

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting
District Board Room
Hybrid

May 17, 2021

The Regular Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President, Jack Kahl at 6:06 p.m.

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

Roll Call

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

President 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 made a motion to amend the agenda adding new items, seconded by Mrs. Weaver and approved by a Roll Call vote – 8 to 1, with a NO vote by Mrs. Thomas, the agenda was amended.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Thomas – No
Dr. Smith – Aye
Mr. Ondrusek – Aye
Ms. Stettler – Aye
Mr. Kramer – Aye
Mrs. Weaver – Aye
Mrs. Noll – Aye
Mrs. Hayes – Aye
Mr. Kahl – Aye

- On a motion by Mr. Kahl, seconded by Mr. Ondrusek and approved by Roll Call vote – 9-0, motions will be added under New Business for approval.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. Smith – Aye
Mr. Ondrusek – Aye
Ms. Stettler – Aye
Mr. Kramer – Aye
Mrs. Weaver – Aye
Mrs. Noll – Aye
Mrs. Thomas – Aye
Mrs. Hayes – Aye
Mr. Kahl – Aye

- The Board held a 'Retreat' for leadership on Saturday, May 15, 2021.
- Positive items noted by Mr. Kahl included: learning options for the 2021-2022 school year; sports teams accomplishments; teacher efforts and learning models held throughout the year; Book Fairs; HS Musical; Graduation will be an outdoor event by ticket; transparent communication posted to website and via email to parents; stake holder meetings for Health & Safety Plan; support services provided by our counselors and nurses; food distribution to families; Maintenance Department efforts to keep the buildings and campuses safe and clean; live streaming of sports and activities.
- Read a statement regarding the following topics:
 - Mask mandates and the difficult position this puts on school districts.
 - Capacity for meetings being lifted.
 - New Business items – Mask Mandate; and returning to in-person board meetings.

- End year on a positive note and begin the new school year unified to fulfill the purpose and mission of the School District.

Student Council Report – Amanda Smith, Student Council President

Highlights reported included: Teachers were honored during “Teacher Appreciation Week”; the annual Talent Show will not occur this year, in-person or virtual, due to lack of interest by the student body; and finally, Amanda thanked the Board for their continued support during this challenging year.

Students of the Month

- Fort Zeller, 1st Grade – Elijah Hoffman (Mrs. Booth’s class) & Madison Stoudt (Miss Ogurcak’s class)
- Jackson, 1st Grade – Ahnesti Marquez-Torres (Miss Meisenhelter’s class) & Evan Althouse (Miss Kolovani’s class)
- Intermediate School – Melanie Baldwin & Elaina Sites (Mr. McNally’s class)
- Middle School – Olivia Miller & Elijah Mohn
- High School – Virdicio Chekanov (CTC), Molly Gray & Colton Ocker

Students were introduced by their respective principal, highlighting the student’s favorite things, fun facts, attributes, most memorable school experience, favorite quotes and future aspirations.

On behalf of the School Board, Mr. Kahl congratulated the students on their achievements. He also thanked everyone who had a part in supporting these students, with special thanks to the parents. Congratulations to the seniors recognized tonight!

Written Requests to Address the School Board

1. Dr. Yeager, Newmanstown – COVID-19 Policies
2. Samantha Nye, Myerstown – School Culture and Consistency – Parents’ point of view
3. Brianna Hoglund, Myerstown – School experience

Public Comments – Items On the Agenda

1. Samantha Nye, 34 West Strack Dr., Myerstown – continued remarks regarding School Culture and Consistency – Parents’ point of view.
2. Aaron Patches, 486B Houtztown Rd., Myerstown – commented on freedom students and parents should have to make decisions, to wear or not wear masks.
3. Valerie Kramer, 217 Sunnyside Rd., Newmanstown – COVID-19 protocols and decisions by the school district.

Election of Treasurer

President Kahl opened the floor for nominations for the Office of Treasurer. Mr. Ondrusek nominated Mr. Kramer for Treasurer. Seeing there were no other nominations, Mrs. Hayes made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Mr. Kahl called for the vote. With a Voice Vote of 9-0, Mr. Kramer was elected Treasurer for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Election of School Board Secretary

President Kahl opened the floor for nominations for the Office of School Board Secretary. Mr. Ondrusek nominated Gloria Hill for School Board Secretary. Seeing there were no other nominations, Mrs. Thomas made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Mr. Kramer. Mr. Kahl called for the vote. With a Voice Vote of 9-0, Gloria Hill was elected School Board Secretary for a four-year term, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, the Minutes of 04-19-2021 and 05-03-2021 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer’s Report

On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Noll and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, the Treasurer’s Report of 04-30-2021 was approved.

CONSENT ITEMS (items discussed on 05-03-2021)

On a motion by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Kramer and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, all Consent Items were approved:

Personnel Committee

- A. Approved the employment of Mary Bennetch as a part-time Food Service employee (subject to assignment), effective the 2021-2022 school year, with an hourly rate TBD, 4.25 hours/day (10-month position) pending the receipt of all required documentation, clearances, and disclosures.
Background: Position filled due to resignation.
- B. Approved Sue Gingrich as the JV Girls' Basketball Coach for the 2021-2022 winter season. (Board Attachment)
Background: Position filled due to resignation.
- C. Approved adding the following individuals to the ELCO Volunteer listing for the 2020-2021 school year, as listed, (noting all required documentation, clearances, and trainings are on file):
 - 1. Rebecca Conzelmann
 - 2. Bevan Allen
 - 3. Rachel Schoffstall
 - 4. Melissa Moyer
 - 5. Audrey Perry
 - 6. Peggy Mogel

General Services Committee

- A. Approved a three-year proposal from Waste Management for trash and recycling removal for a cost of \$2,921.89 a month during the school year and \$765.19 a month during the summer. (Board Attachment)
Background: An RFP was issued to solicit responses. Waste Management is our current provider. This is a cost increase over the prior contract mainly due to the markets in recycling not providing revenues to trash removal firms as they previously did in prior years. The cost increase is included in the 2021-2022 budget.

Finance Committee

- A. Approved an agreement with Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) to provide computer service for Fund Accounting module, Payroll module, and Personnel module for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, at a cost of approximately \$25,000. (Board Attachments)
Background: Cost is billed per student and the agreement price is estimated for next year. This is an annual license renewal.

NON-CONSENT ITEMSPersonnel Committee – Mrs. Denise Thomas, Chair

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

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

- A. **Accepted a "Letter of Resignation" from Holly Richmond, Personal Care Assistant, effective and retroactive to May 13, 2021.**
- B. **Accepted a "Letter of Resignation" from Rebekah Shanaman, Junior High Girls' Basketball Coach, effective immediately.**
- C. **Accepted a "Letter of Resignation" from Shawnta Fladd, High School Family & Consumer Sciences teacher, effective June 10, 2021.**
- D. **Approved a "Letter of Retirement" from Joy Spatz, High School Head Cook, effective June 10, 2021.**

- E. Approved a "Letter of Retirement" from Debra Layser, Assistant Director of Food Services/High School Café Manager, effective July 31, 2021.
- F. Approved the following individuals as Homebound Instructors for the 2020-2021 school year, effective and retroactive to May 3, 2021, as listed:
 - 1. Jennifer Lutz
 - 2. Megan Worley
- G. Approved the following individuals as Summer 2021 ELCO+ summer school teachers at a rate of \$125 per day, as listed:
 - 1. Jennifer Behney
 - 2. Jennifer Detter
 - 3. Ruthanne Gray
 - 4. Beth Faehling
 - 5. Kendra Heck
 - 6. Alexis Thomas
 - 7. Sara Bentz
- H. Approved the following individuals as Summer 2021 ELCO+ summer school nurses at a rate of \$125 per day, as listed:
 - 1. Melissa Rambler
 - 2. Paula Huey
- I. Approved the following individuals as Summer 2021 ELCO+ summer school paraprofessionals at a rate of \$50 per day, as listed:
 - 1. Kelly Blakeslee
 - 2. Billie-Jean Martin
- J. Approved the employment of Summer 2021 ELCO+ summer school teachers at a rate of \$125 per day, pending the receipt of all required documentation, clearances and disclosures, as listed:
 - 1. Randy Beck
 - 2. Monica Marinkov
 - 3. Kali Myers
 - 4. Lorelei Lewis
- K. Approved the employment of Summer 2021 ELCO+ summer school paraprofessionals at a rate of \$50 per day, pending the receipt of all required documentation, clearances and disclosures, as listed:
 - 1. Sydney Donnachie
 - 2. Lauren Meisenhelter
 - 3. Molly Gray
- L. Approved the employment of Sara Griffith as an Elementary Learning Support teacher, on a "Professional Contract," effective the start of the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of Masters' – Step 6 (\$59,896), pending final approval of the 2021-2022 budget and the receipt of all required documentation, clearances and disclosures.
Background: Position filled due to administrative transfer.
- M. Approved the employment of Samantha Roy as a Middle School Learning Support teacher, on a "Professional Contract," effective the start of the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of Bachelors' +24 – Step 6 (\$54,514), pending final approval of the 2021-2022 budget and the receipt of all required documentation, clearances and disclosures.
Background: Position filled due to administrative transfer.
- N. Approved a "Letter of Temporary Employment" to Julie Smeltzer, as an Elementary Long-Term Substitute Learning Support teacher, effective the first day of the 2021-2022 school term, at a salary of Bachelors' – Step 2 (\$49,779).
Background: Position filled due to permanent teacher on leave.
- O. Approved adding the following individuals to the ELCO Volunteer listing for the 2020-2021 school year, as listed, (noting all required documentation, clearances, and trainings are on file):

1. Jennifer Reppert
2. Brooke Coatsworth
3. Stephanie Werner
4. Justin Wolfe
5. Heather Kohr
6. Eric Hibshman
7. Ryan Frederick
8. Jamillia Dillingham
9. Erin Putt
10. Shawn Weiler
11. Nicole Grecco
12. Adam Soul
13. Patrick Yeagley
14. Sara Deeks
15. Sarah Gass
16. Heather Noll
17. Ashley Gassert
18. Michelle Dermes

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Barbara Smith, Chair

On a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Hayes and approved by Voice vote, 8 Ayes and 1 No vote by Mr. Ondrusek, Item A was approved:

A. Approved new textbooks for the 2021-2022 school year, as listed.

Background: Working since last spring in Curriculum Task Force, the department reviewed numerous resources to align our curriculum with standards. The resources below will be used as the primary resource for the course and supplemental resources will be used to ensure balanced perspectives are represented. Students will be taught to think critically and evaluate the credibility of sources to become discerning consumers of information.

6th Grade Geography

Publisher: National Geographic | Cengage Learning

Textbook Title: *World Cultures and Geography*

Copyright: 2017

7th and 8th Grade American History I and II

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Textbook Title: *United States History: Beginnings to 1914*

Copyright: 2018

United States History III

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Textbook Title: *United States History: Reconstruction to the Present*

Copyright: 2018

United States Government

Publisher: McGraw Hill

Textbook Title: *United States Government: Our Democracy*

Copyright: 2018

Global Studies and Geography

Publisher: McGraw Hill

Textbook Title: *Geography: The Human and Physical World*

Copyright: 2018

Advanced Placement Modern World History

Publisher: Bedford, Freeman, & Worth

Textbook Title: *Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources*

Copyright: 2020

Sociology

Publisher: Savvas

Textbook Title: *Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach*

Copyright: 2020

General Services Committee – Mr. Jack Kahl, Chair

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

- A. Approved awarding the KPN fuel bid to Talley Petroleum for heating oil firm price, diesel fuel firm price, and 87 octane gas firm prices, as listed in the summary of bid award document. (Board Attachment)**

Background: The bid was awarded on May 7, 2021, per the KPN bid process. Fort Zeller was bid 22,500 gallons of heating oil. Brightbill Transportation (reimburses District) was bid 50,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 30,000 gallons of 87 octane gas.

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

- B. Approved the purchase of an open-air refrigerator unit for the high school cafeteria in the amount of \$16,271.44 from Singer Equipment (COSTARS Contract), for the 2021-2022 school year. Price includes a cover for security (locking). (Board Attachment)**

Background: This purchase is for the Grab n Go meals offered daily at the High School.

Finance Committee – Mrs. Tracy Hayes, Chair

Item B was requested to be separated from the overall vote.

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

- A. Approved payment of bills as found listed and attached to the May 17, 2021 Board Agenda, for payments made in the amounts indicated: (Board Attachment)**

General Fund payments in the amount of	\$2,262,777.01
Cafeteria Fund payments in the amount of	\$198,174.83
Capital Reserve Fund payments in the amount of	\$379,717.29
Debt Service payments in the amount of	\$0.00
Construction Fund payments in the amount of	\$40,055.46
Student Activity payments in the amount of	\$9,367.36

- B. Move to approve Appel, Yost & Zee, as Solicitor for the 2021-2022 school year at the rate of \$210 per hour. (Board Attachment)**

Background: This is an increase of \$20 per hour from the prior year.

- C. Approved the membership dues renewal with PSBA for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$15,242.25. (Board Attachment)**

Background: Annual membership renewal with no price increase.

On a motion by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and approved by Voice vote, 8 Ayes and 1 No vote by Mr. Ondrusek, Item B was approved:

- B. Approved Appel, Yost & Zee, as Solicitor for the 2021-2022 school year at the rate of \$210 per hour. (Board Attachment)**

Background: This is an increase of \$20 per hour from the prior year.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Vicente shared 'good news': celebrate with Jenelle Himmelreich, Director of Food Services, who will be receiving a check in the amount of \$9,854.12 for the ELCO School District from Giant Food Stores. The check will be presented on May 24, 2021; Emergency Broadband Program is a program for internet options available to families. Information was distributed to families announcing an Information Night to be held on May 27, 2021 to help with interested families wanting to apply for the program; Veteran's History Projects were presented on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. Thank you, Mr. Bickel and Mrs. Noll for your assistance with our students and their projects. The presentation, which is an annual event, was held virtually this year.

A. Principal's Reports

- Fort Zeller, Mr. Lin
 - Title I Story Walk, featuring the book – 'My Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World' was held recently and was a huge success. Families and students walked through the story and enjoyed the book and activities held throughout the night. Make and take bracelet kit activity ended the evening.
- Jackson, Mrs. Hower

- Springtime at Jackson is under way with planting vegetables in the raised garden beds. Thanks to Layser's Flowers for donations. Students enjoy caring for the gardens and watching the plants grow.
- A virtual Career Day was held with parents sharing their career choices and experiences.
- Intermediate School, Dr. Gerhart
 - Upcoming events include: 5th Grade Musical 'Annie.' Thanks to the Director's, Mrs. Ziegler and Mrs. Lutz for their hard work in making this possible; and the upcoming annual 5th Grade Camping trip to Camp Swatara. This year the trip will not be an overnight experience but will take place over two full days. All students have the opportunity to attend camp FREE of charge this year.
- Middle School, Mr. Entekin
 - 'Career Day' will be held at the Middle School May 27, 2021, with the emphasis on college career readiness. All students will have the opportunity to attend the virtual event. Thanks to Mrs. Saunders and Ms. Wagner for their work organizing the event.
 - Congratulations to the Junior High Track Team!
- High School, Ms. Haas
 - ELCO High School was the winner of the Lebanon County No Excuses Seatbelt Challenge. 95% of our student drivers wear seatbelts. Prizes include a \$500 grant for driving education and a photo booth opportunity; and the High School received notification from the Center for Traffic Safety we were runner-up for the billboard competition with an entry by Lucy Bickel. A grant of \$500 was awarded to the High School.
 - Class 2021 activities:
 - Decision Day – will take place on May 27, 2021, with a special lawn lunch for seniors only, at which time delivery of items will be made to all seniors (i.e., cap & gown, etc.).
 - Commencement – letters were mailed to all families of seniors with information regarding graduation. Date for graduation is June 10 in the High School stadium, with a rain date of June 11. More details will be sent to the families of the Class of 2021.

Upcoming Dates/Announcements:

May 18, 2021 – Primary Election Day

May 18, 2021 – 7:00 PM – HS National Honor Society Induction (ticketed event)

May 20, 2021 – 6:00 PM – Curriculum Committee Meeting (CANCELLED)

May 21, 2021 – National Junior Honor Society Induction (ticketed event)

May 26, 2021 – 6:00 PM – Finance Committee Meeting

June 1, 2021 – 7:00 PM – High School All Sports Awards Program (virtual event)

June 7, 2021 – 6:00 PM – Committee-of-the-Whole Board of Education Meeting

Public Comments – Items On/Off the Agenda

- No comments were made.

Board Announcements/Comments

- Ms. Stettler – thanked residents for their contact and opinions regarding protocols in place during the pandemic. Encourages our residents to vote in the Primary Election.
- Mr. Ondrusek – responded to Ms. Stettler's comments on masking guidelines. Thanked the participants speaking tonight.
- Mrs. Thomas – attended the Veteran's History Project virtually and was extremely impressed with our students and their projects.
- Mrs. Hayes – Congratulations to the High School and Middle School students being inducted into each Honor Society. Thank you to the Primary schools for their literacy nights, and congratulations to the Track & Fields teams.
- Mr. Kahl – Congratulations to Generation Dance and their performance recently held, which was well attended.

Old Business

- NO Old Business was reported.

New Business

On a motion by Mr. Kahl, seconded by Mr. Kramer and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, the following item was approved:

- A. Approved opening all board and committee meetings to in-person and open to the public effective June 7, 2021.

The following motion was made by Mr. Kahl and seconded by Mrs. Noll.

- B. Move to approve, effective immediately, all Mask Mandates are terminated for the entire District. Students and staff may choose or decline to wear masks without fear of reprisal.

After discussion on Item B, a motion to amend the original motion was made by Mr. Kahl, seconded by Mrs. Hayes and approved by Voice Vote, all voting Aye, the motion was amended to read:

"Move to approve, effective June 9, 2021 (at the end of the day), all Mask Mandates are terminated for the entire District. Students and staff may choose or decline to wear masks without fear of reprisal."

On a motion by Mr. Kahl, seconded by Dr. Smith and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, the amended motion was approved:

- B. Approved, effective June 9, 2021 (at the end of the day), all Mask Mandates are terminated for the entire District. Students and staff may choose or decline to wear masks without fear of reprisal.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and approved by a Voice vote, all voting Aye, President Kahl adjourned the meeting at 8:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria J. Hill
Board Secretary