

**MINUTES
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
APRIL 9, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Canton Area School District Board of Education was held virtually on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mrs. Krista Jennings, Mr. Neal Palmer, 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 Cassie Blaney, District Solicitor; Mr. Dan Coran, Support Services Director; Ms. Deb Fitzwater, District Teacher.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 12, 2020.

Voice Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion carried.

REPORTS

Superintendent

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

Act 13 of 2020 Summary:

- Waives the 180-day requirement.
 - At this point, the CASD will attempt to complete the school year by completing the contractual requirements under the CAEA bargaining agreement (184 days). I will share this plan with the board over the next month. We have no plans of changing our graduation date from May 29th; however, our students will probably not complete the 2019-2020 school year until the first or second week of June.
- Provides the Secretary with the authority to close schools and increase the number of allowable flexible instruction days.
 - This portion of the law is not relevant to our district as we did not and do not plan to apply for flexible instruction days.
- Confirms the Secretary's authority to cancel state assessments and seek a waiver from the USDE for testing compliance with ESSA.
 - This allows the Secretary of Education the authority to cancel statewide assessments measures for the spring of 2020. This has already been done by our Secretary of Education.
- Waives the minimum hours for CTE and the NIMS and MOCTE Exams.
 - This will affect our students who attend the Northern Tier Career Center. The hourly requirements these students need, per the program requirement, has been waived for this school year. The statewide assessments for NTCC students (NOCTI) has also been waived.
- Waives the requirement to use performance data on employee evaluations.

- We are still waiting for guidance from PDE on this issue. We understand that teachers will not be able to be evaluated on some building level and individual data points due to the cancellations of the statewide assessments and other professional responsibilities like formal evaluations and Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's). These are all measures we have used in the past to evaluate students.
- Requires school employees to receive no more and no less compensation and no more or less retirement credit in PSERS than they would have received without school closures.
 - The pay, no more, no less clause for both wages and PSERS contribution.
- Requires appropriate protection for custodial staff according to CDC guidelines.
 - If our custodial staff is required to clean areas that have been contaminated by COVID-19 or suspected to be contaminated, specific gear is required to be worn by our custodial staff. At this point and time, due to the aggressive nature we attacked this situation, we do not have any suspected areas where this is a concerns, and our staff will be well equipped to move forward should this be an issue with the district.
- Requires each school entity to make a good faith effort to plan to offer continuity of education to students using alternative means during the period of closure, requires that the plan be submitted to the PDE, and requires that the plan be posted on the LEA's website.
 - We have developed this plan, posted this plan to our website, and have submitted it to PDE as required by this law. We will continue to monitor this plan and adjust accordingly should our continuity of education plan change.
- Requires each school entity to provide written notice to the parent or guardian of each student receiving services under an individualized education program under IDEA concerning plans to ensure the student receives a free and appropriate public education as required under IDEA.
 - Mr. Coran has worked to ensure our students are receiving FAPE in the LRE to the maximum extent possible during this time. He has provided every family of a child with a disability formal notice of how we attempt to educate each child moving forward during this COVID-19 time. The key to education during this time is through equity and accessibility. This is a key driving force in implementing our continuity of education plan.
- Requires districts to continue charter school tuition payments only for those students enrolled in a charter school prior to March 13. Once schools are reopened, charters can take in new enrollees and bill districts.
 - This freezes enrollment for charter schools effective 3/13/2020. We have had a few community members call us about this issue.
- Allows LEAs to apply for waivers to the PDE for issues not covered in this Act.
 - We are still waiting on formal guidance from PDE on this one.
- Requires districts to continue to make payments to CTE's, I.U.'s and other educational agencies/services.
 - We are required as a school district, in a good faith effort, to pay contract to CTE's, IU's and other major contracting services for the 19-20 school year.
- Allows districts to renegotiate their transportation contracts to determine payment going forward.
 - This is an item on our agenda this evening. We appreciate everything our bus contractors do for the district and the students. We also appreciate their patience and support as we have navigated this issue. This issue has been a very challenging issue for many of the school districts across the state. At no time, did we, or any school district, want to see bus contractors have to "close their doors" due to this pandemic; however, the greatest challenge was how we could best support these contractors with taxpayer dollars. This legislation gave us clear guidance in this area.

Dr. Briggs also reported that Continuity of Education Equity Grants opened on Monday. CASD will be applying for grant funding to assist in purchasing technology for our students who do not have access to technology in their homes. For our district, not only is accessibility an issue, but many of our students do not have internet access. This is the greatest challenge our district faces should we consider moving from option #2 to option #3 as we look to close out the school year. Currently, we have approximately 123 students who do not have devices. We anticipate this number being lower than our reality as the question asked of students in our technology survey was around device accessibility in your house, not whether or not they had their own one-to-one device.

Business Manager

Mr. Mark Jannone, Business Manager/Board Secretary, had nothing to report.

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. Denny Sourbeer, had nothing to report.
- **Buildings and Grounds Committee:** Chairperson, Mrs. Krista Jennings, reminded the public to use social distancing on the track and to use caution on the play grounds.
- **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. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for March 31, 2020. (A copy is in the supplemental file.)

Roll Call Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the bills for March, 2020.

Roll Call Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion carried.

Transportation Amendment

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the following Amendment to Transportation Contracts Memorandums of Understanding between Canton Area School District and:

- a. Doud Transportation, LLC
- b. Jennings Bus Company
- c. McMurray Transportation
- d. Andrew Yaggie, Jr.

Roll Call Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion carried.

Legal Counsel Retainer

Mr. Black indicated that he had some questions about the solicitor agreement. He asked Mr. Jannone if we have received invoices for services beyond the agreement in the past. Mr. Jannone replied that there may have been some additional payments made some time ago however in the recent past there

have been no billings outside of the retaining fee. Mr. Black indicated that he felt that a bond issue or refinance should be limited in terms of the fee that our solicitor receives. He indicated that the last refinance generated an invoice for our solicitor for approximately \$3,500. Mr. Holland asked if \$3,500 was a reasonable fee for the service provided to which Mr. Black replied that it's not an abnormal amount for the service but based on the amount of work involved it may be a bit pricey. Attorney Blaney commented that it would not be possible to assign a set fee prior to being able to accurately estimate the amount of work involved in the issue. Mr. Anderson asked if the board members felt that it was necessary that a solicitor attend every meeting and maybe there would be some cost savings if some meetings were not attended. Several board members as well as Dr. Briggs indicated that they feel more comfortable with the solicitor being in attendance at all meetings.

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the retainer for legal counsel in the amount of \$5,000 plus discounted rate of \$100 per hour for additional professional services, as necessary, between Canton Area School District and Brann, Williams, Caldwell & Blaney for the 2020/2021 school year.

Roll Call Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Canton Area School District and Canton Area Education Association in reference to virtual learning.

Roll Call Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Canton Area School District Emergency Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion carried.

FINANCE/POLICY

Policy Second Reading

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

- a. No. 123 - Interscholastic Athletics
- b. No. 222 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
- c. No. 233 - Suspension and Expulsion
- d. No. 251 - Homeless Students
- e. No. 323 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
- f. No. 904 - Public Attendance at School Events, Public Behavior at School Events attachment

Roll Call Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

Library Board Reports

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Allen and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the Canton

Area Elementary School and Canton Jr/Sr High School Library Board Reports for the second quarter of the 2019/2020 school year.

Roll Call Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion carried.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION - NON-AGENDA RELATED

There were no comments.

Announcements

The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria, Canton, PA.

Meeting Adjourned

Mrs. Sourbeer adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:47 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone
Business Manager/Board Secretary