

**MINUTES
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Canton Area School District Board of Education was held in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Auditorium on Thursday, October 14, 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. 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; Ms. Rachel Heitzenrater, Newspaper Reporter, Mr. Dale Keltz, Mrs. Joan Terry, Mr. Ronald Cole, Mr. David Cochran, Mrs. Teresa Allen, Mrs. Angela Hess, Mr. Floyd McDonald, Mrs. Brandy Mays, Mr. John Mays, Mr. Max Mays, Mrs. Holly Shultz, Mr. Michael Shultz, Mrs. Angela Resavage, Mrs. Megan Taylor, Mrs. Cathy Asbury, Mrs. Courtney Roberts, Mrs. Pamela Denlinger.

At this time, Mr. Black asked that meeting participants wear masks.

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Bill Holland to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Gary Black, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.
Mr. Neal Palmer, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, and Mr. Ryan Allen voted nay.
Mr. Scott May was absent.
Motion failed.

At this time, Mr. Gary Black left the meeting.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 9, 2021.

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

REPORTS

Superintendent

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

- Last week, area superintendents met with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to express concerns over the mask mandate and the tremendous pressure that the mandate has placed on school board directors and superintendents. They stressed how this issue alone has fractured many relationships that took years to create with some families and other community stakeholders. Superintendents were reminded that over the next couple of weeks the Department

of Health and PDE will be closely analyzing data to look at next steps around the mask mandate moving forward. Dr. Briggs stated that it is important for our board and the community to be aware that an announcement is expected from the Department of Health and the Governor's office around November 1st.

- PDE has asked school districts to provide statistical data to them on a weekly basis rather than reporting to them on a case-by-case basis. Effective tomorrow, each district in the Commonwealth will be required to complete a short survey and submit it to PDE by 5:00 p.m. each Friday. This data will include the cases and close contacts by building. Finally, the PDE and Department of Health will be able to analyze data at the district level rather than just by county. Mr. Briggs stated that he feels that breaking the data down by district, and not just by county, is a step in the right direction.
- As of the end of school yesterday, the Canton Area School District has had 30 COVID-19 cases (10 high school and 20 elementary) and 133 close contacts (36 high school and 97 elementary).
- In light of concerns around the district's health and safety plan as it pertains to the mask mandate, the district has been following multiple court cases around the area of parents and community members challenging the mask order through the court system. In one case, the federal judge (locally) favored the district in supporting the continuation of following the mask mandate. In two other state cases, the judges have ruled in favor of school districts with the continuation to follow the mask mandate.
- Our students in the high school were able to experience an amazing homecoming week packed with fun filled activities. Students participated in spirit week, attended the parade and football game, and held a dance. Congratulations to Alexis Baldwin and Cooper Kitchen for being crowned this year's homecoming king and queen.
- This week we administered the PAYS Survey. The survey is conducted with school students in the 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades to learn about their behavior, attitudes, and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and violence. The Pennsylvania Youth Survey, or PAYS, is sponsored and conducted every two years by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The data gathered in PAYS serve two primary needs. First, the results provide school administrators, state agency directors, legislators, and others with critical information concerning the changes in patterns of the use and abuse of these harmful substances and behaviors. Second, the survey assesses risk factors that are related to these behaviors and the protective factors that help guard against them. This information allows community leaders to direct prevention resources to areas where they are likely to have the greatest impact. This year, the district will also be participating in a pilot program with our 4th grade class.
- The elementary school has been implementing our Guided Reading Program in grades K-6 with co-teaching. Earlier this week, the elementary teaching staff had the opportunity to complete their Act 13 Teacher Observation Framework training.
- Our elementary teachers continue with a book study titled, "I Wish My Teacher Knew."
- The district purchased 135 iWave devices with ESSER funds. These air ionizers are installed directly in the air handling units throughout the buildings to eradicate any and all airborne contaminants as they pass through the air handling units. The installation of these units has been a priority of the maintenance crew and they are nearly all installed.
- Our local firefighters came to campus last week for Fire Prevention Week to educate our kindergarten and 1st grade classes. Our students really enjoyed this activity and we appreciate the willingness of the fire department to support the school each year.
- Our special education department is busy gathering data for our upcoming December 1 count for the year. We currently are working through finding coverage for many of our students who are unable to receive support from outside agencies. Mrs. Repard continues to check in each week to see what progress they have made in this area, and furthermore limits our resources in other areas of the educational system.
- This month the Canton Area School District is in a "tab war" with the school district ten miles north. The purpose of this tab war is to collect as many soda can tabs as possible to be sent off to the Ronald McDonald House to support children struggling with health conditions. The two districts partnered with Kids Can't Fight Cancer Alone. This non-profit organization provides support and resources to children, and their families, who are battling childhood cancer.
- Reminded the public of a couple important announcements before moving forward with the meeting:
 - For those individuals who would like to speak on agenda or non-agenda related items, per Canton Area School District Policy #903, only residents or taxpayers of the school district are permitted to speak at Canton Area School District board meetings.
 - All individuals in the audience please continue to follow the district's health and safety plan and keep masks on throughout the meeting.

- Introduced Mr. Ron Cole, Pennsylvania School Boards Association Section 3 Advisor. Mr. Cole presented two very special awards to Mr. Eric Anderson and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer.

Board Committee Chairpersons

There were no committee reports this month.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION – AGENDA RELATED

There were no comments.

BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for September 30, 2021. (A copy is in the supplemental file.)

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

Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the bills for September, 2021.

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

Tax Additions, Exemptions and Exonerations

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the tax additions, exemptions and exonerations.

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

Transportation Changes

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the transportation changes.

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

Spring Sports Bids

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to authorize the business office to advertise for the 2021/2022 spring sports bids.

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

Agreement and Addendum

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the Blended Learning Services Agreement and Addendum between VLN Partners, LLP and Canton Area School

District.

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

Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the 2021/2022 Unified Champion Schools Memorandum of Understanding between Special Olympics Pennsylvania and Canton Jr/Sr High School.

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

Coordination Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the two (2) year Coordination Agreement between Service Access & Management, Inc. (SAM, Inc.) and Canton Area School District.

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

Comprehensive Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Neal Palmer and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the Canton Area School District 2021 - 2024 Comprehensive Plan.

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

PERSONNEL

Substitute List Additions

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

- a. Brittany Fulmer, cafeteria and paraprofessional
- b. Theresa Brands, paraprofessional
- c. Nora Barnes, custodian

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

Volunteer List Additions

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

- a. Lianne Landis, cross country coach/high school volunteer
- b. Sheldon Castle, boys' basketball coach
- c. Jason Foust, boys' basketball coach
- d. Brandy McRoberts, cross country coach
- e. Becca Jennings, competitive cheer coach
- f. Russell Vermilya, boys' basketball coach
- g. Tom Evans, boys' basketball coach

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

FINANCE/POLICY

Policy First Reading

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Neal Palmer to approve the first reading of the following new/revised policies:

- a. No. 006 - Meetings (revised)
- b. No. 103 - Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students (revised)
- c. No. 104 - Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff (revised)
- d. No. 218.3 - Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault (new)
- e. No. 247 - Hazing (revised)
- f. No. 249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying (revised)
- g. No. 252 - Dating Violence (revised)
- h. No. 314 - Physical Examination (revised)
- i. No. 622 - GASB Statement 34 (revised)
- j. No. 816 - District Social Media (new)
- k. No. 903 - Public Participation in Board Meetings (revised)
- l. No. 904 - Public Attendance at School Events (revised)
- m. No. 907 - School Visitors (revised)

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

OTHER ITEMS

Central Treasury Reports

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the first quarter elementary and high school Central Treasury reports.

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

Official Enrollment

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the Canton Area School District Enrollment as of 10-1 Report to State.

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

CITIZEN RECOGNITION - NON-AGENDA RELATED

The following residents addressed the board to express their disapproval with the board adhering to the Department of Health mask mandate: Joan Terry, Scott Castle, Mike Shultz, Holly Shultz, Dale Keltz, and Angela Resavage. Cathy Asbury and Andrea Hess expressed their disapproval with the board adhering to the Department of Health mask mandate as well as alerting the board that they are concerned regarding some of the curriculum that's being used in our schools.

The following residents spoke to the board in favor of adhering to the Department of Health mask mandate for various reasons: Teresa Allen, Megan Taylor, and Brandy Mays.

At this time, Mrs. Arica Jennings thanked the audience for participating in this controversial discussion and urged the community to support the board as they try to bring both sides together again.

Mr. Bill Holland commented that he believes this board would never support vaccine mandates.

Announcements

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

The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, November 11, 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 6:15 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone
Business Manager/Board Secretary