

**MINUTES
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Canton Area School District Board of Education was held in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Library on Thursday, February 10, 2022 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. Scott May, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Tom Resavage, 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 Cassi Blaney, District Solicitor; Mrs. Amy Repard, Special Education Supervisor; Ms. Rachel Heitzenrater and Mr. Matt Jennings, newspaper reporters; Mr. Dale Keltz, Mr. Michael Shultz, Mrs. Courtney Roberts, Mrs. Pamela Denlinger, Ms. Cathy Asbury, Mrs. Angie Schoonover, Ms. Sylvia Adams, Ms. Brianna Ellison, and Mr. Kain Adams.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2022.

Voice Vote: All eight members present voted yea.
Mr. Bill Holland was absent.
Motion carried.

REPORTS

Superintendent

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

- Earlier this week, Governor Wolf gave his budget proposal for the upcoming year. Dr. Briggs shared some of the highlights from the budget that have impact on public education:

Increases:

- BEF: over \$1.5 billion increase (22%), with \$1.25 billion driven through the Fair Funding Formula and a \$300 million increase for Level-Up.
- Special Education: \$200 million increase (16.7%)
- Pre-K Counts: \$60 million increase (24%)
- Career/Technical Education: \$6 million increase (6%)
- Student Transportation: \$16 million increase (2.7%)

Level-Funding:

- Ready-to-Learn Block Grants
- Teacher Professional Development
- CT Equipment Grants
- Nonpublic and Charter Student Transportation
- Early Intervention
- School Food Services
- Textbooks
- Materials and Equipment for Nonpublic Schools
- Safe Schools Initiative

- Trauma-Informed Education
- Congratulated the wrestling team for earning a state playoff berth for the first time in school history in the PIAA AA team wrestling duals. Although the outcome of the first state dual meet was not what we wanted, we continue to be proud of our student athletes. Dr. Briggs also wished the girls' and boys' basketball teams good luck as they get ready to enter the district playoffs in the coming weeks.
- Congratulated Isaiah Niemczyk and Caiden Williams for reaching the 500-rebound milestone in basketball earlier this week. Dr. Briggs also recognize Mr. Tyler Sechrist for being named the WNEP Coach of the Year, and Caiden Williams, Riley Parker, and Weston Bellows for also being named to the WNEP All Star Team.
- The CHS National Honor Society is developing a more detailed process to monitor members and their performance in an attempt to maintain the elite nature of the society. The council will meet quarterly to monitor and evaluate the performance of its members.
- Elementary teachers are finishing up their mid-year reviews on their Act 13 evaluation goals by meeting with Mr. Wells to review the local data collected on student academic achievement and performance.
- The elementary school just completed their mid-year DIBELS and Study Island Benchmark assessment data to prepare for the final home stretch before PSSA assessments are administered later this spring.
- On March 15th, the elementary school will be having their spring Title I Family Night. This event is usually heavily attended by students and parents at the elementary school and we are excited to have this event back in person this spring.
- BOCCE is playing today, February 10th at 4:00 PM. Our team is 1-1 with two games to go against Athens.
- Recognized Darlene Young on her retirement after 19.5 years of service in the Canton Area School District. Darlene supported students in our English programs and this year supported students with disabilities at our high school. After speaking with her briefly, she shared that she enjoyed working with our students the most as part of being a teacher in the district. She will be missed by our students and our faculty.
- Recognized Kim Cole who resigned this week to move to a different school district after 15 years of service as a paraprofessional in our district. Kim has always done an excellent job supporting our students with disabilities in regular education classrooms and in out of district placements. She will be missed for the work she has done.
- Recognized Janice Brown. Janice was a part-time cafeteria worker for 13.5 years in the district. She was a dependable worker who always gave 100% each day she came into the cafeteria. She will be missed by her colleagues and the students she served.
- Thanked Nick Porter for two years of service to the Canton Area School District as a custodian. We appreciate the dedicated time and effort he put forth as a custodian at our elementary school.
- Shared with the board an issue that we are currently working through that is not only an issue within the Canton Area School District, but around the country: the substitute teacher shortage. There are many factors contributing to this issue; however, one of the leading causes of this issue is the lack of teachers entering the field. For example, in the year 2010/2011, the state issued 21,045 teaching certificates. In 2019/2020, the state issued only 6,937 teaching certificates. Over the next month, our administrative team will be meeting to explore creative options on how to address this issue. One of the greatest supports which has helped to get through this year is the development of the Student Learning Monitor position (SLM). However, this only addresses the substitute issue at the high school. Over the next few weeks, Dr. Briggs will be sharing data with the board on the options being explored with the hope to come to the board with a proposal on how to address this situation as an agenda item at the March board meeting. Areas of focus will include substitute teacher pay, CASD substitutes vs. an outside agency providing substitute coverage, tracking professional staff attendance, and potential incentive systems for teachers around the area of teacher attendance. Our hope is to have something permanently in place for the start of the 2022/2023 school year but look to make some minor changes from March through the end of this school year.

BUSINESS MANAGER

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

- We expect to have a representative from Tremco Roofing to discuss options for a roofing project on both buildings. This is possible due to the fact that we intend to supplant approximately \$1.3

million of ESSER III funds to employee benefits which will free up an equal amount of local funds to be used for capital improvements. Mr. Jannone described the process of a roof restoration project. Mr. Resavage asked if the areas of roof that need repaired would be done so before the new material is applied. Mr. Jannone indicated that all repairs will be done and new flashing will be installed prior to the new material. He also indicated that he expects both buildings to be approximately \$2.3 million. Mr. Jannone stated that it is his expectation that approximately \$1.3 million would come from the freed up local funds described above, about \$500,000 from money that was intended to go into a capital reserve, and about \$500,000 out of Fund Balance.

BOARD REPORTS

- NTCC Representative - Mr. Tom Resavage (reported at the end of the meeting) reported that he attended the NTCC meeting; they passed their fiscal budget and added two new programs which are Early Childhood and Diversified Occupations. The Diversified Occupations program will be for seniors only and offered off-site. He also informed the board that the NTCC changed its Health and Safety Plan to make masks recommended but optional for asymptomatic close contacts.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION - AGENDA RELATED

There were no comments.

BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

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

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

Bills

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the bills for January, 2022.

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

Tax Additions, Exemptions and Exonerations

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

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

BLaST Budget and Ballot

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the Proposed 2022/2023 BLaST I.U. 17 General Operations budget and Submission of Board of Directors Election Ballot.

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

NTCC Final Budget

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the 2022/2023 Northern Tier Career Center Final Budget.

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

Letter of Agreement

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the Letter of Agreement between Canton Area School District and MAC's Driving Academy effective June 1, 2022.

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

PERSONNEL

Resignation/Retirements

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Gary Black to accept the following resignation/retirements:

- a. Nicholas Porter, evening custodian, with two years of service, effective January 29, 2022.
- b. Janice Brown, part-time cafeteria worker, with 13.5 years of service, effective February 4, 2022.
- c. Juanita Kim Cole, paraprofessional, with 15 years of service, effective February 4, 2022.
- d. Darlene Young, teacher, with 19.5 years of service, effective February 11, 2022.

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

New Hires

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Gary Black to approve the following new employees:

- a. Nora Barnes, full-time evening custodian at \$10.00 per hour with full benefits, retroactive to January 31, 2022, as all required paperwork was completed.
- b. Samantha Wilcox, full-time paraprofessional at \$12.00 per hour with full benefits effective February 14, 2022, pending completion of required paperwork.

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

Additions to Substitute List

- a. Mercedes Meuse, paraprofessional
- b. Amanda Ware, cafeteria, paraprofessional, and custodian
- c. Nicole Coxhead, guest teacher
- d. Janice Brown, cafeteria, retroactive to 2/7/22 as all paperwork is complete
- e. Nicholas Porter, custodian, retroactive to 1/31/22 as all paperwork is complete
- f. Penny Morgan, van driver

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

Additions to Volunteer List

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

- a. Lindsay Fitch, band, retroactive to 12/20/21
- b. Jamie Huffman, band, retroactive to 1/20/22
- c. Brian Huffman, band, retroactive to 1/20/22

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

Unpaid Days

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Gary Black to approve unpaid days for the month of December, 2021, for the following employees:

- a. Employee #1819, 10 days
- b. Employee #1246, 1 day

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

FINANCE/POLICY

Second Reading

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Allen and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the second reading of the following revised policy:

- a. No. 336 - Personal Necessity Leave

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

First Reading

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

- a. No. 217 - Graduation Requirements

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

OTHER ITEMS

Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Scott May and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to accept the Occupational Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes and the Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes from the meetings held on December 20, 2021.

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

Field Trip Request

A motion was made by Mr. Scott May and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the field trip request from Tom Hojnowski for the State Legislative Leadership Conference March 13 - 15, 2022 in Harrisburg, PA.

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

Quarterly Reports

A motion was made by Mr. Scott May and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the second quarter (Oct - Dec) Canton Elementary and Canton Jr./Sr. High School Central Treasury Reports.

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

Overnight Field Trip Requests

A motion was made by Mr. Scott May and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the following overnight field trip requests from Maureen Martz:

- a. FCCLA State Leadership Training/Conference to Seven Springs Resort in Champion, PA March 18 - 23, 2022 for State Officer Training.
- b. FCCLA State Leadership Conference to Seven Springs Resort in Champion, PA March 21 - 23, 2022 for FCCLA State Competition.

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

CITIZEN RECOGNITION - NON-AGENDA RELATED

Pam Denlinger thanked the board for receiving her email regarding concerns she had with a high school teacher. She asked the board to pass a resolution forbidding Critical Race Theory and LGBTQ+ instruction from our curriculum. She then went on to describe her understanding of the definition of Critical Race Theory. Secondly, she asked the board to resolve to not support LGBTQ+ agendas. Lastly, she asked the board to make a policy that forbids clubs and advisors of clubs to email all students without a parental approval having been given.

Sylvia Adams announced that she was attending the meeting in support of the Pride Club. She informed the board that statistically a large number of LGBTQ+ teens reportedly harm themselves or contemplate suicide and it is important for them to have a trusted adult outlet. She went on to describe her own struggles regarding LGBTQ+ discrimination. She ended by saying that if the Pride Club and its advisor helps at least one person, it's worth it.

Announcements

The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Library, Canton, PA.

Meeting Adjourned

Mrs. Sourbeer adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:44 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone
Business Manager/Board Secretary