

The Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, in the High School Auditorium. Present were Directors William Broun, Donald Carpenter, John Conte-online, Vivian Demko, Cedric Dettmar-online, Dr. Laurel Erickson-Parsons, Tracy Magnotta-online, and Dr. Shamim Pakzad, Jay Santos. Judith Riegel, Board Secretary; Mark Fitzgerald, District Solicitor; and Jaime Vlasaty, Superintendent.

I. Call to the Order – 7:10 pm - *Dr. Shamim Pakzad, President, presiding*

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Recording of Attendance – *Judith Riegel, Board Secretary*
7-present, 2-absent (Conte & Magnotta)

IV. Motion to Approve Agenda – Director Erickson-Parsons, seconded by Director Santos moved to approve the agenda. Vote: 7-yes, 0-no, 2-absent (Conte & Magnotta)

V. Announcement of Executive Session – Personnel & Special Education Legal Matter

VI. Approval of Minutes – Director Broun, seconded by Director Santos, moved to approve the minutes of July 23, 2024. Vote: 7-yes, 0-no, 2-absent (Conte & Magnotta)

VII. Recognition – None

Director Conte joined the meeting online – 7:13 pm

VIII. Presentation – SVSD Communication Plan 2024-2025 - Liam Goldrick, Donovan Group

IX. Superintendent's Report – *Jaime Vlasaty, Superintendent* –

Administration and staff have been busy with start of the year preparations for the 2024-25 school year.

1. Teachers have been attending professional development sessions on and off campus.
2. Many writing new curriculum for many of our classes both new and revised K-12
3. Many of our staff have returned to the schools to prepare their classrooms and spaces to welcome kids on August 21st.
4. Our custodian and maintenance crews have been working hard to ensure our facilities are exceptional for when our buildings finally open.

Administration has been working over the summer to hire long term substitutes and new positions- some of which you will see on the agenda this evening.

We have three LTS positions- Kali Stengall for Mrs. Betz and Zachary Rosamalia for Ashley Yestrumkus - high school. We also hired a yearlong ELD LTS, Linda Stiansen - elementary school.

David Micalrya- is our new Elementary Sped teacher

Jessy Sevrino- social worker

James Case is the Career Coordinator

Joseph Schoenley is the new 4th grade Spanish immersion teacher

Mr. Roberts will be returning to the Middle School and Mr. Chad Miller will be in middle school.

Based on enrollment numbers in classes we transferred and shared teachers between buildings.

Ms. Cheddar – Pd 2 HS to MS

Ms. Keeney – HS to MS

Ms. Loverdi – MS to HS

Mr. Schleicher – HS to MS

Ms. Palmer – ES to MS

Ms. Kern- (MS to HS)

Ms. Boushell- Pd 6 (shared)

Ms. Yestrumkus- Pd 5 (science support)

Mr. Koch- Pd 3 (remain at middle school)

Ms Schultz- Pd 1 (math support K-8)

Ms. Ruiz- (shared)

Ms. Sakastz (shared)

We have a math specialist, science support K-12, increased ELD support, increased reading support, separated college/ career, maintained low class sizes at our lower grade level, full time mental health support through District LSW, increased enrollment in our

HS art classes, STEM in our encore cycle at the elementary, new physical education course, two dual enrollment courses through Pitt and new AP courses.

We have 10 dedicated substitutes in our District to begin the year and 9 day to day substitutes and we continue to add them as the year goes on.

Next Board meeting, we will have updates on our facilities and Mr. Frey and Ms. Brodhead will provide updates on the new supports and safety measures for our students, teachers and staff.

I want to extend a thank you for everyone who has gone above and beyond this summer in preparing another great school year! We are set for the 21st and I hope to have some amazing updates from our first week of school at the next meeting as well!

X. Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only – None

XI. Presentation of Bills – David Bonenberger

- A. General Expenditures – \$ 1,895,268.49
- B. Cafeteria Expenditures – None
- C. Health Benefits – None
- D. Capital Projects – None

1. Approve the above Presentation of Bills.

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

XII. Treasurer’s Report – Donald Carpenter/David Bonenberger

- A. Cash Investment and Bond Activity - None
- B. Condensed Board Summary Report - None
- C. Budget Transfers – None
- D. Middle School Activity Report – None
- E. High School Activity Report – May & June 2024

1. Approve the above Treasurer’s Report.

Director Santos, seconded by Director Erickson-Parsons, moved to approve the Treasurers Report. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

XIII. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Education

- A. Academic & Personnel Committee Summary - August 7, 2024

1. Approve the following Student Handbooks:

High School Student Handbook

Middle School Student Handbook

Elementary School Student Handbook

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

2. Approve the first reading of the following policies:

Policy 709 - Building Security

Policy 805 - Emergency Preparedness and Response

Director Santos, seconded by Director Carpenter, moved to approve Education Item #2. Vote:8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

3. Approve the second and final reading of the following Policies

Policy 114 – Gifted Education

Policy 122 – Extracurricular Activities

Policy 123 – Interscholastic Athletics

Policy 123.1 – Concussion Management

Policy 123.2 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Policy 143 – Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools

Policy 144 – Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes

Policy 218 – Student Discipline

Policy 218.2 – Terroristic Threats/Acts

Policy 218.3 - Placement of Students Convicted-Adjudicated of Sexual Assault

Policy 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products

Policy 222-AR-0 – Tobacco and Vaping Products

Policy 222-AR-1 - Tobacco and Vaping Product Violation Parental Notification

Policy 226 - Searches

Policy 227 - Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia

Policy 227-AR-0 – Controlled Substance Paraphernalia

Policy 233 - Suspension and Expulsion

Policy 237 - Electronic Devices

Policy 309 – Assignment and Transfer

Policy 323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products

Policy 351 – Controlled Substance Abuse

Policy 351-AR-0 – Drug-Free Workplace Notice

Policy 351-AR-1 – Record of Reasonable Suspicion

Policy 409 – Assignment & Transfer

Policy 913.1 AR – Flyers

Policy 916 – Volunteers

Safe to Say Procedures

Director Erickson-Parsons, seconded by Director Carpenter, moved to approve Education Item #3. Vote:8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Magnotta)

Director Magnotta joined the meeting 8:08 pm.

Director Carpenter, seconded by Director Santos, moved to approve the amending Policy 409 by adding, “9. Provide the Board a public update and summary of the transfers and assignments prior to the school year in which the transfers are to be effective.” Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

Director Carpenter, seconded by Director Erickson-Parsons, moved to approve the amended Policy 409. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

B. Personnel

1. Approve the following long-term substitutes:

Kali Steingall as an Elementary Long-Term Substitute at Bachelors, Step 1, \$59,182.00, for the 2024-2025 school year.

Linda Stiansen as an ESL Long-Term Substitute in the Elementary School at Bachelors, Step 1, \$59,182.00, for the 2024-2025 school year. Effective upon completion of employment paperwork

Director Erickson-Parsons, seconded by Director Broun, moved to approve Personnel Item #1. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

2. Approve Joseph Schoenly as an Elementary Spanish Immersion Teacher at Masters +30, Step 14, \$97,744.00, effective upon completion of employment paperwork and release from current position.

Director Erickson-Parsons, seconded by Director Santos, moved to approve Personnel Item #2. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

3. Approve James Case as Career Coordinator at Bachelors Step 6, \$65,833. Start date to be determined upon release.
4. Approve the change of classification for Sherry Belskie from AA4 to AA5 at an hourly rate of \$20.79 and \$1.00 per hour increase effective July 1, 2024.
5. Approve the following mentors for the 2024-2025 school year. Salary is per the current professional agreement, which may be prorated if not a full year of mentorship.

Mentor

Kellie King
Kaitlin Dennington
Beth Ravier

Inductee

Kali Steingall
David Michaylira
Joseph Schoenly

6. Approve the following department/team leaders/grade level chairs for the 2024-25 school year. The stipend will be \$2,500 per position.

High School Department Chairpersons

Robin Heppenheimer – ELA
Cheri Chisesi – Mathematics
Jessica Friday – Social Studies

Kimberly Mertz – Science
Amber Sams – Related Arts
Megan Bath – Special Education

Middle School Department Chairpersons

Lynn Cheddar – ELA- Co-Chair (split stipend)
Lara McCarthy – ELA- Co-Chair (split stipend)
Amanda Holveck – Mathematics
Victoria Gazzana - Social Studies
Amie Geissinger – Science
Phillip Russell - Related Arts - Co-Chair (split stipend)
Meredith Lesney - Related Arts- Co-Chair (split stipend)
Dana Russo - Special Education

Elementary Grade Level/Department Chairpersons

Rebecca Harvey – Kindergarten
Jennifer Davison – Grade 1
Holli Conrad – Grade 2
Paige Hestand – Grade 3
Beth Ravier – Grade 4
Kaitlyn Dennington – Special Education Co-Chair (Split Stipend)
Brianna Barona – Special Education (Split Stipend)
Joanna Lemay – Related Arts

District

Katie Fisher – K-12 Guidance
Kassandra Diehl – K-12 Foreign Language
Leah Mickey – K-12 Reading
Megan Kern – K-12 ELD

7. Approve the following resignations:
Jacqueline Febbo, high school teacher, effective August 16, 2024.
Jessica Cummings, middle school teacher, effective August 8, 2024.
8. Approve Jessica Rasich as a full-time middle school administrative assistant with an hourly wage of \$18.53, AA3, and benefits per the current Administrative Assistants Compensation & Benefits Plan pending completion of employment paperwork.
9. Approve the attached Addendum to the current Educational Support Staff to add the classification of Registered Behavioral Technician.
10. Approve the following individuals as Part-time Instructional Paraprofessionals \$20.98 an hour, effective upon completion of employment paperwork:
Danielle Frain
Molly Kroboth
Mason Stewart

11. Approve Scott Correll as a Part-time Non-Instructional Paraprofessional at \$20.18 an hour, effective upon completion of employment paperwork.
12. Approve Angela Muzzicato as a Part-time Registered Behavior Technician - Instructional Paraprofessional at \$25.00 an hour, effective upon completion of employment paperwork.
13. Approve the following individuals on the Theatre Teams:
 - High School Theater Team
 - Lex Donatelli – High School Director (Fall & Spring) - \$6,775
 - Vicki Marie Van Hise – Asst. Musical Director - \$1,400
 - Elizabeth Trostle – Musical Choreographer - \$1,900
 - Vicki Marie Van Hise – Musical Vocal Director - \$1,850
 - Jonathan Girton – Musical Set Construction/Design - \$2,100
 - Middle School Theater Team
 - Kendra Schessler – 6-8 Musical Director - \$5,250
 - Calista Unger - 6-8 Asst. Musical Director - \$2,000
 - Elementary School Theater Team
 - Kendra Schessler – 3-5 Musical Director - \$3,500
 - Calista Unger - 3-5 Asst. Musical Director - \$2,000
 - Kendra Schessler – K-2 Musical Director - \$1,250
 - Calista Unger - K-2 Asst. Musical Director - \$2,000
14. Approve the following additions to the substitute teachers list for the 2024-2025 school year:
 - Regina Albano Lorraine Grosset Thomas Roney
15. Approve Nancy Bohnhorst for a medical leave. She will be going out on August 8, 2024, and will use 10 sick days before enacting FMLA, which will run concurrently with her paid time off. Her return is October 3, 2024, or earlier if released by her physician.
16. Approve the retirement of:
 - Linda Framhein, Full Time K-12 Technology Assist., effective January 3, 2025.
 - Katherine Jackson – Full Time Paraprofessional – effective August 5, 2024
17. Approve the resignations of the following individuals:
 - James Chisesi, Part-Time Paraprofessional - effective July 31, 2024
 - Annette Kacerik – Part-Time Food Service – effective August 6, 2024
18. Approve the following Co-curricular Advisors for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - Robert Svitilla – Robotics (grades 9-12) - \$6,500
 - Robert Svitilla – Robotics (grades 7/8) - \$5,000
 - Robert Svitilla – Robotics (grades 5/6) - \$2,160

Deb Kimball – FCCLA – Volunteer
 Benjamin Broadhead - Marching Band Section Tech – Volunteer
 Hailey Pudliner - Marching Band Section Tech – Volunteer
 Trinity Oakes - Marching Band Section Tech – Volunteer

19. Approve the following 2024-2025 Fall Athletic Coaches:
 Amya Rivera-Soto- Head MS Volleyball- \$3,000
 Ashley Rostkowski- Assist MS Volleyball- \$1,000
 Lauren Musselman- Assist Varsity Field Hockey- \$3,150
 Cole Schamber- Asst Varsity Boys Soccer- \$1,700
 Kris Horton – Asst. Boys Soccer - \$1,700
 Melissa Parsons – Asst. Varsity Volleyball - \$3,200
 Leann Markwalter- Cross Country - Volunteer
20. Approve Ashely Yestrumkus for Educational Sabbatical for the Spring Semester of 2024-2025 school year.

Director Erickson-Parsons, seconded by Director Dettmar, move to approve Personnel Items #3-20. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

C. Facilities

1. Approve the 2024-2025 bus routes and bus drivers subject to change based on enrollment.
2. Approve the attached list of Surplus/Obsolete items.

Director Erickson-Parsons, seconded by Director Santos, move to approve Facilities Items #1 & 2. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

D. Finance

1. Authorize Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 255 Front Street in Hellertown Borough and further identified as tax parcel identification number Q7SW3A 8 13 0715 exempting the property from real estate taxation for tax year 2024 (School District tax year 2024-2025) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property pursuant to applicable law.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Carpenter, move to approve Finance Item #1. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1 – abstain (Erickson-Parsons)

2. Approval of the proposed agreement with Mind of An Athlete, LLC. and the Saucon Valley School District for athletic programming for the 2024-2025 school year.

Director Erickson-Parsons, seconded by Director Demko, move to approve Finance Item #2. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no,

3. Approve the change of bid thresholds in Policy 610 per the PA Department of Labor.
4. Approve the following contracts with Colonial IU 20:
Alternate and Regular Education Transportation
One-on-One Services
5. Approve the agreement with Bancroft for educational services for student #2808931603 for the 2024-2025 school year.
6. Approve the attached credit change order for the HV/AC project.

Director Erickson-Parsons, seconded by Director Carpenter, move to approve Finance Item #3-6. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no,

7. Approve the Saucon Valley School District's proposed revision to the BAVTS Articles of Agreement.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Conte, move to approve Finance Item #7.

Director Demko, seconded by Director Santos, called to end discussion.
Vote: 6-yes, 3-no (Carpenter, Pakzad, Santos)

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Conte, move to approve Finance Item #7.
Vote: 7-yes, 0-no (Demko, Santos)

8. Motion to appoint a negotiating team consisting of Dr. Shamim Pakzad, Mr. William Broun, and Mr. Donald Carpenter to negotiate the BAVTS agreement between Saucon Valley School District, Bethlehem Area School District, and Northampton Area School District.

Director Carpenter, seconded by Director Erickson-Parsons, move to approve Finance Item #8.

Director Carpenter, seconded by Director Santos moved to amend the agenda for Finance #8, to replace William Bourn with Laurel Erickson-Parsons.
Vote: 8-yes, 1-no (Demko)

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Conte, move to approve the amended Finance Item #8. Vote: 8-yes, 1-no (Demko)

E. Community Updates

- **Hellertown/Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce** – *John Conte* – None

- **Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation** – *Tracy Magnotta* - None

F. Northampton Community College – *Susan Baxter* - None

G. Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School – *Vivian Demko & Cedric Dettmar* – The first reading of the Comprehensive Plan was approved.

H. Colonial Intermediate Unit – *Dr. Shamim Pakzad* - None

I. PSBA Representative – *Donald Carpenter* - Commented on the upcoming PSBA elections.

J. New Business - None

K. Old Business - None

XIV. Citizens’ Inquiries and Comments –

H. Ziegler – Commented on Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School Agreement.

XV. Announcements

Future Meetings ~

August 27, 2024 – 7 pm – Business Meeting – High School Audion

September 10, 2024 – 7 pm – Business Meeting – High School Audion

XVI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Board President Pakzad adjourned the meeting.

Time: 10:05 pm

ATTEST _____

Secretary

President