



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Homer-Center School Board

Homer City, PA 15748

Central Office Board Room

March 15, 2018

Members Present

Mr. Gerald Bertig

Mr. Michael Bertig

Mr. Logan DellaFiora

Mr. Fred Hayes

Mr. Justin Smyers

Mr. Robert Valyo

Mrs. Vicki Smith (via teleconference)

Members Absent

Mr. James McLoughlin

Mr. Daniel Fabin

School Administrators Present

Dr. Charles J. Koren, Superintendent

Mr. Gregory Cessna, Business Manager

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

P. Michael

L. Black

H. Lowry

L. Adams

S. Mateer

T. Hirsch

C. Turk

K. Gardner

C. Bruno

Media Present

Jesse VanHorn, 1160 WCCS

Greg Reinbold, The Dispatch

Chauncey Ross, Indiana Gazette

Visitors

Dan Sacco

Michael Schmidt

Matt Black

James Elliott

Aaron Lehman

Kira Friedel and Family

Shawn Trausi and Family

Emily Schmidt and Family

The Board held an executive session from 7:00-7:33 p.m. for personnel and real estate matters.

President Michael Bertig called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the Homer-Center Mission Statement opened the meeting. Seven members were present at roll call (Mrs. Vicki Smith present via teleconference) to comprise a quorum.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Mr. Michael Schmidt spoke to the Board regarding building security guards.

Mr. Matthew Black spoke to the Board regarding parents being contacted by the call system when police are called to the campus. He also spoke regarding a compact letter that was sent home to elementary students.

Mr. James Elliott spoke to the Board regarding the playground in Lucernemines.

Student Recognition

Mr. Rainey introduced Mrs. Heather Lowry who presented Shawn Trausi with his Wildcat Recognition Award for March, 2018. Mrs. Genchur introduced Mrs. Gardner who presented Kira Friedel with her Wildcat Recognition Award for March, 2018. Mr. Hayes presented Emily Schmidt with her certificate as the Kiwanis Senior of the Month. Mr. Smyers gave all recipients an HC lapel pin from the Board.

REPORTS

Homer-Center School Board Committees

Academic Committee – Mr. Michael Bertig reported the committee welcomed a new member to the committee – Mr. Justin Smyers. They discussed the following: (1) school calendar; (2) hiring practices-Danielson Model; (3) B. Genchur gave an overview of the Special Education Plan; (4) discussion on Keystone Retakes; (5) Head Lice Policy recommended updates.

Buildings and Grounds Committee- Mr. Jerry Bertig reported discussions centered on the following: (1) Energy savings and updated lighting – met with four companies; (2) Elementary gym basketball court lines – still looking at painting new lines.

Administration

Mr. Rainey reported on the following: (1) 8th Grade STEM Field Trip was held on March 12th; (2) the FCS Team took 1st Place in the Heritage Conference contest; (3) Battlebots – looking at adding in the future.

Mrs. Genchur reported on the following: (1) SWPBIS Set-Feb. 22nd two members of PaTTAN came to evaluate our ROAR program. Homer-Center scored 100 out of 100 and will receive a banner in May at the conference; (2) Kindergarten Registration was held on March 7th. 42 students attended. Recommends maintaining the same number of days for ABC's & Me this summer; (3) PSSA Testing changes – April 10, 11, 12 in the AM for ELA; April 17, 18 in the AM for math; and April 24 all day for science in Grade 4 only.

Mr. Sutter reported on the following: (1) staff is still dealing with weather issues; (2) working on the softball field; (3) making transfers in jobs due to recent postings; (4) discussion continues on lighting options; (5) circulating pumps have been serviced.

Homer-Center School Board Representatives to Outside Boards

Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit #28-Mr. Hayes reported that the General Operating Budget is on the agenda for Board approval with no increase since 2016-17. Homer-Center's share will be \$27,931. He recommends this approval.

Homer-Center Parks and Recreation-Mr. Smyers reported that the committee did look into Mr. Elliott's concerns regarding the Lucernemines Park. They are getting a cost of fencing around the area. He also reported there are some issues on the Alutman Park. There are lease issues that are in litigation. Mr. Aaron Lehman was in the audience and spoke regarding needing three more fences in the Lucernemines Park. They are getting a quote from Superior Fencing for materials. Labor would be volunteers. More discussion to follow.

Indiana County Technology Center-Mrs. Smith had no report.

Faculty and Staff

Mrs. Lisa Adams had no report.

Mr. Len Black thanked the Board for their hard work and thanked Mr. Cessna and Dr. Koren and the Board for the contract ratification approved at last month's Board Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS FROM THE MARCH 1, 2018 PLANNING MEETING-CONSENT ITEMS

On a J. Bertig/Valyo motion approved all consent items. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

Minutes of the February 15, 2018 Regular Meeting as noted in Appendix A.

Treasurer's Report and Cafeteria Cash Statement for February 28, 2018 as noted in Appendix B.

Approved bills for the general fund, cafeteria and capital reserve fund for February, 2018 as noted in Appendix C.

Business Manager's Items:

Interest earned during February 2018 amounted to \$2,149.20.

Approved the 2016-2017 audit report as submitted by the local auditor, Ronald C. McCrory, CPA, LLC.

Superintendent's Items:

Personnel

- A. Approved Christine McLaughlin and Kayley Weaver (retroactive to February 21, 2018) as ARIN IU 28 substitute Guest Teachers and Alexander Bieger as an Elementary/Special Ed substitute.

- B. Approved the following volunteers for spring sports:
 - Baseball-James McLoughlin, Mark Buzi, Kurt Krejocic
 - Softball-Denny Daskivich, Tony Maggio, Mark Mechling (pending clearances)
 - Track-Jim Irwin, Jason Buggey, Jason Bence (pending clearances) and Gabe Manzanilla (pending clearances)
- C. Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Sherry Hosey, cafeteria worker, effective February 28, 2018.
- D. Approved the movement of Mr. Wayne Shields from a 7 hr./12 mo. cleaner to an 8 hr./12 mo. custodian effective retroactive to February 26, 2018 at the salary of \$10.69/hr. and a 30 day probationary period.
- E. Employed of Mrs. Kathleen Gibson, part-time cafeteria worker, retroactive to March 7, 2018 at 90% of \$10.23/hr. and a 60 day probationary period.

Education

- A. Approved homebound instruction for a secondary student (Tracking #17-18-03).
- B. Approved the Homer-Center School District School Counseling for Career Success Program, Act 339 Plan.

Student Activities

- A. Mr. Andrew Kent and Spanish Club students to attend Tres Amigos for Almuerzo en Espanol on March 23, 2018. There is no cost to the district.

Buildings and Grounds

- A. Mrs. Carie Cavalier, Mr. Scott Bauer and the High School Baseball Team Parents to use the high school cafeteria retroactive to March 14, 2018 from 5-7 p.m. for a catered dinner prior to their spring trip. All fees were waived.
- B. Grant ongoing authorization for school administrators to approve the use of the high school gymnasium for PIAA playoff games, subject to availability, compliance with facility usage policies, and PIAA reimbursement for all costs. Retroactively approve February 26th and March 1st usage.

Cafeteria-No Report

Policies

- A. Adopted revisions to Policy #808, 800 Operations, Food Services (Appendix D).
- B. Second reading of revisions to Policy #222, 200 Pupils, Tobacco Use (Appendix E).

Transportation-No Report

Board of Directors

- A. Appointed Mr. Fred Hayes to the ARIN IU 28 Board of Directors for a three year term effective July 1, 2018-June 30, 2021.
- B. Approved the ARIN IU 28 General Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,428,825 for the 2018-2019 school year. Homer-Center's contribution by withholding amounts to \$27,931.
- C. Approved the 2018-2019 school calendar with the first student day on August 21, 2018 and the last student day on May 30, 2019 (Appendix F).

OLD BUSINESS FROM THE MARCH 1, 2018 PLANNING MEETING

On a J. Bertig/Valyo motion approved the following. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

- A. Approved the renewal of the District's commercial property, general liability, crime inland marine, automobile, error and omissions, and umbrella coverages (Package Policy) through Liberty Mutual for \$57,306 with the deductible remaining \$2,500.

On a Hayes/Smyers motion to not purchase the following. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

- B. Did not approve the Certified Acts of Terrorism Coverage through Liberty Mutual in addition to the package policy for \$2,615.

NEW BUSINESS

On a Smyers/Dellafiora motion approved the following items in New Business. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

(1) Mr. Matthew Rodkey, Assistant Principal, to the list of check signers for the High School Activity Account; (2) approving Mr. Matthew Rodkey to attend PIL classes at IU 4 in Grove City, PA retroactive to March 5-6, 2018. Cost to the district was \$201.73; (3) Homer-Center Football Parents Association to use the Homer-Center Practice Field for the 9th Annual Youth Football Camp on June 18-20, 2018 from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. They will need access to the locker rooms, lines painted on the field and football field equipment. With Board approval, all fees were waived; (4) Homer-Center Varsity Football to use the Memorial Field on Mondays and Wednesdays for football skills and conditioning starting on June 18, 2018 from 8:00-10:00 p.m. They will need access to restrooms for water and bathroom use. With Board approval, all fees were waived; (5) Mrs. Candy Shaffer and the PTA to use four classrooms in the elementary school for a PTA Movie Night on March 23, 2018 from 3:30-5:45 p.m. With Board approval, all fees were waived; (6) Mr. Jon Stolarz and the Indoor Percussion to hold a competition at our schools, using the full high school building and the elementary gym on April 14, 2018 from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. With Board approval, all fees were waived; (7) Mr. Jon Stolarz and band to host the Boston Crusaders Drum Corps on June 27-29, 2018 from 6:00 a.m. (27th) to 9:00 p.m. (29th) using the full high school building and practice field. Also, August 5, 2018 hosting the Troopers

Drum Corps from 4:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. using the full high school building and practice field. There will be no use of the Memorial Field. With Board approval, all fees were waived; (8) First reading of revisions to Policy #209.1, 200 Pupils, Head Lice (Appendix G); (9) the movement of Mrs. Cheryl Groves, 4 hr./12 mo. cleaner, to a 7 hr./12 mo. cleaner retroactive to March 12, 2018 at the salary of \$10.20/hr.; (10) employed Ms. Melissa Todd, substitute, to a 4 hr./12 mo. cleaner effective March 19, 2018 at 90% of \$9.72/hr. with a 30 day probationary period; (11) Mrs. Kara Gardner, Mrs. Bethany Genchur, Mrs. Celeste Keefe and Mrs. Tanya Hirsch to attend the PA PBS Implementers' Forum in Hershey, PA on May 22-23, 2018. Cost to the district is \$1,276 and two substitutes for two days. This team is making one of the available presentations.

On a J. Bertig/Smyers motion approved Mr. Jon Stolarz and one band student to attend the State Band Competition in Lancaster, PA on April 18-21, 2018. Mr. Stolarz will also be attending the PMEA Annual Conference at this same time. Cost to the district is \$777.50 and one substitute for three days. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a J. Bertig/Smyers motion tabled the motion to rescind the approval of Ms. Laura Root to attend the PMEA Conference on April 19-21, 2018, as per Mr. Rainey's request to the Board. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Smyers/Dellafiora motion approved the Homer-Center School District Security Services Standard Operating Guidelines as presented by Mr. Dan Sacco at the January 4, 2018 Planning Meeting. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Smyers/Hayes motion authorized Daniel W. Cooper, Solicitor, to advise the Court at Case #10103 CD 2018 that the Homer-Center Board of School Directors agrees to the assessed value of \$120,000 for real estate parcel 12-012-136.01 A, currently on appeal at the above term and number and owned by Kovalchick Salvage Company. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a Smyers/Dellafiora motion ratified the tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Homer-Center School District and the Homer-Center Education Association dated August 15, 2017-August 14, 2020. Poll vote; motion carried 5-2 with Mrs. Smith and Mr. Valyo voting No.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The Board Members had an open discussion on armed security guards in the school buildings. Discussion will continue and be looked at for the 2018-19 school budget.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Dellafiora noted they will continue working on security and discussion will continue at budget meetings. Mr. J. Bertig noted that the agreement with the teachers was signed tonight. Due to not having equitable school funding, we are always left with a challenging situation. Mr. Smyers would like to continue talks on school security and echoed Mr. J. Bertig and Mr. Dellafiora's comments. Mrs. Smith noted that she opposes the incentive severance for early retirement. She noted it took 10 years to get it out of a previous contract and is not in favor of it. She noted her vote had nothing to do with the teachers. She attended the rings banquet for football and thought that was a wonderful idea. Mr. Valyo noted his 'no' vote on the teacher contract was due to bringing back the early incentive. He felt it is not financially good for the district. Mr. M. Bertig thanked the administration, school board and teachers for their input in the school calendar. He felt we used the maximum instructional time, and made good changes to parent/teacher conferences. He also thanked Dr. Koren and Greg Cessna for the amicable negotiations on the recent contract.

On a Hayes/Valyo motion the meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m. Voice vote; unanimous.

Submitted for board approval,


Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

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Michael Bertig, President