

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 in the High School Audion. Present were Directors Edward Andres, Susan Baxter, John Conte, Cedric Dettmar, Bryan Eichfeld, Michael Karabin, Dr. Shamim Pakzad, and Shawn Welch. Director Tracy Magnotta was absent. Also present were Jaime Vlasaty, Acting Superintendent; Judith Riegel, Board Secretary and Mark Fitzgerald, District Solicitor

- I. **Call to the Order** – 7:03 pm - Dr. *Shamim Pakzad, President, presiding*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance** – *Judith Riegel, Secretary*
8-present, 1-absent (Magnotta)
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Director Karabin, seconded by Director Welch, moved to approve the agenda. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)
- V. **Announcement of Executive Session** – January 25, 2022 - Special Education Legal Issues, Support Contract, Personnel Updates
- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – Director Karabin, seconded by Director Eichfeld, moved to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)
- VII. **Recognition** – None
- VIII. **Presentation** – None
Board President Pakzad stated that the first round of Superintendent interviews have been completed. The Board will be moving to the next phase of the process next week.
- IX. **Superintendent's Report** – *Jaime Vlasaty, Acting Superintendent*
Mrs. Vlasaty reported that Kindergarten registration will open on February 7, 2022. The position of Special Education Director is open and there is a pool of 19 candidates and the interviews will begin next week and hoping to have a candidate to present to the Board in February.
- X. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only** –
 - J. O'Brien – Commented on wanting mask optional regardless of case count.
 - A. Ramsberger – Commented on wanting mask optional, the increase of suicide rate, Covid misinformation and how Saucon was the leader in having children in school.
 - C. Komoroski – Commented on wanting optional masking, feels parents have been patient and it's time for optional masking.
 - R. O'Brien - Commented on wanting optional masking and the damage we are doing to children when the visualization of the mouth is taken away.
 - R. Mules – Commented on wanting optional masking, trusts the board to make the right decision.

H. Gress – Commented on wanting masking to protect his family and it is a small price to pay for any measure of protection.

S. Houck – Commented on the Elementary School Math in Focus curriculum.

Online Comments-

A. Kichline – Commented on the Health & safety Plan and does not want the board to change it.

B. Geyer – Commented on the Health & safety Plan and is in favor of optional masking.

XI. Presentation of Bills – David Bonenberger

A. General Expenditures – \$ 408,852.49

B. Cafeteria Expenditures – \$17,819.66

C. Health Benefits – \$404,154.77

D. Capital Projects – None

1. Approve the above presentation of bills.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Conte, moved to approve the Presentation of the Bills. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

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 - \$35,421.10

E. Middle School Activity Report - None

F. High School Activity Report – December 2021

1. Approve the above Treasurer’s Report

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Conte, moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

XIII. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Education

A. Academic & Personnel Committee Summary – December 20, 2021

B. Health & Safety Plan

Director Andres, seconded by Director Eichfeld, moved to amend the agenda to allow a motion to adjust the Health & safety Plan to have optional masking. Vote: 2-yes (Andres, Eichfeld), 6-no, 1-absent (Magnotta) Motion failed

Director Andres moved to amend the agenda to allow a motion to modify the Health & Safety Plan to change the threshold level of cases in tiered mitigation. Motion did not receive a second.

1. Approve Settlement Agreement for student 6986867298.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Eichfeld, moved to approve Education Item #1.
Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1- absent (Magnotta)

2. Approve the first reading of policies:
Policy 254 – Spanish Language Immersion Program
Policy 200.1 AR – Spanish Immersion Enrollment Procedures

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

B. Personnel

1. Approve the retirement of Troy Pearson, Maintenance, his last day will be February 1, 2022.
2. Approve the resignation of Mellissa Janis, high/middle school speech/language therapist; her last day was January 17, 2022.

Director Conte, seconded by Director Eichfeld, moved to approve Personnel Items #1&2. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

3. Approve Judy Zimmerman as a full-time bus driver at an hourly rate of \$27.02 for driving and \$10.00 for driving with benefits per the current Education Support Professionals Contract, effective upon completion of employment paperwork. This is a new full-time position.

Approve David Coyle and Christino Pomales to transfer from part-time drivers to full-time drivers with no change in hourly rate. Benefits are per the current Education Support Professionals Contract, effective immediately. Mr. Coyle is replacing Michael Stebelski who recently retired and Mr. Pomales is filling a new full-time position.

4. Approve Lesley McDaniel as a part time food service worker at an hourly rate of \$12.00 with benefits per the current Food Service Compensation & Benefits Agreement, effective upon completion of employment paperwork. Ms. McDaniel is replacing Diane Nickles who recently resigned.
5. Approve the following mentor beginning January 18, 2022. Salary is per the current professional agreement, which may be prorated if not a full year of mentorship:

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Inductee</u>
Jessica Sawchuck	Laura Hoch

6. Approve the following part time paraprofessionals, for 5.5 hours per day, 27.5 hours per week, \$19.67 per hour with benefits per the current Educational Support Staff Compensation and Benefits Plan, effective upon completion of employment paperwork.
Colleen Avia
Bryan Israel
7. Approve Michael Yoder as a high school social studies long term substitute, for the second semester of the 2021-22 school year. Base salary is \$54,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked.
8. Approve the following maternity leave request revision:
Samantha Faulkner, elementary special education teacher, beginning approximately March 14, 2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. She plans on using 1 sick days prior to beginning of FMLA leave, followed by an unpaid leave from approximately March 15, 2022 until the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Falkner will return to her teaching duties at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.
9. Approve the following 2021-22 spring coaches: *(New coaches are in italic)*
 - Boys Lacrosse:**
Nathaniel Brolsma - Head Coach - \$5226
 - Girls Lacrosse:**
Helen Deegan - Head Coach - \$5226
Erin Steskal - Assist. Coach - \$3171
Hanna Doerner - Assist. Coach - Volunteer
Todd Doerner - Assist. Coach – Volunteer
 - Baseball:**
Gary Laub - Head Coach - \$5600
Chris Moughan - Assist. Coach - \$1865.50
Mike Kiak - Assist. Coach - \$1865.50
Ty Kessler - Assist. Coach - \$1535
Justin Reiss - Assist. Coach - Volunteer
Robert Frey - Assist. Coach - Volunteer
 - Softball:**
Michael Barbera - Head Coach - \$5600
Nicole Barbera - Assist. Coach - \$3731
Brenda Hartzall - Jr. High Head Coach - \$2985
Abigail Ingaglio - Jr. High Assist. Coach - \$1035
 - Tennis:**
Dr. Michael Krentz - Head Coach - \$4106
Deb Philpotts - Assist. Coach - \$776
 - Track & Field:**
Edward Kolosky - Head Coach - \$5226
Brad Trembler - Assist. Coach - \$3731
Robert Davis - Assist. Coach - Volunteer
 - MS Soccer:**
Trent Seibert - Head Coach - \$2985

Director Conte, seconded by Director Eichfeld, moved to approve Personnel Items #3-9.
Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

C. Facilities

A. Facilities Committee Summary – January 12, 2022

D. Finance

A. Finance Committee Summary – January 19, 2022

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. Approve Resolution 2022-23 which states that the Saucon Valley School District will not increase any school district tax for the 2022-23 school year at a rate that exceeds the Index of 3.4% as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Director Welch, seconded by Director Dettmar, moved to approve Finance Item #1.
Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

2. Approve the federal standard business mileage rate from 56 cents per mile to 58.5 cents per mile beginning January 1, 2022, in accordance with the Saucon Valley Education Association Professional Contract and the Administrative Employment Agreement.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Dettmar, moved to approve Finance Item #2.
Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

3. Approve the purchase of replacement K-12 student iPads using funds from the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), total not to exceed the committed \$817,787.25.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Dettmar, moved to approve Finance Item #3.
Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

E. Community Updates

- **SV Partnership** – *Michael Karabin and Shawn Welch*
- **Hellertown/Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce** – *John Conte*
Chamber is discussing creating a scholarship for a High School Senior.
- **Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation** – *Tracy Magnotta*

F. Northampton Community College – *Susan Baxter*
NCC is in the midst of a search for a new President

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

H. Colonial Intermediate Unit – *Bryan Eichfeld*

I. New Business – Board President Pakzad asked Director Conte to serve on the Facilities Committee. Director Conte agreed.

J. Old Business – None

XIV. Citizens' Inquiries and Comments –

H. Gress – Spoke in support of the Hellertown Library and funding

J. O'Brien – Commented on masking, he wants to be the one to decide for his child.

S. Houck – Questioned how to get an item on the agenda

K. Gerstenberg – Commented on masking, wants Board to do what they know is right.

R. Mules – Commented on masking and why a decision has not been made yet.

XV. Announcements

Future Meetings ~

February 8, 2022

February 22, 2022

XVI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

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

Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

8:53 pm

ATTEST: _____
Secretary

President