

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT*

*Voting Meeting*

*October 20, 2021 – Hybrid*

*Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Voting Meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, in a hybrid format, in person at the Shaler Area Administration Building, Glenshaw, PA, and on Zoom, a virtual meeting platform, with Mr. James Tunstall, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 7:27 p.m.

Board Members Present:               Mrs. Suzanna Donahue  
  Mr. James Fisher  
  Mr. Tim Gapsky  
  Dr. April Kwiatkowski  
  Mr. Jason Machajewski  
  Mrs. Eileen Phillips  
  Mr. Steve Romac  
  Mr. James Tunstall

Not Present:                               Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich

Others Present:                         Dr. Bryan O'Black, Assistant Superintendent  
  Ms. Sherri Ludwig, Director of Business Affairs  
  Mr. Matt Hoffman, Solicitor

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

- Mr. Tunstall opened the meeting at 7:27 p.m.
- Dr. O'Black then recognized staff and administration from the Shaler Area Elementary School to present on programs in the building. Principal Ian Miller introduced assistant principals Venice Piveronas and Heather Berney, as well as teachers Jamie Weber, Lisa Wiley, Chrissy Gurekovich, Elizabeth Myros, Matthew Johnston, and Janelle Cugliari. The team presented information on programs in place for the fourth-grade transition from the primaries, lunch and recess changes, the math curriculum and social studies curriculum, Titan Time, SWPBIS, and connecting with the community.
- Mrs. Donahue asked about the curriculum writing process, something Dr. O'Black explained happens in a 5-year cycle K-12 as the state adopts new standards. Mrs. Donahue also asked if there is consistency with academics between primary schools as students enter the Elementary building. Mr. Miller said every building has its own personality so there is always an adjustment but all students are well-prepared for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Mrs. Donahue also said that her children really enjoyed the lunch with teachers program.
- Mr. Tunstall then recognized the Public to Speak on Agenda Items.
  - There was none.
- Mr. Tunstall then called the meeting to order at 8:16 p.m. and invited all in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- On a motion by Mr. Romac and a second by Mr. Gapsky, the following Minutes were approved by all in attendance:
  - Voting Meeting – September 8, 2021
  - Committee of the Whole Meeting – September 8, 2021
  - Voting Meeting – September 15, 2021

*October 20, 2021 – Voting Meeting*

- On a motion by Mr. Romac 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 Mr. Gapsky and a second by Mrs. Donahue, 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</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
A.1	Approve the Waterfront Learning Contract for the 2021-22 school year.	A.1	<u>Waterfront Learning Contract</u>
A.2	Approve the AmeriCorps Host Site Agreement for the 2021-22 school year at a cost of \$14,300 per member. Three members (Reserve, Marzolf, Elementary School) for a total cost of \$42,900.	A.2	<u>AmeriCorps Host Site Agreement</u>
A.3	Approve an Addendum to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Services Agreement for the 2021-22 school year.	A.3	<u>AIU Services Agreement Addendum</u>

A motion was made by Mr. Romac with a second by Mrs. Donahue, to approve Items A.1-3.

After no further discussion, these items were then approved by a roll call vote.

Motion Carried: 8 aye; 0 nay

ACTION:  
Approved  
Items A.1-3

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

Dr. O’Black then presented the following Personnel items for approval:

<u>ITEM #</u>	<u>PERSONNEL ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP #</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>						
B.1	Approve the following <b>Resignation:</b>		<u>Resignation</u>						
a.	Jeanine Arrigo, Class II Paraprofessional, Elementary School, effective retroactive to the end of the workday October 8, 2021.								
B.2	Approve the following <b>Retirement:</b>		<u>Retirement</u>						
a.	Sylvon Jackson, Class II Paraprofessional, Middle School, effective at the end of the workday on November 30, 2021.								
B.3	Approve the following PT .5 <b>Professional Employee (PE):</b>		<u>PT Professional Employee</u>						
a.	Carrie Miller, a graduate of Chatham College, as a PT .5 PE School Counselor, Reserve Primary, effective on or about October 21, 2021, at a Master’s +30 Step 12 salary Level.	<b>B.3a.</b>							
B.4	Approve the following supplemental contract for <b>Department Chair</b> for the 2021-22 school year. Compensation will be in accordance with the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.		<u>Supplemental Contract – Department Chair</u>						
a.	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>DEPARTMENT/GRADES</b></th> <th><b>NAME</b></th> <th><b>BLDG.</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Social Studies 7-8</td> <td>Frank Bacco</td> <td>Middle School</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>DEPARTMENT/GRADES</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>BLDG.</b>	Social Studies 7-8	Frank Bacco	Middle School		
<b>DEPARTMENT/GRADES</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>BLDG.</b>							
Social Studies 7-8	Frank Bacco	Middle School							
B.5	Approve the following <b>Intern</b> for the 2021-22 school year:		<u>Intern</u>						
a.	Marissa Damon, Geneva College, as a Guidance Intern, with Lezlie DelVecchio-Marks, Burchfield & Reserve Primaries, effective for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2021-22 school, at no cost to the District.	<b>B.5a.</b>							
B.6	Approve the following supplemental contracts for <b>Sponsors</b> for the 2021-22 school year:		<u>Supplemental Contract – Sponsors</u>						
a.	<p><b>HIGH SCHOOL</b></p> <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Band-Percussion Instructor</td> <td>John West (retroactive to 8/27/21)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Band-Percussion Instructor	John West (retroactive to 8/27/21)	<b>B.6a.</b>					
Band-Percussion Instructor	John West (retroactive to 8/27/21)								
B.7	Approve the following supplemental contract for <b>Head Varsity Coach</b> for the <b>Winter</b> Season of the 2021-22 & 2022-23 school years:		<u>Supplemental Contract – Head Varsity Coach</u>						
a.	<p><b>Wrestling (Winter)</b></p> <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Head Varsity (2-yr contract)</td> <td>Drew D’Agostino</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Head Varsity (2-yr contract)	Drew D’Agostino						
Head Varsity (2-yr contract)	Drew D’Agostino								
B.8	Approve the following supplemental contracts for <b>Assistant Coaches</b> for the Winter Season of the 2021-22 school year:		<u>Supplemental Contract – Assistant Coaches</u>						

**BASKETBALL (WINTER)**

- a. Boys Varsity Assistant Anton Constantino
- b. Boys JV Shawn Hartle
- c. Boys 9<sup>th</sup> Assistant Doug Kepreos
- d. Boys 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Assistant Bradley Tambellini
- e. Boys 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Assistant Ron Phillips
- f. Girls Varsity Assistant Paul Jenkner
- g. Girls JV Kelsey Bradford
- h. Girls 9<sup>th</sup> Assistant Carly Lutz
- i. Girls 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Assistant David Spell
- j. Girls 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Assistant Amanda Grady
- k. Girls Volunteer Coach Paige Quinn

**B.8h.**

**SWIMMING (WINTER)**

- l. Boys Assistant Stephen Seidelson
- m. Girls Assistant Kia Wirth

**INDOOR TRACK (WINTER)**

- n. Boys/Girls Assistant Tim Storino

**WRESTLING (WINTER)**

- o. Head 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Robert Taylor

B.9 Approve the following **Day-to-Day Substitute Teachers** for the 2021-22 school year:

Day-to-Day  
Substitute – Teachers

- a. Diane Kochanowski, Elementary Education (retroactive to 9/23/21)
- b. Kaitlyn Maher, Special Ed PK-8, Grades PK-4, Special Ed Expansion 7-12 (retroactive to 8/25/21)
- c. Amber Randol, English 7-12, Middle-level English 7-9, Special Ed. PK-8 (retroactive to 10/19/21)

B.10 Approve the following **Day-to-Day Substitute Clericals** for the 2021-22 school year:

Day-to-Day  
Substitute – Clerical

- a. Amanda Sites (retroactive to 9/30/21)
- b. Teresa Deah (SASD retiree)
- c. Emily Perry (retroactive to 10/12/21)

A motion was made by Mr. Fisher with a second by Mr. Romac, to approve Items B.1-10.

After no further discussion, these items were then approved by a roll call vote.

ACTION:  
Approved  
Items B.1-10

Motion Carried: 8 aye; 0 nay

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

Ms. Ludwig then presented the following Finance Items:

<u>ITEM</u> #	<u>FINANCE &amp; OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP</u> #	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>	
C.1	<b>APPROVE FUND PROFILES:</b>			
	A. General Fund – Schedule of Bills and Addendum	C.1A	<u>Fund Profiles</u>	
	B. Cafeteria Fund – Schedule of Bills	C.1B		
	C. 2019 Bond Fund – Schedule of Bills	C.1C		
	D. Year-to-Date Financial Reports	C.1D		
	E. Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1E		
C.2	Approve additional ABC Transit, Inc. Bus Drivers for the 2021-22 school year.	C.2	<u>ABC Transit Bus Drivers</u>	
C.3	Approve additional Exception Request for the 2021-22 school year.	C.3	<u>Exception Request</u>	
C.4	Approve the Resolution authorizing the incurring of non-electoral debt by the Shaler Area School District, for the purposes of refunding prior debt of the District, possibly financing various capital projects of the District and paying the costs of issuing the bonds; authorizing the incurring of non-electoral debt by the issuance of Shaler Area School District, General Obligation Bonds, (Federally Taxable) Series A of 2021 and (Federally Taxable) Series B of 2021, and all necessary parameters as attached in the full resolution.	C.4	<u>Resolution to Refund Prior Debt</u>	
C.5	Approve a three-year contract with Maher Duessel, CPA in the amounts as follows:	C.5	<u>Maher Duessel Contract</u>	
		2021	2022	2023
	Audit Services	\$23,000	\$23,650	\$24,300
	Consulting (year-end closeout) Hourly	\$ 105	\$ 105	\$ 105
C.6	Approve an additional bus stop.	C.6	<u>Additional Bus Stop</u>	

- Ms. Ludwig introduced Randy Frederick, with Piper Sandler, and Ron Brown, with Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote P.C., to answer any questions about the bond refinancing.
- Mr. Frederick said the district is in a unique situation with interest rates being so low and two bond issues that are refundable. The net savings could be about 8 percent and individuals typically refinance at 2 percent. The district could see a \$1.5 million savings if it takes the money upfront and structures to reduce the debt annually by \$110,000. The district can move the money anywhere in the budget and that is significant.
- Ron Brown said the resolution is very common. The district will move forward to get a rating for the bond and then move to close on the new bond.
- Ms. Ludwig said it is a great opportunity for savings on future budgets.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski confirmed that Mr. Hoffman reviewed the resolution. She also clarified information about the contract with Maher Duessel. Ms. Ludwig said Maher Duessel is doing end-of-the-year work and analysis right now.
- Mr. Romac asked for clarification on the new bus stop. Ms. Ludwig said it is about 350 feet from the current bus stop but on the opposite site of the street to improve safety.
- Mr. Gapsky asked about budgetary line items at Lowes and Home Depot, which Ms. Ludwig clarified were for classroom air conditioners. Dr. O’Black said they are for medical accommodations for employees in line with ADA requirements.

A motion was made by Mr. Romac with a second by Mr. Fisher, to approve Items C.1-4, 6.

After no further discussion, these items were then approved by a roll call vote.

Motion Carried: 8 aye; 0 nay

ACTION:  
Approved  
Items C.1-4,  
6

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

A motion was made by Mr. Fisher with a second by Mrs. Donahue, to approve Item C.5.

After no further discussion, this item was then approved by a roll call vote.

Motion Carried: 7 aye; 1 nay

ACTION:  
Approved  
Item C.5

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

*October 20, 2021 – Voting Meeting*

- Mr. Tunstall then announced the following upcoming meetings:
  - Wednesday, October 27, 2021
    - 6:00 p.m. – Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting
  - Wednesday, November 10, 2021
    - 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session
    - 7:15 p.m. – Committee of the Whole Meeting
  - Wednesday, November 17, 2021
    - 6:15 p.m. – Executive Session
    - 7:15 p.m. – Voting Meeting
  
- Announcement of Past Executive Sessions was made by Mr. Tunstall.
  
- Mr. Tunstall then asked if there was any other business to come before the board.
  - Mr. Romac requested a copy of the ABC Transit contract.
  - Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there was any report from the Boys & Girls Club about the program that the district helped support. She asked if the district can request a monthly report on how the money is being spent. She also asked about the number of charter school students. Ms. Ludwig said there were about 150 students last year and between 100 to 150 students this year. Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there was any effort to reach out to the families. Dr. O’Black said that the district does do that when it has the opportunity to do so, such as when a student withdraws. However, often times the decision to enroll in a charter school is a family decision. It is another alternative to homeschooling a child. The district only finds out about those students when the student enrolls. Dr. O’Black said that Eloise Milligan and Shannon Howard, who oversee the Shaler Area Virtual Institute (SAVI) have been focused on students in Shaler Area making the decision to stay virtual due to health concerns. He cautioned the board from thinking the number of charter school students could go to zero as there are many reasons for a child to attend a cyber/charter school.
  - Mrs. Donahue asked about how SAVI is going. Dr. O’Black said this is the time the district identified for students to make the decision to come back to in-person instruction. He said it is working for the families who have opted for that program. Mrs. Donahue asked if it was a long-term sustainable program. Dr. O’Black said it is designed to be sustainable. He said it is not for every student. He added that the district cannot allow a child to fail or show lack progress, and SAVI is not designed for every child but it will be evaluated by the district.
  - Mr. Gapsky asked if the district could explain Digital Promise and the League of Innovative Schools. Dr. O’Black said the district has a long relationship with Digital Promise. Its primary objective is to catapult districts to build equitable learning environments steeped in technology. The makerspace at the elementary school came out of an effort across the county to develop a research-based space funded in part by the Grable Foundation. This was the district’s initial entry into Digital Promise. Recently, the district was accepted into the League of Innovative Schools along with 125 districts nationwide. The program is focused on equitable education services for all students in all schools at all levels. The League of Innovative Schools gives the district the opportunity to talk to people across the country to continue this work. He said it is something to be proud of.

After no further items were presented, on a motion by Mr. Romac and second by Mr. Gapsky, the Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

- Mr. Tunstall then recognized the public to speak on any non-agenda item:
  - Bryan Whitaker, of Dorf Drive, said there are concerns in the community with Digital Promise and language on its website that emphasizes dismantling white supremacy and promoting equality in education. He requested a conversation with Dr. O’Black. He also commented on the conversations about charter schools seem to be focused on money, but the best way is to outcompete with the charter schools.

Dr. Kwiatkowski said the charter schools have no accountability and are not held to standards by the state. She argued that its apples and oranges and there are no checks and balances.

- Crystal Lehmeier, of Hillwood Road, said the Elementary School is doing an amazing job. She said that she has a transportation concern with her bus being 45 minutes to an hour late. She said she is not sure where the breakdown in communication is happening. Dr. O'Black said when the district knows that a bus is going to be late, the district institutes an email notification. He said he will follow up with the transportation department. Ms. Lehmeier said she will email the details of her situation.
- Jennifer Rausch, of Sollinger Lane, asked what her family is to do if her son has to be quarantined and there isn't an online option. Dr. O'Black said the district is in the process of finalizing a plan for how that will be handled moving forward. He said there will not be a virtual option like last year. If a student is quarantined, it's an excused absence because the district is issuing that quarantine.
- Crystal Corfield, of Seavy Road, said there are people in the community that are concerned that Digital Promise is pushing Critical Race Theory based on the information on its website. Mr. Tunstall said it is something that deserves to be looked into. Dr. Kwiatkowski said the information is about equity. She said that Digital Promise is not a curriculum; it's a collaborative organization. Different school districts have different racial make ups. She said she can see why the language might be upsetting but Digital Promise is not coming into Shaler Area to educate the students. They are recognizing Shaler Area for the efforts that it has made in equity for all students.
- Heather Schneider, of Wimar Circle, said she has a high school student who has struggled with eating. There are signs posted around the high school cafeteria about calories counting and calories matter, and it was triggering for her. She said she is concerned, given the body image concerns at that age group, that it may be impacting other students. She asked who she should reach out to with her concerns. Dr. O'Black said the best place to start is the grade level principal or school counselor.

When no one else approached to speak, the meeting's Final Adjournment occurred at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Baker  
Assistant Board Secretary