

**MINUTES  
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APRIL 8, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Canton Area School District Board of Education was held virtually on Thursday, April 8, 2021 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, and Mr. Neal Palmer.

**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. Rachel Heitzenrater and Ms. Brianne Ostrander, Newspaper Reporters.

**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 11, 2021 and the Finance Committee meeting of March 16, 2021.

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

**REPORTS**

**Superintendent**

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

- Federal ARP Education Funding for Pennsylvania – Governor Tom Wolf last week announced that Pennsylvania is expected to receive \$4.9 billion in federal relief funds to help Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade schools return students to classroom learning and equitably expand opportunity for students who need it most. The funding is provided by the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund passed by Congress and signed by President Biden. At least 90%, or \$4.5 billion, of the funds will flow to traditional public school districts and charter schools. Each entity will receive an amount proportional to the federal Title I-A funds received in 2020 under the Every Student Succeeds Act. The school districts and charter schools must use at least 20% of this money to address learning loss and the social, emotional, and academic needs of underrepresented students including students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care. Schools can use the rest of the funding for a wide range of activities including food service, professional training, technology purchases, sanitization and cleaning supplies, summer and after-school programs, and mental health supports. Funds must be used by September, 2024. School districts and charter schools must apply to PDE to obtain their allocated funds. The application process will be posted on the PDE website in the coming days. Under the American Rescue Act of 2021, PDE will use the remaining \$500 million of ESSER funding for interventions that address learning loss, support summer enrichment and comprehensive afterschool programs, and assist schools that do not receive a direct ESSER allocation such as career and technical schools and intermediate units.

- The high school, as well as the elementary school and the district, has partnered with Thompson's Apparel to offer our students and community affordable Warrior apparel. Many items are available and a certain amount of the profit is shared with both CHS and CES to use to purchase necessary items for students. The store is online and available on our district website.
- The elementary school Title I Family Night was a huge success. Parents and students were engaged throughout the evening with activities that were planned for both students and their families. Thank you to all the families who showed up to support their children at this program.
- We are continuing our informal observation process at both the elementary and high school building as we move toward the end of the school year.
- Mr. Rockwell has completed all of the winter coaches' evaluations and all coaches were recommended for their respective assignments for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. However, the evaluations have highlighted specific areas of improvement for certain coaches where improvement plans have been created. All coaches were receptive to both the positive and growth area feedback and we look forward to an exciting 2021-2022 school year.
- The CHS Teacher of the Marking Period, as elected by the CHS staff based on the performance during the 3rd marking period, is Michelle Harkness. Congratulations to Mrs. Harkness for going over and above!
- Both the CHS junior and senior high band concerts were held in March and were a huge success. Thanks to Mrs. MacWhinnie and our students for complying with all Covid related requirements and offering an awesome performance for in-person visitors, as well as, via livestream!
- In some cases, interruptions in the school schedule such as summer break will result in children with disabilities losing many of their basic skills and taking a long time to get those skills back once school begins again. For this reason, Canton Area School District will be offering Extended School Year (ESY) services during the summer break in the educational schedule to prevent this loss. We are planning ESY to take place June 14, 2021 to July 1, 2021 to be held in the elementary building. The days and times are: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and will be in-person instruction. ESY will be for grades kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Special Olympics has been cancelled due to the pandemic situation.

#### **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, reported that the committee met on March 16, 2021.
- **Athletic Committee:** Chairperson, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, was absent.
- **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 reported that things are not going as well as they should be. Some board members feel that there is a lack of transparency and a high turnover rate within the IU. Mr. Palmer shared that communication between the board and the administration is vague, and when questioned, becomes even more vague. He questioned if the district could save money by looking elsewhere for services. He stated that another district has shared similar concerns with him and he spoke to Dr. Briggs about these concerns. Mr. Palmer feels that some employees are concerned within the IU administration and their ability to "do their work" in the eyes of the IU director.

#### **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, 2021. (A copy is in the supplemental file.)

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

### **Bills**

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the bills for March, 2021.

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

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

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

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

### **Transportation Changes**

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

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

### **Authorization for Expenditure**

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Authorization for Expenditure with Boggs Hi-Tech Solutions in the amount of \$10,000 to upgrade our sound system.

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

### **Legal Counsel Retainer**

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 2021/2022 school year.

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

### **Proposal**

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the proposal from Cafeteria Management Services Company (Nutrition Group) with a guarantee loss of no more than

\$25,000 for Canton Area School district cafeteria operations for the 2021/2022 school year.

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

### **Contract**

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the contract between Pivot Physical Therapy and Canton Area School District for the 2021/2022 school year.

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

### **Agreement**

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Agreement between Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural Pennsylvania (BHARP), Community Care Behavioral Health, and Canton Area School District effective July 1, 2021.

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

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the Field Placement Memorandum of Understanding between Drexel University School of Education and Canton Area School District commencing on August 1, 2021.

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

### **Preliminary Budget**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Gary Black to approve the Canton Area School District 2021/2022 proposed preliminary budget with revenues of \$17,222,531 and expenditures of \$17,783,502.

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

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the Reimbursement for Praxis and Certification Memorandum of Understanding between Canton Area School District and Canton Area Education Association.

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

### **Volunteer List Additions**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the following additions to the volunteer list as all paperwork has been completed:

- a. Sharon Fransen, drama, retroactive to 3/17/21
- b. Austin Hartford, baseball, retroactive to 3/21/21
- c. Darryl Jannone, softball, retroactive to 3/22/21
- d. Carter Nybeck, track, retroactive to 3/29/21
- e. Lydia Leiby, softball
- f. Maddy Schucker, softball

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

## **FINANCE/POLICY**

### **Revised Board Policy**

A motion was made by Mr. Bill Holland and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to approve the first reading of the following revised board policy:

- a. No. 150 - Title I - Comparability of Services

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

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **Central Treasury Reports**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Krista Jennings to approve the third quarter (January through March) central treasury reports for Canton Area Elementary School and Canton Jr/Sr High School.

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

### **Plan Adjustment**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Krista Jennings to approve an adjustment to the Health and Safety Plan to include some field trips.

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

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

There were no comments.

## **Announcements**

A Finance Committee meeting was held virtually on March 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

An Executive Session was held virtually prior to the Board Meeting, at 4:30 p.m., to discuss a safety issue.

The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

## **Meeting Adjourned**

Mrs. Sourbeer adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:39 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone  
Business Manager/Board Secretary