

EASTERN LEBANON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
180 ELCO Drive, Myerstown, PA 17067

Committee-of-the-Whole Board of Education Meeting
Board Room – ELCO High School
Hybrid

March 1, 2021

The Committee-of-the-Whole Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President, Jack Kahl at 6:02 p.m.

The Eastern Lebanon County School Board met in a Committee-of-the-Whole Board of Education Session (hybrid – in-person and via Zoom) with President Jack Kahl presiding and Mrs. Thomas leading the Opening Exercises.

Roll Call

Board Secretary, Gloria Hill called the roll. The following members were present Mrs. Gray Hayes, *Mrs. Noll, Dr. Smith, Ms. Stettler, and Mrs. Thomas; and Messer's Kahl, Kramer and Ondrusek. Absent from the meeting was Mrs. Weaver. Also, in attendance were the following from the administrative team: Mrs. Vicente, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Haas, Mr. Entrekin, ~~Dr. Gerhart~~, Mrs. Hower, Mr. Lin, Mr. Soden, Mrs. Shoemaker, Mr. Sweigart, Mrs. Himmelreich, Mr. Miller, Mr. Boltz, Mr. Dresch; Gloria Hill, Board Secretary; *William Zee, Solicitor; and *faculty and *community residents. (*Indicates attendees via Zoom.)

Mr. Kahl announced the District is recording the meeting using District equipment. All recordings are posted on the District website. Mr. Kahl also inquired if anyone in attendance was recording the meeting; it is noted no one indicated recording the meeting.

Board President Communications

- Mr. Kahl commented on the COVID-19 pandemic and the overall effects it has had on everyone, specifically students and the new methods of learning. He commented on data collected, which supports the reasoning for students to return to in-person learning.
- Under New Business, the board will be voting to bring students back 4 days a week in grades 6 – 12. Mr. Kahl thanked the administration for their work being presented tonight.

Board Committee & Rep Reports

- Personnel Committee – Mrs. Thomas
 - No future meeting date is set at this time.
- Curriculum Committee – Dr. Smith, Chair
 - The next meeting is scheduled later this month.
 - Thanked the board members for reviewing textbooks.
- Policy Committee – Ms. Stettler
 - The Committee met last month to review several policies being recommended for 1st Reading tonight. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on March 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM.
- Technology Committee – Mrs. Noll
 - No future meeting date is set at this time.
- General Services Committee – Mr. Kahl
 - Final finishing touches are being completed on the front of the High School building entrance.
 - The next phase of the High School renovation project will consider all information collected from recent meetings.
- Finance Committee – Mrs. Gray Hayes
 - The next meeting is scheduled to take place on March 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm.
- IU13 Rep Report – Mr. Ondrusek
 - Meetings are held each month on the 2nd Wednesday and continue to be held virtually.
- PSBA Rep Report – Dr. Smith
 - No report at this time but will send out the PSBA Liaison Report to all board members.
- CTC Rep Report – ~~Mrs. Weaver~~, Mrs. Noll
 - No report at this time.
- Lebanon Co. Tax Collection Rep Report – Ms. Stettler
 - The quarterly meeting was held in February and the County reports collections received are on par from last year.
- ELCO Education Foundation – ~~Mrs. Weaver~~ Mrs. Noll
 - No report at this time.

Presentation – COVID-19 Update

- ELCO High School/Middle School Moving Forward

Information was presented by Mrs. Vicente, Ms. Haas, and Mr. Entrekin with a plan to bring back students in grades 6 – 12 to in-person learning 4 days a week.

The Board was given time to ask questions and discuss the information presented, with Mrs. Vicente, Ms. Haas and Mr. Entrekin responding.

Public Comments – Items On the Agenda

- Heidi Eck, 140 Oaken Way, Myerstown – Asked questions regarding COVID vaccination and quarantine requirements.

- Mrs. Vicente will reply to her directly via email.
- Alison Wenger, 410 S. Race St., Myerstown – Expressed appreciation to the administration and their efforts in bringing students back for in-person learning.
- Val Kramer, 217 Sunnyside Rd., Newmanstown – Commented on the board's awareness of data and percentage of students passing/failing.
 - Several members responded - the board reviewed all data at the previous board meeting.
- Kris Auker, 4 Stohler Lane, Newmanstown – Fully supports the plan to have students return to in-person learning.

ACTION ITEMS

Personnel Committee – Mrs. Denise Thomas, Chair

No items were requested to be separated from the overall vote.

On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Smith and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, Personnel Items A-F were approved:

- A. Approved a “Letter of Resignation” from Marianne Hohl, full-time custodian, effective March 5, 2021.**
- B. Approved a “Letter of Resignation” from Craig Soden, High School Assistant Principal, effective on a date to be determined, but no later than sixty (60) days from February 23, 2021.**
- C. Approved a “Letter of Retirement” from Sheila Carpenter, full-time 2nd shift custodian, effective June 8, 2021.**
- D. Approved a change in the employment status of Tracy Wesley from part-time Paraprofessional to part-time Specialized Paraprofessional, at the rate of \$12.75 per hour, 5.75 hours per day (no change in hours), 10-month position, retroactive to February 22, 2021. (Note: this position does not include benefits.)**
Background: This additional position has been added due to increased student support.
- E. Approved the employment of Stephanie Sheetz as a full-time Personal Care Assistant (subject to assignment), at an hourly rate of \$11.65, 6.75 hours/day (10-month position), effective on or about March 8, 2021, pending receipt of all required documentation, clearances and disclosures. Benefits will begin after the 60-day probationary period.**
Background: Position filled due to resignation.
- F. Approved Natasha Field as a new aide, noting drivers and aides are directly employed by Brightbill Transportation Company.**

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Barbara Smith, Chair

On a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Gray Hayes and approved by Voice vote, 7 Ayes and 1 NO vote by Mr. Ondusek, Item A was approved:

- A. Approved a proposal with Apple Computer including Board Resolution #03-01-2021-I, at a total cost of \$685,054, financed over a period of five years. (Board Attachment)**
Background: This proposal refreshes District computer lab computers and staff computers. The proposal also includes device management licensing, and professional development in addition to computers. It will be purchased under a PEPPM (CSIU) 528991-001 cooperative purchasing contract that meets UG guidance for the portion of the lease that will be paid with federal funds. The lease will be a taxable lease and will not impact the District's bank qualified bond issuing IRS limits.

Policy Committee – Ms. Erin Stettler, Chair

On a motion by Ms. Stettler, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, Item A was approved:

- A. Approved new policies and revisions or review to the following Board Policies, 1st Reading, as listed: (Board Attachment)**
 - 1. **#103 – Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices (revised)**
 - 2. **#104 – Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices (revised)**
 - 3. **#247 – Hazing (revised)**
 - 4. **#249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying (revised)**
 - 5. **#252 – Dating Violence (revised)**
 - 6. **#317.1 – Educator Misconduct (revised)**
 - 7. **#334 – Sick Leave (revised)**
 - 8. **#829 – Electronic Signatures (new)**

General Services Committee – Mr. Jack Kahl, Chair

On a motion by Mr. Kahl, seconded by Mrs. Gray Hayes and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, Item A was approved:

- A. Approved terminating services from Weixler Diversified Cleaning Services on March 25, 2021.**
Background: Per the RFP/contract, there is a 30-day notice window to terminate services. Notice was delivered on February 23, 2021 to Weixler's main business address.

Finance Committee – Mrs. Tracy Gray Hayes, Chair

No items were requested to be separated from the overall vote.

On a motion by Mrs. Gray Hayes, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, Finance Items A-E were approved:

- A. Approved administration to enter into a three-year agreement (Supplier TBD) (School District Energy) and Eastern Lebanon County School District for PPL and Met-Ed accounts electric supply between July 2022 and June 2025 meter read dates, when prices are reach appropriate target levels. (Board Attachment)**
Background: This motion will instruct School District Energy to lock in prices when they are at or below the quotes attached in the board attachment. The supplier will be determined when the prices are locked in.
- B. Approved upgrades to the IS Gaga Ball Pits for a not to exceed \$15,000 project cost. (Board Attachment)**
Background: The materials will be paid out of Capital Reserve and labor will be provided by District staff. This is part of the summer maintenance program budget.
- C. Approved a proposal from The Breneman Company for Raider Way blacktop sealing at a cost of not to exceed \$16,000. (Board Attachment)**
Background: This is a COSTARS contract, #008-128 and is part of the summer maintenance program budget.
- D. Approved a quote from Bobcat of Lancaster for a S76T4 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader at a cost of \$42,537.63. (Board Attachment)**
Background: This is a COSTARS contract, #4400020080, and is part of the summer maintenance program budget.
- E. Approved a quote from Tanner Furniture for HS computer lab chairs at a cost of not to exceed \$8,500. (Board Attachment)**
Background: This is a COSTARS contract, #035-025, and is part of the summer maintenance program budget.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

Personnel Committee – Mrs. Denise Thomas, Chair

The Board reviewed and discussed the following item:

- A. Recommend for approval adding the following individual to the ELCO Volunteer listing for the 2020-2021 school year, as listed, (noting all required documentation, clearances, and trainings are on file):
 - 1. Heidi Daniels

Superintendent's Report

- A. Principal's Reports
 - High School – Ms. Haas
 - This week's updates: 3 high school students' art pieces are on virtual display through the 2021 PA Art Education Association Youth Art Exhibit. The link to view the exhibit will be posted on the High School's website; the High School Musical, 'Newsies', will take place this weekend virtually. Ticket information is available on the website. Kudos to the students and staff making the musical possible!
 - Middle School – Mr. Entekin
 - Update to the focus on the social/emotional well-being of students. Thanks to Dr. Hovanec, MS Interim Assistant Principal, and her assistance with the program in getting students involved. All students are given opportunities to participate in activities whether in-person or as online learners.
 - Jackson - Mrs. Hower
 - Successful virtual events took place over the past two weeks with a Hollywood Game Night featuring the math skills of many 'celebrities'; and a scavenger hunt for Kindergarten, bedtime stories for 1st grade, how to build a leprechaun trap for 2nd grade, coding with Mrs. Breeden, Librarian, and 'deck of fitness cards' by PE teacher, Mr. Babiarz. A great time was had by teachers, students and their families.
 - Fort Zeller - Mr. Lin
 - Read Across America will take place this month with activities throughout March including the celebration of Dr. Seuss and special guest readers, Mrs. Vicente and Mrs. Davis, and the annual Battle of the Book competition featuring author Mac Barnett.

Upcoming Dates/Announcements:

March 5 & 6, 2021 – HS Musical, 'Newsies' – ticket information can be found on the ELCO website
 March 10, 2021, 6:00 PM – Finance Committee Meeting
 March 11, 2021, 6:00 PM – Policy Committee Meeting
 March 15, 2021, 6:00 PM – Regular Board of Education Meeting
 March 18, 2021, 6:00 PM – Curriculum Committee Meeting
 March 19, 2021 – ACT 80 Day (NO students)
 March 24, 2021 – 2 hr. Late Start for students
 March 31, 2021 – End of 3rd Marking Period

Mrs. Vicente commented on information announced today from the Governor's office regarding COVID-19 restrictions.

Public Comments – Items On/Off the Agenda

- Tom Ferrari, 2355 Heidelberg Ave., Newmanstown – Complimented the administration and the board on their efforts to bring students back to in-person learning and supports the plan presented. Best wishes to Mr. Soden!

Board Announcements/Comments

Old Business

- No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

On a motion by Mr. Kahl, seconded by Mr. Kramer and approved by a Voice vote, all voting Aye, Item A was approved:

- A. Approved the recommended and revised instructional delivery model for students in grades 6 through 12, as presented by Administration to commence on Monday, March 22, 2021.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Ondrusek, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and approved by a Voice vote, all voting Aye, President Kahl adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria J. Hill
Board Secretary