

February 12, 2024

The regular meeting of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 6:02 PM in the High School Library by the President, Todd Engel.

The meeting opened with a Moment of Silence and Pledge to the Flag.

Board Members Present: Armond (via Zoom), Bachman, Brigandi, Bukeavich, Engel, Hitesman, Miller, and Rupert.

Others Present: Maria Pierce – Rommelt Principal/Director of Student Services, Dyan Hulslander – Central Elementary Principal, Kristin Bastian – Director of Special Education/School Psychologist, Dwight Woodley – Director of Innovative Learning/IT, Bill Reifsnnyder – Director of Buildings and Ground, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager, and Tom Burkhart – Solicitor.

Visitors: Matt Courter – Williamsport SunGazette, Jessica Watson, Dottie White Mertz, Richard Knecht, Madeline Hulslander, Noah Hulslander, Charles Haefner, Chris Kuriga, David Weaver, Melissa Stahl, Matt Krach, Janice McEwen, Elyse Schopfer.

MODIFY AGENDA

A motion to modify the agenda to add an overnight field trip request from Academic Decathlon on March 8-9, 2024 was moved by Engel, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the treasurer's reports from January 2024 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$924,073.83, Food Service Fund in the amount of \$10,794.84, Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$56,693.00 and GO Note 2022 in the amount of \$6,949.00 as funds become available was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2024 as written was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

DEBT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Audrey Bear, Managing Director at Piper Sandler, gave a debt presentation to the school board. She presented 2 scenarios in which \$9,995,000 was borrowed in 2024 and \$5,000,000 was borrowed in 2025. Under the first scenario, the \$9,995,000 would be repaid over 20 years to keep the entire borrowing within the limits for a GESA project. This would increase the annual debt service payment to around \$2,200,000. Under the second scenario, the \$9,995,000 would be repaid over 30 years. This would increase the annual debt service payment to around \$2,100,000.

NATURAL AREA RENOVATION PROJECT

Mr. Christopher Kuriga, with the South Side Recreational Authority, spoke to the school board about a project occurring at the Robert Porter Allen Natural Area, and a partnership with the District to remediate mosquito problems on the District's property near the District's ball fields. Access will occur through the nature area, it will not impact any of the sports fields, and all costs will be covered by the South Side Recreation Authority's project. After some questions from board members, it was determined that some language changed would be requested on the agreement prior to school board approval.

MID-YEAR SCHOOL DISTRICT REVIEW

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, presented a mid-year report. He provided data on anticipated certified teachers who will be graduating from college, information from PSBA's State of Education survey and how that survey's top 5 challenges related to the District. He then spoke about academic achievement, benchmark assessment data from CKLA, PVAAS data, chronic absenteeism data, and the future ready index for the District.

SECOND STEP CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, spoke about the Child Protective Unit in the District's Social Emotional Learning curriculum, Second Step. Due to some of the topics covered and specific vocabulary introduced, the District will be covering Lessons 1 & 2 under the Child Protective Unit and will be forgoing Lessons 3 – 6.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR SUPPORT

A motion to approve additional counseling support staff for students in grades K-12, with funding coming from ESSER Set Aside funds was moved by Miller, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR

A motion to declare vacancies for tax collector in South Williamsport Borough, Duboistown Borough, and Armstrong Township for tax bill collecting was moved by Bachman, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

A motion to appoint Dottie White Mertz to collect tax bills for South Williamsport Borough, Duboistown Borough, and Armstrong Township was moved by Miller, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

A motion to approve the tax collection agreement submitted by Dottie White Mertz for the collection of taxes for South Williamsport Borough, Duboistown Borough, and Armstrong Township was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

BUILDING PROJECT AND ATHLETIC FIELDS UPDATE

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, provided an update to the school board about the various building and athletic field projects. At Central Elementary, Phase 2 is ahead of schedule with a potential move of classrooms during the weekend of March 8. Mr. Woodley has been gathering furniture information from teaching staff. The interior classroom colors and the gymnasium/cafeteria color schemes have been chosen. At the football field, contract signings and the approval process is underway. The District is looking for alternate locations for graduation in anticipation the field not being available. The lighting system is scheduled to arrive by May 13 with work complete within 1.5 weeks. For the high school project, the administration team met to provide a draft of relocation spaces and classrooms to McKissick Associates. The District has received one response on the GESA request for proposal. For Rommelt Elementary, Dr. Briggs is meeting with vendors who may be interested in renting space. The District is also looking at potential relocation of the wrestling room to Rommelt in order to expand the weight room at the high school; however, no decision has been made.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST

A motion to approve the following overnight field trip requests was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Armond

- Sophia Biddle's overnight field trip request to take one FBLA student to the State Leadership Conference in Hershey PA on April 8-10, 2024
- Kyle Essick's overnight field trip request to take eight students to the Academic Decathlon State Championship in Carlisle PA on March 8-9, 2024

Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER APPROVAL FOR CENTRAL ELEMENTARY PROJECT

A motion to approve the following Change Order for the Central Elementary Project was moved by Bachman, seconded by Hitesman.

- HVAC Contract (H-005)
 - COR 002 – revised pipe size changes – (\$18,654.79)
 - COR 006 – fabricate a DOAS angle iron frame - \$1,501.90
 - COR 007 – provide and install condensate pumps - \$4,981.57
 - COR 008 – change in grill size from RFI 28 & 31 - \$486.27
 - COR 009 – skylight frame material and welding for GC – Phase 2 - \$2,155.41

Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT - INFORMATIONAL

Dr. Briggs, Superintendent, accepted a letter of resignation from Rebecca Baker from her paraprofessional position at the Junior Senior High School effective February 23, 2024.

EMPLOYMENT – SUBSTITUTE, CLASSROOM MONITOR, GUEST TEACHERS

A motion to approve the following employment was moved by Miller, seconded by Hitesman.

Substitutes for the 2023-2024 School Year – Yvonne Lentz as a certified substitute and Auburn Segraves as a cafeteria substitute

Classroom Monitor for the 2023-2024 School Year – Ashley Bower

Guest Teachers through Blast IU for the 2023-2024 School Year – Amber Reese

Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – ATHLETICS

A motion to approve the following athletic employment was moved by Rupert, seconded by Miller.

- Baseball – Steve Sennett as Assistant Varsity Coach at \$2,947 and Chase Waller as JV Head Coach at \$2,500
- Boys Tennis – Theresa Summerson as Assistant Coach at \$2,823
- Softball – Cory Goodman as Assistant Coach at \$2,765, Claire Alexander, Adam Lorson, Scott Lowery, Chris Schuler, and Alexis Schuler as volunteers
- Track – Noah Hulslander as Head Coach at \$3,342, Matt DeBlander as 1st Assistant Coach at \$3,447, Dave Weaver as Assistant Coach at \$2,210; Jake Lusk as Assistant Coach at \$2,210, Curtis Anthony and Kerry Taylor as volunteers
- Boys Junior High Soccer – Chris Vanaskie as Head Coach at \$2,580
- Girls Junior High Soccer – Jane House as Head Coach at \$2,580, Marc Lovecchio as Assistant Coach at \$2,210, and Tracy Knoebel as volunteer
- Game Workers – Nick Koletar and Jean Lowery at \$30 per game

Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

SUBSTITUTE TRANSPORTATION DRIVER

A motion to approve Thomas Coon as a substitute bus driver for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year was moved by Miller, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE POLICIES – FIRST READING

A motion to approve the first reading of Policy No 200 – Enrollment of Students, Policy No 202 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students, and Policy No 217 – Graduation was moved by Rupert, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

2024-2025 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR – SECOND READING

A motion to approve the district’s proposed 2024-2025 school calendar for second reading was moved by Bachman, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

PROPOSED 2024-2025 IU#17 GENERAL OPERATIONS BUDGET

A motion to approve IU#17’s 2024-2025 General Operations Budget in the amount of \$3,310,911 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

2024 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO BLAST IU #17 BOARD

A motion to approve the recommended names to the Blast IU#17 Board to fill open terms was moved by Bachman, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

COURTESY TO THE FLOOR

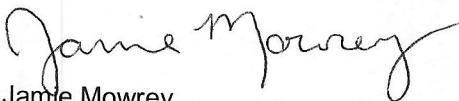
The following individuals spoke about the following topics

- Janice McEwen – security at board meetings and drama production

There will be an executive session following the board meeting regarding contract negotiations; no action to follow.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bachman, seconded by Miller. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary