

**MINUTES
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 14, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Canton Area School District Board of Education was held on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Our President, Mrs. Judy Sourbeer, called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance, and reminded the audience to please sign in if they had not done so.

All stood and recited the Pledge to the Flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Judy Sourbeer, President; Mr. Ryan Allen, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Mike Herman, Mr. Scott May, Mrs. Krista Jennings, Mr. Neal Palmer, and Mr. Denny Sourbeer.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent; Mr. Mark Jannone, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Mr. Michael Wells, Elementary School Principal; Mr. Craig Coleman, High School Principal; Attorney Richard Sheetz, District Solicitor; Mr. Dan Coran, Support Services Director; Ms. Brianne Ostrander, Newspaper Reporter; Ms. Deb Fitzwater, District Teacher; Mrs. Nichole Ambruch.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Krista Jennings and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 2019.

Voice Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Mr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, reported on the following items:

- On March 13th, five superintendents from Bradford and Tioga Counties will be meeting with the new Head of the Education Committee, Curtis Sonny. Topics to be covered during this visit include: teacher effectiveness, cyber school costs, and special education costs.
- Last week, the Governor gave his annual budget address. Some highlights included: Early Intervention - \$14 million supplemental for 2018-19, and an additional \$15 million for 2019-20. This comes extremely close to PAIU's request to resolve the structural deficit in the program; BEF - \$200 million increase. The plan proposed to also shift \$240 million of Ready to Learn Block Grant to the BEF subsidy; special ed - \$50 million increase; Pre-K Counts - \$40 million increase; Head Start - \$10 million increase; CTE - \$10 million increase; services to non-public - flat funded.
- Mr. Darryl Jannone has spent time over the last month updating his credentials to continue with his ALICE certifications.
- We have received our first tips in the Safe2Say program. We have been able to make the transition into the program very seamlessly. I want to publically thank Mr. Jannone for his prompt response to an early Saturday morning (6a.m.) tip. We appreciate his dedication and commitment to our school safety.
- Jacob Fleury participated in the PMEA District 8 Band Festival January 23-25 at Montoursville High School. Jacob advanced to the next level and will be participating in the PMEA Region IV Band Festival March 7-9 at Lewisburg High School. At Region Band, Jacob will be auditioning for a seat at States, held in Pittsburgh April 3-6.
- Congratulations to Jadyn Ayers for being selected as a cheerleader in the Big 33 Classic football game held in the Harrisburg area over the Memorial Day weekend. The Big 33 football game is between high school football all-stars pitting Pennsylvania against Maryland. Jadyn was one of

about 100 cheerleaders who attended a tryout to make the team. To the best of our knowledge, she is the first cheerleader to ever cheer in this football game and she is the only cheerleader selected from the Northern Tier region. Congratulations and good luck to Jady.

- Our elementary school staff just participated in the SETT assessment through the PBIS program. The School-wide Evaluation Tool (SET) is designed to assess and evaluate the critical features of school-wide effective behavior support across each academic school year. The SET results are used to: 1) assess features that are in place, 2) determine annual goals for school-wide effective behavior support, 3) evaluate on-going efforts toward school-wide behavior support, 4) design and revise procedures as needed, and 5) compare efforts toward school-wide effective behavior support from year to year. Information necessary for this assessment tool is gathered through multiple sources including review of permanent products, observations, and staff (minimum of 10) and student (minimum of 15) interviews or surveys. Our elementary school scored a perfect score of 100.
- On February 7th, the Special Education Department participated in the annual Early Intervention Transition Meeting which involved the Early Intervention teachers and therapists from BLAST and the parents of 7 students with IEPs (Individual Education Plans) who are transitioning into kindergarten next year. The law requires that a transition take place without interruption in program and with appropriate procedural protections
- On February 22nd beginning at 12:30 p.m., the paraprofessionals will be provided with a training by Jim Rhinehimer from BLAST on "How to Scaffold Instruction and Support Regular Education Teachers." Some of our learning support teachers will also attend the training.

Business Manager

Mr. Mark Jannone, Business Manager/Board Secretary, reported on the following:

- The cost to finish the elementary gym floor is \$31,600 but will drop to \$26,600 if we do it before the end of May. The cost to refinish both gym floors is \$46,000 if done in May.
- We received confirmation that, since we are a CEP school district, we can run all visiting district chorus students through our lunch lines and provide them with free meals.
- The district is in need of custodial substitutes.

Board Committee Chairpersons

- **Personnel Committee:** Chairperson, Mr. Eric Anderson, had nothing to report.
- **Finance/Policy Review Committee:** Chairperson, Mr. Ryan Allen, had nothing to report.
- **Athletic Committee:** Chairperson, Mr. Mike Herman, had nothing to report.
- **Buildings and Grounds Committee:** Chairperson, Mr. Scott May, had nothing to report.
- **Northern Tier Career Representative:** Mr. Neal Palmer had nothing to report.
- **PSBA Representative:** Mr. Bill Holland had nothing to report.
- **BLAST Representative:** Mr. Neal Palmer had nothing to report.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION - AGENDA RELATED

There were no comments.

BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for January 31, 2019. (A copy is in the supplemental file.)

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the bills for January.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Tax Additions, Exemptions and Exonerations

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the tax additions, exemptions and exonerations.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Transportation Changes

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the transportation changes.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Central Treasury Account Addition

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the addition of a new account to the Canton Jr/Sr High School Central Treasury in the name of School-Wide Positive Behavior Support High School, with Jennifer Swody as the person in charge.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Central Treasury Funds Transfer

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the transfer of funds (\$594.62) from the Canton Jr/Sr High School Central Treasury account named Ski Club to the newly formed account named School-Wide Positive Behavior Support High School.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Revised Signature Cards

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the revised bank signature cards.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

BLaST Proposed Budget/Election Ballot

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the Proposed 2019/2020 BLaST I.U. 17 General Operations Budget and Submission of Board of Directors Election Ballot.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Letter of Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the Letter of Agreement between Canton Area School District and MAC's Driving Academy effective July 1, 2019.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

AT THIS TIME, THE BOARD BROKE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:30 P.M.) CONCERNING PERSONNEL MATTERS AND RESUMED AT 6:40 P.M.

PERSONNEL

Letter of Resignation

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to accept the letter of resignation from Shelly Gleckner, paraprofessional, effective January 16, 2019.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

New Hire

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the hiring of Evelyn Katona, paraprofessional, \$9.00 per hour with full benefits, effective February 18, 2019.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Additions to Substitute List

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the following additions to the substitute list, pending completion of all required paperwork

- a. Heidi Hamilton, paraprofessional, retroactive to 1/21/19 as all paperwork is complete
- b. Cindy Chaapel, custodian

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Volunteers

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the following coach/classroom volunteers, as all required paperwork has been submitted:

- a. Deb Urban, classroom volunteer, field trip chaperone
- b. Cheryl Neitz, drama volunteer
- c. Kasey Lyon, baseball
- d. Craig Route, baseball
- e. Greg Bellows, baseball

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Act 93 Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to accept the Act 93 Agreement effective Jul 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Early Retirement Incentive

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to accept the Early Retirement Incentive for Act 93 staff, effective immediately through March 1, 2019.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

FINANCE/POLICY

Policy Second Reading

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to approve the second reading of the following revised board policies:

- a. No. 103 - Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment - School and Classroom Practices
- b. No. 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities
- c. No. 104 - Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment - Employment Practices
- d. No. 222 - Tobacco/Nicotine
- e. No. 904 - Public Attendance at School Events
- f. No. 247 - Hazing

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Policy First Reading

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to approve the first reading of the following new/revised policies:

- a. No. 810 - Transportation (revised)
- b. No. 810.3 - School Vehicle Drivers (new)
- c. No. 810.1 - School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers (new)
- d. No. 351 (Employees) - Drug and Substance Abuse (revised)

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

Resurface Gym Floors

A motion was made by Mr. Scott May and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to accept the bid to resurface the elementary and high school gym floors at a cost of \$46,000.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Field Trip Request

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the field trip request from Colleen Kinney for PMEA District 8 Chorus in Williamsport, PA 2/6/19 - 2/8/19.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Field Trip Request

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the field trip request from Maureen Martz for PACTA (FCCLA) Celebration Dinner in Hershey, PA, 2/14/19 - 2/15/19.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Field Trip Request

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the field trip request from Tammy MacWhinnie for the Susquehanna University Band Festival in Selinsgrove, PA, 2/15/19 - 2/17/19.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Field Trip Request

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the field trip request from Tammy MacWhinnie for the PMEA Region 4 Band Festival at Lewisburg High School, 3/7/19 - 3/9/19.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

2019/2020 District Calendar

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the 2019/2020 Canton Area School District calendar.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

Surplus Item

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to declare the dental hygienist chair and related attachments to be surplus for the purpose of selling it.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.
Motion carried.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION - NON-AGENDA RELATED

Nichole Ambruch, district resident, addressed the board regarding the current policy in place for the age for entrance into kindergarten. Mrs. Ambruch stated that she recently had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Briggs to discuss her concerns and she is now reaching out to the board with her concerns because the policy does not meet her daughter's needs. She said that her daughter will turn five years old 18 days after the cutoff date. Mrs. Ambruch stated that she has two years' experience with pre-school and nine or ten years of experience with Head Start where she works with children ages three to five and she feels her daughter meets the kindergarten readiness criteria. She stated that she asked that Dr. Briggs give the board a copy of her letter regarding her concerns as well as a copy of a letter from her mother-in-law. Mrs. Ambruch requested that an amendment or addendum be made to the policy to provide opportunity for students ready to enter kindergarten. She suggested it could be done with guidelines in place stipulating the requirement for developmental testing and screening by the school counselor or teaching staff. Mrs. Ambruch asked the board to keep in mind that New York's cutoff date is December 1st and there are other districts that have a September 1st cutoff with an exception for children who may be ready to enter kindergarten. She added that the Pennsylvania school code states that the school director will establish the cutoff date but minimum entrance is 4 years, 7 months on the first day of the school year and it's up to the LEA to determine whether early entrance to kindergarten is permitted. In general, children must turn five on or before January 15th of the school year in which they intend to enroll. She added that while reviewing school policies she found policy 215 Promotion and Retention and felt that the following spoke to her situation: "The board recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at various stages of growth. It shall be the policy of the board that each child be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her development. Such a pattern coincides with a system of grade levels established by the board and instructional objectives established for each." She said that there's a policy in place to support advancement through grade levels and she feels this reflection could benefit children ready to enter kindergarten but miss the cutoff date. She encouraged the board to take this into

consideration to truly focus on the educational needs of the individual and stated that this is an opportunity to support children who demonstrate school readiness. Mr. Holland asked how it would be determined that the cutoff be waived. Mrs. Ambruch replied that there is testing available; BLaST has developmental screenings to determine if a child is educationally ready and the school counselor can determine if they are socially/emotionally ready. Mrs. Ambruch added that she met with her daughter's pre-school teacher who informed her that her daughter has met all the guidelines/readiness tasks preparing her for kindergarten and the teacher feels that the child is ready for kindergarten. Dr. Briggs interjected that it is not required that the district fund/provide these screenings and the district can require that the parent get the battery of tests and present them to the district to prove readiness. He added that this is something they would want to delineate. Attorney Sheets stated that the board cannot vote to violate their own policy, they would have to defer the matter to the Policy Committee to re-write the policy and then go through the process of approving the policy. Mr. Holland stated that he understands where Mrs. Ambruch is coming from but, hypothetically speaking, if 15 children passed the readiness testing the district would have to hire another kindergarten teacher. Mr. Sourbeer stated that if we do this, we're going to open the district to taking a bunch of 4-year-olds. Mrs. Sourbeer said her concern is that even if the date is changed to October 1st, there's the possibility that another parent whose child turns five shortly after will come forward. Mrs. Ambruch stated that she understands the need for a cutoff date but her request is for the board to think about an addendum. She said if they look at how many parents don't even send their child when they're eligible and with the size of our district, the number of early enrollments is going to be small. She added that if the parents are responsible for taking the steps to acquire the testing required by the district then the number will be even smaller. Mr. Palmer indicated that there's the possibility for advanced children to advance by testing out of a grade. He added that he understands that sometimes a cutoff date isn't fair but there are opportunities for advancement once the child gets into the classroom. Mrs. Ambruch replied that she understands but she's very focused on the early childhood push. Mr. Herman stated that he was four years old when he started kindergarten and there are good parts and there are bad parts to it. Mrs. Ambruch stated that's why it should be a case-by-case process. Dr. Briggs expressed that he has two major financial concerns: 1. Title supports - any child admitted early does not qualify for these federal fund dollars. 2. Cyber school - per Pennsylvania school code, once the door is opened to one four-year-old child, the door is open for any four-year-old in the district to enroll in cyber school at the district's expense of approximately \$25,000 per student. Mrs. Ambruch again asked that the board take it under consideration and look at some of the other schools' policies. Mr. Holland stated that he could see a case-by-case approach leading to legal issues. He added that as a board they need to think of the future ramifications of allowing this. Dr. Briggs added that he talked to other districts about this and every one said this is one of the things they stand a hard line on for the two big reasons he mentioned previously.

Announcements

An Executive Session was held prior to the Board Meeting, at 5:15 p.m., to discuss personnel matters.

The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria, Canton, PA.

Meeting Adjourned

Mrs. Sourbeer adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:16 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone
Business Manager/Board Secretary