

SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dan Wertz, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Smethport Area Elementary School.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Davis, Learn, McKean, O'Day (Virtual), Okerlund, Stratton (Virtual), Wertz.

Members Absent: Shonts, Tronetti.

Administrators Present: Benson, Jordan, London, Rounsville.

Mrs. Woodard and Mr. Kolivoski (Virtual) 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.

Mr. Benson recognized the Junior High and Senior High Students of the Month for October and for last March at this point in the meeting, so that the families could get on the road to head home a little earlier and to help with social distancing. With the COVID shutdown of schools in March of 2020 we did not have the opportunity to recognize the students for March 2020 at a Board Meeting. So Mr. Benson invited them tonight and introduced Dominic Ritts representing the Jr. High and August Cox representing the Sr. High. He also recognized the October 2020 Students of the Month, Karlee Tanner (Jr. High) and Austin Coleman (Sr. High).

V. MINUTES

Moved by Davis, seconded by Learn and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes:

Work Session, September 8, 2020

Board Meeting, September 14, 2020

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

Moved by Okerlund, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2020.

VII. BILL AND SALARY LIST

Moved by Learn, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to approve the October 2020 Bill and Salary List.

Moved by McKean, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to approve the October 2020 Capital Projects Fund Bill List.

Moved by Learn, seconded by Stratton and carried unanimously to approve the October 2020 Construction Fund Bill List.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

David E. London, Superintendent, reported to the Board that we were notified by our consultants for health insurance that we had a positive year largely due to the change to the QHDHP which has helped to contain our expenses. He told the Board that the Winter Athletics programs can continue to play within the “bubble” of IU9 area schools, but spectators will be limited in order to contain and/or mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus. Mr. London shared a matrix on attendance data and enrollment data. He also informed the Board that the State has approved our application on the use of Flexible Instruction Days. He reported that the USDA and the PA Department of Food and Nutrition have now extended the Seamless Summer Option program through the end of the school year. **Mr. Benson** then introduced to the Board Jordan Pavlock, the new 2020-21 Student Council President representing the student body. Jordan requested to be able to present information to the Board at their monthly meetings on the activities of the Student Council and the High School students.

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 Learn, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to approve donations to the Hamlin Memorial Library and the Mt. Jewett Memorial Library in the amount of \$300 each.
2. Moved by McKean, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to approve the following addition(s) to the Substitute Support Staff List for the 2020-21 school year (pending proper paperwork):
Kristina Taylor, Smethport, Clerical/Aide
3. Moved by Davis, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve the following addition(s) to the IU9 Guest Program Substitute Teacher List for the 2020-21 school year (pending proper paperwork):
Jessica Prescott, Port Allegany, Emergency
4. Moved by Learn, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to approve a Letter of Resignation for retirement purposes from Susan Jordan, Business Manager/Board Secretary, to be effective March 19, 2021.
5. Moved by McKean, seconded by Learn and carried unanimously to approve the following supplemental position(s) for 2020-21:
Assistant Baseball Coach Joel Lent
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach(es) Rick Austin
..... Brian Lawson
Assistant Softball Coach Shannon Faes
Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach Nicole Nolte

Assistant Track Coach(es)Holli Gregory
..... Eric Lutz
..... Bill Stephen
Volunteer Assistant Track CoachMax Simms
Varsity "S" Advisorno recommendation

6. Moved by Okerlund, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of natural gas beginning November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2022 from UGI Energy Services / Open Flow Energy, DuBois, PA, at a cost of the NYMEX monthly settlement price less a basis cost of \$0.184/Dth.
7. Moved by McKean, seconded by Learn and carried unanimously to approve the Smethport Area Jr./Sr. High School Student Activities Account for the period ending September 30, 2020.
8. Moved by Learn, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to approve the High School graduation requirements (listed below) aligned with PDE Pathways and waivers available to the Keystone Exam Cohort of 19/20.
 - Approve all five (5) PDE approved Graduation Pathways as options for all students in the Class of 2022 and those classes that follow, to meet PA State Graduation requirements. It is noted that the Smethport Area School district is NOT requiring students in the Keystone Exam cohort of 19/20 to take the Keystone Exam(s) that was/were missed in 19/20 due to COVID-19. However, students from the 19/20 Keystone Exam cohort may exercise the option to take any Keystone Exam(s) that was/were missed in order to utilize Pathway #1, Pathway #2, or Pathway #4 to graduation. Students designated to graduate according to established goals in their Individualized Education Plan are still able to do so by meeting all established goals. All other Smethport Area School District graduation requirements in the areas of Career Readiness and Community Service still apply.
9. Moved by Davis, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to approve the following Board policies:
 - #103 – Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
 - #104 – Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
 - #203 – Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
 - #209 – Health Examinations / Screenings
 - #247 – Hazing
 - #249 – Bullying / Cyberbullying
 - #252 – Dating Violence
 - #309.1 – Telework
 - #314 – Physical Examination
 - #317.1 – Educator Misconduct
 - #318 – Attendance and Tardiness
 - #331 – Job Related Expenses
 - #332 – Working Periods

- #334 – Sick Leave
 - #340 – Responsibility for Student Welfare
 - #705 – Facilities and Workplace Safety
 - #803 – School Calendar
 - #824 – Maintaining Professional Adult / Student Boundaries
 - #904 – Public Attendance at School Events
 - #907 – School Visitors
10. Moved by Learn, seconded by Davis and carried unanimously to approve an 11th grade student to take a BYU (Brigham Young University) online course for credit in “Nursing and Medical Terminology”.
 11. Moved by McKean, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to approve accepting a donation of a 7-man Football Blocking Sled from the Smethport Sport’s Boosters in the amount of \$12,639.10.
 12. Moved by Davis, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to approve items on the “Discard List” as presented
 13. Moved by Learn, seconded by McKean and carried unanimously to approve up to five (5) days of Leave without Pay at the discretion of the Superintendent for Angella Dinger for personal family reasons.

INFORMATION ITEM:

- **Mrs. Jordan** explained a letter that was included in the Board packet from Interstate Tax Service. It provided some information on the unemployment compensation claims that have been filed through June 30, 2020, including March – June of the State COVID shutdown, that affected our school district. It provided information on the cost of our claims through June 30, 2020 and our total exposure for those claims in the next year that have been opened. Our costs through June 30, 2020 were \$8,318, but our future exposure on those claims could amount to over \$31,000.
- **Mr. Wertz** took a moment to express out thanks to Chris and Barb Davis who have been doing the live streaming of many of our athletic events in order to provide access to those games on-line as spectator restrictions have been put into place through the State to control the spread of the Coronavirus.

COMMENDATIONS:

- Congratulations to Karlee Tanner and Austin Coleman for being named Students of the Month at the High School for October!
- Due to COVID-19 shutdown in March we also honored Dominic Ritts and August Cox as Students of the Month at the High School for March 2020.

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

Mr. Wertz announced that the Board did meet in Executive Session immediately prior to tonight's Board meeting to discuss personnel and safety 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 Davis and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Jordan
Secretary of the Board