



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Homer-Center School Board  
Homer City, PA 15748  
Central Office Board Room  
May 18, 2017

Members Present

Mr. Gerald Bertig  
Mr. Michael Bertig  
Mr. Logan Dellafiora  
Mr. Fred Hayes  
Mrs. Julie Rado  
Mrs. Vicki Smith  
Mr. Justin Smyers

Members Absent

Mr. Daniel Fabin  
Mr. James McLoughlin

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

Jon Stolarz  
Tanya Hirsch  
Christina Bruno  
Kara Gardner  
Len Black

Media Present

Jessee VanHorn, 1160 WCCS  
Chauncey Ross, Indiana Gazette  
Greg Reinbold, The Dispatch

Visitors

Alyssa Smyers and Family  
Abby Novak and Family  
Landon Hill and Family

The Board held an executive session from 7:00-7:32 p.m. for personnel reasons.

President Vicki Smith 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 to comprise a quorum.

MINUTES

On a Smyers/Dellafiora motion approved the minutes from the April 19, 2017 Regular Meeting. Voice vote; unanimous.

VISITOR COMMENTS-None

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Stofa introduced Landon Hill as the Wildcat Recognition Award recipient for May and Mrs. Tanya Hirsch spoke about Landon and how he was chosen. Mr. Stofa presented him with his certificate and bowling pass. Mr. Rainey introduced Abby Novak as the Wildcat Recognition Award recipient for May. Mr. Stolarz spoke regarding Abby's involvement in the band. Mr. Rainey presented her with her certificate and bowling pass. Mr. Smyers introduced his sister, Alyssa Smyers, as the Kiwanis Senior of the Month for May and presented her with her certificate. Mrs. Smith gave each student an HC lapel pin on behalf of the Board.

REPORTS

1. ARIN IU 28- No report.
2. ICTC- No report.
3. Building and Grounds- Mr. J. Bertig noted the Committee met last week and reviewed the list of on-going projects. Items discussed were to replace the PA System in the Elementary School; approve the greenhouse donation made by the Adam's Family; they have selected the three summer student workers; reviewing the specs on the used truck; playground will have a groundbreaking on May 24, 2017 at 2:00 pm; the Memorial Field sound system will be replaced by fall; they are not ready yet to recommend a company for the restoration at the high school patio.
4. Parks and Recreation – No report.
5. Academic Committee – No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Michael Bertig read the Treasurer's Report and Cafeteria Cash Statement for April 30, 2017. On a Smyers/Hayes motion, the reports were approved. Voice vote; unanimous.

BILLS

On a J. Bertig/Rado motion the general fund, cafeteria and capital reserve fund bills for May, 2017 were approved for payment. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cessna reported that interest earned during April, 2017 amounted to \$1,223.43.

On a J. Bertig/Dellafiora motion approved the following: (1) the proposal of Westchester/Ace American Insurance Company to provide the District's privacy and network liability insurance for the 2017-2018 school year at a premium of \$4,269; (2) the proposal from United States Fire Insurance Company Sports Accident, Voluntary Student Accident, and

Catastrophic Accident Insurance Coverage for the 2017-2018 school year at a premium of \$7,730. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Hayes/Rado motion accepted the proposal from Ron McCrory, Certified Public Accountant, to perform the 2016-2017 fiscal year annual local audit at a fee of \$12,500 as noted in Appendix A. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a Hayes/Rado motion approved the 2017-2018 Indiana County Technology Center's total budget in the amount of \$6,284,710. Homer-Center's share is \$369,609 of the overall member district's contributions of \$3,606,900. Homer-Center's share is a 10.42% increase compared to the 2016-2017 budget as noted in Appendix B. Poll vote; motion carried 6-1 with Mr. M. Bertig voting no.

On a Dellafiora/Smyers motion approved the agreement for phone services from Consolidated Communications for the 2017-2018 school year as bid and negotiated through the E-Rate Program as noted in Appendix C. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a M. Bertig/Smyers motion approved the following as depositories for school district funds for the following year: First Commonwealth Bank; S&T Bank; PLGIT (PA Local Government Investment Trust); and PSDLAF (PA School District Liquid Asset Fund). Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a M. Bertig/Smyers motion tabled approving the purchase of Benchmark Advance K-6 six year Core Package-National Addition for \$111,240 as noted in Appendix D. Discussion and concern regarding the shipping costs were the reason for tabling this motion at this time.

On a Dellafiora/Rado motion accepted the donation of a 10'x20' greenhouse from Brad and Lisa Adams. Voice vote; unanimous.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### PERSONNEL

#### Certified Personnel

On a Rado/Dellafiora motion approved Miss Korey Dailey as a substitute teacher retroactive to May 3, 2017. Voice vote; unanimous.

#### Support Personnel

On a M. Bertig/Rado motion approved the following: (1) FMLA leave for Mrs. Lola Skoff, Cleaner, effective retroactive to May 17, 2017; (2) accepted the resignation, due to retirement, with regret, of Mrs. Patricia Iezzi, elementary secretary, effective June 30, 2017; (3) approved hiring of three summer student workers for the maintenance department averaging

seven hours per day for 40 days at \$8.00 per hour. Cost including social security and workers compensation is \$7,298. Voice vote; unanimous.

Volunteers

On a Hayes/Dellafiora motion approved the following as parent volunteers for the After Prom retroactive to May 12, 2017: Lisa Worcester, Carie Schmidt, Lynne Black and Lisa Traister. Voice vote; unanimous.

EDUCATION

On a J. Bertig/Hayes motion approved the candidates for graduation on June 2, 2017, pending the completion of the requirements of the Homer-Center School District as noted in Appendix E. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

On a Rado/Hayes motion approved the following student field trips: (1) Fourth Grade to attend the Lutherlyn Environmental Education Center in Prospect, PA on May 22, 2017. There is no cost to the district; (2) Mrs. Christine Yurky and two students to attend the National Affairs Conference in Black Mountain, NC on June 30-July 7, 2017. Cost to the district is \$1,070. Using the school van; (3) Mr. Greg Page and students to attend the 24 Challenge Math Competition in Elderton, PA retroactive to May 9, 2017. Cost to the district was one substitute for one day. Used the school van. Voice vote; unanimous.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

On a Dellafiora/Smyers motion approved the following use of building and grounds: (1) Sixth Grade Parent Group to use the elementary cafeteria for the Sixth Grade Dance on May 30, 2017 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. With Board approval, all fees will be waived. Voice vote; unanimous.

CAFETERIA

On a Hayes/Rado motion approved breakfast and lunch price adjustments for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$0.10 for both the elementary and high school. New prices will be breakfast, \$1.35; elementary lunch, \$2.40; and high school lunch, \$2.65. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

POLICIES –No Report

TRANSPORTATION - No Report

## BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

On a Smyers/Rado motion approved ABC's & Me Kindergarten Summer Program to run for eight days in July for all students entering Kindergarten in the fall. Following discussion, Option B for eight days and three buses for transportation were approved on a poll vote and motion carried 7-0.

On a Smyers/Dellaflora motion approved the following: (1) appointed Mr. James McLoughlin as board treasurer at the salary of \$900 per year. Mr. McLoughlin stated he will forego his stipend; (2) appointed Mr. Michael Bertig as the assistant board treasurer. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Dellaflora/Smyers motion approved the August, 2017-December, 2017 Planning/Board/Building and Grounds/Academic Committee meeting dates as noted in Appendix F. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a Smyers/Dellaflora motion appointed Mrs. Vicki Smith as a voting delegate for the PSBA 2017 Delegate Assembly during October 20, 2017 Leadership Conference. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Smyers/J. Bertig motion approved the following: (1) a three year agreement with Edlio for Content Management Website Services beginning July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020 with an annual fixed fee of \$4,200 and a one-time setup fee of \$1,000 which includes use of Spike's Gallery; (2) the Citizens' Ambulance Service, Inc. contract for the 2017- 2018 school year at a base rate of \$1650 and \$100/hr. over three hour games; (3) the agreement with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$44/hr. for nursing services; (4) the Collaborative Agreement between the Homer-Center School District and NHS of PA Behavioral Health Division Programs for the 2017-2018 school year. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a Smyers/Hayes motion approved the cooperative agreement with Mount Aloysius College for dual enrollment courses for Homer-Center High School students for the 2017-2018 school year. After concerns were brought up by Mr. Michael Bertig and following discussion, the Board poll voted. Motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Michael Bertig voting no.

On a Rado/Dellaflora motion approved the Homer-Center Academy of Choice Cyber School option as noted in Appendix G. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

On a Rado/M. Bertig motion approving the Letter of Agreement between ARIN IU 28 and the Homer-Center School District to provide the Driver Education Program Component Instruction for the 2017-2018 school year. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Hayes/J. Bertig motion approved the 2017-2018 General Fund Proposed Final Budget of the Homer-Center School District in the amount of \$16,963,435 with the following tax structure:

Real Estate	16.6742 mills
Wage Tax	.9 percent
Real Estate Transfer	.5 percent
Local Services Tax	\$5.00

This budget will be displayed by May 19, 2017 and is a 1% increase over the 2016-17 budget. Poll vote; motion carried 4-3 with Mr. Dellafiora, Mr. Smyers and Mr. M. Bertig voting no.

On a Smyers/Hayes motion approved the agreement with Adelphoi Education Services and the Homer-Center School District for Alternative Education Services and Day Treatment Services for the 2017-2018 school year. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a J. Bertig/Rado motion reappointed Rhonda Clifford as Board Secretary with an adjustment in salary each year based upon satisfactory performance, and average salary increase provided to confidential secretaries. Poll vote; motion carried 7-0.

#### OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Stofa reported on the following: (1) Indiana County Principal’s Spelling Bee was held on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Three of our sixth grade students, Mark Perry, Annaleigh Spade and Ashli Mumau represented Homer-Center Elementary School; (2) Elementary Band and Choral Concert was held May 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a huge success; (3) Elementary Field Day was held May 18<sup>th</sup>. There were 35 parent volunteers; (4) Fourth Grade traveled to Lutherlynn on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; (4) Fifth Grade will travel to Carnegie Science Center on May 25<sup>th</sup>; (5) Snow Make-Up day is May 26<sup>th</sup> and no school for students and staff; (6) May 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day with no school; (6) Sixth Grade Party/Dance will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 p.m.; (7) Kindergarten Graduation is June 1 at 2:00 pm in the Elementary Cafetorium; (8) Sixth Grade Promotion is June 1 at 7:00 pm in the High School Auditorium; (9) last student day is June 2. Elementary parties begin at 11:15 a.m. Report cards will be sent home on this day; (10) Teacher in-service day is June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rainey reported on the following: (1) Commencement is June 2 at 7:00 pm in the High School Auditorium. Dr. Brandie Smith will be the commencement speaker. Student speakers will be Mandy McElheny and Anna Overman. They will once again be recognizing a valedictorian and a salutatorian at commencement; (2) Congratulations to the Homer-Center Music Department as being chosen as the PMEA Music Department of the Month for May; (3) band and choral spring concert was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Indoor Percussion placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at Wildwood Championships and the Color Guard finished 7<sup>th</sup>; (4) Baseball team captured the Heritage Conference Championship. The team plays on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at home vs. Conemaugh Valley; (5) Softball team qualified for the District 6 playoffs and will play on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at home vs. Portage; (6) Sun day May 21 is Baccelarotte; (7) three track athletes qualified for States.

They will attend Hershey, PA next weekend; (8) Mr. Stolarz noted that next year the high school will have 84 band members. The band has grown tremendously over the past several years.

Mrs. Genchur reported on the following: (1) PA PBIS Implementer's Forum was held in Hershey on May 16-17<sup>th</sup>; (2) Transition for Special Education to the High School on two separate occasions on May 17<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>; (3) PaPOS Survey-Accountability requirements under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA) to be completed once every five years.

Mr. Sutter reported on the following: (1) noted there are several major events taking place through the end of the school year and he and his staff will be busy helping with these events. He also anticipates a very busy summer.

#### REPORT OF HCESP PRESIDENT – Len Black

Mr. Black congratulated the band and the baseball and softball teams. He also congratulated Mr. Bauer and the Playground Committee on their hard work on the project. He noted Homer-Center it is a great place to be.

#### REPORT OF HCEA REPRESENTATIVE – Christina Bruno

Ms. Bruno noted the high school is getting ready for finals. She also noted that the LEAD Team had their first two Alumni Award recipients presented at Awards Night.

#### REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Koren noted at this time that PSBA and the Principal's Association were at the Homer-Center High School on May 15<sup>th</sup> to film Mr. Brad Adams class. Our high school was one of five schools highlighted for Project Lead The Way. He congratulated Mr. Adams and the high school on this achievement.

At this time, Mr. Dellafiora asked to revisit Item #8 of Mr. Cessna's Business Manager's Report on the purchase of the new reading series for the elementary school. On a Dellafiora/Hayes motion the board voted to reopen the Item. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Rado/Smyers motion approved the purchase of Benchmark Advance K-6 six year Core Package-National Addition for \$111,240 as noted in Appendix D. Poll vote; motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Dellafiora voting no due to the \$8,240 shipping fee.

Mr. Dellafiora spoke about his concern regarding the shipping costs for the elementary reading program. He also noted he likes the discussions and debates the Board Members have. Mrs. Rado thanked Mr. Stolarz on the great job he is doing. Mr. Smyers noted he too enjoys the debates and that they are constructive. Mrs. Smith noted the Board is working on the budget. Right now it is just the proposed budget with the 1% increase and noted it is not the final budget. That will be approved at the June Board Meeting. She congratulated all the students and

teachers on the great things that are happening in our district. Mr. Hayes, Mr. J. Bertig, and Mr. M. Bertig had no reports.

On a Hayes/Rado motion the meeting adjourned at 9:04 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".

Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

Seal

Vicki Smith, Board President