

**MINUTES  
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Canton Area School District Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 5:00 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. Eric Anderson, Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Scott May, 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; Mr. Luke Duceman, Mr. Darien Smith, Ms. Kimberly Smith, Mr. Michael Shultz, Mrs. Holly Shultz, and Mr. Darrin Morse.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Krista Jennings and seconded by Mr. Gary Black to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 13, 2020.

Voice Vote: All eight members present voted yea.  
Mr. Ryan Allen was absent.  
Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**Superintendent**

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

- Thanked faculty and staff for a successful launch to the 2020/2021 school year. I would also like to thank our parents and everybody else in the community who continues to be responsible about following our screening protocols at home and follows the guidance and recommendations by our health team as we navigate these challenging times. I think our most trying weeks are about to come over the next few weeks but we'll successfully navigate these weeks and move forward the best way we know home.
- No Testing Waiver for 2020/2021 - U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has informed states that they should not count on getting the same waivers from federal testing mandates for this school year that they got last spring as the pandemic shut down schools. In a letter to chief state school officers last Thursday, DeVos said that these annual, summative assessments in English/language arts, math, and science are "at the very core" of the bipartisan agreement behind the Every Student Succeeds Act, the main federal K-12 education law. She also said that at a time when vulnerable students have been hurt the most by the pandemic, such tests are "among the most reliable tools available to help us understand how children are performing in school."
- HB 2787: Sports in 2020/2021 - amended and passed in the House, 155-47; approved by the Senate Education Committee on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The bill amends the School Code by adding a new section providing the governing authority of a school entity or nonpublic school to have the exclusive authority to determine whether to hold school sports activities, including competitions, intramural play and scrimmages and other in-person extracurricular activities during the 2020/2021 school year. The bill also requires a school entity to develop an athletic, health and safety plan addressing school sports and other in-person extracurricular activities and provides for the content of the

plans. As amended, the bill requires the exclusion of students or staff from school buildings or activities if they test positive for coronavirus and adds nonpublic schools to the list of school entities required to develop a health and safety plan for activities and athletics. In the House, several amendments were defeated, including one that would have allowed the DOH, local health departments or the school entity to restrict audience or spectator attendance at school events if health officials determine that there is a significant risk to public safety related to COVID-19.

- HB 2788: Option for Additional Year - amended on the House floor and passed, 197-5. The bill amends the School Code to add a new section allowing a parent for the 2021/2022 school year to elect to have a child in a school entity repeat a grade level to make up any lost educational opportunities during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 school years, regardless of whether the child met the requirements to be promoted to the next grade level. In addition, the bill requires school entities to create a process for a parent to make the election and post the process on its publicly accessible website. As amended, the bill excludes student participation in interscholastic athletics from parental election. In addition, an amendment clarified the process for parents to elect an additional year of instruction for students with an IEP
- Presented a copy of the updated CASD Health and Safety Reopening Plan and the Athletic Health and Safety Reopening Plan. Minor changes were made to the plan reflecting return criteria for staff, social distancing and face coverings for such things as physical education and recess. We also made an adjustment to our athletic plan to reflect the governor's order of the 250 maximum participants.
- The livestream team, under the guidance of Mrs. Larcom, had their first event on 9/5/20 as they successfully provided the community with our first football scrimmage. The event had a total of over 700 views!
- Staff, led by the tech department and Jeff Karpinski, successfully distributed nearly 500 portable computers to CASD students prior to the start of school. All CHS students now have a computer to be used appropriately and when necessary.
- In conjunction with CSM Jannone, we developed a crisis response team specific to the high school. This team (called CRT) is designed to respond to emergency situations within CASD to help manage and maintain student and staff safety in the event of an emergency such as health issues, physical altercations, severe weather and others.
- The elementary school will be applying for a PBIS Advanced Tiers grant to help add and improve Tier II interventions that we have in place. The hope is this grant will continue to enhance the work through our PBIS program at the elementary school.
- Title staff is working with K-2 teachers to create a guided reading book room. Pump and Pantry donated about \$800 in shelving for this project.
- The 6th grade picnic (now 7th graders) took place on 9/4/20. The students had a lot of fun. This was missed last spring during the shutdown.
- Paraprofessionals will participate with the teachers in a training on the afternoon of September 21, 2020, entitled, "Executive Skills Functioning". The training will be presented by Jim Rinehimer and Dave Loomis, our school psychologist. Both trainers are from the IU 17.
- Learning support teachers have been busy offering support not only to the students who are in the buildings but also to the learning support students who are in the Warrior Academy.
- Thanked the Canton Moose for a generous donation that allowed the district to purchase cloth face coverings and face shields for students and staff.
- Read a letter from Tom Hojnowski.

### **Business Manager**

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

- Informed the board that the local audit for the 2019/2020 fiscal year is under way.
- Informed the board that the district purchased about \$175,000 worth of personal protection equipment and added technology. Nearly all of those expenditures were paid for by federal covid grant funds.

### **Board Committee Chairpersons**

- **Personnel Committee:** Chairperson, Mr. Eric Anderson, had nothing to report.
- **Finance/Policy Review Committee:** Chairperson, Mr. Ryan Allen, was absent.
- **Athletic Committee:** Chairperson, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, had nothing to report.

- **Buildings and Grounds Committee:** Chairperson, Mrs. Krista Jennings, 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. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for August 31, 2020. (A copy is in the supplemental file.)

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

##### **Bills**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the bills for August.

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

##### **Tax Additions, Exemptions and Exonerations**

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

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

##### **Updated Transportation Rates**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the updated transportation rates for the 2020/2021 school year.

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

##### **Activity Run Rates**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the updated activity run rates, effective 7/1/2020.

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

#### **Memorandum of Understanding**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Canton Area School District and Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission to provide the high school guidance department with assistance in services to high school students with transition planning for life after high school, at no charge to the district, effective September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021.

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

#### **Agreement**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Agreement for Nursing Services between Canton Area School District and Northern Tier Career Center.

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

#### **Agreement**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Agreement Regarding Education of a Student Enrolled Under 25 P.s. 13-1306 between Canton Area School District and Troy Area School District.

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

#### **Reopening Health and Safety Plan**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Canton Area School District Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan.

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

#### **Athletics Health and Safety Plan**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Canton Area School District Athletics Health and Safety Plan.

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

#### **PERSONNEL**

##### **Emergency Leave**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Krista Jennings to approve the following Canton Area School District employee using emergency sick and or emergency extended FMLA leave which was granted through the Families First Corona Response Act, be approved as a special sick leave as it pertains to the Public School Employee's Retirement System:

- a. Employee #1265 - 7/8, 7/9, 7/13, 7/14, 7/15, 7/16, 7/20 and 7/21/2020.

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

### **Sabbatical Leave of Absence**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Krista Jennings to approve the Medical Sabbatical Leave of Absence request made by Tom Hojnowski for the 2020/2021 school year.

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

### **Letter of Resignation**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Krista Jennings to accept the letter of resignation from Ernest Turner, part-time maintenance worker, effective December 31, 2020.

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

### **Additions to Substitute List**

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

- a. Mason Tate, teacher, retroactive to August 31, 2020, as all required paperwork has been completed.
- b. JoAnne Tarbox, paraprofessional, cafeteria, custodian.
- c. Andrea Kapichok, van driver.

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

### **New Employees**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Krista Jennings to approve the hiring of the following new employees:

- a. Gina Bastion, part-time cafeteria worker, at \$8.00 per hour with no benefits, retroactive to August 26, 2020 as all required paperwork has been completed.
- b. Danielle Henson, part-time paraprofessional II, at \$17.00 per hour with no benefits, retroactive to August 28, 2020, as all required paperwork has been completed.
- c. Charlene Castle, part-time paraprofessional II, at \$17.00 per hour with no benefits, effective September 14, 2020, pending completion of all required paperwork.
- d. Mason Tate, long-term professional substitute, 7-12 Agriculture, effective August 31, 2020 through the end of the 2020/2021 school year, \$61,407.00 B+24 step 1, with benefits.
- e. Luke Duceman, 7-12 vocal music teacher, \$58,357.00 B step 1, effective September 16, 2020, pending completion of all required paperwork.

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

### **Additions to Volunteer List**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Krista Jennings to approve the following additions to the volunteer list, as all required paperwork has been completed:

- a. Seth Robbins, football
- b. Lianne Landis, cross country and classroom
- c. Philip "Stub" Kilbourn, CASD van driver

Roll Call Vote: All eight members present voted yea.

Mr. Ryan Allen was absent.  
Motion carried.

### **Co-Curricular Non-Sports List Additions**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Krista Jennings to approve the following additions to the 2020/2021 co-curricular non-sports list:

- a. Pam Larcom, Stream Team Advisor, \$1,525.29.
- b. Tammy MacWhinnie, mentor to Luke Ducean, \$938.64.

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

### **Crossing Guard Pay Rate**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Krista Jennings to approve the pay rate of \$20.00 per day for crossing guard effective 9/14/2020.

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

### **FINANCE/POLICY**

#### **Policy Second Reading**

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

- a. (revised) 247 - Hazing
- b. (revised) 249 - Bullying/cyberbullying
- c. (new) 252 - Dating Violence
- d. (revised) 317.1 - Educator Misconduct
- e. (revised) 824 - Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
- f. (new) 830 - Breach of Computerized Personal Information

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

### **CITIZEN RECOGNITION - NON-AGENDA RELATED**

Mr. Mike Shultz, district resident, addressed the board regarding his desire for the board to try to use creative methods for allowing spectators at events. He specifically addressed the possible live streaming of the volleyball game so that parents may be able to view the live stream from one of the district rooms such as the cafeteria. He also indicated that it would be important to find a way to maximize the number of spectators at outside athletic events.

### **Announcements**

An Executive Session was held prior to the Board Meeting, at 4:30 p.m., to discuss a student matter and a personnel matter.

The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria, Canton, PA.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Mrs. Sourbeer adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:55 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone  
Business Manager/Board Secretary