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. 8584(1), and Act 1, 53 P.S. 6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:

    a. Homestead property number. The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 1188.

    b. Farmstead property number. The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 3.

    c. Total homestead/farmstead equals 1191.

3. Real estate tax reduction calculation. The homestead exclusion amount and farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(a) amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of $448,206.84 by the paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 1191, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead/farmstead.

4. Homestead exclusion calculation. Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of $376.32 by the School District real estate tax rate of 97 mills (.097), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is $3,879.58, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is $3,879.58.

5. Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization July 1 tax bills. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of $3,879.58. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of $3,879.58. For purposes of this Resolution, "Approved homestead" and "approved farmstead" shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. 6926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/ farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

F-41-05/24 Approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Ferndale Area School District is a school district of the third class, and is existing under and governed by the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; and

WHEREAS, Ferndale Area School District has this date duly enacted a budget for the School Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, Ferndale Area School District, to provide the necessary revenues for the operation of the School District, has deemed it necessary to levy certain taxes;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ferndale Area School District, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that pursuant to the authority granted to school districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Act of Assembly, approved December 13, 1956, Act 511, known as the "Local Tax Enabling Act", the following taxes shall continue in full force and effect, and remain due and payable for the School Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and the resolutions for like taxes for prior years, specifically including but not limited to the amendment thereof made by the taxing resolution dated June 30, 1981, are hereby enacted:

a. 1% earned income tax;
b. $5.00 per capita tax; and
c. real estate transfer taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to the authority granted to school districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Act of Assembly approved March 10, 1948, P.L. 30, Article VI, Section 679, as amended, a per capita tax in the amount of $5.00 is imposed upon all persons residing in said district over the age of eighteen (18) during the School Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and the Resolution of June 26, 1974, as amended by taxing resolution of June 30, 1981, imposing a like tax is hereby re-enacted for the School Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all taxpayers who made payment of the aforesaid $5.00 per capita tax enacted pursuant to the authority of the Act of March 10, 1948, P.L. 30, Article VI, Section 679 as amended, and the aforesaid real estate taxes within two (2) months after the date of the tax notice shall receive a discount of 2% of the face amount thereof. All taxpayers who fail to make payment of such taxes shall, in addition to interest otherwise provided by law, be subject to, and required to pay, a penalty in the amount of 10% of the face amount of the tax due, which penalty shall be added to the taxes due and be collected by the Tax Collector, and further, shall be in addition to interest and other charges due thereon which are assessed pursuant to applicable law.

F-42-05/24 Approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Ferndale Area School District is a school district of the third class, and is existing under and governed by the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; and

WHEREAS, Ferndale Area School District has this date duly enacted a budget for the School Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, Ferndale Area School District, to provide the necessary revenues for the operation of the School District, has deemed it necessary to levy certain taxes;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ferndale Area School District, as provided by law, does hereby fix the rate of taxation for the School Fiscal Year 2024-2025, for the purpose of the real estate taxes levied by said District, at 97 mills, which tax rate is nine dollars and seventy cents, ($9.70 on each $100.00 of assessed valuation of taxable real property.

F-43-05/24 Approve the following 2024-2025 Highmark Medical/Drug monthly rates. (Premiums reflect a 22.40% increase)

PPO BLUE

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Employee Only	763.42	919.75
Employee and Child	1,708.23	2,059.46
Employee and Children	1,708.23	2,059.46
Employee and Spouse	2,007.91	2,419.47
Employee and Family	2,127.33	2,562.94

QUALIFIED HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Employee Only	725.31	887.78
Employee and Child	1,623.25	1,986.86
Employee and Children	1,623.25	1,986.86
Employee and Spouse	1,906.87	2,334.01
Employee and Family	2,019.91	2,472.37

F-44-05/24 Approve Commercial Insurances policies for 2024-2025, as presented.

Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, McKendree, Moschgat, Pavic, Rutledge, Thompson, Wilson. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Kinsey. The motion carried.

6. Personnel

Mr. Himes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pavic, to approve P-82-05/24 through P-89-05/24.

P-82-05/24 Create and advertise the following Extra Pay for Extra Duty Position:

-- Junior-Senior Interact Team Advisor at a stipend of $1,000

P-83-05/24 Approve the Elementary Guidance Counselor to work up to a maximum of 70 hours beyond the regular school year, at the discretion of the building principal, for guidance duties (hourly rate). Additional hours may be approved at the discretion of the Superintendent. Activities qualifying as required, approved professional development will be paid at curriculum rate.

P-84-05/24 Approve the Secondary Guidance Counselor to work up to a maximum of 70 hours beyond the regular school year, at the discretion of the building principal, for guidance duties (hourly rate). Additional hours may be approved at the discretion of the Superintendent. Activities qualifying as required, approved professional development will be paid at curriculum rate.

P-85-05/24 Approve Tonia Mitchell to train Christina Madden, Jr-Sr HS Secretary, at a rate of $20 per hour and not to exceed $1,000.00.

P-86-05/24 Approve the following Extended School Year teachers for the summer of 2024:

-- Maeve Hrabosky
-- Janine McClelland

P-87-05/24 Employ Mallory Miller, Ligonier, as a Special Education Teacher with full benefits, effective the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of all appropriate paperwork. Due to experience, step placement to be determined from the outcome of the Teachers' Contract.

P-88-05/24 Approve the following Mentors for the 2024-2025 school year:

– Ronald Lasko for Jessica Mullen, Social Studies Teacher
– Leign Ann Dunn for Mackenzie Sarka, ELA Teacher

P-89-05/24 Accept the resignation of Tiffany Duman effective close of the 2023-2024 school term and authorize the Board President to sign any paperwork to effectuate same.

Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, McKendree, Moschgat, Pavic, Rutledge, Thompson, Wilson. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Kinsey. The motion carried.

7. Student Activities

Mr. Moschgat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Himes, to approve ST-121-05/24 through ST-124-05/24.

Approve the following coaches for the 2024-2025 season, pending receipt of all appropriate paperwork:

ST-121-05/24 Cassidie Wentz, Johnstown, Assistant Varsity Cheerleading Advisor.

ST-122-05/24 Alana Berry, Johnstown, Head Junior High Cheerleading Advisor.

ST-123-05/24 Rebecca Derner, eSports Coach.

ST-124-05/24 Post and/or advertise the following coaching positions for the 2024-2025 school year:

– Head Varsity Boys' Baseball Coach
– Assistant Varsity Boys' Baseball Coach
– Head Junior High Boys' Baseball Coach
– Assistant Junior High Boys' Baseball Coach
– Head Varsity Girls' Softball Coach

– Assistant Varsity Girls' Softball Coach
– Head Junior High Girls' Softball Coach
– Assistant Junior High Girls' Softball Coach

Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, McKendree, Moschgat, Pavic, Rutledge, Thompson, Wilson. Against the motion: McKendree BD-53-05/24 only. Abstained: None. Absent: Kinsey. The motion carried.

ST-125-04/24 Mr. Moschgat made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to remove from the table ST-17-04/24 (April 17, 2024 Board Meeting):

Approve the creation of a Competitive Cheerleading Co-Op with Johnstown at an estimated cost of $17,406.34 based on 15 participants. Based on expenses incurred for this year, each cheerleader would cost $1,160.42.

Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, McKendree, Moschgat, Pavic, Rutledge, Thompson, Wilson. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Kinsey. The motion carried.

ST-126-04/24 Mr. Moschgat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Himes, to approve the creation of a Competitive Cheerleading Co-Op with Johnstown at an estimated cost of $17,406.34 based on 15 participants. Based on expenses incurred for this year, each cheerleader would cost $1,160.42. Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, McKendree, Moschgat, Pavic, Thompson, Wilson. Against the motion: Rutledge. Abstained: None. Absent: Kinsey. The motion carried.

8. Workshops/Conferences

None.

The June Workshop Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2024. The June Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pavic to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. All were in favor.