

**MINUTES  
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOVEMBER 11, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Canton Area School District Board of Education was held in the Canton Jr/Sr High School library on Thursday, November 11, 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. Scott May, Mrs. Arica 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; Mrs. Amy Repard, Special Education Supervisor; Mr. Dale Keltz, Mr. Philip O'Dell, Mr. Michael Shultz, Mrs. Holly Shultz, Mrs. Angie Hess, and Mrs. Pamela Denlinger.

Mrs. Angie Schoonover, Mrs. Alicia Jennings, and Mrs. Courtney Roberts attended the meeting virtually.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Scott May to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 14, 2021.

Voice Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**Superintendent**

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

- Yesterday afternoon, a Commonwealth court ruled that the Secretary of Health, Alison Beam, was unable to issue such a mandate and the decision for face coverings was pushed back to a local decision. Because of this decision, I informed the parents, students, and community that the district would be move to an optional face coverings approach for our students, staff, and visitors. Minutes before the "all call" went out, it was determined that because the Governor appealed the ruling, a "stay" was ordered and school districts were informed to continue to implement the face covering mandate. In an attempt to avoid chaos and based on the timings of the decisions, I made the decision to move forward today with the announcement I had made earlier stating masks were optional. However, since receiving legal guidance on the "stay," the district will continue to stay the course and enforce the face covering mandate effective immediately. While I know this decision will be unfavorable to some, it is my professional opinion that I need to be consistent with my message as a leader of the district and continue to encourage the school board to follow all mandates (until deemed unconstitutional or unlawful and the appeals process is complete).  
An "all call" will be sent after the board meeting informing parents that, effective immediately, the district will be enforcing the face covering mandate until a decision has been made on the appeal of the Commonwealth's decision. He thanked everyone for their support and asked that they understand that there is "light at the end of the tunnel" as we move closer to the January 17, 2022 announcement shared earlier this week.

Therefore, we will continue to stay the course and require the face coverings for our students to maintain compliance with the mandate which will require no board action this evening. However, should the board feel the need to choose to go a different direction, they are entitled to bring this issue up for discussion later on in the meeting.

- Congratulated the girls' volleyball team on their district championship and first round win at the state tournament. The team returns to action this Saturday at Bellefonte.
- Wished the football team the best of luck tomorrow night as they take on the Muncy Indians at 7:00 p.m. in Towanda.
- Tomorrow, our high school teaching staff will continue their professional learning in the restorative practices work they have been doing since the start of the school year.
- Staff has begun parent teacher conferences and will continue them tomorrow at the elementary school.
- The special education department continues to get ready for our annual 12/1 count to report the number of special education students that are enrolled in the district.

### **Board Committee Reports**

None this month.

### **CITIZEN RECOGNITION – AGENDA RELATED**

Mrs. Holly Shultz addressed the board to ask them to table the second reading of policies, later on the agenda, to allow her a chance to read them.

Dr. Briggs shared that it's his belief that the passage of policy No. 904 would not pigeon hole the district into a vaccine mandate.

Mrs. Angie Hess addressed the board to reiterate Mrs. Shultz's request.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for October 31, 2021. (A copy is in the supplemental file.)

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

#### **Bills**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the bills for October, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

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

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

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

#### **Transportation Changes**

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

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to accept the 2021/2022 Unified Champion School Supervisor's Stipend Memorandum of Understanding between Canton Area Education Association and Canton Area School District.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

### **Agreement**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to accept the ARP-American Rescue Plan IDEA 2021/2022 Agreement between BLAST IU #17 and Canton Area School District, effective July 1, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

### **Service Agreement**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to accept the Technical Service Agreement 3 (36 month) between Zito Business and Canton Area School District for 1 Gbps service at Canton Elementary School, effective July 1, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **Resignation**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Scott May to accept the letter of resignation from Richard Harstead, 7-12 Computer Science Teacher, effective November 12, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

#### **Resignation**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Scott May to accept the letter of resignation from Melody Barnes, evening custodian, effective November 8, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

### **Substitute List Additions**

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

- a. Deb Wrobel, cafeteria
- b. Ashley Beach, paraprofessional

c. Cassi Stone, custodian

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

### **Volunteer List Additions**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Scott May to approve the following additions to the volunteer list; all required paperwork has been completed:

- a. Nick Rockwell, wrestling, retroactive to 10/14/21
- b. Derek Leiby, wrestling, retroactive to 10/15/21
- c. Katelyn Andrus, basketball cheerleading, retroactive to 10/25/21
- d. Cheyenne Bastian-Brown, work experience, retroactive to 11/1/21
- e. Ruth Morse, elementary
- f. Jennifer DeFelice, PTA

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Scott May to approve the following addition to the 2021/2022 Co-Curricular Non-Sports list:

- a. Maureen Martz and Caitlin Barr, Unified Sports Co-Supervisors, \$1,000.00.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

### **Student Learning Monitor Pay Rate**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Scott May to approve the Student Learning Monitor substitute pay rate of \$16.75 per hour.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

### **Unpaid Days**

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mr. Scott May to approve unpaid days for the month of October, 2021, for the following employee:

- a. Employee #1246, 4.5 days

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

## **FINANCE/POLICY**

### **New/Revised Policy Second Reading**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to table this item.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.  
Mr. Gary Black and Mr. Bill Holland were absent.  
Motion carried.

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

Mrs. Pamela Denlinger addressed the board to thank them and the administration for swiftly lifting the mask mandate as soon as it was possible. She also invited everyone to attend/join a new group of Bradford County parents that are starting a coalition for parents' freedoms and rights.

Mr. Dale Keltz addressed the board with concerns regarding wearing masks.

### **Announcements**

An Executive Session was held on November 4, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Library, to discuss health and safety.

The re-organization board meeting will be held Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the Canton Jr/Sr High School library, Canton, PA.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Mrs. Sourbeer adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:07 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone  
Business Manager/Board Secretary