



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Homer-Center School Board  
Homer City, PA 15748  
Central Office Board Room  
April 19, 2017

Members Present

Mr. Gerald Bertig  
Mr. Michael Bertig  
Mr. Logan Dellafiora  
Mr. Daniel Fabin  
Mr. Fred Hayes

Members Absent

Mr. James McLoughlin  
Mrs. Julie Rado  
Mrs. Vicki Smith  
Mr. Justin Smyers

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, Special Education Director  
Mr. Edward Sutter, Facilities Supervisor  
Mrs. Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

Homer-Center Staff Present

Christine Yurky  
Gregory Hartnett  
Teresa Koenigsberg  
M. Susan McLoughlin

Media Present

Jessee Vanhorn, 1160 WCCS  
Chauncey Ross, Gazette (arrived at 8:29 p.m.)

Visitors

Ms. Kelsey Gross, Pittsburgh Food Bank  
Kristen Peace and Family  
Emily Marshall and Family  
Kristen Yackuboskey and Family

The Board held an executive session from 7:00-7:34 p.m. for personnel and real estate reasons.

President Vicki Smith called the meeting to order at 7:35 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. Michael Bertig arrived at 7:59 p.m.

## MINUTES

On a Smyers/Hayes motion approved the minutes from the March 16, 2017 Regular Meeting. Voice vote; unanimous.

## VISITOR COMMENTS-None

## PRESENTATION

Ms. Kelsey Gross, Pittsburgh Food Bank/Food Service Coalition, presented Mrs. M. Susan McLoughlin with the Crystal Apple Award. The award is in recognition to schools that go above and beyond in the area of child nutrition. Homer-Center received the award for our Breakfast After the Bell program and SFSP expansion. Congratulations to Mrs. McLoughlin and the entire cafeteria staff!

## STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Stofa introduced Kristen Yackuboskey as the Wildcat Recognition Award recipient for April and Mr. Hartnett spoke about Kristen's artwork, which he had samples for the Board to review. Mr. Stofa presented her with her certificate and bowling pass. Mr. Rainey introduced Emily Marshall as the Wildcat Recognition Award recipient for April. Mrs. Christine Yurky spoke to the Board regarding Emily's involvement in the National History Day Competition. Mr. Rainey presented her with her certificate and bowling pass. Mr. Fabin introduced Kristen Peace as the Kiwanis Senior of the Month for April and presented her with her certificate. Mrs. Smith gave each student and Mrs. McLoughlin an HC lapel pin on behalf of the Board.

## REPORTS

1. ARIN IU 28- Mrs. Rado reported on the following: (1) The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual ARIN Convention was held at Purchase Line High School and noted that the district did a wonderful job with the event. She also noted that Mrs. Vicki Smith was awarded the 'Friend of Education Award'; (2) Mr. Wagner was unanimously awarded a four year contract effective July 1, 2017.
2. ICTC- Mrs. Smith reported on the following: (1) ICTC had submitted a short film to the State and it came in second place; (2) students tested at 75% advanced on their recent testing; (3) free classes are being offered on manufacturing, for adults.
3. Building and Grounds-No report
4. Parks and Recreation – No report, but requested other members of Parks and Rec come to the May 4<sup>th</sup> Planning Meeting for an update.
5. Academic Committee – No report. Mrs. Genchur noted that due to the Kindergarten evaluations, Mr. Stofa, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Genchur met with seven representatives from local Pre-K agencies to discuss curriculum in their programs that could help prepare our students for entering Kindergarten. They will continue to meet with these representatives to further discuss this issue.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. McLoughlin read the Treasurer's Report and Cafeteria Cash Statement for March 31, 2017. On a Rado/Fabin motion, the reports were approved. Voice vote; unanimous.

## BILLS

On a J. Bertig/Smyers motion the general fund, cafeteria and capital reserve fund bills for April, 2017 were approved for payment. Poll vote; motion carried 9-0.

## BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cessna reported that interest earned during April, 2017 amounted to \$802.53.

On a McLoughlin/Hayes motion approved the Alio maintenance renewal from Weidenhammer System Corporation at an annual fee of \$13,057.42 as noted in Appendix A. Poll vote; motion carried 9-0.

On a Dellafiora/Fabin motion acknowledged and approved the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources "Approval to Proceed" notification and \$85,000 grant for the Homer-Center School District Playground Project as noted in Appendix B. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Fabin/McLoughlin motion approved Hayden Appraisal Services at the cost of \$6,500 to complete an appraisal report with additional consulting and conference work at \$200/hr. in response to a current assessment appeal and as recommended by the District Solicitor. Poll vote; motion carried 9-0.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### PERSONNEL

#### Certified Personnel

On a J. Bertig/Dellafiora motion accepted the resignations, due to retirement, of six teachers, with regret: Mr. Louis Stepanik, English; Mrs. Deb Pavloski, Special Ed; Mrs. Roxanne Rouse, English; Mrs. Marcia Behr, Spanish; Mrs. Teresa Koenigsberg, Elementary Technology; and Mrs. Sarah DeVivo, Librarian. Poll vote; motion carried 9-0. Mrs. Smith noted that between all these teachers, they have a combined 172 years of experience teaching and you can never replace that. Mrs. Smith also presented Mrs. Koenigsberg with a HC coffee mug, lapel pin and HC chocolate bar.

On a McLoughlin/Fabin motion approved Mrs. Carolyn Princes and Miss Ashley Warren as ARIN IU 28 substitute guest teachers. Voice vote; unanimous.

#### Support Personnel

On a Hayes/Rado motion approved Mrs. Melinda Sharer as a substitute instructional aide. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Smyers/Dellafiora motion approved five unpaid days for Mrs. Janelle Shoup, instructional aide, on April 24-28, 2017. Voice vote; unanimous.

### Volunteers

On a Smyers/Dellafiora motion approved the following as volunteers: (1) Mr. Jim Irwin and Mr. John Capitosti (pending clearances) as volunteer track coaches for the 2016-2017 season; (2) Robert Novak, Aaron Lehman, Paula Andrei, Carrie George, Nikki Freed, Joanna Morgan, Mandy Sucheralli, Jessica Ruddock, Kara Harper, Chris Burgess, Gretchen Brubaker, Gina Lehman and Catherine King (pending clearances) as parent volunteers for the percussion Wildwood, NJ trip on May 3-7, 2017. Voice vote; unanimous.

### EDUCATION

On a Fabin/M. Bertig motion approved Mr. David King to attend the Google Educator Level 1 Certification Boot Camp at ARIN IU 28 on May 30-31, 2017. Cost to the district is \$200 registration and one substitute for two days. Voice vote; unanimous.

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

On a Fabin/Rado motion approved the following student field trips: (1) Mrs. Suzanne Mateer, Mrs. Amy Skoff and the Elementary Breakfast Book Club to conduct their final book club at Eat N Park Restaurant in Indiana, PA on May 10, 2017. All costs will be covered by the grant money received; (2) Mrs. Brenda Viazanko and students to attend the Envirothon at Blue Spruce Park on May 3, 2017. Cost to the district is one substitute for one day. Using the school van; (3) Mrs. Christine Yurky and student to attend National History Day State Competition in Carlisle, PA on May 12-13, 2017. Cost to the district is one substitute for ½ day and \$400 for registration, hotel and mileage. Voice vote; unanimous.

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

On a Dellafiora/Smyers motion approved the following use of building and grounds: (1) Mrs. Jennifer Ponish to run a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament for the Kai Hraborsky Memorial Scholarship on Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the high school and elementary school gyms and cafeterias. With Board approval, fees will be waived. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Smyers/J. Bertig motion approved the following use of building and grounds: (1) Mrs. Jamie Arone and the parents of the Class of 2024 to conduct Luther Ford's Drive for Your School for a fundraiser event on May 6, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. –2:45 p.m. in the Elementary School parking lot and front circle; (2) Evergreen Boys and Girls Club to use potential space for storage, with options to be determined such as current trailer POD and available office space in the high school building. This will be in lieu of the additional funds previously approved by the Board. Voice vote; unanimous.

CAFETERIA – No report

POLICIES

On a McLoughlin/Rado motion adopted new Board Policy 600 Finances, #620, Fund Balance as noted in Appendix C. Poll vote; motion carried 6-3 with Mr. Dellafiora, Mr. Smyers and Mr. M. Bertig voting no.

TRANSPORTATION

On a Dellafiora/Smyers motion approved the following as spare bus drivers for the 2016-17 school year: Mrs. Cindy Stofko and Mr. Steven Immekus. Voice vote; unanimous. Dr. Koren noted the recent bus accident involving Smith Bus driver Mrs. Brenda Bopp was one of the district's ABC's & Me Summer Program bus drivers. Our heartfelt condolences go to the Bopp family and to Smith Bus Company during this difficult time.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS - No report

OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Stofa reported on the following: (1) Statewide PSSA Testing began on April 4<sup>th</sup> and will run until May 5<sup>th</sup> for Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6; (2) Easter vacation is April 13-17; (3) Fourth Grade swimming program at the YMCA will begin the first part of May for three weeks; (4) Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators was conducting their conference in our elementary school library tonight. Miss Daskivich, former elementary teacher, wanted to showcase our school and our library. He also congratulated all the retirees and thanked them for their years of dedication to our students.

Mr. Rainey reported on the following: (1) Congratulated all the retirees and thanked them for their service; (2) congratulated Abby Novak on being selected to the State Band Festival; (3) congratulated Mr. Stepanik and the senior class for a great performance in Anne of Green Gables. It was noted that would be Mr. Stepanik's final performance as director; (4) congratulated all the Jr. and Sr. High students who were inducted into NHS; (5) congratulated all the Kiwanis Seniors of the Month. A banquet was held on April 12<sup>th</sup> for all of them; (6) Homer-Center's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual indoor competition was held on April 8, 2017. We welcomed 34 groups to our school; (7) some of the larger contributors for the Indoor Color Guard & Percussion this year were R.E. Walbeck Agency, Club Savoy, A.W. Lehman Financial, Mains Chiropractic, IUP Departments of Music and Theater, S&T Homer City Branch, Senator Don White, Representative Dave Reed, Indiana Auto Glass, Zack's Auto Sales, and Indian Haven; (8) student scheduling requests for 2017-18 have been submitted; (9) testing continues at the high school on April 25-27 PSSA Math and May 2-4 for Science Grade 8.

Mrs. Genchur reported on the following: (1) noted what a great person Emily Marshall is and thanked the Board and Mrs. Yurky for the gifted program; (2) Elementary PSSA Assembly; (3) PLN for both the high school and elementary schools has come to a close; (3) High School Life Skills and kudos to Mr. Eric Misko for a great program. They have been working on their FCS skills.

Mr. Sutter reported on the following: (1) congratulated the retirees; (2) Eastern Elevator had to come in to get a xylophone out of the elevator; (3) Labor and Industry checked the boilers at the high school – they are all well; (4) Simplex was in and did an inspection – everything was good; (5) maintenance is keeping up with the athletics and field work; (6) Crossman Drum & Bugle Corp is supposed to be coming this summer. Waiting on Mr. Stolarz for the paperwork; (7) will need to formally approve the donation by Mr. and Mrs. Brad Adams for the greenhouse; (8) requesting that the Board hire summer help again this year with youth workers.

REPORT OF HCEA PRESIDENT – Lisa Adams

Mrs. Adams had no report.

REPORT OF HCESP PRESIDENT – Len Black

Mr. Black noted that the retirees will be missed and has a lot of respect for them and their years of service.

REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Fabin gave his best wishes to the retirees. Mr. McLoughlin congratulated the retirees. He noted the baseball team had their 300th win for the program and congratulated them. Mr. Dellafiora noted he was glad to have History Day back. Mr. Hayes noted Emily Marshall is very well spoken and can see how she did so well in her competition. He also volunteered to help any retirees if necessary on their new life. Mrs. Rado congratulated the retirees and congratulated Vicki Smith on her award. She also noted that the play was very well done. Mrs. Smith complimented Mr. Bauer and the playground committee on receiving the grant money and all their hard work on gaining outside funds. She congratulated the retirees and noted the loss of many years of experience cannot be replaced. Mr. Smyers, Mr. M. Bertig and Mr. J. Bertig had no reports.

On a Hayes/J. Bertig motion the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. Voice vote; unanimous.

Submitted for board approval,

  
Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

Seal

Vicki Smith, Board President