

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

The regular meeting of the Canton Area School District Board of Education was held on Thursday, November 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, Mrs. Krista Jennings, and Mr. Denny Sourbeer.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent; Mr. Mark Jannone, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Mr. Michael Wells, Elementary School Principal; Mr. Donald Jacopetti, High School Principal; Attorney Richard Sheetz, District Solicitor; Mr. Dan Coran, Support Services Director; Ms. Deb Fitzwater, District Teacher, and Mr. John Peters.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 14, 2019.

Voice Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

REPORTS

Superintendent

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

- There has been some movement on the cyber charter education front recently. House Education Committee Chairman Curt Sonney (R-Erie) introduced House Bill 1897 that would require all school districts in the Commonwealth to offer full-time cyber education programs that will be accountable to local communities. Cyber charter schools, instead of being separate school entities, will be able to serve as third-party vendors and work with school districts to offer full-time cyber education programs. School districts will also be given the flexibility in creating their own full-time cyber education programs or work with third-party vendors such as intermediate units, cyber charter schools, institutions of higher education, other school districts, or educational entities to offer these programs. In addition, the school district must also provide at least two alternative full-time cyber programs, offered by a third-party vendor, other than the school districts intermediate unit or another school district.
- This week, I spent about 5 hours successfully completing School Director training offered by PSBA. I am bringing this to the school board's attention as you will have to complete a 3-hour training over the course of the next calendar year on various topics as determined by PDE. Currently, PSBA is the only approved provider for this training. As more details become available, I will share them with the school board.
- PA House Speaker Mike Turzai, has introduced House Bill 1800, which establishes a tuition voucher program for students in the Harrisburg School District. The legislation requires the receiver for the Harrisburg School District to create a tuition voucher program. It would likely go into effect in the 2020-2021 school year. A student would be permitted to use a voucher to pay tuition at private or religious schools or participating public schools in other districts. In a co-sponsorship memo,

Speaker Turzai calculates the maximum tuition voucher would be \$8,200, with half (\$4,100) paid by the school district and the other half by the state. The fear is should this “pilot voucher legislation be passed, it may open the door for vouchers, or school choice, to all school districts across the Commonwealth. We will keep our eyes on this bill.

- Recently, the Pennsylvania Department of Education released our Future Ready PA Index Scores. I will be sharing those scores in the upcoming weeks with the board. We continue to be making positive progress in the areas of graduation rate, attendance, and industry-based credentials earned by our students. We also are continuing to show positive academic growth in our achievement and will continue to focus on how we grow in the achievement area.
- Our Creating a Safe Schools Community group met Wednesday, October 23rd, and we explored the various areas of school safety in regards to current practices and future processes and protocols we will look to implement. We also have continued work through partnerships we have developed with the Towanda and Troy school districts around best practices for school safety.
- I want to congratulate all the fall sports teams on a successful fall sports season. We had a very successful sports season and I am happy to report that our high school football team made it to the District IV finals and our volleyball team made it to the quarterfinals of the state tournament. It won't be long and we will be starting winter sports season. I would like to wish all the winter sports programs the best of luck this season.
- This week, in collaboration with students in our agriculture education program, we submitted a grant in order to purchase two new structures to enhance the learning experiences through our agriculture education program and look at ways we can enhance our current hydroponics system. We are hoping to secure this \$7,500 grant for our agriculture education program.
- I have reached out to the Northern Tier Regional Planning Commission to explore a partnership with them in order to apply for a Teacher in the Workforce Grant. The application deadline for this grant is December 23. The planning commission has a meeting next week to see how they plan on potentially supporting districts with this grant. As more information becomes available, I will share it with the board.
- A few weeks ago, all our 7th through 12th grade students were retrained in our Safe2Say program through an extended home room period. This anonymous online reporting system allows our students to report to the school district any issues they may have that are safety related for our students, staff, and the surrounding community.
- Over the Thanksgiving break, we will be designing an Alumni Wall that will be located in the cafeteria. Warrior Pride, Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior will be displayed on the wall. Current students, as well as alumni, including Mr. Mark Jannone, will be able to sign the wall.
- Our fall sports banquet will be held on November 19, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. We are hoping to livestream this event for all to view at home.
- This past week our elementary school had very successful parent/teacher conference days. Our elementary staff held 331 conferences with parents of students in our elementary school. We appreciate all the time and effort of our teaching staff to make these conferences a success for the parents and students in our district.
- Mr. Wells is finishing up a book study with six teachers in the elementary school. I have been able to participate in various sessions of the book study. The book, Disrupting Poverty, focuses on five classroom practices that permeate the culture of successful high-poverty schools: (1) caring relationships and advocacy, (2) high expectations and support, (3) commitment to equity, (4) professional accountability for learning, and (5) the courage and will to act. Our teachers have been doing an excellent job with this book study in trying to look at ways they can continue to fine tune their practice when working with populations of students experiencing poverty.
- The Canton School District “Be a Buddy, Not a Bully Night” at the Elmira Enforcers will be Friday, November 29th at 7:00 p.m.
- In a few weeks, the Special Education Department will be submitting the 12/1 count. This includes the number of IEP students. The purpose of the report is to enable the district to receive funds from the government based on the IDEA (Individuals with Disability Act). The district's count this year will be approximately 210 students. Last year the count was 183 students.
- On Wednesday, December 11th, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., a representative from OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation), Monica Amditis, will meet with interested parents to discuss free services that are offered through OVR. The presentation will be held in the High School Cafeteria. Parents of students who are Learning Support or have 504 Plans, and are in grades 10-12, are encouraged to attend. Free Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Business Manager

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

- We received the PEMA portion of the claim we filed with FEMA for the mold remediation.
- The Annual Financial Report has been submitted.
- Thanked Mr. Mike Herman for serving from 2011 to 2019 on the board. Congratulated Mrs. Krista Jennings, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer and returning member Mr. Gary Black for their election wins.
- Recommended approving the request from Union Township to forgive roll back taxes.

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, was absent.
- **Northern Tier Career Representative:** Mr. Neal Palmer was absent.
- **PSBA Representative:** Mr. Bill Holland recommended contacting our legislators to reject the voucher program which would destroy public schools.
- **BLaST Representative:** Mr. Neal Palmer was absent.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION – AGENDA RELATED

There were no comments.

BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Herman and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for October 31, 2019. (A copy is in the supplemental file.)

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Herman and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the bills for October, 2019.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Tax Additions, Exemptions and Exonerations

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Herman and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the tax additions, exemptions and exonerations.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Transportation Changes

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Herman and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the transportation changes.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Revised Signature Cards

A motion as made by Mr. Mike Herman and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the revised bank signature cards.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Tax Exoneration Request

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Herman and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the request from Union Township for exoneration of roll back taxes.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Herman and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the agreement between Canton Area School District and SUNY Corning Community College who will provide instructional services for the Accelerated College Enrollment (ACE) program, free for at least the next three academic years, effective for the 2019/2020 academic year.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Letter of Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Herman and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the Letter of Agreement between Canton Area School District and Northern Tier Counseling, Inc. for partial hospitalization service, effective for one general school year and renew for each additional school year.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Herman and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Canton Area School District and B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Foster Grandparent Program, effective December, 2019 through November, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Resignation

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Mike Herman to approve the following resignation:

- a. Linda Lupold, cafeteria worker, with five years of service, effective October 29, 2019.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

New Hire

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Mike Herman to approve the hiring of Amber Barrett, part-time cafeteria worker, at \$8.00/hour with no benefits, retroactive to November 6, 2019, as all required paperwork has been completed.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Additions to Substitute List

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Mike Herman to approve the following additions to the substitute list, effective November 18, 2019, pending completion of required paperwork:

- a. Dale Page, student cafeteria worker
- b. Kaden Hunt, student cafeteria worker
- c. Robert Ames, custodian
- d. John Peters, teacher
- e. Doris Massengale-Duran, bus/van driver
- f. Sierra Moyer, cafeteria

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Volunteers

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Mike Herman to approve the following volunteers as all the required paperwork has been completed:

- a. Jan Rumsey, drama, retroactive to October 15, 2019
- b. Jennifer Jackson, elementary classroom, retroactive to October 17, 2019
- c. John Thompson, boys' basketball, retroactive to October 23, 2019
- d. Judy Brown, elementary classroom, retroactive to October 23, 2019
- e. Lynette Fitzwater, elementary classroom, retroactive to November 5, 2019
- f. Shawna Lee, elementary classroom, retroactive to November 13, 2019
- g. Russ Vermilya, boys' basketball, retroactive to November 8, 2019

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Mike Herman to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Canton Area School District and the Canton Area Education Association entitled Amendment to Teacher Preparation Time, effective October 30, 2019.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Coach Evaluation Process

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Mike Herman to approve the

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Advisors List

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Mike Herman to approve the Group/Account Advisors List.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

FINANCE/POLICY

Policy First Reading

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the first reading of the following revised board policy:

- a. No. 209 – Health Examinations/Screenings

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

Policy Second Reading

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the second reading of the following revised policies:

- a. No. 004 – Local Board Procedures, BOG-0 and BOG-2
- b. No. 201 – Admission of Beginners
- c. No. 208 – Withdrawal of Students
- d. No. 210.1 – Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

Field Trip Requests

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to approve the following overnight field trip requests:

- a. Sr. High Band and Chorus to Six Flags in Jackson, New Jersey and New York City, May 22-23, 2020.
- b. Ag Experience students to ACES conference, Harrisburg, PA, February 22-23, 2020.
- c. Ag Experience students to State Legislative Leadership Conference, Harrisburg, PA, March 15-17, 2020.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May and Mr. Neal Palmer were absent.
Motion carried.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION – NON-AGENDA RELATED

There were no comments.

Announcements

An Executive Session was held prior to the Board Meeting, at 5:30 p.m., to discuss personnel matters.

The next Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, December 4, 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 6:42 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone
Business Manager/Board Secretary