

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 14, 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. Adam Toncini, Board President, at 7:36 p.m.

Roll call:

Ms. Bollinger	Present
Ms. Davies	Present
Mr. Haven	Present
Mr. Huth	Present
Dr. Prazenica	Present
Mr. Risch	Present
Mr. Selinger	Present
Mr. Toncini	Present
Ms. Zembrzuski	Absent

Administrators present were Mr. Magness, Superintendent; 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. Toncini requested a motion to add *Personnel* item 3.f., *Other Business* item 7.v., and *Finance* item 8.n. to the agenda, as permitted under Section 712.1(c) of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act:

3.f. Action on directing Administration to post and solicit applications for an additional Grade 2 Teacher position at Buffalo Elementary School.

7.v. Action on approving the terms and conditions in the attached proposal from Tech Defenders for the purchase/buy back of 1400 used Chromebooks at a minimum payout to the District of \$14,248.

8.n. Action on awarding liability insurance coverage for the 2023-2024 school year to Travelers Insurance Company, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. for the premium amount of \$13,881.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Huth, to add *Personnel* item 3.f., *Other Business* item 7.v., and *Finance* item 8.n. to the agenda, as read. Motion carried on a vote of seven (7) to one (1), with Mr. Risch voting *No* on the motion to add the read-in items to the agenda.

Mr. Toncini welcomed members of the public. He solicited public comment on the items on the posted agenda and the three (3) read-in items. James Swartz of Freeport Borough

commented on agenda items 7.e. and 8.m. Sylvia Maxwell of Buffalo Township commented on agenda item 7.e.

Reports

1. It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr Huth, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 3, 2023, and the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 10, 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 May 10, 2023: The Board met in Executive Session on June 7, 2023, to discuss Safety and Security, Personnel, and Contracts and Negotiations Matters. The Board held a Committee Meeting on June 7, 2023. The Board met in Executive Session following the June 7, 2023, Committee Meeting to discuss Safety and Security and Personnel Matters. The Board met in Executive Session on June 14, 2023, to discuss Personnel and Contracts and Negotiations Matters.
3. Mr. Toncini noted that information for the Building Committee would be provided in the near future.
4. Mr. Huth reported that Lenape Technical School's joint operating committee would meet the following day.
5. Dr. Prazenica reported that the Armstrong Indiana (ARIN) Intermediate Unit's board had no major problems.
6. Mr. Selinger reported that Spring seasons had officially ended. He commended the District athletic director on improved communications between the Athletics Office and the Athletics Committee.
7. Mr. Haven reported on Pennsylvania General Assembly House Bill 1331 to amend the Public School Code to establish the Educator Pipeline Support Grant Program, which would provide a stipend for student teachers.
8. Ms. Bollinger reported that the Freeport Area School District Foundation's 2023 Golf Outing would be held on September 17, 2023, and the Foundation is accepting applications for sponsorships and foursomes for the Outing.

Personnel

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

- a. To accept the resignation of Lauren R. Alcorn, Educational Assistant, effective May 25, 2023.
- b. To accept the resignation of Rebecca J. Abel, Educational Assistant, effective May 25, 2023.

- c. To approve the employment of the individuals listed on the attachment as Professional Learning Mentors for the 2023-2024 school year, with salaries in accordance with contracted terms of remuneration approved by the Board.
- d. To approve the employment of the individuals listed on the attachment as Substitute Custodians, from June 12, 2023, through August 18, 2023, at the rates provided on the attachment.
- e. 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.
- f. Action on directing Administration to post and solicit applications for an additional Grade 2 Teacher position at Buffalo Elementary School.

Motion carried unanimously, with the exception of *Personnel* item f. Mr. Risch voted *No* on *Personnel* item f.

Curriculum and Technology

It was moved by Ms. Bollinger, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- a. To approve the attached student handbooks/codes of conduct for the 2023-2024 school year.
- b. To approve the attached assessment schedule for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Athletics and Activities

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

- a. To approve the request of Jennifer A. Dell, South Buffalo Elementary School Play Director, for approval of the 2023-2024 South Buffalo Elementary School student production of:

a play: *The Enchanted Bookshop*

- b. To approve the request of Robert W. Harris, Buffalo Elementary School Musical Director, for approval of the 2023-2024 Buffalo Elementary School student production of:

a musical: *Peter Pan, Jr.*

- c. To approve a performance by the District's Marching Band at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, on August 7, 2023.
- d. To approve Action on approving the participation of Donald W. Dell, Jr., Special Services Coordinator, in the 2023 Pennsylvania Community of Practice Transition Conference to be held on August 9 and August 10, 2023, in State College, Pennsylvania, as described on the attachment, at a cost to the District of \$656.85.
- e. To approve the participation of High School students in the Foundation Cross Country Invitational to be held on September 23 and September 24, 2023, in Hershey, Pennsylvania, as described on the attachment, at no cost to the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

Policy

It was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Dr. Prazenica,

- a. To approve the adoption of the attached revised School Board Policy No. 137 (Home Education Programs).
- b. To approve the adoption of the attached revised School Board Policy No. 137.1 (Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students).
- c. To approve the adoption of the attached revised School Board Policy No. 137.2 (Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students).
- d. To approve the final adoption of the attached new School Board Policy No. 137.3 (Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students).
- e. To approve the tentative adoption of the attached new School Board Policy No. 830.1 (Security of Computerized Personal Information - Breach Notification).

Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

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

- a. To approve the appointment of the firm of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. as school board solicitor for the 2023-2024 school year as per the firm's attached proposal dated May 25, 2023.

- b. To approve the election of Todd Luke as the Lenape Joint Operating Committee and Armstrong County Area Vocational-Technical School Board Treasurer for a one (1) year term expiring on June 30, 2024.
- c. To approve the appointment of Children's Community Pediatrics as elementary and secondary school physicians for the 2023-2024 school year at an annual rate of \$5,000.
- d. To approve the appointment of Adam Associates as school district dentists for the 2023 2024 school year at an annual rate of \$150, plus the cost of supplies not to exceed \$100.
- e. To approve the attached Agreement with Buffalo Township for police officer traffic control services to be provided during the 2023-2024 school year, at an hourly rate per officer of \$100.
- f. To approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Buffalo Township Police Department for school years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.
- g. To approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the South Buffalo Township Police Department for school years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.
- h. To approve the attached Agreement with Armstrong Indiana (ARIN) Intermediate Unit 28 for Licensed Professional Counselor services to be provided during the 2023-2024 school year, at a cost to the District not to exceed \$80,000.
- i. To approve the attached Mutual Aid Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Management with the other districts and vocational technical schools in Armstrong and Indiana counties.
- j. To approve the attached Services Agreement with The Day School in Pittsburgh (The Day School at The Children's Institute) for educational services to be provided to resident students whose IEPs provide for alternative educational placements, for a term from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with fees as provided on Exhibit A to the Agreement.
- k. To approve the attached Agreement with Merakey Pennsylvania for educational services which may be provided to resident students from August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, in accordance with the students' IEPs, with costs to the District as provided on Exhibit A to the Agreement.
- l. To approve the attached Clinical Support Tuition Service Agreement with Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc., for services to be provided to a resident student in accordance with the student's IEP during the 2023-2024 school year, at a cost to the District of \$23,110.

- m. To approve the attached Addendum #6 to the Contractual Agreement with Pressley Ridge for Special Education Services to be provided during the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$27,300 per semester and \$5,300 for extended school year services, with any one-on-one aid services to be provided at an additional rate of \$21,625 per semester and \$4,325 during an extended school year.
- n. To approve the attached proposal and Master Terms and Conditions agreement with Active Internet Technologies, LLC, d/b/a Finalsite, for website hosting and maintenance services to be provided from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, at a cost of \$3,900 for 2023-2024, \$4,200 for 2024-2025, and \$4,500 for 2025-2026.
- o. To accept the attached proposal from School Health Corporation, for automated external defibrillator (AED) service, maintenance, and inspection services, from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, at a cost of \$2,640.
- p. To accept the attached proposal from James D. Miller & Sons for masonry repairs to the Buffalo Elementary School, at a cost of \$13,610.
- q. To accept the attached proposal from Butler Stone Craft, Inc., for the purchase and delivery of materials for masonry repairs to Buffalo Elementary School, at a cost of \$10,154.62
- r. To accept the attached proposal from Pittsburgh Painting Corp. for painting the Maintenance Building, at a cost of \$14,300.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Dr. Prazenica, and seconded by Mr. Haven,

- s. TO TABLE a motion to accept the attached proposal from GreenCore LLC for installation of a metal roof on the District's salt bin, at a cost of \$12,892.02.

Motion TO TABLE *Other Business* item s. carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Risch, and seconded by Ms. Bollinger,

- t. To accept the DonorsChoose.org donation for the Buffalo Elementary School Project: "Stupendous Special Education" described on the attachment (Total Project Cost \$131.50).
- u. To accept the DonorsChoose.org donation for the Freeport Area Middle School: "Make Learning Fun" described on the attachment (Total Project Cost \$384.74).

- v. To approve the terms and conditions in the attached proposal from Tech Defenders for the purchase/buy back of 1400 used Chromebooks at a minimum payout to the District of \$14,248.

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance

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

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

- a. To approve the attached May financial reports.
- b. To approve the bills for payment listed on the attachments.
- c. To approve the attached list of budgetary transfers.
- d. To authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to make final year-end 2022-2023 budgetary transfers, which will be reported to the Board for approval in September 2023, as recommended by the state auditor.
- e. To approve the student activity accounts listed on the attachment for the 2023-2024 school year.
- f. To award property and casualty insurance coverage for the 2023-2024 school year to Utica Mutual Insurance Company for the premium amount of \$74,398, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- g. To award workmen's compensation insurance coverage for the 2023-2024 school year to Encova Insurance for the premium amount of \$61,755, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- h. To award environmental liability insurance coverage for the 2023-2024 school year to Ironshore Specialty Insurance Co. for the premium amount of \$13,033, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- i. To award umbrella liability insurance coverage for the 2023-2024 school year to Utica/Graphic Arts Mutual Insurance Company for the premium amount of \$10,861, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- j. To award auto liability insurance coverage for the 2023-2024 school year to Utica Mutual Insurance Company for the premium amount of \$3,495, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Dr. Prazenica,

- k. To adopt the proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year on form PDE 2028 as presented to the School Board as a Final Budget for the School District General Fund in the amount of \$37,314,528 (3.00% and 69.02 mills for Armstrong County and 2.85% and 170.30 mills for Butler County).

Motion carried, on a vote of five (5) to three (3), with Ms. Davies, Dr. Prazenica, and Mr. Risch voting *No* on *Finance* item k.

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Ms. Bollinger,

- l. To approve the attached Annual Tax Levy Resolution providing for the levy of taxes for school purposes for the school year beginning July 1, 2023, subject to the provisions of the Local Tax Collection Law and in accordance with the tax rates approved on Form PDE-2028.
- m. To authorize a homestead and farmstead real estate tax assessment exclusion for the school year beginning July 1, 2023, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), in accordance with the attached resolution and the tax rates approved on Form PDE-2028.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- n. To award liability insurance coverage for the 2023-2024 school year to Travelers Insurance Company, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. for the premium amount of \$13,881

Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meetings

Mr. Toncini announced that the Board would not hold any meetings in July and would hold a Special Meeting and Committee Meeting on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 7:30 pm in the High School Audion and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 7:30 pm in the High School Audion.

Comments from the Public

Sylvia Maxwell of Buffalo Township commented on the District's website. Dino DiGiacobbe of Buffalo Township commented on the District's Special Services office. James Swartz of Freeport Borough commented on uncollected taxes and coach training. Daniel Lucovich of Buffalo Township commented on social media postings.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Ms. Davies, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Toncini declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

/s/ Adam M. Toncini
Board President

/s/ Mary Dobransky
Board Secretary