

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

Committee-of-the-Whole Board of Education Meeting  
District Board Room  
Hybrid

April 3, 2023

The Committee-of-the-Whole Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President, Tom Ferrari at 6:03 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 Tom Ferrari presiding.

Mr. Ferrari noted the District is audio recording the meeting and the audio recording will be posted to the district website. Mr. Ferrari also inquired if anyone in attendance was recording the meeting; Joel Risser, attending in-person, indicated audio recording the meeting.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Moyer.

Roll Call

Board Secretary, Gloria Hill called the roll. The following members were present: Mrs. Kantner, Mrs. Moyer, Mrs. Noll, Ms. Schaeffer; and Messer's Ferrari, Kahl, Kramer, Ondrusek and Ziegler. Also, in attendance were the following from the administrative team: Mrs. Vicente, Dr. Davis, Ms. Haas, Mr. Treeese, Dr. Gerhart, ~~Mrs. Hower~~, Mrs. Houck, Mr. Breeden, Mrs. Lutz, Mrs. Shoemaker, Mr. Sweigart, ~~Mrs. Himmelreich~~, Mr. Miller, Mr. Boltz, Mr. Dresch, ~~Mr. Mealy~~; Gloria Hill, Board Secretary; William Zee, School Solicitor; and faculty/staff and community members (in-person and Zoom).

Board President Communications

- Welcomed everyone attending.
- Announced Executive Session will be held immediately following the adjournment of tonight's meeting for the purpose of discussing legal matters and receiving information.
- Statement of Financial Interests are due to Mrs. Hill by May 1.
- Social Media Guide for School Board Directors, published by PSBA, was shared with board members.

6:07pm – Meeting delayed due to technical difficulties.

6:11pm – Meeting resumed.

Board President Communications continued

- Made statement regarding communications shared by board members in a personal capacity are not the opinion of the board, but are strictly the individual's personal opinion.
- Executive Session will be held April 11, 2023 at 6:00pm, for the purpose of discussing matters involving confidential student matters protected by law.
- Reiterated the protocols when making comments during Public Comment.
- Gave clarification of court decision previously mentioned by resident at past meeting.

- New Business on the agenda is for the purpose of dissolving committee and appointing an Ad Hoc Committee.
- Spring Sports are well underway and encourages everyone to support our athletic teams.
- Highlighted several activities and accomplishments in the District, which included the Junior Achievement event, IS Reading Olympics teams, Middle School's "What's So Cool About Manufacturing" team, FFA and Ag Week, Career Connections students and the Lead4Change Challenge, and students inducted into the CTC Technical Honor Society.
- Wishes everyone a Happy Easter!

#### Board Committee & Rep Reports

- Personnel Committee – Mrs. Noll
  - No report.
- Curriculum Committee – Ms. Schaeffer
  - The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 6:00pm.
- General Services Committee – Mr. Ziegler
  - The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 5:30pm, to discuss renovations and ADA.
- Finance Committee – Mr. Ondrusek
  - The next scheduled meeting will be held April 26, 2023, at 5:15pm, to discuss the budget.
- IU13 Rep Report – Mr. Ondrusek
  - Met on March 8, 2023, in a Regular Business Meeting.
  - Next meeting will take place April 12, 2023.
- PSBA Rep Report – Mrs. Moyer
  - Advocacy Day will be held April 18, 2023, virtually only.
  - Board members may submit proposals to PSBA for the 2024 Legislative Platform.
- CTC Rep Report – Mr. Ziegler
  - Andra Groller is newly appointed Administrative Director and is also serving as Acting Director until July 1.
  - Tara Hogland, ELCO graduate and CTC instructor of the landscaping program, has established the FFA program at CTC with much interest from the student body.
  - Enrollment continues to grow.
- Lebanon Co. Tax Collection Rep Report – Mr. Kramer
  - No report.
- ELCO Education Foundation – Ms. Schaeffer
  - A goal of \$200,000 is set for raising funds for the Middle School Planetarium.
  - The partnership with Stoneridge is well underway.
  - Grant info distributed to teachers is now being returned.
  - Special fundraising event will be advertised this week with link to purchase tickets, which will benefit the Middle School Planetarium.
  - Next meeting will be held April 12, 2023, at 1:00PM, in the District Board Room.

#### Written Requests to Address the Board

- Sherri and Derry Weaver – changes made to locker rooms.

#### Public Comments – Items On the Agenda

- No comments were made.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### Personnel Committee – Mrs. Dotty Noll, Chair

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

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

- A. Approved the official start date of John Leininger, High School English teacher, effective April 12, 2023.

*Background: Teacher approved February 6, 2023, with a start date TBD. This approves the official start date.*

- B. Accepted a “Letter of Resignation” from Kimberly Eshleman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher, effective 60-days from letter dated March 23, 2023.

- C. Approved the following Specialized Paraprofessionals to support Extended School Year (ESY) services at their individual hourly rate, during the period of June 12, 2023, through August 10, 2023, as listed:

*Background: Paraprofessional staff are needed to support district-operated, classroom-based ESY programs during Summer 2023.*

Melissa Bowman	Stephanie Sheetz	Melanie Kauffman
Katherine Lane	Tami Bennethum	Debra Blouch
Melissa Geibe	Kelly Stephenson	Ann Leaman
Danielle Ebersole	Caitlin Lucas	Sherry Brown
Maria Fisher	Justine Bewley	Danelle Burkholder
Leann Clark	Heidi Lamos	

- D. Approved the following Paraprofessionals to serve as Specialized Paraprofessionals with a temporary \$2.00/hour rate increase to support Extended School Year (ESY) services, during the period of June 12, 2023, through August 10, 2023, as listed:

*Background: The increase in compensation reflects a temporary hourly rate adjustment as a result of additional responsibilities while serving as a Specialized Paraprofessional during ESY.*

Kelly Blakeslee	Nautica Krueger	Angela Arnt
-----------------	-----------------	-------------

- E. Approved the following individuals as Summer 2023 SPA teachers for the period of June 19 – July 23, 2023, at the daily rate of \$135, as listed (\*pending receipt of required documentation, clearances, and disclosures):

Ashley Titler – JK	Alysha Burkholder - JK	Krista Krause - FZ
Lorelei Lewis* - FZ	Ruthanne Gray – sub only	

- F. Approved the following individuals as Summer 2023 SPA paraprofessionals for the period of June 19 – July 23, 2023, at the daily rate of \$55, as listed:

Lindsay Layser - JK	Mary Gassert - JK	Beverly Graham - FZ
---------------------	-------------------	---------------------

- G. Approved the administrative transfer of Lindsey Hibshman *from* elementary teacher (Grade 5) *to* Special Education teacher at ELCO Middle School, effective the start of the 2023-2024 schoolyear, with no change in salary.

*Background: New position as part of the 2023-2024 budget.*

- H. Approved a change in the employment status of Heather Kahl, *from* Long-term Substitute teacher on a “Letter of Temporary Employment” *to* Middle School Science teacher on a “Temporary Professional Contract,” at a salary of Bachelor’s – Step 2 (\$52,564), effective the 2023-2024 school year.

*Background: Position filled due to resignation.*

- I. Approved a change in the employment status of Jennifer Axarlis, *from* day-to-day Paraprofessional substitute *to* Long-term Substitute 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Jackson Elementary School, on a “Letter of Temporary Employment,” at a salary of Bachelor’s – Step 1 (\$52,314), effective the 2023-2024 school year.  
*Background: Position filled due to full-year sabbatical. (NOTE: Miss Axarlis has completed all requirements for her teaching certificate.)*
- J. Approved the employment of Chellsie Grube, rising ELCO High School Senior, as a temporary full-time Specialized Paraprofessional (subject to assignment), at an hourly rate of \$13.48, 7.5 hours/day (10-month position), effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation, clearances, and disclosures. This position does not include benefits and will conclude the last student day of the 2023-2024 school year.  
*Background: The hourly rate listed will be adjusted to reflect new rates approved for the 2023-2024 school year. This position is part of a district-approved cooperative learning experience. Due to the specialized nature of the position, Miss Grube will be attending a maximum of 40-hours of paid professional development during the summer months.*
- K. Approved adding the following individuals to the ELCO Volunteer listing for the 2022-2023 school year, as listed (noting all required documentation, clearances, and trainings are on file):

Kristen Halvin	Meghan Grove	Douglas Grove	Abby Entrekin
Denise Dellinger	Steven Shirk	William Wolf, II	Alisha Gassert
Stephanie Christian	Angie Sieber	Olesha Thomas	Joshua Bowman
Thomas Gilbert	Brook May	Mark Phillips	Anne Smucker
Kyle Moyer	Alyssa Butler	Crystal Lincoln	Tracey McBride
Amy Stevenson			

General Services Committee – Mr. David Ziegler, Chair

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

- A. Approved Change Order #11 from AH Moyer, Inc., for switchover to new water tanks and pumps in the amount of \$12,087. (Board Attachment)  
*Background: The change order covers work at the High School and Middle School to install new water equipment.*

Finance Committee – Mr. Ray Ondrusek, Chair

Item C was separated for a Roll Call vote.

On a motion by Mr. Ondrusek, seconded by Mr. Kahl and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, Items A-B, were approved:

- A. Approved administration to enter into a 24-month natural gas supply fixed agreement, between (supplier – TBD) (URA – School District Energy) and Eastern Lebanon County School District for Jackson Elementary. (Board Attachment)  
*Background: This motion will instruct URA – School District Energy to lock in prices when they are at or below the quotes discussed in Finance Committee on March 22, 2023. The supplier will be determined when the prices are locked in. This is for July 2023 through June 2025 meter read dates.*
- B. Approved administration to enter into a 20-month natural gas supply fixed agreement, between (supplier – TBD) (URA – School District Energy) and Eastern Lebanon County

School District for the Middle School, High School, and Maintenance building. (Board Attachment)

*Background: This motion will instruct URA – School District Energy to lock in prices when they are at or below the quotes discussed in Finance Committee on March 22, 2023. The supplier will be determined when the prices are locked in. This is for November 2023 through June 2025 meter read dates.*

On a motion by Mr. Ondrusek, seconded by Mr. Kramer and approved by Roll Call vote, 9-0, Item C was approved:

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Ziegler – Aye  
 Mr. Ondrusek – Aye  
 Mrs. Moyer – Aye  
 Mrs. Kantner – Aye  
 Mrs. Noll – Aye  
 Ms. Schaeffer – Aye  
 Mr. Kramer – Aye  
 Mr. Kahl – Aye  
 Mr. Ferrari – Aye

- C. Adopted Resolution #04-03-2023-I, as presented to the Board, approving the sale and issuance of the Eastern Lebanon County School District General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2023, in the maximum authorized principal amount of \$28,000,000, for the purposes of financing the capital projects of the School District, as set forth therein. (Board Attachment, Roll Call Vote)

**NON-ACTION ITEMS**

Personnel Committee – Mrs. Dotty Noll, Chair

- No Items for discussion.

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Megan Schaeffer, Chair

- No Items for discussion.

General Services Committee – Mr. David Ziegler, Chair

- No Items for discussion.

Finance Committee – Mr. Ray Ondrusek, Chair

*The board reviewed and discussed the following item:*

- A. Recommend for approval a proposal from Gordian/Lobar Construction for a two projector planetarium system at the Middle School for a cost of \$409,414.52. (Board Attachment)  
*Background: This is KPN/eqIQC contract #2021JOCC-31. SLA will be the planetarium vendor. There were added costs to make repairs to the concrete floor and to fill in the pit, which were not previously discussed in committee. The ELCO Education Foundation will support part of the cost (amount TBD). The project will be paid out of the Capital Reserve.*

Superintendent's Report

- Principal Reports

- Mrs. Jodi Houck – Fort Zeller Elementary School
  - Fort Zeller hosted a Math/STEM night and had a great turnout. Teachers planned fun, engaging activities, which were enjoyed by both students and their families.
  - The Mobile Ag Lab will be visiting. Additional activities are planned throughout the week for students.
  - The Keystone Classroom Initiative will visit FZ and the book, “K is for Keystone” will be read to students teaching them about the state of PA.
- Ms. Jennifer Haas – ELCO High School
  - Summary given on the Real Life event held at the HS, in coordination with hosting Junior Achievement of South Central PA. Students learned life lessons involving financial literacy, as well as budgeting and career readiness.
  - Highlighted PIAA Officials Appreciation Week and promotion of the new PIAA’s Junior Officials’ program to help with coverage of games. The HS offers a course to students interested in being a Junior Official.
- Athletic Director – reported by Ms. Haas
  - Spring athletics is in full swing. The community is encouraged to follow ELCO Athletics on social media.
- Dr. Michael Gerhart – ELCO Intermediate School
  - The IS competed in the Reading Olympics held on March 28 at the IU13. Our two teams participating won Blue Ribbons, which is the highest honor to achieve.
  - Update given on BEE Positive Ticket program, promoting Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Ready.
- Mr. Jonathan Treese – ELCO Middle School
  - Successes to celebrate – “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” competition, the MS team won the viewer’s choice award and ranked in the top 3 across all formal judges, sending them to the state level of competition. Well done Mr. Underkoffler and Mr. Hall!
  - Night at the Movies – was held Friday night, 3/31 with success and lots of fun.
  - A number of MS band students were selected to participate in the LLMEA County Band Festival held recently. The students continue to grow their talent and skill under the direction of Mr. DeVore.
- Jackson Elementary School – reported by Mrs. Vicente
  - Thank you to the ELCO HS FFA students who came to Jackson to read to students, teaching them the importance of agriculture in our community.
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Rising Raiders Workshop will be held at Jackson for all district PreK students and their families.

Mrs. Vicente reported on the following:

- Update given on the HS project which included:
  - Work done by Lobar – Prepping and Painting and install of insulation.
  - Work done by Cedar – conduit, IT cabling, high work in AG, argon piping for welders.
  - Work done by Heisey Mechanical – tie into chiller, continue duct work, pour greenhouse pad and begin block work on greenhouse.
- Secret Service Safety Training
  - Several administrators, Chief Gonzalez and I attended a Secret Service Safety Summit, U.S. Secret Service Training Session: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Preventing Targeted School Violence. This valuable training encourages the reporting of concerning behaviors through the use of a system (safe2say) or by reporting to an adult and are critical steps in the prevention of targeted violence.
  - FEMA is offering a field course to provide schools with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to refine or develop an all-hazards school emergency plan.

- Parent Advisory
  - The group is in their second year of meeting. This year the group has discussed how to increase family engagement with the district.
  - A Back-to-School Picnic is being planned for Thursday, August 24. Watch for more details to come.

Upcoming Dates/Announcements:

April 5, 2023, 5:30pm – General Services Committee Meeting  
 April 6-11, 2023 – School is CLOSED for Spring Break (students K-12)  
 April 7-11, 2023 – All District Offices are closed for Spring Break  
 April 13, 2023, 6:00pm – Curriculum Committee Meeting  
 April 17, 2023, 6:00pm – Regular Board of Education Meeting  
 April 26, 2023, 5:15pm – Finance Committee Meeting  
 April 28 & 29, 2023 – Intermediate School Musical – ‘Frozen’ (details available on the website)

Spring Concert Dates:

April 30, 2023, 2:00pm – High School Spring Concert, HS Auditorium  
 May 9, 2023, 7:00pm – Middle School Spring Concert, HS Auditorium  
 May 11, 2023, 7:00pm – Intermediate School Spring Concert, HS Auditorium

Public Comments – Items On/Off the Agenda

- Jessica Hoffer – commented on opinion expressed by resident at the last meeting, which is not the opinion of all residents. Decisions need to be fair and equitable for the treatment of all students.
- Mandy Newmaster – commented on the inclusion of all students at ELCO.
- Amber Weaver – Public comments made by the public at board meetings and concern by the community’s opinions, which are hurtful.
- Ed Stock – President’s Communications regarding the upcoming Exec. Session and organizations invited to attend.
  - Mr. Ferrari – clarified information given on organizations invited to attend the Exec. Session.
- Lori Martin – Concern for the protection and safety of all students in the ELCO School District.
- Theresa Oliver – Concerns and decisions for the protection and safety of all students.
- Carol Price – Concerns with locker room and opinions expressed.
- Carol Kline – Expressed concerns with sensitive student situation and decisions needing to be made.
- Joel Risser – Concerns with situation involving accommodations and the decisions and opinions brought to the school board. Also, Congratulations to the ELCO FFA and the excitement seen in his children; and the importance of the restoring the planetarium.
- Jessica Wenger – Thankful for the support teachers provide to our students in the district; planetarium funding and possible other sources of funding to offset costs for planetarium or other projects. Thanked the School Board for support of the planetarium and academic capabilities it will offer.
- JP Santos – Thanked the School Board for listening to both sides of opinions given by residents.
- Dennis Foltz – Sensitive topic of discussion by residents and the safety and rights of our students, and policies of the district.

Mr. Ferrari thanked everyone addressing the board for their comments and concerns.

Board Announcements/Comments

- Mrs. Noll – worked with Mr. Bickel’s 9<sup>th</sup> grade English honor’s class on the Veterans History Project and expressed her appreciation and hopes to see project continue in the years to come.
- Mr. Kramer – has participated in the Veterans History Project with Mr. Bickel and enjoyed the experience. Commended Mr. Bickel for heading this project at the HS.

- Mr. Ziegler – thanked residents for expressing heartfelt comments; FFA Ag Days and the event organized at the IS was a huge success. Kids are excited about FFA.
- Mr. Kramer – FFA held Egg Hunt in Schaefferstown, which included a Petting Zoo.
- Mr. Ferrari – reminded board members of the invitation to the HS FFA Banquet.

#### Old Business

- No Old Business was discussed.

#### New Business

On a motion by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Ms. Schaeffer and approved by Voice vote, 6 – Ayes, 3 – No votes (Mr. Ondrusek, Mrs. Moyer, and Mrs. Kantner), Item A was approved:

- A. Approved dissolving the Policy Committee.
- B. Appointment of Ad Hoc Policy Committee.

Mr. Ferrari asked the following individuals to serve on an Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Mrs. Kantner, Mrs. Moyer, Mr. Kramer, and Mr. Kahl.

All members accepted the appointment.

#### Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Noll, seconded by Mr. Ziegler and approved by a Voice vote, all voting Aye, President Ferrari adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

Mr. Ferrari reminded board members of the Executive Session to be held immediately following adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria J. Hill  
Board Secretary