

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 in the High School Audion. Present were Directors Edward Andres, Susan Baxter, Cedric Dettmar, Bryan Eichfeld, Michael Karabin, Tracy Magnotta and Sandra Miller and Dr. Shamim Pakzad. Also present were Dr. Craig B. Butler, Superintendent, David Bonenberger, Board Secretary, and Mark Fitzgerald, District Solicitor.

- I. **Call to the Order** – *Dr. Shamim Pakzad, President, presiding*
- II. **Recording of Attendance** – *David Bonenberger, Secretary*
8-present, 1-absent (Andres)
- III. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Director Eichfeld, seconded by Director Karabin moved to approve the Agenda. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Andres)
- IV. **Announcement of Executive Session** – December 10, 2019
- V. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only**
 - A. **Personnel**
 1. Approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Saucon Valley Board of School Directors and the Saucon Valley Education Association for a time period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 and one Memorandum of Understanding with two items.

Director Miller, seconded by Director Dettmar move to approve Personnel Item #1.

Director Andres arrived 7:06pm

Director Eichfeld commented that the rest of the district employees now have spousal coordination but it has not been addressed in this new teacher's contract. He also commented that the cost of the raises is more than the \$800-\$1000 shown due to step and column movement that each being between 2% - 2.75%. We are paying at the top in the valley and those costs drive tax increases so he will be voting no.

Director Welch reviewed statistics from the area regarding median income, property value, cost per student to educate, etc. He stated that we are one of the best performing districts in the valley. He commented if this contract is agreed to it will drive either a tax increase or possibly even result in a reduction of student services.

Director Miller stated that the teachers are what make this district tick. We have the second highest income in Northampton County. The district students continue to score high and we have been fiscally responsible in every possible way. For the board to short change those that make this district work would be an error in judgment and an inappropriate use of our power.

Director Dettmar commented that he shares the concerns that have been raised about the agreement; there are things he is concerned about. The coordination of benefits is a fairness issue. The agreement also has some pluses; there are some features there that will allow us to help control costs over the years. It is a good thing to get an early agreement and avoid the strikes of the past.

Director Karabin stated that the team did a lot of work and put in a lot of effort. His major concern is that he does not feel enough time was spent on negotiating and discussing through the whole process in more detail. At this point he is not going to support it.

Vote: 5-yes, 4-no (Andres, Eichfeld, Karabin, Welch)

Director Miller left the meeting 7:26.

VI. Citizen’s Inquiries and Comments – *Visitors should state their name and address.*

VII. Board Comments – Dr. Pakzad discussed a comment that was made by a Superintendent of another school district regarding parents that send their child to Lehigh Valley Regional Academy Charter School.

VIII. Announcements

Future Meetings ~

- January 14, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – Audion
- January 28, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – Audion
- February 11, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – Audion

IX. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Baxter moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

7:30pm

ATTEST: _____

Secretary

President