

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting  
High School Auditorium  
Hybrid  
(In-person or via Zoom)

April 17, 2023

The Regular Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President, Tom Ferrari at 6:01 p.m.

The Eastern Lebanon County School Board met in a Regular Board of Education Session with President Ferrari presiding.

Mr. Ferrari noted the District is audio recording the meeting, which will be posted on the District website. Mr. Ferrari also inquired if anyone in attendance was recording the meeting. No one indicated recording the meeting.

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of ELCO Administrative Assistant, Jamie Kruse.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Rachel Moyer.

#### Roll Call

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

#### Board President Communications

- Welcome to everyone attending.
- The Board met in Executive Sessions for the purpose of discussing matters involving confidential student matters protected by law on March 6 and March 20, and April 11 and April 17.
- Clarified the two independent centers (Independence Law Center and the Education Law Center) met with the school board at no cost to the district.
- During the school board meeting held April 3, 2023, a motion was approved dissolving the current Policy Committee. Appointed an Ad Hoc Policy Committee consisting of members, Howard Kramer, Jack Kahl, Bonnie Kantner and Rachel Moyer. Rachel Moyer will serve at the Chair of this Ad Hoc Committee.
- Clarified protocol for making Public Comments during the meeting.

#### Student Council Report

- Ciarra Rosenberg, Student Council President, reported on the following activities:
  - Student Council officers attended the recent Regional Student Council Conference.
  - Lawn Lunch & Talent Show will be held May 25.
  - Officer elections will take place in May.

#### Students of the Month

- Fort Zeller, Kindergarten – Emersyn Burkholder (\*Mrs. Zurick's AM class) and \*\*Dustin Tauci (Mrs. Yocum's PM class)
- Jackson, Kindergarten – Evelyn Haberstroh (\*Mrs. Gray's AM class) and Ezra Keener (\*Mrs. Marquette's PM class)
- Intermediate School – Cole Bechtold and Abigail Newmaster (\*Mrs. Weaver's class)
- Middle School – Hayley Strickler and Luciana Vargas Madueno
- High School – Joshua Fisher, Megan Hauck, and Josh Maull (CTC – Landscape Program)

Students of the Month were introduced by their respective principal highlighting each student's favorite things, fun facts, most memorable school experience, favorite quotes, and future plans. Students received a certificate of recognition from board member, Ms. Megan Schaeffer.

On behalf of the School Board, Mr. Ferrari congratulated the students on their achievements and accomplishments, and thanked everyone who had a part in their education, especially parents and families.

\*Teachers in attendance.

\*\*Unable to attend.

The Board took a brief recess at 6:37 PM, allowing students and parents attending the recognition of Students of the Month the opportunity to exit the meeting prior to the business meeting.

The Board Meeting reconvened at 6:41 PM.

#### Written Request to Address the Board

- Sherri & Derry Weaver – Bathroom Usage

#### Public Comments – Items On the Agenda

- Donna Hostetter – Bathroom usage concerns.
- Kevin Weaver – Bathroom usage concerns.
- Sherri Balderamma – Bathroom usage and locker room concerns.
- John Balderamma – Bathroom usage and locker room concerns.
- Mari Conners – Locker room concerns.
- Rosene Lehman – Locker room concerns and protection of students and educators.
- JP Santos – Locker room concerns and concerns of the community.
- Carol Price – Locker room concerns and affirmation of students.
- Jessica Hoffer – Locker room concerns and school policy and the law.
- Andrew Kline – Bathroom and locker room usage.
- Carol Kline – Concern for children and difficulties they encounter during their adolescent and teen years.
- Mandy Newmaster – Clarified statement made in previous meeting. The fair treatment for all students is what is needed in the school and community.
- Peter Zantias – Concern with the sensitive topics discussed and showing love to all.
- Amber Weaver – Planetarium and support of the project, which will benefit all students K-12 and the community.
- Nicole Readinger – Bathroom usage and privacy for all students.

#### Approval of Minutes

Minutes were separated for individual motions and votes.

On a motion by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Kahl and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, the Minutes of 03-20-2023 were approved.

On a motion by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mrs. Moyer and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, the Minutes of 04-03-2023 were approved.

#### Approval of Treasurer's Report

On a motion by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mrs. Noll and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, the Treasurer's Report of 03-31-2023 was approved.

#### CONSENT ITEMS (items discussed 04-03-2023)

On a motion by Mr. Kahl, seconded by Mr. Ondrusek and approved by Voice vote, 7 – Ayes, 2 – No votes by Mrs. Kantner and Mrs. Moyer, Consent Items were approved:

#### Finance Committee

- A. Approved 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/ELCO 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.*

#### NON-CONSENT Items for Approval

#### 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 Committee Items A-P were approved:

- A. Approved Shawn Gerhardt-Kreiser (current day-to-day substitute) as a short-term substitute in the Maintenance Department, effective April 17, 2023 with an end date TBD, at an hourly rate of \$13.75, with no applicable benefits.  
*Background: Position filled due to regular employee on leave.*
- B. Approved the request from Kori Landis, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, rescinding her approved sabbatical for the fall semester of the 2023-2024 school year.
- C. Approved a “Letter of Resignation” from Michelle Johnson, High School Certified School Nurse, effective July 1, 2023.
- D. Approved a non-precedent setting stipend to Christopher Longstaff, in the amount of \$5,664.00, for unanticipated work during the 2022-2023 school year.  
*Background: The additional work is due to the vacancy in the English department and concluded on the first day of the newly hired teacher, April 12, 2023.*
- E. Approved Angela Rodriguez, current Jackson Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, to Intermediate School Library/Media Specialist, effective the 2023-2024 school year, with no change in salary.  
*Background: Position filled due to retirement.*
- F. Approved the employment of Kelsey Metzler on a “Temporary Professional Contract” as a Special Education teacher at ELCO Middle School, at a salary of Bachelor’s – Step 4 (\$54,068), effective the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation, clearances, and disclosures.

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

- G. Approved the employment of Jaycee Schott, as a full-time Paraprofessional (subject to assignment), at an hourly rate of \$11.18, 7.5/day (10-month position), effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year. All required documentation, clearances, and disclosures are on file. The 60-day probationary period has been waived due to previous satisfactory employment with the District.

*Background: The hourly rate listed will be adjusted to reflected new rates approved for the 2023-2024 school year. Miss Schott is currently serving as a paraprofessional in a Kindergarten classroom as part of a cooperative learning experience with the District. She will be moving to a full-time, permanent position for the 2023-2024 school year. In order to complete required training requirements, Miss Schott will be permitted to attend a maximum of 40-hours of paid professional development during the summer months.*

- H. Approved the employment of Brianna Wentzel, as a 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. Benefits will begin after the 60-day probationary period.

*Background: The hourly rate listed will be adjusted to reflected new rates approved for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new position as part of the 2023-2024 budget. Due to the specialized nature of this position, Miss Wentzel will be attending a maximum of 40-hours of paid professional development during the summer months.*

- I. Approved the continued employment of Dennis Morgan (returning for 10<sup>th</sup> year), as a seasonal grounds worker, at the rate of \$12.00/hour, retroactive to April 1, 2023.

- J. Approved Toni Mehaffey as a substitute teacher supporting Extended School Year (ESY) services, at her individual per diem hourly rate, during the period of June 12, 2023, through August 10, 2023.

*Background: Substitute teacher coverage will be provided on an as needed basis throughout ESY.*

- K. Approved Brianna Wentzel as a substitute Specialized Paraprofessional supporting Extended School Year (ESY) services, at an hourly rate of \$13.48, during the period of June 12, 2023, through August 10, 2023.

*Background: Substitute paraprofessional coverage will be provided on an as needed basis throughout ESY.*

- L. Approved Catherine Shaak, as a Spring 2023 Volunteer Coach for Boys' Tennis, noting all required clearances and disclosures are on file.

- M. Approved the following individuals in extra-curricular positions for the High School Musical, as listed:

Director – Melodie Fair  
 Choreographer – Theresa Fidler  
 Set Construction Supervisor – David Fair  
 Costume Designer – Beth Faehling  
 Stage and Safety Supervisor – Adam Zurick  
 Vocal Director – Melodie Fair  
 Orchestra Director – David Fair  
 Rehearsal Accompanist – Melodie Fair

- N. Approved a trip request from Christopher Heft, to travel and attend the APSI Biology Conference, to be held June 26-29, 2023, at Goucher College, Baltimore, MD.

*Background: Mr. Heft will be attending conference to gain knowledge in preparation of teaching AP Bio. Costs are budgeted.*

- O. Approved a trip request from Kelsey Thorley, Kristi Fields, Erin Harris, and the ELCO Girls' Field Hockey Team, to travel and attend Team Camp in Cape Henlopen State Park, July 20-23, 2023.

*Background: There are no costs to the district for this annual team trip.*

- P. 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):

Casey Clauser	Jesse Yohn	Inna Akulov
Jaime Heisey	Andrew Heisey	Judith Santiago
Nicole Hibshman	Jared Pohronezny	Amanda Zwally
William Shaak	Haley McMullen	Kemija Dixon
Kolleen Shuder	Megan Millinder	Crystal Woolf

General Services Committee – Mr. David Ziegler, Chair

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

On a motion by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mrs. Moyer and approved by Voice vote, 9-0, Items A-B was approved:

- A. Approved a proposal from AEM Architects for an Accessibility Master Plan at the ELCO Campus at a cost of a fixed fee of \$12,500. (Board Attachment)

*Background: As discussed in the April 5, 2023, General Services Committee Meeting.*

- B. Approved Change Order #2 to the High School Renovations and Additions Project in the amount of \$33,717.42. (Board Attachment)

*Background: This is for a reconfiguration of the district administration space.*

Finance Committee – Mr. Ray Ondrusek, Chair

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

On a motion by Mr. Ondrusek, seconded by Ms. Schaeffer 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 April 17, 2023, Board Agenda for payments made March 2023, in the amounts indicated: (Board Attachment)

General Fund payments in the amount of	\$4,892,720.04
Cafeteria Fund payments in the amount of	\$351,399.58
Capital Reserve Fund payments in the amount of	\$17,970.92
Debt Service payments in the amount of	\$0.00
Construction Fund payments in the amount of	\$1,258,864.16
Student Activity payments in the amount of	\$18,512.44

- B. Approved a Special Education contracting agreement with New Story for Extended School Year (ESY) Services for Summer 2023. (Board Attachment)

*Background: This is an approval for contracted educational services for one student as listed in their IEP.*

- C. Approved a musical agreement with Concord Theatricals to secure the rights and license for the amateur production of "Irving Berlin's White Christmas" to be performed in December 2023. (Board Attachment)

*Background: The High School Musical has been moved to December of 2023 due to renovations at the High School.*

## Superintendent's Report

### Principal Reports:

- Mrs. Tam Hower, Jackson Elementary
  - Another Rising Raiders workshop was held for incoming Kindergarten students and their families. The evening featured dinner and fun activities to promote readiness skills.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms took a field trip to the Myerstown Library where they had a lesson and experiment in testing wind energy. Special 'Thank You' to Mrs. Amy Davis, Librarian of the Myerstown Library.
- Mrs. Jodi Houck, Fort Zeller Elementary
  - Update given on the event held on the Keystone Classroom Initiative. Special guest readers, dignitaries, and mascots were in attendance to enhance the excitement of the event and activities.
  - Raider Readers were also in attendance to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pennsylvania and read poetry followed by activities in which Fort Zeller students created their own ice cream flavors.
- Dr. Michael Gerhart, Intermediate School
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period PBIS reward featured a 'make your own ice cream sundae' with 485 students qualifying.
  - Update given on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade musical, 'Frozen' to be held April 28 & 29. Ticket info is available on the district website.
- Mr. Jonathan Treese, Middle School
  - Middle School TSA students qualified to compete at the state competition beating out competitors from Lancaster, Lebanon, and Berks counties.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade visit to the CTC provided an opportunity to learn about programs offered when they enter high school.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade computer science class wrapped up their fundraiser. The project proceeds will benefit the 4Diamonds organization.
- Athletic Director's Report – Mr. Tommy Mealy
  - The ELCO Athletic Department celebrated Spring PIAA Officials Appreciation Week by presenting each official with a goodie bag.
  - Benefit games this week will take place in baseball and softball, with a Salute to Service Night during the boys baseball game.
  - Spring sports is well underway and about halfway through the season.
- Ms. Jennifer Haas, HS
  - ELCO students participated in the Rain Barrel Competition sponsored by the Lebanon County Conservation District.
  - Results announced of the FFA Regional Speech Contest in which several ELCO FFA members will move on to the state level of competition.

### Mrs. Vicente shared the following:

- Recapped visit from the Keystone Classroom Initiative at Fort Zeller.
- Congratulations to 7<sup>th</sup> grader, Annelyse Bogart and 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Emma Umbenhauer receiving 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Hershey Story's History Contest for Young Writers.
- Construction Update included the following items:
  - Exterior brick and support for the exterior panels are being installed.
  - Dust and fume collection pads and walls are being installed.
  - Gas drops in the welding booths are being added.
  - Case work has started to arrive.
  - The front driveway at the High School has been widened for future work this summer.
  - Preliminary work will begin (weather permitting), in the courtyard between the District Office and High School Library in preparation for renovations to the District Office. Visitors to the District Office will be rerouted to the main entrance of the High School when work begins.

Upcoming Dates/Announcements:

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

- John Kline – Complimented ELCO FFA; Release Time ends this week and acknowledged the outstanding work by Dr. Gerhart at the Intermediate School.
- Amber Weaver – Thanked the school board for approving the planetarium project and their support of the project. Clarified costs that are being raised by the Foundation for the planetarium, and promoted the fundraising event to take place August 12, 2023.
- Shanon Martin – Thanked the school board for approving the planetarium project.
- John Kline – Commented briefly on the sensitive topic of discussion.
- Logan Young – Commented on students’ ability to make independent decisions/choices.
- Dave Noyes – Thanked the school board and General Services Committee approving the Master Accessibility Plan for the campus; congratulated Caleb Nolt on great hit; and commented on locker room accommodations and decisions to be made, which should be in the best interest of everyone.

Board Announcements/Comments

- Mrs. Noll – “Hall of Fame” nomination forms are now on the ELCO Education Foundation website.
- Mr. Kahl – Commented on local businesses and tax assessments.

Old Business

- No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

- Locker Room Update
  - Mr. Ferrari gave update on the two presentations given to the school board, which were free of charge.
  - School board members were invited to meet with administration and the architect on the current locker room situation.
  - General Services Committee is actively pursuing resolutions to the issue.

Mrs. Noll made a motion to add an item to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Kramer and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, a motion was added to the agenda as follows:

*Motion to close the boys’ and girls’ locker rooms at the High School during the instructional school day effective Monday, April 24, 2023, and continuing through the last student day of the 2022-2023 school year, Wednesday, June 7, 2023. Locker rooms will remain available for use by athletic teams after the school day for time and periods established by the District Administration.*

On a motion by Mrs. Noll, seconded by Mr. Kahl and approved by Voice vote, 8 – Ayes and 1 No vote by Ms. Schaeffer, the motion passed.

*Approved closing the boys’ and girls’ locker rooms at the High School during the instructional school day effective Monday, April 24, 2023, and continuing through the last student day of the 2022-2023 school year, Wednesday, June 7, 2023.*

*Locker rooms will remain available for use by athletic teams after the school day for time and periods established by the District Administration.*

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Kahl, seconded by Mrs. Moyer and approved by Voice vote, all voting Aye, President Ferrari adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria J. Hill  
Board Secretary