

Minutes of the August 11, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors held in the Shippensburg Area Middle School Cafeteria, 101 Park Place, Shippensburg, PA 17257.

## OPENING

### Call to Order

Mr. Mark Buterbaugh called the meeting to order.

### Roll Call

On roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Mark Buterbaugh, President; Mr. Charles Suders, Vice President; Mr. Jim Bard; Mrs. Erica Burg; Mr. Dwayne Burt (left during Citizens Comments regarding agenda items – approximately 6:30 p.m.); Dr. Nathan Goates; Dr. Michael Lyman; and Dr. Geno Torri. Mr. Fred Scott, Sr. was absent.

Others present were: Dr. Chris Suppo, Superintendent; Mr. Joseph Wachter, Director of Operations and Maintenance; Mrs. Tina Clever, Human Resources Director; Mrs. Teri Mowery, Shippensburg Area Intermediate School Principal; Jo Ann Negley, Accounting Comptroller (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.); parents; teachers; concerned citizens, and Mrs. Cristy Lentz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary (arrived at 8:00 p.m.)

### Moment of Silence

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

## CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Buterbaugh noted that he is going to allow Citizens to comment on non-agenda items at this time.

The following concerned citizens spoke regarding the motion from the floor made at the August 9, 2021 Planning/Action Meeting which implemented a mandatory mask wearing policy to begin for all students and staff at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year: Jeremy Stouffer, Sara Willis, Leah Donovan; Leah Fleming, Daren Donovan, Kristy Wagner, Seth Knorr, Jason Nell, Matt Gesell, Corey Reed, Holly Durst, Kathy Ruth, Donald Kail, Erin Gatrell, Hope Gatrell, Becky Wolfinger (Representing the Voice for Choice Group), Samantha Wright, William Gardner, Holly Peck, Becky Grosskreutz, Will Brown, Amanda McNair; Chris Jackson, Steve Cena, Andrew Byrne, Tyler Jumper, Davon Weaver, Jill Hubbard, Lauren Davis, Troy Beam, Tamara Smith-Moore, Cathy Helman, Eric Anderson, Melissa Yinger, Andrea Weaver, and Stephanie Etter.

The Board of School Directors held a 5 minute recess after Citizens Comments and before proceeding to tonight's agenda topics.

### **(Information)**

### Feasibility Study

Mr. Buterbaugh announced that the Feasibility Study presentation listed as a Discussion Agenda in tonight's agenda, will be **postponed** until Monday, August 30, 2021.

(Action)

Agenda Approval

Mr. Buterbaugh asked if there were any changes or amendments to tonight's agenda.

Dr. Suppo provided information regarding the following **amendments** to tonight's agenda:

- 1) Under #4, Consent Agenda, #3B "Personnel – Professional Staff, Item #1, the pending appointment of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher at the James Burd Elementary School has been **removed** from tonight's agenda.
- 2) Under #4, Consent Agenda, #3B "Personnel – Professional Staff, Item #2, the pending appointment of **Maggie Staver** as Special Education Teacher at the James Burd Elementary School has been **added** to tonight's agenda.
- 3) Under #4, Consent Agenda, #3B "Personnel – Professional Staff", Item #3, the appointment of **Bethany Mohney** as Special Education Teacher has been **added** to tonight's agenda.
- 4) Under #4, Consent Agenda, #3B "Personnel – Supplemental Staff:, Item #22, the appointment of **Amanda Kirkpatrick** as Grade K-8 Gifted Support Teacher has been **added** to tonight's agenda.

On motion of Suders, seconded by Bard to approve tonight's agenda as **amended**.

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

(Action)

ACTION AGENDA

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

Agreement with Capital Area Intermediate Unit #15 for English Language Development (ELD) and English as a Second Language (ESL) Services

- Administration recommends approval of the agreement with the CAIU for English Language Development (ELD) and English as a Second Language (ESL) services for the 2021/2022 school year.

Cost of services is \$105.00/hour - a \$5.00 per hour increase from 2020-2021

On roll call, all present voted yes to this Action Agenda item.

(Action)

ACTION AGENDA

On motion, **from the floor**, by Torri, seconded by Bard to approve the following Action Agenda item:

Special Meeting

- The Board call a Special Meeting, before school starts for the students, and have the item placed on the Action Agenda for discussion and vote on the options available for mask wearing.

Mr. Buterbaugh asked Dr. Torri and Mr. Bard if they would be willing to **amend** their motion for the Special Meeting to occur on August 16, 2021. Both Dr. Torri and Mr. Bard agreed to amend their motion as noted below.

**Special Meeting (AMENDED)**

- The Board call a Special Meeting on **August 16, 2021**, before school starts for students, and have the item placed on the action agenda for discussion and vote on the options available for mask wearing.

On roll call, all present voted yes to this **amended** Action Agenda motion **from the floor**.

**(Action)**

**ACTION AGENDA**

On motion of Bard, seconded by Suders to approve the following Action Agenda items:

**Personnel**

**Professional Staff**

- Administration recommends approval of the following new appointments:
  2. **Maggie L. Staver** – Special Education Teacher at the James Burd Elementary School, effective TBD, dependent upon her release from her current school district, at a status quo salary of \$70,907.00, Master’s 90/Step 6 (replacing Kevin G. Webber – transfer).

Mrs. Staver received her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology, with a Minor in Art, in June 2004 and her first Master’s, a Master of Science in Education in General Education, in June 2006, both from Elmira College in New York. She received her second Master’s, a Master of Science in Education in Special Education, in December 2011 from Shippensburg University. Mrs. Staver comes to the Shippensburg Area School District with a total of 20 years of behavioral health and special education teaching experience, spending the last 7 years as a Special Education Teacher with the Chambersburg Area School District.
  3. **Bethany A. Mohney** – Special Education Teacher at the Nancy Grayson Elementary School, effective TBD, dependent upon her release from her current school district, at a status quo salary of \$59,582.00, Master's/Step 4 (replacing Brianne D. Bream – transfer). Hiring is contingent upon the successful completion of all required clearances and paperwork.

Mrs. Mohney received her Bachelor's Degree from East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, in May of 2011. She received her Master of Science in Education, Educational Leadership, from Shippensburg University in May 2020. Mrs. Mohney worked one year as a Grades K-5 Autism Teacher in North Carolina before returning to Pennsylvania in 2012. She has most recently served the South Middleton School District as a Life Skills/Intensive Learning Support Teacher for the past six years.

4. **Julia M. Suchanek** – 4th Grade Teacher at the Shippensburg Area Intermediate School, effective August 16, 2021 at a status quo salary of \$52,752.00, Master's/Step 1 (replacing Vanessa K. O'Shea – resignation).

Ms. Suchanek received her Bachelor of Arts in History and Spanish from Lycoming College in May 2018. She received her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, along with a Pennsylvania certification of Early Childhood Grades PK-4, from Shippensburg University in August 2021. She completed her student teaching with the Carlisle Area School District, where she also served as a Building Substitute. She currently works as a private tutor for Spanish.

- Administration recommends approval of salary adjustments for the following professional staff members, having each successfully completed additional courses for a degree change and/or the achievement of a different credit hour level, effective the first pay of the 2021-2022 school year:

5. **Trisha A. Asper** – Master's 60
6. **Jocelyn M. Coy** – Master's 60
7. **Michele M. Dubbs** – Master's 90
8. **Jeremy D. Eastman** – Master's 30
9. **Eric J. Foust** – Master's 75
10. **Brandon A. Garcia** – Master's 75
11. **Dylan W. Herb** – Master's 30
12. **Jason W. Hoover** – Master's 75
13. **Krystal L. Johnson** – Master's 90
14. **John J. Kasarda** – Master's 45
15. **Christopher E. Martin** – Master's 45
16. **Kyle W. Meixell** – Master's 60
17. **Libby J. Staver** – Master's 90

18. **Curtis G. Stoner** – Master’s 45
19. **Kathryn W. Watts** – Master’s 45

**Support Staff**

- Administration recommends acceptance of the following resignations:
  20. **Stephanie A. McMichael** – Part-Time Head Cook at the James Burd Elementary School, effective retroactive to August 6, 2021.

**Supplemental Staff**

- Administration recommends approval of the following new appointment:
  21. **Elizabeth G. Boudier** – High School Assistant Volleyball Coach, at a supplemental salary of \$2,250.00, effective August 12, 2021 (replacing Grace Y. Hockenberry – resignation).
  22. **Amanda Kirkpatrick** - Grades K-8 Gifted Support Teacher for the Shippensburg Area School District, effective TBD, dependent upon her release from her current employer, at a status quo salary of \$60,377.00, Master's 60/Step 3 (replacing Chandler E. Johnson - resignation). Hiring is contingent upon the successful completion of all required clearances and paperwork.

Ms. Kirkpatrick received her Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education in Mathematics from the Pennsylvania State University in May 2004. She received her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, from Shippensburg University in August 2008. She continued her education and earned her Grades PK-12 Gifted Education Endorsement from Millersville University in June 2018. Ms. Kirkpatrick is currently enrolled in the Principal Certification Program with Shippensburg University. She joins the Shippensburg Area School District with over 12 years of educational experience.

On roll call, all present voted yes to these Action Agenda items.

**(Action)**

**ACTION AGENDA**

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

**Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program**

- Administration recommends approval to submit a grant through the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) to support the purchase of student Chromebooks for students in 6th grade and 9th grade for the 2022-2023 school year.

On roll call, all present voted yes to this Action Agenda item.

**(Action)**

**ACTION AGENDA**

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

**Approval to Participate in Consortium with the CAIU**

- Administration recommends approval to participate in a consortium grant with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU), to request funding through the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) to support acquiring broadband internet services to households within the district that do not currently have high speed internet access.

On roll call, all present voted yes to this Action Agenda item.

**(Action)**

**ACTION AGENDA**

On motion of Goates, seconded by Suders to approve the following Action Agenda items:

**Approval to Hire Additional Building Substitutes**

- Administration is requesting approval to hire an additional two (2) building substitutes through ESS to support district schools. Previously the Board of Directors approved a total of eight (8) building substitutes. The addition of these two (2) building substitutes will provide a total of ten (10) approved building substitutes for district schools.

**Invitation to Bid Approval**

- Administration recommends approval of the attached invitation to bid for student desks and chairs. Desks and chairs will be used at the Middle School and High School and purchased using ESSER grant funding as previously discussed. The successful vendor bid will be presented to the Board for final purchasing approval.

On roll call, all present voted yes to these Action Agenda item.

**(Information)**

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**Feasibility Study – Per announcement earlier in tonight’s meeting, this item is being postponed until August 30, 2021.**

Review Project Selection Matrix

Discuss District Projects

Discuss Contractor Projects

Bond Financing/Debt Service - Future Presentation

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Dr. Torri apologized for the misunderstanding and requested checking the minutes from the August 9, 2021 meeting to see that he asked if a motion was able to be made from the floor regarding a change to the district's mask policy. He commented he is ready to rescind his vote.

Dr. Goates commented he is disappointed with the wide spread misunderstanding of the district's Health and Safety Plan. He commented he holds the value of kindness and respect most dearly. He commented on his responses to e-mails and noted he has tried to respond respectfully.

Mr. Buterbaugh commented he wished the rest of the community was in attendance tonight and thanked the police for being at the meeting.

Mrs. Burg commented on the motion from the floor that occurred Monday, August 9, 2021 regarding the district's mask policy and noted the Board tried to act within the district's Health and Safety Plan. She also noted the Board wanted to be honest with the community of what would happen if a COVID outbreak would occur.

Mr. Suders noted he feels the comments made by Dr. Torri and Mrs. Burg summed up the situation.

Dr. Lyman reiterated that the vote regarding the masking mandate was dependent on current circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and also noted that things will continue to change and masking may not be permanent for the entire school year.

Mr. Buterbaugh thanked everyone for their public discussion and asked that it be kept civil as our teachers deserve that. He asked everyone to abide by the rules even if you do not agree with them.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mrs. Amanda McNair, resident of S.A.S.D., noted there was nothing noted on the August 9, 2021 agenda regarding masks and asked the Board to be careful about voting on items on listed on an agenda. She also requested meetings be livestreamed so they could be viewed online.

Mr. Buterbaugh noted the district is looking into livestreaming meetings.

Dr. Suppo noted the district is looking into livestreaming meetings but noted they will not be interactive. Those viewing it online would just see video and sound. They would not be able to comment.

Mr. Buterbaugh noted the public can submit comments to the Superintendent's office to be read at the next Special Meeting.

Mrs. Tamara Smith-Moore, resident and teacher in S.A.S.D., commented she attended the August 9, 2021 Board Meeting and noted the mask mandate went into effect because we are in a red zone as outlined in the district's Health and Safety Plan. She is concerned the district will adjust the Health and Safety Plan because of unhappy community members.

Dr. Suppo commented that normally Administration does not respond to citizen's comments but felt he needed to clarify that the Health and Safety Plan contains some area of ambiguity and some areas require thoughtful conversation around current circumstances of COVID-19 as it pertains to decision making.

Mrs. Teresa Reed, resident and employee in S.A.S.D., noted she appreciates the Board Members time and has personally talked with several of them. She noted they do not get paid for serving in this capacity and noted they are trying to do what is best for all our kids. She said their job is not easy. She thanked them for what they do. She also commented on the poor sound quality at the August 9, 2021 Planning/Action Meeting.

Mr. Troy Beam, resident of S.A.S.D., commented on OSHA guidelines for mask wearing and stated the N95 masks do not keep out the viruses, just bacteria.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Suders, seconded by Torri to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

  
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Cristy Lentz  
Board Secretary