



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Homer-Center School Board
Homer City, PA 15748
Central Office Board Room
March 19, 2019

Members Present

Mr. Gerald Bertig	Mr. James McLoughlin
Mr. Michael Bertig	Mrs. Vicki Smith
Mr. Logan Dellafiora	Mr. Justin Smyers
Mr. Daniel Fabin	Mr. Robert Valyo
Mr. Fred Hayes	

Members Absent

School Administrators Present

Dr. Charles J. Koren, Superintendent
Mr. Gregory Cessna, Business Manager
Mr. Michael Stofa, Elementary Principal
Mr. Jody Rainey, High School Principal
Mrs. Bethany Genchur, Director of Special Ed.
Mr. Edward Sutter, Facilities Supervisor
Mrs. Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

Homer-Center Staff Present

Christine Yurky	Erin Collins
Tina Bruno	Nancy Skultety
Deanne Magolis	
Susan McLoughlin	
Susan and Sam Marra	

Media Present

Chauncy Ross, Indiana Gazette
Greg Reinbold, The Dispatch

Visitors

Mia Slater and Family
Kyersten Gett and Family
Katlyn Hippchen and Family
Alaina Fabin

The Board held an executive session from 7:00-7:39 p.m. to discuss information from the Safety Committee; personnel issues on applications and responses for Mr. Black and Mrs. Page's vacancies and years of service for Mrs. Marra and Mrs. Bell; and a student nut allergy issue.

President Michael Bertig called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the Homer-Center Mission Statement opened the meeting. Eight members were present at roll call to comprise a quorum. Mr. Hayes arrived at 8:02 p.m.

III. Visitor Comments-None

Presentation

Mrs. Susan McLoughlin presented Mrs. Susan Marra with the 2019 Pennsylvania School Breakfast Hall of Fame Campaign for the No Kid Goes Hungry Award that Dr. Koren nominated her for. Mrs. Marra has served our students for 27 years. She received a certificate, lapel pin and an HC lapel pin. Mrs. Marra thanked the Board for this recognition.

IV. STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Stofa introduced Mia Slater as the March Wildcat Recognition Award Recipient. Mrs. Skultety presented Mia to the Board and presented her certificates and HC lapel pin and her name done in artwork by Mr. Hartnett. Mr. Rainey introduced Kyersten Gett as the March Wildcat Recognition Award Recipient. Mrs. Magolis presented Kyersten to the Board and presented her certificates and HC lapel pin. Mr. Dellafiora introduced Katlyn Hippchen as the Kiwanis Senior of the Month for March. He presented her with her certificate and HC lapel pin. Mrs. Christine Yurky introduced Alaina Fabin and spoke about her accomplishments on the recent PJAS Competition. Alaina took first place in her category; had a perfect score (all 5's in every category by every judge); was nominated by the Region 9 Directors for first place; and out of 650 students, she won the Jr. Academy Innovation Award. Congratulations on an outstanding job! Alaina was presented with an HC lapel pin.

V. REPORTS

Homer-Center School Board Committees

Academic Committee – Mr. Michael Bertig reported: (1) reviewed the school calendar for 2019-2020 and the survey results; (2) presentation by three elementary teachers on the math curriculum. Teachers would like to delay one year to continue researching the text books and curriculum; (3) discussion on an elementary student health issue that cannot attend school. Looking at possible video feeds to home.

Buildings and Grounds Committee- Mr. Jerry Bertig reported: (1) Monitored progress on the ESCO project; (2) ceiling and wall partition in multipurpose room at the elementary school in need of repairs; (3) getting quotes on paving. No actions have been taken to date, but continuing to advance.

Homer-Center School Board Representatives to Outside Boards

Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit #28-Mr. Hayes reported on the following: (1) Audit report was accepted by the Board; (2) accepted a \$10,736 grant from PDE to offset programming for homeless students. He noted there are 350 homeless students in Indiana and Armstrong Counties; (3) On a Federal and State level, discussion has begun regarding increasing minimum wage to \$15 as the Governor has suggested. This could

increase daycare and early childhood costs for parents or even close some daycares that could not afford to pay staff that much money.

Homer-Center Parks and Recreation-Mr. Smyers reported on the following: (1) staff was hired to revamp the website; (2) creating a summer program that would follow Boys and Girls Club when they are not in session; (3) Pool party rental fee will be \$120; pool passes are \$100 and on sale now; (4) a field drag was also purchased by Parks & Rec.

Indiana County Technology Center-Mrs. Smith reported on the following: (1) Met with Congressman Thompson regarding the new project and Challenger Center. They have received \$4 million to date in contributions, however; need \$3 million more; (2) the Conservation District is going into construction; (3) the budget was prepared for the JOC Meeting and will be voting on it next month.

Administration

Mr. Stofa reported on the following: (1) Bus Evacuation Drills were held on Thursday, March 7th; (2) Kindergarten Registration was also held that day, with 63 students registering; (3) Friday March 15th is a vacation day for students; (4) the Elementary Book Fair will be held from March 18-22, 2019, with Family Night being held on March 20th; (5) three elementary students won the NIE competition. They are: Gavin Henigin, Sofia Costello, and Bella Tamburrino. They will be invited to attend the April Board Meeting as the Wildcat Recognition Award Recipients.

Mr. Rainey reported on the following: (1) Congratulations to all the PJAS participants and to the Heritage Conference Science Team for First Place on March 13th. Team members included Zach Zelensky, Tyler Blystone, Mackenzie Arone and Savanna Ahlborn. The team was coached by Mr. Brad Adams; (2) Homer-Heroes OTDA Symposium will be held March 21st and all county schools are invited to participate. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Scott went through grant money received; (3) Dr. Yatzkanic and 8th Grade students will attend the Blairsville Reality Tour on March 20th; (4) County-Wide Vaping Program will be conducted in the High School Auditorium on March 27th at 7:00 p.m. All parents are invited to attend.

Mrs. Genchur reported on the following: (1) She thanked Mrs. Yurky for her hard work with PJAS and her enthusiasm she brings to the projects; (2) third quarter elementary data meeting will be held on March 21st; (3) ELA PSSA testing will begin soon. The staff is preparing for these; (4) the next ROAR assembly also doubles as the PSSA kickoff assembly on April 12th. IUP Women's Basketball players will be coming to the kickoff assembly.

Mr. Sutter reported on the following: (1) his staff is working full steam ahead for spring sports and track field work; (2) Simplex was in testing fire alarms in the Elementary

building; (3) Siemens was in last week and cleaned the chiller tubes; (4) microphone jacks were also checked.

HCEA- Ms. Bruno had no report.

HCESP – Mrs. Collins had no report.

VI. OLD BUSINESS FROM THE MARCH 5, 2019 PLANNING MEETING-CONSENT ITEMS

On a McLoughlin/Hayes motion, approved the following. Poll vote; motion carried 9-0.

- A. Approved of Minutes for February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting– Appendix A
- B. Treasurer’s Report and Cafeteria Cash Statements for February 28, 2019 – Appendix B
- C. Approved of Bills – Appendix C
- D. Business Manager’s Items
 1. Interest earned during February 2019 amounted to \$9,229.87.
 2. Approved of the 2017-2018 audit report as submitted by the local auditor, Ronald C. McCrory, CPA, LLC.
 3. Approved the renewal of the District’s commercial property, general liability, school leaders legal liability, crime, commercial automobile, and umbrella coverages (Package Policy) through PSBA for \$56,861 with a \$2,500 deductible.
 4. Extended the 2017 Homer-Center School District Residential Structure or Commercial Building Tax Abatement Program from the original expiration date of June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020.
- E. Superintendent’s Items
 1. Personnel
 - a. Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Tracey Page, Business Manager’s Secretary, effective March 8, 2019, and as Girls’ Head Track Coach effective retroactive to February 25, 2019.
 - b. Approved the movement of Mr. Matthew Rodkey from the Assistant Boys’ Track Coach to the Girls’ Head Track Coach at the supplemental salary of \$5,033.00 for the 2018-2019 season.
 - c. Approved the following as substitute teachers: Patricia Ryan (Guest Teacher and RN retroactive to March 7, 2019); Kevin McKee, Guest Teacher; Linsey Stokes, Guest Teacher
 - d. Approved Mr. Jason Buggiey as the Boys’ Assistant Track coach at the supplemental salary of \$2,438 for the 2018-2019 season, pending receipt of clearances and required training.
 - e. Accepted the resignation of Mr. Jordan Alsop, math teacher, effective May 3, 2019.

2. Education-No Report
3. Student Activities
 - a. Approved Mr. Charles Kirkland, Mrs. Lisa Adams, Mr. Bill Tonkin, Mr. Steven Hall and students to attend the Career Expo 2019 at KCAC in Indiana, PA on April 4, 2019. There is no cost to the district.
4. Building and Grounds
 - a. Approved Mr. William Tonkin to provide a Hunter Safety Course on May 15-16, 2019 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. in the Elementary Art Room for Homer-Center students. With Board approval, all fees will be waived.
 - b. Approved the Earthcraft Lawn Care Packages as follows:
 - Floodway Park - \$301.00/per treatment (\$1,505)
 - Memorial Field - \$618.00/per treatment (\$3,090)
 - Practice Field - \$488.00/per treatment (\$2,440)
 - High School Entrance - \$124.00/per treatment (\$620)
5. Cafeteria-No Report
6. Policies-No Report
7. Transportation-No Report
8. Board of Directors
 - a. Approved the snow make-up day on May 31, 2019 from February 20, 2019 cancellation as noted in the revised school calendar in Appendix D.
 - b. Approved the 2019-2020 ARIN IU 28 budget in the amount of \$3,502,740 with Homer-Center's share through withholding amounting to \$27,147.
 - c. Approved the dates for ABC's & Me Summer Program for July 9, 10, 11; July 16, 17, 18; and July 23, 24, 25, 2019.

VII. OLD BUSINESS FROM THE MARCH 5, 2019 PLANNING MEETING-NON-CONSENT ITEM:

On a Smyers/Dellafiora motion, accepted the resignation, due to retirement, with regret, of Mrs. Janice Bell, elementary teacher, effective with the last teacher day of the 2018-2019 school year. Poll vote; motion carried 9-0.

On a Smyers/Valyo motion approved the 2019-2020 school calendar as noted in Appendix E. Discussion on the calendar took place. Poll vote; motion carried 6-3, with Mrs. Smith, Mr. Fabin and Mr. McLoughlin voting no.

On a Smyers/Hayes motion approved the Demand Response Program Agreement with NRG Curtailment Solutions, Inc. as noted in Appendix F. Poll vote; motion carried 9-0.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

On a J. Bertig/Valyo motion approved the following. Poll vote; motion carried 9-0.

- A. Approved Miss Louise Vranesevic to attend the PMEA All State Eastern Division Conference in Pittsburgh, PA on April 5-7, 2019. Cost to the district is \$185 registration fee and one substitute for one day.
- B. Approved Mr. Robert Rado and the Boys' Basketball Boosters to use the high school gym and locker rooms on June 10-14, 2019 7:30 am-3:00 pm; and June 17-20, 2019 from 7:30 am-12:00 pm for basketball camp and shooting clinic. With Board approval, all fees will be waived.
- C. Approved Mr. Steven Hall and the Interact Club/Children's Advisory Committee to use the high school track stadium on April 6, 2019 from 10:30 am-6:00 pm for a Bubble Soccer Tournament. With Board approval, all fees will be waived.
- D. Approved two unpaid days on March 29 and April 1, 2019 for Mrs. Emily Gates, elementary teacher.
- E. Employed Merrium Cook as a 4 hour 12 month cleaner at the 60 day probationary period and the starting salary of 90% of \$9.84/hr., pending receipt of proper documentation.
- F. Approved Mr. Bill Tonkin, Mr. Greg Hartnett and the Hunting Club students to help build picnic tables at the Indiana Bow & Gun Club on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. There is no cost to the district.
- G. Approved the following as volunteer coaches for these Spring sports:
Baseball – Marty Maschak, James McLoughlin
Track – Jason Bence, Andrew Kent
Softball – Mark Mechling, Adam Marshall, David King
- H. Approved the following as substitute guest teachers: Vanessa Dickson; Kaitlyn Bash.
- I. Approved Mrs. Christine Yurky and students to attend the Envirothon at Blue Spruce Park on May 1, 2019. Cost to the district is one substitute for one day and transportation.
- J. Approved Mrs. Christine Yurky and students to attend PJAS State Competition at Penn State University on May 19-21, 2019. Cost to the district is \$500 registration and one substitute for two days.
- K. Approved Mrs. Kelly Tagliati and the Homer-Center Football Parents Association to hold the 10th Annual Youth Football Camp on June 17-19, 2019 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm at the high school practice field (track area). With Board approval, all fees will be waived.
- L. Approved Mr. Jody Rainey and the Indiana County Fire Chiefs Association to use the high school LGI on May 6, 2019 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. for training on emergency reporting. With Board approval, all fees will be waived.
- M. Approved the second grade field trip to Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh, PA on May 8, 2019. There is no cost to the district.
- N. Approved Mr. Brad Adams and students to attend the IUP Physics Olympics on April 5, 2019. Cost to the district is one substitute for one day and transportation.

- O. Approved Homer-Center Jr.-Sr. High School's participation in the ARIN IU 28 PPT Elect with the match of funds in the amount of \$900.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION-None

Informational – The April Regular Board Meeting date was changed to Wednesday, April 17, 2019 due to the ARIN Convention on April 16th.

X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Dellafiora announced the reason he did not run for another term on the School Board was that he will be attending law school this fall out of the area. The Board wished him well. Mr. Valyo wished Mrs. Janice Bell a joyful retirement. Mr. J. Bertig thanked Mrs. Bell for her years of service. He also noted the elementary school's large donation of \$4,000 for Jump Rope for Heart is always such a joy to see that much money raised. Mr. M. Bertig noted his regret on Mrs. Bell's retirement. She will be missed. Mr. Fabin, Mrs. Smith, Mr. McLoughlin, Mr. Hayes and Mrs. Smyers had no report.

On a Hayes/Dellafiora motion the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Voice vote; unanimous.

Submitted for board approval, ✓



Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

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Michael Bertig, President