

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Special Voting Meeting  
August 6, 2020 – Virtual  
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Special Voting Meeting on Wednesday, August 6, 2020, on Zoom, a virtual meeting platform, with Mr. Jim Tunstall, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 6:06 p.m.

Board Members Present:

- Mrs. Suzanna Donahue
- Mr. James Fisher
- Mr. Tim Gapsky
- Dr. April Kwiatkowski
- Mr. Jason Machajewski
- Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich
- Mrs. Eileen Phillips
- Mr. Steve Romac
- Mr. James Tunstall

Others Present:

- Mr. Sean Aiken, Superintendent
- Dr. Bryan O’Black, Assistant Superintendent
- Ms. Sherri Ludwig, Director of Business Affairs
- Dr. Kathleen Graczyk, Director of Student Services
- Mr. Matt Hoffman, Solicitor

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

- Mr. Tunstall opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m.
- Mr. Tunstall recognized the Public to Speak on Agenda Items.
  - There was none.
- Mr. Tunstall then called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and invited all in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- On a motion by Mr. Gapsky and a second by Mrs. Donahue, the following motion was approved by all in attendance:
  - Motion to suspend any applicable Shaler Area School District policies in order to authorize the conduct of this special voting meeting of the Board of School Directors via telephone conference in consideration of the public health concerns and governmental directives arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Notice of such action, along with information as to how members of the public may access the telephone conference meeting, previously was posted at the District Administration office and to the District website.
- Mr. Tunstall then announced items tabled or removed from the agenda:
  - There were none.
- On a motion by Dr. Kwiatkowski and a second by Mrs. Petrovich, the agenda was approved by all Board members in attendance.

Dr. O’Black then presented the following Education Items for approval:

<u>ITEM #</u>	<u>EDUCATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP #</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
A.1	Approve the Shaler Area School District Back-to-School Task Force Report and Health & Safety Plan per the requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.	A.1	<u>Back-to-School Task Force Report and Health &amp; Safety Plan</u>
A.2	Approve a resolution whereby the Board of School Directors finds and declares that the COVID-19 pandemic is an emergency within the meaning of Section 520.1 of the Pennsylvania School Code. Upon approval, the Board authorizes the Superintendent and directs that the Resolution be sent to the Secretary of Education for approval.	A.2	<u>Emergency Declaration</u>
A.3	In accordance with the District’s reopening plan, approve September 8, 2020 as the revised first day of school for the 2020-21 school year. <i>Note: The Board will approve a revised school calendar at the August 19, 2020 regularly scheduled voting meeting.</i>		<u>Revised First Day of School</u>

A motion was made by Mrs. Phillips with a second by Dr. Kwiatkowski, to approve Items A.1-3.

Dr. Kwiatkowski said she heard from some teachers who indicated a preference for a Sept. 2 start because additional professional development days are not available with a Sept. 8 start. Mr. Aiken clarified that there are so many contracted professional development days but the Sept. 8 start gives teachers additional time outside of required professional development to prepare for the start of the school year. Mr. Gapsky asked if the administration has discussed the plan with the teachers. Mr. Aiken said they have been meeting with the association’s leadership and talked about the Sept. 2 and 8 start date. The association liked the idea of pushing the start date and did not indicate a preference. Mr. Craig Wells, president of the teachers association, said the teachers are willing to be flexible to create a plan that is best for the students. Mr. Wells said they were on board with having additional time to create the best educational experience for the students. After no further discussion, these items were then approved by a roll call vote.

ACTION:  
Approved  
Items A.1-3

Motion Carried: 9 aye; 0 nay

Donahue	Fisher	Gapsky	Kwiatkowski	Machajewski	Petrovich	Phillips	Romac	Tunstall
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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- Mr. Tunstall then announced the following upcoming meetings:
  - Wednesday, August 12, 2020 – Combined COW/Voting Meeting
    - Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.
    - Public Session – 7:15 p.m.
  - Wednesday, August 19, 2020 – Voting Meeting
    - Executive Session – 6:15 p.m.
    - Public Session – 7:15 p.m.
  
- Mr. Tunstall then asked if there was any other business to come before the board.
  - Mr. Tunstall thanked everyone for the time and effort that went into the reopening plan. He said he knows many teachers have been working over the summer to prepare and are ready for a great year.
  - Dr. Kwiatkowski acknowledged how imperative it has been for the school board, administration and teachers association to work well together.
  - Mr. Wells said they will continue to work as hard as they can to make sure the students have the education they have always had.

After no further items were presented, on a motion by Mr. Gapsky and second by Mrs. Petrovich, the Business Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Mr. Tunstall then recognized the public to speak on any non-agenda item:

- There was none.

When no one else approached to speak, the meeting's Final Adjournment occurred at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Baker  
Assistant Board Secretary