

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Freeport Area School District Board of School Directors scheduled for 7:30 pm in the Audion of the Freeport Area High School, 625 South Pike Road, Sarver, Pennsylvania, was called to order by Mr. Gary Risch, Jr., Board President, at 7:39 p.m.

Roll call:

Ms. Davies	Present
Mr. DiGiacobbe	Present
Mr. Haven	Present
Mr. Huth	Present
Ms. Maxwell	Present
Mr. Risch	Present
Mr. Ritter	Present
Mr. Selinger	Present
Ms. Zembrzuski	Present

### *Student school board members:*

Madalin Burnheimer	Absent
Sylvia Crytzer	Present
Kodi Esau	Absent
Aven Heavner	Present
Anne Lindsay	Absent
Emma Michelini	Absent

Administrators present were Mr. Magness, Superintendent; Mr. Robb, Program Director; and Mr. Walker, Director of Finance and Operations. Also participating was District solicitor Mr. Matthew Hoffman.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Risch welcomed members of the public.

James Swartz of Freeport Borough commented on Personnel agenda item 3.d., for the hiring of Athletics staff and on meeting start times.

### Reports

1. It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Selinger, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 8, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
2. The Board Secretary reported that the Board met as follows since the last report to the Board at the Regular Meeting on November 8, 2023: The Board met in Executive Session on December 6, 2023, to discuss Safety and Security, Personnel, and Contracts and Negotiations, and Confidential Student Matters.

The Board held its Organization Meeting followed by a Committee Meeting on December 6, 2023. The Board met in Executive Session on December 13, 2023, to discuss Safety and Security, Personnel, and Contracts and Negotiations Matters.

3. Mr. Risch thanked the members for the opportunity to serve as Board President. He announced the following 2024 committees of the Board and the committee members:

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Haven, Chair  
Ms. Maxwell (liaison with local government)  
Mr. DiGiacobbe

School Safety Committee:

Mr. DiGiacobbe, Chair  
Mr. Huth  
Mr. Ritter

Athletics Committee:

Mr. Selinger, Chair  
Ms. Zembrzuski  
Ms. Davies

Building Project Committee:

Mr. Ritter, Chair  
Mr. Haven  
Ms. Maxwell

Budget Committee:

Mr. Haven, Chair  
Ms. Maxwell  
Mr. Huth

FASD Foundation Representative: Ms Zembrzuski

Student School Board Representative: Ms. Zembrzuski

4. Mr. Huth reported that Lenape Technical School's joint operating committee would meet the following week.
5. Mr. Magness noted that the Board would be voting on a replacement for Mr. Haven as ARIN District Representative at the January meeting.
6. Mr. Haven presented his Legislative report.
7. Ms. Zembrzuski reported that the FASD Foundation met earlier in the week.

8. The Student School Board Members presented their reports to the Board.

Personnel

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. Haven,

- a. To accept the attached resignation of Jennifer B. Harris, Educational Assistant, effective November 29, 2023.
- b. To approve the request of Employee No. 2353 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.
- c. To approve the request of Employee No. 2230 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.
- d. To approve the employment of the paid and volunteer individuals listed on the attachment for the District's Athletics Programs during the 2023-2024 school year, with salaries in accordance with contracted terms of remuneration approved by the Board and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Huth,

- a. To approve the submission of the attached PlanCon Part J - Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for the Freeport Area Middle School Project to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- b. To approve the attached Homestead/Farmstead Contract with Government Software Services, Inc., for data processing services to be provided during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, at a cost of \$0.40 for each mailer prepared and \$100 for each pdf emailed.
- c. To accept the attached proposal from Andrew M. Smith, dba Hooch Excavation, for snow removal services to be provided during the 2023-2024 school year, for the fees listed on the proposal.
- d. To accept the attached proposal from Mailki Mechanical Snow & Ice Management, for snow removal services to be provided during the 2023-2024 school year, for the fees listed on the proposal.
- e. To approve the attached Lease and Operating Agreement with Small Impressions Childcare, Inc., for the lease of space in the Kelly Building from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, with basic monthly rental of \$900, increasing by 3% per year upon renewal.

- f. To approve the District's 2023-2024 membership in the ABC CREATE (Alle-Kiski Best Practices Collaborative Community Robotics Education and Technology Empowerment) Program, at a cost of \$2,500 to be paid out of grant funding.
- g. To approve the renewal of the District's annual membership in the Alle-Kiski Strong Chamber for 2024, at a cost of \$275.
- h. To authorize Administration to enter into joint purchasing agreements with other school districts or intermediate units in Pennsylvania for purchases for the 2024-2025 school year and on approving the attached resolution authorizing Administration to enter into the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's joint purchasing program.
- i. To accept a Henninger Award Grant in the amount of \$2,500, for the Buffalo Elementary School.
- j. To accept two Bots IQ grants, each in the amount of \$250, from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Tooling & Machining Foundation to be used to cover the cost of transportation and items for the High School robotics team.
- k. Action on approving the attached letter of intent for acceptance of a Mobile Science and Mathematics Education Program Grant to provide Merlyn Mind's AI-powered voice assistant technology, and approving the participation of District staff in three teacher surveys, the collection of usage data, and the conduction of certain staff interviews.
- l. Action on accepting \$1,000 from First National Bank of Pennsylvania in recognition for the High School's placing second in student participation in the First National Bank Financial Literacy Challenge, with the funds to be used for High School athletics programs.
- m. Action on approving a Stipulated Adjudication for Student A, as recommended by Administration.

Motion carried unanimously.

### Finance

Mr. Walker provided an overview of the attached Finance Report.

It was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Mr. Haven,

- a. To approve the attached November 2023 financial reports.
- b. To approve the bills for payment listed on the attachments.

- c. To approve the attached list of budgetary transfers.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meetings

Mr. Risch announced that the Board would hold a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the High School Audion. He noted that the Board would not hold a Committee Meeting in January.

Comments from the Public

James Swartz of Freeport Borough commented on the District's building projects. Amanda Findon of Buffalo Township commented on the District's girls soccer program.

Comments from the Board

Mr. Haven commented on Pennsylvania House Bill 1422.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Selinger, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Risch declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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/s/ Gary L. Risch, Jr.  
Board President

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/s/ Mary Dobransky  
Board Secretary