

Minutes of the November 9, 2022 Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors held in the Shippensburg Area Senior High School Library, 201 Eberly Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257.

OPENING

Call to Order

Mr. Mark Buterbaugh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

On roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Mark Buterbaugh, President; Mr. Charles Suders, Vice President; Mr. Jim Bard; Mr. Dwayne Burt; Mr. Levi Cressler; Mrs. Steph Eberly (via Zoom/telephone); Dr. Nathan Goates (via Zoom/telephone); Mr. Fred Scott, Sr.; and Mrs. Becky Wolfinger. Lily Kell, Student Representative; and Aryan Gaonkar, Student Representative; were absent.

Others present were: Mr. William August, Superintendent; Dr. Alan Moyer, Interim Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Deborah Luffy, Shippensburg Area Senior High School Principal; Dr. Troy Stevens, Technology Coordinator; Ms. Sarah Fanus, Athletic Director; parents; teachers; concerned citizens; and Mrs. Cristy Lentz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Moment of Silence

The Board held a moment of silence to reflect on their thoughts, plans and actions on behalf of the students in the Shippensburg Area School District.

(Action)

Agenda Approval

On motion of Suders, seconded by Burt to approve tonight's agenda.

On roll call, all present voted to approve tonight's agenda.

(Information)

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Dave Lindenmuth, resident of S.A.S.D., S.A.S.H.S. Guidance Counselor, and District Safety Coordinator, spoke in support of the Administration's recommendation to partner with the Borough of Shippensburg option for an SRO/SPO position. He stated District Counselors and Principals are also in favor of this option. He noted benefits to working with the Borough as incidents which occur in school sometimes spill over to after school and vice versa. He noted the unique dynamics involved since the district is a split-county district.

Daren Donovan, resident of S.A.S.D., spoke on behalf of a citizen unable to attend tonight's meeting. This individual is in support of G-Force as they can provide multiple officers, can oversee events beyond school hours, and the costs are more in line with the District's budget.

Daren Donovan, resident of S.A.S.D., inquired if the entire District falls within the Borough and asked if all schools will receive equal coverage.

(Action)

ACTION AGENDA

On motion of Burt, seconded by Suders to approve the following Action Agenda item:

School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

- The Administration recommends the Board provide authorization to enter into formal negotiations with the Shippensburg Borough Council to establish a School Resource Officer Program with the Shippensburg Borough Police Department.

Mrs. Eberly strongly believes we should not enter formal negotiations with the Borough as she feels they cannot meet our needs and this decision is not fiscally responsible. She acknowledged she does support an SRO/SPO but not this option.

Mr. Scott noted he served as Chief of Police for the Borough of Shippensburg for 17 years and has concerns the District may not be satisfied with their choice. He commented on historical funding levels for the Borough Police Department while he was in service. He noted he solicited funds for his department from outside organizations while he was the Chief of Police.

Mrs. Wolfinger clarified the cost for the partnership with the Borough of Shippensburg, noted one-time expenses, and noted the salary and benefits are still being negotiated. She feels creating our own police force could open us up for additional liability. She stressed the importance of moving forward verses an always looking back mentality and the importance of building partnerships within the community.

Mr. Scott noted the Borough of Shippensburg is currently in negotiations with the Borough Police Department.

Mr. Cressler noted he is in support of this topic for the last 10 months and was hoping this would have been in place for the start of the 22/23 school year. He acknowledged everyone does believe there is a need for an SRO/SPO position. He noted he does support the District potentially creating their own police force down the road. He appreciates Dr. Moyer's efforts in moving this item forward and he appreciates all of the meetings regarding this topic as well as everyone's time moving through this process.

On roll call, all present voted yes except **Bard, Eberly, and Scott** who voted **no**.

(Information)

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS REGARDING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Eberly commented on the technical difficulties tonight while trying to participate via Zoom.

Mr. Buterbaugh stated he thought the technology issues had been fixed but will ask Administration to continue to look into this.

Executive Session


Mr. Buterbaugh announced there would be an Executive Session immediately following tonight's Special Meeting to discuss Personnel and Student Matters.

INFORMATION

November 14, 2022 - Board of School Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior High School Library

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Burt, seconded by Suders to adjourn at 6:19 p.m.



Cristy Lentz
Board Secretary