

**MINUTES  
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APRIL 14, 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, April 14, 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. Bill Holland, 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 Cassie Blaney, District Solicitor; Mrs. Amy Repard, Special Education Supervisor; Mr. Matt Jennings, Mrs. Pamela Denlinger, Mr. Zeke Downey, Mrs. Trina Beers, Mr. Joseph Wynne, Miss Mya Allen, Mr. Will Gowin, Miss Theresa Beers, Mrs. Chelsie Swartz, Dr. Angela Resavage, Mr. Hunter Resavage, and Mr. Dale Keltz.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 10, 2022

Voice Vote: Mr. Ryan Allen, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mr. Bill Holland, Mrs. Arica Jennings, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**Superintendent**

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

- A tip line set up to detect threats of violence and intimidation in schools has unexpectedly turned up a majority of reports about students suffering from mental health issues. A report released Wednesday by the Pennsylvania attorney general's office said nearly three out of every four calls to Safe2Say Something PA, an anonymous reporting system for schools, were focused on mental illness, self-harm, discrimination and harassment, or instances of bullying. We as a school district are seeing this same trend with calls we have been receiving as a district.
- School districts across the country are trying to shore up their cybersecurity after the federal government's warning about potential Russian cyber-threats against America's critical infrastructure, which includes our public education system. Dr. Briggs acknowledged the work that Jeff Karpinski, Mark Jannone, and Zack West have done to continue to monitor our cybersecurity. No system is "100% hacker proof," but we continue to take steps to be safer as a district through various levels of password protections for our staff.
- The HB 2169: Voucher Program Bill is on Second Consideration in the House. The outcome of today's Caucus meetings could determine whether the bill comes up for a floor vote this week. The bill establishes the "Lifeline Scholarship" to give parents of any student in grades 1-12 residing within the attendance areas of the lowest-achieving public schools with vouchers to pay for tuition in an "alternative academic setting." Eligible students must have attended a public school in the preceding school year, received funds from the program in the preceding school year, would be

attending first grade for the first time in the next school year, are in foster care, were recently adopted, or whose parent is full-time military. Both special needs and regular ed. students meeting the criteria would be eligible.

- Explained to the board the criteria for a school building to be eligible for the new voucher program bill. Under the current criteria, every high school in Bradford County, except one, has been identified as a “low performing high school.” Dr. Briggs shared he would be reaching out to the I.U. to seek additional curriculum support and develop a plan for the 2022/2023 school year. That plan will be shared with the board later.
- Our junior high and high school athletics have begun competition and are braving the weather as we head into the spring season. Our baseball, softball, and track teams continue to dodge the rain, cold, and sleet to begin successful seasons.
- The CHS Guide to Graduation and Calendar has been updated and is published on our CHS webpage. This guide provides all of the details that lead up to and include the commencement ceremony at 6 p.m. on June 3, 2022, outside on the football field.
- In an attempt to better prepare for the upcoming PSSAs, our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have created a PSSA Boot Camp. As a team, we evaluated past PSSA scores from individual students to identify their areas of weakness to work on those particular skills. The PSSA Boot Camp is designed around the state standards, including best practice teaching strategies, which allows students to “stress less” for the upcoming assessments.
- The CHS Teacher of the Marking Period was Mr. Randy Frye. Congratulations to Mr. Frye for his dedication and commitment to CHS!
- The elementary staff is diligently working to prepare our students for the upcoming statewide assessments.
- The elementary school teachers are preparing for the grade level field trips that will be occurring throughout the month of May.
- The students in our elementary exceptional programs are currently working on plants to sell for the spring to support greenhouse crew.
- The high school special education students have completed their transition council meetings. These meetings occur with our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and outside agency individuals so they can learn how to use supports upon their graduation from high school.
- We are currently planning our ESY program. The program will run from June 13 -June 30. We are hoping to have an instructor and support staff in place in the near future.

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

Mr. Dale Keltz requested that the board remove the Pledge of Allegiance from the agenda.

Mrs. Pamela Denlinger addressed the board concerning the agreement that is on the agenda between Canton Area School District and CONCERN. She specifically pointed out that the agreement allows for children over the age of 14 to seek counseling without the need of parental consent. She asked that it be changed to 18 years of age to preserve parental rights. Dr. Briggs indicated that law supported the age limit of 14. Attorney Blaney agreed with Dr. Briggs but suggested that she would look into it further to confirm.

Mrs. Arica Jennings requested feedback from the board regarding the naming of parts of buildings. She indicated that she has a personal interest in this agenda item and wanted to give the students a final answer. Mr. Bill Holland commented that Jefferey Wynne gave his entire life to teaching and established very strong bonds with the students he worked with. Mr. Ryan Allen expressed his concern about naming parts of the district however felt that this was different given the fact that it was being proposed by a group of students. He said that he would be okay with dedicating a plaque in memory of Mr. Wynne but that he supports the naming of the library. Mrs. Judy Sourbeer expressed her concern with naming the library due to the potential ripple effect from public regarding other parts of the district. Mr. Scott May asked if the students had a “back-up plan.” To which Mr. Will Gowin, class president, responded that the class would support a memorial plaque if not granted the right to name the library but their first choice was to name the library.

#### **BUSINESS**

##### **Referral Agreement**

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to table the Linkage Letter/Referral Agreement between CONCERN and Canton Area School District, effective 2022/2023 and

2023/2024 school years.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.  
Motion carried.

### **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 March 31, 2022. (A copy is in the supplemental file.)

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Bills**

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

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
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: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
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: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Activity Run Rates**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the Activity Run Rates, effective July 1, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Central Treasury Reports**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer 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: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Scholarship Applications**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the following scholarship applications:

- a. Chesapeake Energy Scholarship Award
- b. Stormy Horton Bell '88 Award

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Legal Retainer**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer 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 2022/2023 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Proposal**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the proposal from The Nutrition Group with a guarantee loss of no more than \$28,060 for Canton Area School District cafeteria operations for the 2022/2023 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Act 93 Compensation Plan**

A motion was made by Mr. Denny Sourbeer and seconded by Mr. Eric Anderson to approve the Act 93 Compensation Plan, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Mr. Gary Black abstained.  
Motion carried.

### **Proposed Preliminary Budget**

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Black and seconded by Mr. Ryan Allen to approve the Canton Area School District 2022/2023 proposed preliminary budget with revenues of \$18,443,212 and expenditures of \$20,273,223.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Hire Date**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Allen and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to accept the hire date of May 11, 2022 for Carolann Ward-Spencer, English/Special Education Teacher, at B+12 \$60,507 (prorated), with full benefits, pending completion of required paperwork.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.  
Motion carried.

### **Resignation**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Allen and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to accept the resignation letter from JoAnne Tarbox, part-time paraprofessional, effective April 8, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.  
Motion carried.

### **Retirement**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Allen and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to accept the retirement letter from Sarah Brown, custodian, with 20 years of service, effective June 3, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.  
Motion carried.

### **Transfer**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Allen and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the transfer of Bethany Fulmer, from part-time cafeteria worker to part-time paraprofessional, \$17.00/hour with no benefits, effective April 11, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.  
Motion carried.

### **Stipend Payments**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Allen and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve the request to make the following stipend payments to musicians who performed in the 2021/2022 musical, "Into the Woods":

- a. Kristin Ivers - \$1,040
- b. Jonathan Barrett - \$250
- c. Jim Johnson - \$250
- d. Robert Oldroyd - \$250
- e. Zackary Smith - \$250
- f. Dave Loomis - \$300
- g. Karen Mariano - \$300

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr.

Gary Black, Mr. Tom Resavage, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Scott May voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Substitute List Additions**

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

- a. Alec Hess, custodian
- b. Amber Girardi, nurse
- c. JoAnne Tarbox, paraprofessional, retroactive to 4/11/22 as all paperwork is complete

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.  
Motion carried.

### **Volunteer List Additions**

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

- a. Greg Bellows, baseball, retroactive to 3/16/22
- b. Jenna Boyce, softball, retroactive to 3/18/22
- c. Darryl Jannone, softball, retroactive to 3/17/22
- d. Hannah Gilliland, softball, retroactive to 3/14/22
- e. Seth Robbins, baseball, retroactive to 3/16/22
- f. Ben Rubert, baseball, retroactive to 3/18/22
- g. Austin Hartford, baseball, retroactive to 3/19/22
- h. Maddy Schucker, softball, retroactive to 3/30/22
- i. Lydia Leiby, softball, retroactive to 4/1/22
- j. Tina Brackman Ross, band trip chaperone, retroactive to 4/4/22
- k. Nick Colton, baseball, retroactive to 4/8/22

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.  
Motion carried.

### **Unpaid Days**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Allen and seconded by Mrs. Arica Jennings to approve unpaid days for the month of February, for the following employee:

- a. Employee #1829, two days

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.  
Motion carried.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

#### **Athletic Handbook**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the 2022/2023 Canton Athletic Handbook.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

#### **Academic Planner**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the 2022/2023 Canton Jr./Sr. High School Academic Planner.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Health and Safety Plan**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the updated ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Field Trip Request**

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Anderson and seconded by Mr. Denny Sourbeer to approve the overnight field trip request from Maureen Martz for FCCLA National Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA, on June 28, 2022 through July 4, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gary Black, Mr. Bill Holland, Mr. Denny Sourbeer, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mr. Scott May, Mr. Eric Anderson, Mr. Ryan Allen, and Mrs. Judy Sourbeer voted yea.  
Mr. Tom Resavage voted nay.  
Motion carried.

### **Library Naming**

A motion was made by Mr. Bill Holland and seconded by Mr. Gary Black to approve the naming of the Canton Jr./Sr. High School Library to The Jefferey J. Wynne Memorial Library.

Roll Call Vote: All nine members present voted yea.  
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Dale Keltz reminded the board that they represent the taxpayers of the district and oversee the superintendent.

Mrs. Pamela Denlinger approached the board questioning the district's policy on academic transparency. She indicated that 20 states already have legislation either being passed or passed that requires districts to post their curriculum online for parents and taxpayers to review. She said that in light of the recent actions of Disney and others she felt that our students are being introduced to gender related issues that they should not be facing. She asked that the board pass a resolution removing any gender inclusion and identity curriculum from the district. Mrs. Arica Jennings commented that she supports our administration and teachers and said that they are very transparent through her personal involvement with the school. Mr. Ryan Allen agreed with Mrs. Jennings' comments but also wanted to point out that they have to stay within the confines of multiple laws. Dr. Briggs shared that the district would have the ability to post their curriculum online but this would be a very time intensive task. Mr. Matt Jennings indicated that he supports LGBTQ+ curriculum and education in school districts. He added that he is aware of several alumni who have moved out of the area because they were not accepted.

Mrs. Judy Sourbeer publicly commended Remy Blaney on his fundraiser that he coordinated for the Ukraine soldiers.

### **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, May 12, 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 5:55 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone  
Business Manager/Board Secretary