



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Homer-Center School Board
Homer City, PA 15748
Central Office Board Room
March 16, 2017

Members Present

Mr. Michael Bertig
Mr. Daniel Fabin
Mr. Fred Hayes
Mr. James McLoughlin

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

Members Absent

Mr. Gerald Bertig
Mr. Logan Dellafiora

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

Amy Skoff
Suzanne Mateer
Ruth Yatzkanic

Media Present

Josh Widdowson, 1160 WCCS
Chauncey Ross and photographer,
Indiana Gazette
Greg Reinbold, Dispatch

Visitors

Taylor Palmer and Family
Mikayla Dokos and Family
Alexandra Schmidt and Family
Madison Bash and Family
Alaina Fabin and Family
James Wagner, ARIN IU 28

The Board held an executive session from 7:00-7:25 p.m. for personnel reasons.

President Vicki Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the Homer-Center Mission Statement opened the meeting. Seven members were present at roll call to comprise a quorum.

MINUTES

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

VISITOR COMMENTS-None

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Rainey introduced Mikayla Dokos as the Wildcat Recognition Award recipient for March and presented her with her certificate and bowling pass. Mr. Hayes introduced Taylor Palmer as the Kiwanis Senior of the Month for March and presented her with her certificate. Mr. Stofa introduced Mrs. Skoff and Mrs. Mateer and the three winners of the Elks Essay Contest. Alexandra Schmidt, Madison Bash and Alaina Fabin read their winning essays to the Board. Each was presented with a certificate and bowling pass. Mrs. Smith, with the help of Mr. Fabin, gave each student an HC lapel pin on behalf of the Board.

ARIN IU 28 Report - Mr. James Wagner, Executive Director

Mr. Wagner gave an update from ARIN IU 28. He noted the decrease in staffing at PDE is noticeably hurting not only the IU but schools as well. He spoke about after school programs (Evergreen Boys and Girls Club); classes have doubled for autism and special education; and also noted he has a great staff working with him at the IU and a very supportive Board.

REPORTS

1. ARIN IU 28- Mrs. Rado reported on the following: (1) The IU would be receiving a budget increase; (2) Karen Hendricks gave a curriculum update at the last meeting on macro district analysis; (3) noted there would be no additional funds for our district's budget this year for the IU.
2. ICTC- Mrs. Smith had no report for ICTC but noted that PSBA Advocacy Forum was set for April 24th and encouraged other Board Members to attend. Board Members can sign up on the web site. She also discussed ACCESS funds, ESSA, cyber school and the budget for 2017-18 for ICTC.
3. Building and Grounds-No report
4. Parks and Recreation – No report
5. Academic Committee –Mr. M. Bertig noted they recently had three presentations regarding new reading book series for the elementary school. Looking at changes to program of studies in Kindergarten due to the benchmark testing. They are also closely looking at expanding the summer program and revamping the ABC's & Me Program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. McLoughlin read the Treasurer's Report and Cafeteria Cash Statement for February 28, 2017. On a Rado/Fabin motion, the reports were approved. Voice vote; unanimous.

BILLS

On a Hayes/Fabin motion the general fund, cafeteria and capital reserve fund bills for March, 2017 were approved for payment. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cessna reported that interest earned during March, 2017 amounted to \$651.86.

On a McLoughlin/Smyers motion approved First Commonwealth Bank's Treasury Management Services for the District's General, Cafeteria, Capital Reserve, and Special Retirement Funds to apply additional fraud protection services as noted in Appendix A. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a Fabin/McLoughlin motion approved the District's enrollment into Amazon Prime at an annual cost of \$99. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Hayes/Rado motion approved the 2015-2016 audit report as submitted by the local auditor, Ronald C. McCrory, CPA, LLC. Mr. Hayes, who attended the exit audit meeting, said it was a very clean report with no findings. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a M. Bertig/Smyers motion approved the renewal of the District's property, general liability, crime, inland marine, automobile, error and omissions, and umbrella coverages through Liberty Mutual for \$55,486. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a McLoughlin/Hayes motion approved additional hours in the Memorandum of Agreement with ARIN Intermediate Unit to include a maximum 30 hours clerical time at \$24/hour and 10 hours administration time at \$73/hour regarding Homer-Center School District's selection to participate in the 2014-2015 Cost Reconciliation/Cost Settlement Compliance Review conducted by the Pennsylvania School Based ACCESS Program. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

PERSONNEL

Certified Personnel, Support Personnel and Volunteer Coaches

On a Rado/Fabin motion approved the following under Personnel: (1) approved the following as substitute guest teachers from ARIN IU 28: Allison Zreliak, Helen Zimmerman, Jeanne Mihelcic, Sally Kovach, Adele Thurston, David Coker, Jessica Clawson, Marilyn Nave, Nicholas Zimny-Shea and certified teacher Hannah Thomas, Elementary/Special Ed; (2) employed Mrs. Janelle Shoup as an instructional aide at the starting salary of 90% of \$9.03/hr. during the 60 day probationary period retroactive to March 13, 2017; (3) approved FMLA leave for Mrs. Marsha Henry, cafeteria worker, retroactive to March 2, 2017; (4) employed the

following as substitute instructional aides: Mrs. Chaya Matos and Mrs. Shelly Boring; (5) approved the following as volunteer coaches retroactive to March 6, 2017: Baseball – Mark Buzi, James McLoughlin, Benny Mendizabol; Softball – Tony Maggio, Dennis Daskivich, David King; Track – Melissa Kulka, Matt Cook. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

EDUCATION

On a McLoughlin/Rado motion approved the following: (1) Homebound instruction for one high school student (Tracking #16-17-03) and one elementary student (Tracking #16-17-04); (2) Approved the following attendance at conferences: (a) Mrs. Kara Gardner, Mrs. Celeste Keefe, Mrs. Tanya Hirsch and Mrs. Beth Genchur to attend the 2017 PA PBS (Positive Behavior and Supports) Implementers Forum in Hershey, PA on May 16-17, 2017. Cost to the district is \$1,316 and two substitutes for two days; (b) Mrs. Lisa Adams and Mrs. Cindy Scott to attend the 2017 Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Spring Institute in State College on May 11-12, 2017. Cost to the district is \$35 and one substitute for 1.5 days; (c) Miss Louise Vranesevic to attend the annual PEMA Conference at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA on April 20-22, 2017. Cost to the district is \$571.90 and one substitute for two days; (d) Mrs. Amy Skoff to attend the PIIC Professional Learning Opportunity at Penn State Conference Center on May 1-3, 2017. Cost to the district is \$126.66 and one substitute for three days. Voice vote; unanimous.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

On a McLoughlin/Rado motion approved the following student field trips: (1) retroactively approved Mrs. Christine Yurky and gifted students to attend the PJAS Competition in Slippery Rock, PA on Saturday, February 25, 2017. Cost to the district was \$65. Used the school van; (2) Mr. William Tonkin, Mr. Greg Hartnett and Homer-Center Hunting Club members to attend their annual picnic at Red Barn Sportsman Club on Saturday, May 13, 2017. There is no cost to the district; (3) Mrs. Lisa Adams, Mrs. Cindy Scott and students to attend the “Organ Donation Makes Everyday Heroes” seminar in Pittsburgh, PA on March 22, 2017. There is no cost to the district. IU 13 covers costs of substitute and transportation. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0. (4) Approved the overnight Senior Trip to New York City on May 18-19, 2017. There is no cost to the district. Poll vote; motion carried 5-2 with Mr. M. Bertig and Mr. Smyers voting no on the Senior Trip to New York City.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

On a M. Bertig/Hayes motion approved the following use of building and grounds: (1) Mr. Bob Rado and the Homer-Center Basketball Boosters to conduct basketball skills & drills clinics in the high school gym in June, July and August, 2017 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. All fees have been waived; (2) Mr. Rob Worcester and the Sanso’s AAU Basketball Team to use the high school gym April 1-July 31, 2017 when available for practice. The group will be charged \$6.00/hour for each session used; (3) Mrs. Bethany Genchur to use the high school LGI on March 23, 2017 for a Special Education 101 Parent Training from 5:00-7:00 p.m. All fees have been waived; (4) Mr. David King and the Homer-Center Athletic Boosters to use the Elementary gym on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. for softball evaluations. Cost to the Boosters is \$50 custodial fees; (5) Mr. Greg Page and the Homer-Center Football team to use the Memorial Field on Monday and Wednesday evenings starting June 19-July 26 from 8:30-10:00

p.m. for annual “Under the Lights” Conditioning Workouts. Also using the field on July 8, 2017 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. for annual 7 on 7 competition. All fees have been waived; (6) Mr. Greg Page and the Homer-Center Football Parents Association to use the football practice field on June 19-21, 2017 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for the Annual Youth Football Camp for ages 7-12. All fees have been waived; (7) Mrs. Jacquie Kerr and the Class of 2024 to use the high school cafeteria on March 23, 2017 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. for a LuLaRoe Fundraiser. All fees have been waived. Voice vote; unanimous.

CAFETERIA – No report

POLICIES

Informational – Considered a second reading of new Board Policy 600 Finances, #620, Fund Balance as noted in Appendix B.

TRANSPORTATION

On a Rado/McLoughlin motion approved the following as spare bus drivers for the 2016-17 school year: Mrs. Violet Lloyd, Mrs. Terri Snow and Mrs. Megan Jankey. Voice vote; unanimous.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

On a Rado/Hayes motion approved the 2017-2018 ARIN IU 28 General Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,270,419. Homer-Center’s contribution through withholding is \$27,887. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a McLoughlin/Rado motion approved the revised 2016-2017 School Calendar with the snow make-up day set for April 18, 2017 for the cancellation day on March 14, 2017 as noted in Appendix C. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a McLoughlin/Rado motion approved the 2017-2018 School Calendar with the first student day on August 23, 2017 and the last student day on May 31, 2018 as noted in Appendix D. Poll vote; motion carried 5-2 with Mr. M. Bertig and Mr. Smyers voting no.

On a Smyers/M. Bertig motion approved the new cheerleading, football jerseys and track jerseys as presented to the Board. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a McLoughlin/Fabin motion approved increasing football and basketball adult ticket prices by \$1 per sport beginning with the 2017-2018 seasons. Voice vote; unanimous.

Tabled discussion on the ABC’s & Me follow-up. This will be done at the April Board Meeting.

On a Hayes/Rado motion approved the Homer-Center School District Environment of Education Safety Committee By-Laws as noted in Appendix E. Voice vote; unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Stofa reported on the following: (1) thanked the Board for investing in Collins Writing. It has helped the students with their writing skills, as shown in the Elks Essay winners; (2) thanked Dr. Yatzkanic and TADD for the red T-Shirts; (3) PTA Meeting was held on March 6th; (4) bus evacuation drills were held on March 9th; (5) Scholastic Book Fair will be held the week of March 27-31, 2017. Family night will be Wednesday, March 29th from 6-8 p.m.; (6) end of the third grading period is Friday, March 24th; (7) report cards will be sent home on Friday, March 31st.

Mr. Rainey reported on the following: (1) reminded Board Members of NHS Induction Ceremony on April 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria; (2) reported on the Heritage Conference Science Competition; (3) letters sent home to students regarding 2017-2018 Program of Studies and scheduling; (4) Senior Class play will be *Anne of Green Gables* on March 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium; (5) Indoor Percussion and Color Guard won their last competition and will host a show on April 8th at the high school; (6) Challenger Learning Center in West Virginia for 8th grade will be on April 3rd; (7) Interact Club will have induction ceremony on March 27th.

Mrs. Genchur reported on the following: (1) Kindergarten Registration Data – share with the Board scores from their recent testing. Looking at altering ABC's & Me Summer Program; (2) update on the Elementary Reading Series; (3) there is a Parent Training Meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 23rd. She thanked Mr. Wagner and the ARIN IU and TAC Team for their assistance throughout the year.

Mr. Sutter reported on the following: (1) thanked Dr. Yatzkanic and TADD for the red T-shirts; (2) noted that the Heritage Conference held at Homer-Center ran very smoothly; (3) noted the track would be set up next week; (4) the chiller will be serviced next month; (5) playground committee should have a complete report soon.

REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Hayes thanked Dr. Yatzkanic for the red T-shirts. Mrs. Rado thanked Mr. Wagner for coming to the Board Meeting and sharing updated information regarding ARIN IU 28. She also thanked Dr. Yatzkanic for the T-shirts. Mrs. Rado reminded Board Members of the ARIN Convention being held at Purchase Line High School on April 18th. Board Members should send their reservation to the Board Secretary to be forwarded to the IU. Mr. Fabin spoke about his recent meeting with Governor Wolfe. He discussed with him property tax issues, concerns over the recent property assessments and other concerns as a Board Member. Mr. McLoughlin thanked Dr. Yatzkanic for all her hard work with TADD and noted that the science competition was great. Mrs. Smith also thanked Mr. Wagner for attending and Dr. Yatzkanic for the red T-shirts. Mr. Smyers and Mr. M. Bertig had no reports. The Board was reminded that the date of

April's meeting had been changed. It is now Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room.

On a Hayes/Rado motion the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m. Voice vote; unanimous.

Submitted for board approval,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda Clifford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

Seal

Vicki Smith, Board President