

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 in the High School Audion. Present were Directors Edward Andres, Susan Baxter, John Conte, Cedric Dettmar, Bryan Eichfeld, Michael Karabin, Tracy Magnotta, Dr. Shamim Pakzad, and Shawn Welch. Also present were Jaime Vlasaty, Acting Superintendent; Judith Riegel, Board Secretary and Mark Fitzgerald, District Solicitor

- I. **Call to the Order** – 7:00 pm - *Dr. Shamim Pakzad, President, presiding*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance** – *Judith Riegel, Secretary*
9-present, 0-absent
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Director Baxter, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve the agenda with the addition of two addendums. The first addendum would replace Education Item #1. The second addendum would replace Finance Items #3 & 4.
Vote: 9-yes, 0-no
- V. **Announcement of Executive Session** – December 7, 2021- After meeting adjournment and December 21, 2021 – Settlement Agreement & Personnel Matters
- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – Director Eichfeld, seconded by Director Karabin moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2021. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no
- VII. **Recognition** – None
- VIII. **Presentation** –
 - A. High School Student Representative Report – Avia Weber
 - B. ESSER – Jaime Vlasaty
- IX. **Superintendent’s Report** – *Jaime Vlasaty, Acting Superintendent* – Mrs. Vlasaty informed the Board that at the vaccination clinic held at the district on December 16th 50 people received their Covid-19 vaccine and 15 people received their booster shot. The next clinic is on January 6, 2022.
- X. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only** –
 - P. Silverthorn – Asked about the total number of people surveyed and the items on the agenda under Education.
 - J. Meilinger – Commented on the health & safety guidelines, quarantining and masking.
- XI. **Presentation of Bills** – *David Bonenberger*
 - A. General Expenditures – \$874,934.13
 - B. Cafeteria Expenditures – \$33,385.33
 - C. Health Benefits – \$245,730.27
 - D. Capital Projects – None

1. Approve the above presentation of bills.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve the Presentation of the Bills. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

XII. Treasurer’s Report – Cedric Dettmar/David Bonenberger

- A. Cash Investment and Bond Activity
- B. Condensed Board Summary Report
- C. Capital Project Finance Report
- D. Budget Transfers – \$3,000.00
- E. Middle School Activity Report – None
- F. High School Activity Report – November 30, 2021

1. Approve the above Treasurer’s Report.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve the Presentation of the Bills. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

XIII. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Education

- A. Health & Safety Plan

Director Andres, seconded by Director Eichfeld move to amend the agenda to add the following. To take a vote to get the sense of the Board those provisions of Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantining are to be interpreted as a recommendation and not as a mandate. Further directing the administration and solicitor review the Health & Safety Plan and advise any changes that need to be made consistent therewith.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

Director Andres, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve taking a vote to get the sense of the Board those provisions of Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantining are to be interpreted as a recommendation and not as a mandate. Further directing the administration and solicitor review the Health & Safety Plan and advise any changes that need to be made consistent therewith.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

- ~~4. Rescind the charter renewal for the Lehigh Valley Academy Regional Charter School.~~

1. Approve the attached Lehigh Valley Academy Regional Charter School addendum.

Director Welch, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve Education Item #1. Vote: 7-yes, 2-no (Andres, Karabin)

2. Approve the attached agreement between Saucon Valley School District and Pennsylvania State University regarding participation of Pennsylvania State University students in practicum experiences or student teaching at SVSD.
3. Approve the agreement between the Saucon Valley School District and Lehigh University regarding participation of Lehigh University students in practicum experiences of student teachers, field experience students and student observers at SVSD.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Baxter moved to approve Education Items # 2 & 3. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

4. Approve the Saucon Valley Chamber Choir trip to Carnegie Hall NY, or an alternate location, on April 1-3, 2023. There is no cost to the district. All fundraising will be done by the Saucon Valley Chamber Choir members.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Magnotta moved to approve Education Item # 4 with the addition of "or an alternate location". Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

5. Approve the Saucon Valley Senior Class trip to Philadelphia, or an alternate location on May 20, 2022. There is no cost to the district. All fundraising will be done by the Saucon Valley Senior Class.

Director Andres, seconded by Director Karabin moved to approve Education Item # 5 with the addition of an alternate location. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

The Board is concerned about vaccine discrimination and would like updates as the planning of the trips progresses.

B. Personnel

1. Approve the following maternity leave request:

Kelly Lozowski, elementary special education teacher, beginning approximately March 14, 2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. She plans on using 1 personal day prior to beginning of FMLA leave, followed by an unpaid leave until the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Lozowski will return to her teaching duties at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

2. Approve the following 2021-2022 substitute teachers:

Deirdre Morales – Business Ed– Available as of January 17th

3. Approve Eileen Dolphin as a LTS School Nurse (B, Step 1) for the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Dolphin will be in for Maryellen Prager who will be on sabbatical leave.

4. Approve the resignation of Jeanne Reilly, middle school social studies LTS, who is in for Amy Pulli. Ms. Reilly's last day will be on January 13, 2022.
5. Approve an extension for Jeremy Patterson, Maintenance, to his unpaid medical leave until January 14, 2022.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve Personnel Items #1-5.
Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

C. Facilities

A. Facility Committee Summary – December 8, 2021

D. Finance

A. Finance Committee Summary – December 15, 2021

2022-2023 Budget Timeline for the 2021-2022 School Year

January 27, 2022 (110 days prior to primary election) - *District Deadline* to have the 2021-22 Proposed Preliminary Budget available for public inspection; or adopt a Resolution not to raise the rate of any tax by more than its index.

February 1, 2022 (5 days after Resolution adoption) – *District Deadline* to submit adopted Resolution and proposed tax rate increases to the Department of Education.

February 6, 2022 (10 days prior to Preliminary Budget adoption deadline) – *District Deadline* to give public notice of intent to adopt the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget unless a Resolution was adopted indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax by more than its index.

February 16, 2022 (90 days prior to primary election) – *District Deadline* to adopt the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget unless a Resolution was adopted.

February 21, 2022 (85 days prior to primary election) – *District Deadline* to submit the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget containing proposed tax rate increases to the Department of Education.

May 31, 2022 - *District Deadline* to adopt the 2021-2022 proposed final budget and upload the signed Certification of Use of PDE-2028 into the Consolidated Financial Reporting System application.

June 10, 2022 (20 days prior to final budget adoption deadline) – *District Deadline* to make the 2021-2022 Proposed Final Budget available for public inspection on PDE-2028.

June 20, 2022 (10 days prior to final budget adoption deadline) – *District Deadline* to offer public notice of its intent to adopt the 2021-2022 final budget.

1. Motion to accept and approve the vendor(s) for fuel oil for the 2022-2023 school year as to be recommended by the Northampton/Monroe/Pike County Joint Purchasing Board and to be approved by the Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 Board of Directors at the January 2022 regularly scheduled meeting.

2. Approve retrofit of the High School Stage HVAC, replacing the outside condenser, inside cooling coil and updates controls for \$49,698 coming from Fund Balance.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve Finance Items #1 &

2. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

- ~~3. Approve repairs to 35,000 square feet of the Middle School roof, cost not to exceed \$500,000.00, coming from Fund Balance.~~
- ~~4. Approve repairs to an additional _____ square feet of the Middle School roof, cost not to exceed \$ _____, coming from Fund Balance~~
5. Approve an increase of the substitute custodial hourly rate to \$18.00 per hour.

Director Welch, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve Finance Item #5.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

6. Authorize the administration to develop and appropriately advertise a public bid for the 35,000 sqf. Middle School Roof Project. The bid shall also include alternates for an additional total roof repair project covering 65,000 sqf. Accepting or rejecting of any bid shall require further action by the Board of School Directors at a subsequent School Board meeting.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve Finance Item #6.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

E. Community Updates

- **SV Partnership** – *Michael Karabin and Shawn Welch*
- **Hellertown/Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce** – *John Conte*
- **Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation** – *Tracy Magnotta*

F. Northampton Community College – *Susan Baxter*

G. Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School – *Cedric Dettmar and Bryan Eichfeld*

H. Colonial Intermediate Unit – *Bryan Eichfeld*

I. New Business

J. Old Business

XIV. Citizens' Inquiries and Comments –

A. Ramsberger – Commented about Covid testing, types of tests and inaccuracies in testing.

E. Stern – Commented on high school being ignored in discussions and school trips/discrimination.

H. Gress – Commented on audience & board members not following the Health & Safety Plan.

B. Patterson – Commented on masking and parental choice

R. Mules – Commented that the discussion tonight was great and the week of not masking was great.

J. Meilinger – Commented on masking and what the children are losing by wearing them.

P. Silverthorn – Asked about grading impact on students during quarantine, what is being done for mental health issues.

XV. Announcements

Future Meetings ~

January 11, 2021 – High School Audion

January 25, 2021 – High School Audion

XVI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Director Welch, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

9:41 AM

ATTEST: _____

Secretary

President