

SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 17, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dan Wertz, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Smethport Area Elementary School.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Learn, McKean, O'Day, Tronetti, Wertz.

Members Absent: Davis, Okerlund, Shonts, Stratton.

Administrators Present: Benson, Jordan, London, Rounsville, Zona.

Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Kolivoski were also present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Wertz

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – None.

Allegations regarding students or employees are to be provided to the Administration. They are not to be discussed in public. Speakers may be held liable for untrue statements.

V. MINUTES

Moved by O'Day, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes:

Work Session, February 3, 2020

Regular Board Meeting, February 10, 2020

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

Moved by Learn, seconded by O'Day and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2020.

VII. BILL AND SALARY LIST

Moved by Learn, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve the March 2020 Bill and Salary List with the exception of the asterisk item(s).

Moved by McKean, seconded by O'Day to approve the asterisk item(s) on the March 2020 Bill and Salary List (Aveanna Healthcare check #42947). Carried 4-0 with one abstention (Tronetti).

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. David E. London, Superintendent, told the Board that he could not be working with a better group than the current administrators. Despite the COVID-19 issues we are operating day-to-day with Essential Staff. The Food Service staff put out over 100 meals, custodial staff is working to clean and disinfect the buildings, some teachers were in today gathering info for their students, and the administrators are fielding questions from their teachers. He reported that we have some calendar changes should the closure be extended. All of the Café staff working to prepare meals for students have a wellness and temperature check done each morning before starting their shift by Mrs. Costa. Anyone with an elevated temperature is being sent home. He said that it has gone very well with parents, students, and staff. The Staff and Administrators have discussed educational activities that the students can do during the closure. They will roll out grade level and specific class activities. Meals are going to be delivered by McKeirman vans with the help of the Cafeteria staff to distribute them between 9 am – 11 am. All communications to parents, the community, and the staff will go through the Superintendent's Office using alerts,

our website, staff emails, and text messages to Administrators. He reported that Kevin has done a lot of work to put all of the alerts out, Kelly Schuler and DiAnn Cox have placed information on our District Facebook page, and many of our staff will be working from home, if needed. Staff may begin working under the summer schedule. He also reported that Eric Petrazio of McClure Company will come to do his presentation to the Board on the District savings from the ESCO project at a later time.

X. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

(Any new hires under New Business are hired subject to the restriction that the hire will not be finalized unless all of the ACT 168 requirements relative to provisional employment have been met. He/She shall not be permitted to work with or have direct contact with children until all of the mandates of ACT 168 of 2014 have been compiled and the results are determined to be satisfactory to the District).

1. Moved by O'Day, seconded by Learn and carried unanimously to renew VLN Partners as a Cyber School resource for the 2020-21 school year.
2. Moved by McKean, seconded by Tronetti and carried unanimously to approve the healthcare insurance premium deposit rate increase of 6% for the 2020-21 fiscal year.
3. Moved by McKean, seconded by Tronetti and carried unanimously to approve an Easement Agreement for work to be completed by the Smethport Borough as per recommendation from the District Solicitor.
4. Moved by Tronetti, seconded by O'Day and carried unanimously to approve a resolution regarding Cyber Charter School Reform.
5. Moved by McKean, seconded by Learn and carried unanimously to approve an Affiliation Agreement with Mansfield University of PA for student teacher placements.
6. Moved by Learn, seconded by Tronetti and carried unanimously to approve a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Smethport Area Education Association for the time period August 21, 2020 to August 20, 2023 (20/21, 21/22, 22/23).
7. Moved by Learn, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve a Resolution regarding the restoration of the High School gymnasium, auditorium, music room, and cafeteria roofs.
8. Moved by Learn, seconded by Tronetti and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Bill Stephen at Bachelor's, Step 1 as a science/chemistry substitute teacher for a medical leave. The appointment is contingent on not being able to find a regular education certified sub to take the position.
9. Moved by McKean, seconded by Learn and carried unanimously to approve a Letter of Resignation from Mrs. Andrea Yingling, Teacher effective February 29, 2020.
10. Moved by Learn, seconded by O'Day and carried unanimously to approve a Letter of Resignation from Mrs. Jennifer Mack, for retirement purposes, effective May 29, 2020. Mr. London thanked her for her years of service to the District.

11. Moved by McKean, seconded by Tronetti and carried unanimously to approve the following Fall Sports Coaching Supplemental positions for the 2020-21 school year:

Assistant Cross Country Coach..... TBD
Assistant Volleyball Coach Michele Ruffner

12. Moved by O'Day, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve the following policies and procedures:

- #150 – Title I Comparability of Services
- #220 – Student Expression / Distribution & Posting of Materials
- #913 – Non-school Organizations / Groups / Individuals
- #233 – Suspension and Expulsion
- #311 – Reduction of Staff
- #333 – Professional Development
- #335 - FMLA
- #626 – Procurement Procedure– Federal Programs Attachment
- #806 – Child Abuse
- Safe2Say Procedures

13. Moved by Learn, seconded by O'Day and carried unanimously to approve the following addition(s) to the Substitute Support Staff list for the 2019-20 school year (pending proper paperwork):

Dan Baker, Smethport, Custodial

14. Moved by McKean, seconded by Tronetti and carried unanimously to approve the following addition(s) to the Substitute C.L. McKeirman's Drivers list for the 2019-20 school year (pending proper paperwork):

Jeffrey Bricker, Port Allegany, Van

15. Moved by Learn, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve the updates and modifications to the Disney Chaperone List as presented.

16. Moved by Tronetti, seconded by O'Day and carried unanimously to approve the following changes to the SASD School Calendar for the 2019-2020 School Year.

- The Act 80 day scheduled for April 9, 2020 will be a regular school day.
- Snow days scheduled for April 14, 15, 2020 will be regular school days.
- The teacher professional development day scheduled for May 29, 2020 will be a regular school day.
- June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 2020 will be regular school days.
- Graduation will be June 5, 2020.
- June 8, 2020 will be an Act 80 day, in-service day for staff and the official last day of school for students.
- June 9, 2020 will be an in-service day and the last day for staff.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- The Kindergarten field trip to the Old Red School House and Nature Center will take place on May 8, 2020. The 4th Grade field trip to the Buffalo Zoo will be take place on May 7, 2020.
- Eric Petrazio, McClure, will be here on March 17th to report on our calculated ESCO savings.

- The Board of Education has been presented with the following policies and procedures for first reading with possible approval in April:
 - #222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Pupils
 - #323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Employees
 - #701 – Facilities Planning
 - #702 – Gifts, Grants, Donations
 - #702.1 – Crowdfunding
 - #704 – Maintenance
 - #705 – Facilities and Workplace Safety
 - #707 – Use of School Facilities
 - #709 – Building Security
 - #804 – School Day
 - #805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response
 - #805.1 – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
 - #805.2 – School Security Personnel
 - #810.1 – School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers
 - #811 – Bonding
 - #904 – Public Attendance at School Events
 - #917 – Parental/Family Involvement

COMMENDATIONS:

- Congratulations and good luck to CTC Student Zachary Persing who recently participated in the Gannon University Hackathon in Erie on February 16th. He qualified for the event through a virtual online competition in November and earned his place to compete at the live, on-campus competition. Zachary received advanced cybersecurity educational training and competed for a full tuition scholarship to the university in Erie in addition to \$1,500 increase to his admission merit award if he chooses to attend Gannon and does not receive the full scholarship. Winners will be announced soon.
- A group of students from the Smethport Area School District are competing in the 4th Annual Manufacturing Contest. The group of students worked with the Allegheny Bradford Corporation (ABC) to study, interview and film for a two-minute video that captures “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing?”

The Project is organized by Workforce Solutions for North Central PA along with an advisory committee made up of several regional partners. This year's sponsors include the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Labor and Industry, Miller Fabrication Solutions, Domtar - Johnsonburg Mill, Horizon Technology Inc., Penn Pallet and JIT Tool and Die.

The public is able to view and vote for the Viewer’s Choice Award. Please support us by watching our video and voting. Online voting opens on March 2, 2020 and you can vote daily from March 2, 2020 to March 4, 2020 at <https://www.whatssocool.org/contests/north-central-pa/>.

Participants include: Fisher Szuba, Mara Ours, Brennan Donovan, Ruth Line, Caleigh Wolosewicz, Madison Faes, Emily Higley, and Haydn Riekofsky. Awards Ceremony: March 11, 2020. **UPDATE: The Smethport team won OUTSTANDING CAREER PATHWAY award.**

COMMENDATIONS cont.:

- Congratulations to our Smethport DECA state qualifiers that traveled to Hershey, PA, last week to compete against 2,357 high school students in 61 business events. Each student took a written test in his/her event and performed in two role play scenarios in front of a judge. The PA state rankings are as follows:
 - Kassidy Didomizio – Principles of Business Administration and Management – 17th place
 - Anna Holohan – Marketing Communications – 5th place. Anna is also a Role Play Medal Winner.
 - Parker Jack – Business Services Marketing – 19th Place
 - Jordan Pavlock – Quick Service Restaurant Management – 10th Place

- Congratulations to the following students who were chosen from the High School Band to represent Smethport in the PMEA District 2 Band Festival at Thiel College: Celeste Baker, August Cox, Delanie DiFonzo, and Abbye McKeiman played in a band of over 150 students from Cameron, Crawford, Erie, McKean, Potter, and Warren Counties.

- Congratulations to Kassidy Didomizio, Parker Jack and, Matthew Nolte on their participation in the PMEA District 2 Chorus Festival at Conneaut Area Sr. High School on January 18th – 19th. Congratulations to Parker on qualifying for the Region 2 chorus that will be held in February at Corry High School.

- Congratulations to the following Students of the Month – Dominic Ritts, Jr. High and August Cox, Sr.-High. Also congratulations to Jaden Causer for being named CTC Student of the Week.

- The Pennsylvania High School Mock Trial Competition was held on Friday, January 31st and Wednesday, February 12th 2020 (playoff rounds were completed on this day) at the McKean County Courthouse. The competition, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA YLD), bestows upon high school students firsthand experience with the American judicial system. The McKean County Bar Association supports our students by paying the registration fee for the competition and Mr. Tony Alfieri volunteers his time to work with the students. We had two additional volunteers this year, Miss Stephanie Smith and Ms. Lynn McBride. There were six (6) trials held on Friday, January 31, 2020. The top four (4) teams advanced to the playoff rounds. The four (4) teams that advanced to the District Finals were: Brockway, Otto-Eldred, Saint Marys, and Smethport. Brockway and Smethport were 2-0 and Otto-Eldred and Saint Marys were 1-1. The coordinator paired Smethport against Otto-Eldred for the semi-finals and we won, advancing us to the finals. Finals took place on Monday, February 24th against Saint Marys. We lost the final round.

“This year's case, Addison Babbage v. Ruffed Grouse High School, LLC, is a civil case to determine whether the defendant is liable for failing to address cyberbullying at a private school.”

<https://www.pabar.org/site/For-the-Public/Mock-Trial-Competition>

The Mock Trial Team consisted of 20 participants. 15 main roles and 5 understudies.

- **Main Roles: Prosecution** – Attorneys Griffin Hess, Anna Holohan & Parker Jack
- Witnesses August Cox, Kassidy DiDomizio, & Kelsey Martin
- **Defense** – Attorneys Kyler Alexis, Celeste (Baker) Austin, & Jordan Pavlock
- Witnesses Chase Burdick, Ashley Day, & Caroline Todd
- Timekeepers for both sides Nathan King, Charity Lapp, Elaina Murray, & Serena Smyntek

COMMENDATIONS cont.:

• **Mock Trial – All Participants**

❖ **12th Grade**

Anna Holohan – Attorney
Griffin Hess
Kelsey Martin
Hunter Tanner

❖ **11th Grade**

Parker Jack
Kyler Alexis
Jordan Pavlock
Kassidy DiDomizio
Eli Todd
Chase Burdick

❖ **10th Grade**

Celeste Austin (Baker)
Ashley Day
Serena Smyntek
Caitlyn Munsell
August Cox
Caroline Todd
Nathan King

❖ **9th Grade**

Eliana Murray
Charity Lapp
Reilly Walker

NOTE: Executive Session may be held between tonight's meeting and the next board meeting.

Mr. Wertz announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters.

- XII. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD** – GENERAL ITEMS – None.
Allegations regarding students or employees are to be provided to the Administration. They are not to be discussed in public. Speakers may be held liable for untrue statements.
- XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**
Moved by Learn, seconded by Tronetti and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Jordan
Secretary of the Board