



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Homer-Center School Board  
Homer City, PA 15748  
Central Office Board Room  
October 17, 2018

Members Present

Mr. Gerald Bertig  
Mr. Michael Bertig  
Mr. Daniel Fabin  
Mr. Fred Hayes

Mr. James McLoughlin  
Mr. Justin Smyers  
Mr. Robert Valyo

Members Absent

Mr. Logan Dellafiora  
Mrs. Vicki Smith

School Administrators Present

Dr. Charles J. Koren, Superintendent  
Mr. Gregory Cessna, Business Manager  
Mr. Michael Stofa, Elementary Principal  
Mr. Matthew Rodkey, Assistant Principal K-12  
Mrs. Bethany Genchur, Special Education Director  
Mr. Edward Sutter, Facilities Supervisor  
Mrs. Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary  
Mr. Dan Cooper, Solicitor

Homer-Center Staff Present

L. Golec                      S. Mateer  
M. Pangonis                C. Turk  
E. Collins                    L. Root  
S. Cook                      T. Bruno

Media Present

Josh Widdowson, 1160 WCCS  
Chauncy Ross, Indiana Gazette

Visitors

Isabella Sleight and Family  
Wyatt McElheny and Family  
Maggie Arone and Family  
Rob, Connie & Ashley Clark  
Barb & Richard Coy  
Joe & Debbie Silveri  
Jack Lucas

The Board held an executive session from 7:00-7:40 p.m. for personnel matters.

President Michael Bertig called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the Homer-Center Mission Statement opened the meeting. Seven members were present at roll call to comprise a quorum.

## Visitor Comments

Mr. Joseph Silveri addressed the Board regarding two concerns he had. Mr. Robert Clark addressed the Board regarding a concern he had.

## IV. STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Stofa introduced Isabella Sleight as the Elementary October Wildcat Recognition Award Recipient. He presented her with her certificates and lapel pin. Mr. Rodkey introduced Wyatt McElheny as the High School October Wildcat Recognition Award Recipient. Mr. Pagonis and Ms. Bruno spoke about Wyatt and presented him with his certificates and lapel pin. Mr. McLoughlin introduced Maggie Arone as the October Kiwanis Senior of the Month. He presented her with her certificate and lapel pin.

## V. REPORTS

### Homer-Center School Board Committees

Academic Committee – Mr. Michael Bertig reported; (1) a draft of the Comprehensive Plan is out and they have made some minor changes; (2) they are looking at the NHS policies on cheating and making revisions. As it stands now, a student can have up to three offenses of cheating before they are let go from the group; (3) K-2 Report Cards – Mr. Stofa has restarted the work on this project.

Buildings and Grounds Committee- Mr. J. Bertig reported; (1) ESCO Project has a formal agreement and will be bringing to the Board; (2) work continues on the staircase and the Jr. High Wing; (3) high school library closed a few days to take care of an air quality concern.

### Homer-Center School Board Representatives to Outside Boards

Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit #28-Mr. Hayes reported; (1) hiring and securing substitutes is difficult and they are looking into the situation; (2) grant compliance overhead costs; (3) service agreement with Collins Educational Training. Costs will be paid by ARIN.

Homer-Center Parks and Recreation-Mr. Smyers and Mr. M. Bertig did not attend the last meeting, therefore, they was no report.

Indiana County Technology Center-Dr. Koren reported Mr. Mike Worthington, newly hired Principal, will be in place next week. Process and discussions continue with ICTC, WCCC and ICDC on the property at ICTC.

### Administration

Mr. Stofa reported on the following; (1) annual Book Fair was conducted October 1-5. Families were able to come on parent/teacher conference day. He thanks Mrs. Sacco for all her hard work; (2) end of the first quarter is Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>; (3) Halloween parade and

parties will begin at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>; (4) report cards will be distributed the week of October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rodkey reported on the following: (1) FCA attended a religious concert on Monday. Everyone reported that it was a great concert. The Shake Out Drill will be conducted on 10-18-18. All other information was given in writing by Mr. Rainey in the Board Agenda.

Mrs. Genchur reported on the following; (1) Comprehensive Plan; (2) Act 44 Grant was submitted; (3) Project Max

Mr. Sutter reported on the following; (2) Batronix was in the library working on air quality. The library will open on Thursday; (3) 75' of sidewalk being replaced in front of the school; (4) the building permit for the stairs is in; (5) if we have another home football game, he will need to purchase more paint for the HC logo on the field; (6) the chiller is off and the heat is on; (7) they completed some work on the softball field.

HCEA- Ms. Bruno

Ms. Bruno reported that the HCEA Wildcat Tale was submitted to the Board and placed on the web site. She also noted this year that dress down money will go back to the students. They wanted to keep it in-house. Each gift will be \$100. She thanked Erin Collins for all her hard work on the Academic Luncheon and noted it was once again a huge success. She noted guest speaker, Jordan Alsop, did a great job.

HCESP – Mrs. Collins

Mrs. Collins reported that HCESP is having a pencil drive and giving to teachers for students in need.

VI. OLD BUSINESS FROM THE OCTOBER 4, 2018 PLANNING MEETING-CONSENT ITEMS

On a Smyers/Fabin motion approved these consent items. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes for September 20, 2018 Regular Meeting– Appendix A
- B. Treasurer’s Report and Cafeteria Cash Statement for September 30, 2018 – Appendix B
- C. Approval of Bills – Appendix C
- D. Business Manager’s Items
  - 1. Interest earned during September 2018 amounted to \$9,262.31.
  - 2. Approved the Memorandum of Agreement with ARIN Intermediate Unit to provide School Based Access Program services for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year - Appendix D.
  - 3. Accepting the IU13 Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness \$4,000 Mini-Grant - Appendix E.

E. Superintendent's Items

1. Personnel

- a. Mrs. Sarah Cook, high school math teacher, requesting FMLA leave from approximately December 14, 2018-April 15, 2019.
- b. Approved the following as substitutes: Helena Dadson, Joanne Kablack, Gregory Marsh, Donna Rosenberger, Sherry Dellaposta (retroactive to Oct. 5, 2018).
- c. Mrs. Amy Skoff, elementary teacher, requesting FMLA leave beginning October 15, 2018 for approximately 3 weeks.
- d. Accepted the resignation of Melissa Todd, cleaner, effective retroactive to October 12, 2018.

2. Education

Approved the following teacher conferences:

- a. Jordan Alsop to attend PSSA Open-Ended Training at ARIN IU 28 on September 28; October 18, November 9 and December 5, 2018. Cost to the district is \$600 and one substitute for four days.
- b. Cathy Hays to attend ASSET STEM Training on Soils STC Course in Pittsburgh, PA on October 16-17, 2018 and November 6-7, 2018. Cost to the district is one substitute for four days and \$351.12 for lodging.
- c. Vicki Olinger and Erin Hildebrand to attend the Technology Integrators Workshop at ARIN IU 28 on October 23, December 13, 2018 and February 19, 2019. Cost to the district is two substitutes for three days and \$120 registration fees.
- d. Heather Lowry, Tammy Buffone, Jordan Alsop, Kimberly Dunlap and Suzanne Rura to attend PIIC Literacy Series at ARIN IU 28 on October 15 and December 11, 2018; and February 4 and March 25, 2019. Cost to the district is five substitutes for four days.
- e. Jennifer Lieb to attend the Safety Care Initial Training on October 29-30, 2018 at ARIN IU 28. Cost to the district is \$50 registration fee.
- f. Joseph Kotelnicki to attend PLO Conference at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, PA retroactive to October 9-11, 2018. Cost to the district was \$70 for meals and one substitute for three days.

3. Student Activities

Approved the following student field trips:

- a. Mr. Steven Hall and Interact Club to place wreaths for veterans at the Indiana VFW on December 6, 2018. Cost to the district is one substitute for half of a day.
- b. Mrs. Christine Yurky and students to attend the National Science Bowl-Western Regionals at CCAC in West Mifflin, PA on Saturday, March 2, 2019. There is no cost to the district.

4. Building and Grounds

Approved the following use of building and grounds:

- a. Mrs. Maria Jackson and the Class of 2026 to use the elementary gym or cafeteria to sell smens and smencils the first Friday of the month in the mornings prior to the start of school as a fundraiser for their field trip. With Board approval, all fees will be waived.

- b. Mr. Steven Hall to use the high school LGI room for SAP Parent to Parent Workshops on October 18, November 15 and December 13, 2018. With Board approval, all fees will be waived.
- 5. Cafeteria-No Report
- 6. Policies
  - a. First reading of Policy 113.4. 100 Programs. Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information - Appendix F.
- 7. Transportation-No Report
- 8. Board of Directors
  - a. Approved the audit agreement between the Homer-Center School District and TEN, The Efficiency Network, Inc. to determine the feasibility of entering into a guaranteed energy savings contract.

VII. PULLED AGENDA ITEM FROM OLD BUSINESS FROM THE OCTOBER 4, 2018 PLANNING MEETING-NON-CONSENT ITEM: None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

On a McLoughlin/Hayes motion, approved the following items. Voice vote: unanimous.

- A. Mr. Jon Stolarz and the Band Boosters to use the high school cafeteria and kitchen for a musical breakfast with the cast on December 1, 2018. With Board approval, all fees will be waived.
- B. Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Joyce Bodkin, cafeteria worker, effective retroactive to October 8, 2018.
- C. Mrs. Wendy Gallo, Miss Courtney Henry and Mrs. Amy Skoff to attend the Promising Practices in Literacy conferences on November 13, December 11, 2018; February 4 and March 25, 2019. Cost to the district is three substitutes for four days.
- D. Appointed the following individuals to be on the Comprehensive Plan Committees for the Homer-Center School District:
  - Professional Education Subcommittee:
  - Carie Cavalier, Parent Dan Sacco, Business Representative
  - Lori Thompson, Parent Kate Steele, Business Representative
  - Michael Bertig, Community Representative
  - Vicki Smith, Community Representative
  - Schoolwide Plan Subcommittee:
  - Michael Bertig, Community Representative
  - Vicki Smith, Community Representative
- E. Approved the following as spare bus drivers for the 2018-19 school year: Ashley Kinney, Hunter Kline, John Pisone, Kelly Sadler, Candace Shultz, Doris Smith, Scott Smith.
- F. Informational - PSBA Election Results - Appendix G. These votes were cast by the Board Secretary following the September 20, 2018 Board Meeting via electronic voting.

On a Fabin/Smyers motion approved the following items. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0 items G-M and O-P; and 6-0-1 with Mr. McLoughlin abstaining on item N.

- G. Approved Mr. Andrew Osborne as the musical choreographer for the 2018-2019 school year at the supplemental salary of \$500.
- H. Approved Dr. Ruth Yatkanic and the TADD Club the use of the high school cafeteria and lobby area for the Jr. High Christmas Dance. Grades 7-9, on December 15, 2018 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. With Board approval, all fees will be waived.
- J. Employed of Mrs. Brittany Haer as a part-time cafeteria worker effective retroactive to October 15, 2018 at 90% of the starting salary of \$10.35/hr. and on a 60 day probationary period as per the CBA between the Homer-Center School District and the HCESP.
- K. Approved homebound instruction for a secondary student (Tracking #18-19-01).
- L. Mrs. Deanne Magolis and one student to attend the Creative Writing Day at Susquehanna University on October 22, 2018. Cost to the district is one substitute for one day.
- M. Approved a \$3,000 Colonial Motor Mart Reading Program Grant.
- N. Mrs. Susan McLoughlin to attend the Food Service Conference & Exhibits in Camp Hill, PA on November 14-15, 2018. Cost to the district is \$350.00.
- O. Approved Mrs. Jenn Ponish and Mrs. Carie Cavalier to conduct the Kai Hrabovsky Memorial Basketball Tournament in the high school gym and cafeteria on May 18, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. With Board approval, the group will be charged \$200 custodial fees (8 hrs. x \$25/hr.).
- P. Approved the agreement between the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District and the Homer-Center School District for participation in Blairsville-Saltsburg's Boys Varsity and Junior High Wrestling teams. Student athletes are responsible for the \$200 per player fees. Mr. J. Bertig requested the word "boys" be taken out of the contract.

On a McLoughlin/Fabin motion, approved the following item. Poll vote; motion carried 4-3 with Mr. J. Bertig, Mr. Valyo and Mr. Smyers voting no.

- I. Approved elementary students grades K-6 to attend the IUP 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Day Basketball Game on Wednesday, November 28, 2018. Cost to the district is transportation.

#### IX. OPEN DISCUSSION-None

#### X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. McLoughlin noted the Academic Luncheon went very well. He enjoyed Mr. Alsop's speech. Mr. J. Bertig noted his support for the Saltsburg football program. He also saw the band perform at Ligonier Days. They represented the district well. He wished them the best in their Johnstown competition. Mr. Smyers noted that the Board is handling the book issue and will be

adopting policy and reviewing future books. Mr. M. Bertig also noted his support for the Saltsburg football program. Mr. M. Bertig noted at this time the Board would be going into Executive Session for personnel reasons and no action would be taken.

On a Hayes/Smyers motion the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. Voice vote; unanimous.

Executive Session lasted from 8:45-9:28 p.m.

Submitted for board approval.

  
Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

Seal

Michael Bertig, President

The Academic Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 from 7:01-8:30 p.m. Board Members present were Michael Bertig, and Vicki Smith. James McLoughlin was absent. Administrators present were Dr. Charles Koren, Michael Stofa, Jody Rainey, and Bethany Genchur. Others present were Robert Valyo, Pamela Michael and Chris Yurky.

Discussion centered on the following items: (1) Mr. Valyo brought to the attention of the group his concerns for the disciplinary responses for members of the NHS. This was discussed and will run through a process of sharing with the Faculty Council to review and update (last revision was in 2012). In November, there will be a review of the process that will take place and possible recommendations; (2) Comp Plan-handouts were shared and the entire group reviewed the Mission Statement; Vision Statement; Share Values; District Accomplishments; District Concerns; District Action Plan Goals; (3) Mr. Stofa updated the group on the status of the K,1,2 grade level report cards and the most recent conversation with the faculty of those levels.

An open meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Homer-Center School District was held on Thursday, October 4, 2018 in the Central Office Board Room. Executive Session was from 7:00-7:40 p.m. and the Planning Meeting was from 7:43-9:18 p.m. Board Members present were Jerry Bertig, Michael Bertig, Logan Dellafiora, Dan Fabin, Fred Hayes, James McLoughlin, Vicki Smith, and Justin Smyers. Robert Valyo was absent. Administrators present were Dr. Charles Koren, Superintendent: Greg Cessna, Business Manager: Michael Stofa, Elementary Principal; Jody Rainey, High School Principal; Bethany Genchur, Special Ed Director and Ed Sutter, Facilities Supervisor. Staff members present were Lisa Adams and Erin Collins.

The discussion centered on various issues dealing with personnel, budget, finances, education, student activities, board of school directors, cafeteria, school board policies and miscellaneous items.

No official action or roll call votes were taken.