



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Homer-Center School Board
Homer City, PA 15748
Central Office Board Room
September 21, 2017

Members Present

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

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

Members Absent

Mrs. Vicki Smith

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

Cindy Scott
Cindy Andrie
Lisa Adams
Kara Gardner
Joseph Kotelnicki
Deanne Magolis

Media Present

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

Visitors

Blake Strong and Family
Mikayla Dokos and Family
Zachary Vought and Family
Dominic Anderson, Coral Fire Dept.
Randy Thomas and Michael Dunn,
Citizens' Ambulance
Ted Predko
Martha Kuleski
Gary Alsop
Cecile Evansic
Courtney Henry and Mother
Terry Gardner, Ashley Gardner,
Robert Scott, Kaylee Turner

The Board held an executive session from 7:00-7:36 p.m. for personnel reasons.

Vice President Gerald Bertig called the meeting to order at 7:37 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.

MINUTES

On a Smyers/Dellafiora motion approved the amended minutes from the August 17, 2017 Regular Meeting. Voice vote; unanimous.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Mrs. Cecile Evansic read a prepared statement to the Board regarding a high school classroom animal situation.

PRESENTATION OF DONATIONS

Mrs. Cindy Scott presented Coral-Graceton Fire Dept., Homer City Fire Dept., and Aultman Fire Co. each with \$300 donations from the HCEA staff. They raised \$1200 last year from staff dress down days. Mrs. Cindy Andrie presented Citizens' Ambulance with their \$300 donation check. A picture was taken by the Gazette with all recipients. Mr. J. Bertig thanked the staff and association for their generous donations.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mrs. Genchur introduced Mr. Kotelnicki who presented Blake Strong with his Wildcat Recognition Award for September, 2017. Mr. Rainey introduced Mrs. Magolis who presented Zachary Vought with his Wildcat Recognition Award for September, 2017. Mr. Gerald Bertig presented Mikayla Dokos with her Kiwanis Senior of the Month Award. Mr. Bertig gave all recipients an HC lapel pin from the Board.

BOARD RECOGNITION

Dr. Koren presented PSBA Honor Roll Certificates to Mrs. Julie Rado for her eight years of service on the Board of Education, and Mr. Gerald Bertig for his twelve years of service on the Board of Education.

REPORTS

1. ARIN IU 28- Mrs. Rado reported on the following: (1) Mr. Wagner noted that the IU may have to again gain funds due to the State budget; (2) Dave Norris noted that special ed students immunizations if not done on a timely basis, education could be interrupted. They are working to correct that issue; (3) the November Board meeting will be one week earlier due to the Thanksgiving Holiday; (4) Pamela Gardner from Purchase Line School District will serve as the PSBA Representative for the conference in October; (5) the IU parking lot was patched and resealed and a new fence is coming; (6) Mrs. Rado read an email from Mr. Wagner regarding Dr. Koren and his fantastic sharing at the SAC meetings.

2. ICTC- Mrs. Smith was not in attendance to give a report. Dr. Koren noted enrollment was at 425. He also noted talks began at the JOC meeting regarding a later start time for high school students. Discussion will continue on this subject.
3. Building and Grounds- Mr. J. Bertig reported on the following: (1) playground completion – ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 29th; (2) need for maintenance on the athletic fields; (3) the committee walked the grounds and gave some feedback and advice; (3) sound system installed at Memorial Field and is performing well; (4) the committee is formulating a list of needs and will share it with the Board next month.
4. Parks and Recreation – No report
5. Academic Committee – Mr. M. Bertig reported on the following: (1) discussions and research have begun on the high school start time – some research shows a later start time for high school students is beneficial. This is just a preliminary discussion now and needs the cooperation with ICTC and athletics; (2) Elementary reports cards – looking at Standards Based for grades K-2; (3) School Climate Surveys were discussed. Dr. Koren noted the On Target Committee will be meeting throughout the year in regards to School Climate.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

BILLS

On a McLoughlin/Dellaflora motion the general fund, cafeteria and capital reserve fund bills for September, 2017 were approved for payment. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cessna reported that interest earned during August, 2017 amounted to \$766.94.

On a McLoughlin/Hayes motion approved contracting The Reschini Agency to prepare year end Internal Revenue Service Forms required under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for "large employers" with more than 50 full-time employees who also sponsor self-insured health plans as noted in Appendix A. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

On a M. Bertig/Dellaflora motion approved the settlement stipulation between MWM, Indiana County, and Homer-Center School District for the MWM assessment appeal for an assessment of \$2,025,000 as noted in Appendix B. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

On a Dellaflora/Smyers motion authorized the District's Administration to work with PFM Financial Advisors LLC as Financial Advisor, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP as Bond Counsel, and the District's Solicitor in conjunction with the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2017 for the purpose of refunding of the General Obligation Note, Series of 2015 via a

competitive internet sale with a minimum overall net savings target of \$50,000 under Option 2. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

PERSONNEL

Certified Personnel

On a Fabin/Rado motion approved the following as substitutes: Jessica Henry, K-12 FCS, Spec. Ed. 7-12; Cody Stewart (retroactive to Aug. 23) Math; Suzanne Andrews, Elementary, Reading Spec.; Megan Ringler, Elementary; Krista Gibbon, PreK-4;n Spec. Ed. PK-8; Nicole McCloskey, PreK-4; John Nepsha, Elementary K-6; Mid-Level Math 7-9; _Hannah Thomas, Elementary/Spec. Ed.;_Donna Rosenberger, ARIN IU 28 Guest Teacher;_Bernard Martin, ARIN IU 28 Guest Teacher;_Ashley Warren, ARIN IU 28 Guest Teacher;_Kayla Ratay, ARIN IU 28 Guest Teacher; Rachael Lisica, ARIN IU 28 Guest Teacher; Maria McAnulty, ARIN IU 28 Guest Teacher. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Dellafiora/Hayes motion adjusted the starting salary for Mr. Jordan Alsop, secondary math teacher to a Level II Certification instead of Level I as previously approved. The salary of \$58,642 will be pro-rated to his starting date. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

On a McLoughlin/Rado motion approved Miss Danielle Rishell as an English substitute for approximately 4-6 weeks effective October 9, 2017. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Fabin/McLoughlin motion employed Miss Courtney Henry as an elementary teacher at the pro-rated starting salary of \$54,102 and as per the current CBA between the Homer-Center School District and the HCEA. Starting date to be determined. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

On a Dellafiora/McLoughlin motion approved an unpaid leave of absence for Mrs. Lola Skoff retroactively to August 31-December 31, 2017. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

Supplemental Personnel

On a McLoughlin/Rado motion approved Mr. Mark Pangonis as the department Coordinator for Health/Phys. Ed. for the 2017-18 school year at the supplemental salary of \$500.45. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Rado/McLoughlin motion approved Mrs. Chellise Stolarz as the assistant director of bands for the 2017-18 school year at the supplemental salary of \$2,626.00. Voice vote; unanimous.

Volunteers

On a Dellaforia/M. Bertig motion approved the following as volunteers: Miss Alexis Alexander, Elementary Classroom; Mrs. Meriann Lee, High School Band; and Mr. Fred Hayes, Volunteer. Voice vote; unanimous.

EDUCATION

On a Hayes/Fabin motion approved the following attendance at conferences: (1) Mrs. Emily Gates and Mrs. Pamela Michael to attend the Visual Phonics Training at IU 28 on September 28-29, 2017. Cost to the district is \$140 and two substitutes for two days; (2) Mrs. Deanne Magolis to attend the Fall Writing Institute at the University of Pittsburgh on October 4-5, 2017. Cost to the district is \$564 and one substitute for two days; (3) Mr. Robert Stossel and Mrs. Heathery Lowry to attend PIIC monthly meetings at ARIN IU 28 on the following dates: 9/12; 10/19; 11/16; 12/14, 2017; 1/25; 2/15; 5/10, 2018. Cost to the district is two substitutes for eight days; (4) Mrs. Christine Yurky to attend the Pennsylvania council for Social Studies Conference in Harrisburg, PA on October 19-20, 2017. Cost to the district is \$231.55 and one substitute for one day; (5) Ms. Christina Bruno and Mr. Steven Hall to attend Echos & Reflections in Carlisle, PA on September 21 (PM)-22, 2017. Cost to the district is \$200 for the hotel, mileage, and two substitutes for one day; (6) Mrs. Beth Genchur to attend the Creating and Sustaining Strong Systems for Special Ed at PaTTAN in Pittsburgh, PA on October 3 and December 14, 2017 and February 12, 2018. Cost to the district is mileage; (7) Mrs. Kaitlin Stossel to attend ARIN IU 28 Safety Care Classes on October 12 and 16, 2017. Cost to the district is \$50 and one substitute for two days. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Rado/Hayes motion approved homebound instruction for an elementary and a secondary student (Tracking #17-18-01 and #17-18-02). Voice vote; unanimous.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

On a M. Bertig/Rado motion approved the following student field trips: (1) Mrs. Deanne Magolis and students to attend the Indiana Gazette Journalism Workshop retroactive to September 18, 2017. Cost to the district was one substitute for one day; (2) Ms. Caitlin Ryan and the Cheerleaders to attend competitions on the following dates and locations: November 5, 2017 United High School, November 24, 2017 Derry High School. Cost to the district is transportation; (3) Ms. Laura Root and ten students to IUP Crimson Hawks Invitational Choral Conference on October 10, 2017. Cost to the district is one substitute for 1/2 day and transportation one way; (4) Ms. Louise Vranesevic and nine elementary students to attend the PMEA Chorus Fest at Marion Center High School on November 3, 2017. Cost to the district is one substitute for one day and transportation one way. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Smyers/M. Bertig motion approved the Varsity Baseball Team to travel to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for Spring Training (this trip is within their four year cycle) on March 15-19, 2018. Cost to the district is one substitute for Mr. Bauer for 2/3 days. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a McLoughlin/Smyers motion tabled the motion for Mrs. Sharon Mechling and the Varsity Softball to change their spring Training Trip cycle from every four years to every two years, starting in March, 2018. The Board will discuss this at the next meeting. Voice vote; unanimous.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

On a Fabin/Hayes motion approved the following use of building and grounds: (1) Mrs. Laura Root to use the high school cafeteria, band room, choral room, auditorium and gym on

October 12, 2017 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. for the Indiana County Chorus Concert. With Board approval, all fees will be waived; (2) Mrs. Kelly Tagliati and the Homer-Center Football Parents Association to use the cafeteria at either the elementary or high school for dances after varsity football games from 9:30-11:00 p.m. on the following dates: Aug. 25; Sept. 8, 22; Oct. 6, 27. With Board approval, custodial and security fees will be assessed to the Parents Association; (3) Mrs. Candy Shaffer and the PTA to use Elementary Classrooms for Movie Nights after school from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on the following dates: October 20; December 15, 2017; January 19; February 16; and March 16, 2018. With Board approval, all fees will be waived. Voice vote; unanimous.

CAFETERIA – No Report

POLICIES –No Report

TRANSPORTATION

On a Dellafiora/Smyers motion approved the following as spare bus drivers for the 2017-18 school year: William Bryner, Jr.; Leigh Free; Adam Jashinski; Robert Stahl; Sharon Varner. Voice vote; unanimous.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

On a McLoughlin/Rado motion approved the program agreements with Alternative Community Resource Program (ACR) for the 2017-2018 school year. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Rado/Fabin motion approved the Professional Services Agreement with Catapult Learning, LLC effective September 5, 2017-June 30, 2018. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Smyers/Hayes motion approved Mrs. Mary Popp, Mrs. Sandra Dudash and Mr. Theodore Predko to the STEP Program for the 2017-2018 school year. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

On a McLoughlin/Dellafiora motion reported the voting results on PSBA Officers and PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees. They are: President Elect David Hutchinson; Vice President Gary Smedley; Treasurer, Mike Gossert; Central At Large, Clythera Hornung; Western At Large, Daniel O’Keefe; PSBA Insurance Trustees, Michel Faccinnetto. These results will be reported electronically by the Board Secretary on Friday, September 22, 2017. Voice vote; unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Stofa’s report was accepted as written. He was not in attendance.

Mr. Rainey reported on the following: (1) Thanked Marion Center School District’s Mr. Jioio and Ms. Anthony for leading safety training in both buildings; (2) September 5 was Financial Aid and Post-Secondary Night; (3) Homecoming is Sept. 22 – holding various school spirit activities. The parade begins at 6:00 p.m.; (4) Drive 4 UR School event is Sept. 23 at 9:00

a.m.-1:00 p.m. Mr. Rainey encouraged all to come and participate. Dr. Koren noted that Mt. Aloysius College donated 20 backpacks for students in need at the start of the school year; (5) the PA Youth Survey will be administered in grades 8, 10, 12 on Sept. 26; (6) Parent/Teacher Conferences are Oct. 5 from 3-7 p.m.; (7) Homer-Center will host the Indiana County Chorus on October 12; (8) Academic Luncheon will be Oct. 18 at 12:00 p.m.; (9) Organ Tissue Donation Awareness assembly was held on Sept. 18. Mr. Rainey noted that Mr. Homerly Stuck influenced Jody the most in school to become an educator and he noted he passed away yesterday. He extended his sympathy to his family.

Mrs. Genchur reported on the following: (1) Student Council "Paw Patrol" in Grades 3-6 will begin this year; (2) Elementary SWPBIS held assembly Aug. 23 and reviewed the basic rules of the ROAR program with students; (3) Summer Reading Program had 80 students participate. Top students in each grade were: Kindergarten, Jackson Carr; First Grade, Vanessa Friedel; Second Grade, Jocelyn Aires; Third Grade, Christopher Morgan; fourth Grade, Vanessa Uher, Fifth Grade, Gracie Anderson; and Sixth Grade was Ciara Richards; (4) Title I groups are up and running and beginning of the year assessments are completed.

Mr. Sutter reported on the following: (1) bleacher seats in the gym are all in; (2) sound system is installed and sounds good. Waiting for the microphone; (3) sidewalk by the new playground is completed and three loads of dirt were delivered today to complete the project.

REPORT OF HCEA REPRESENTATIVE – Mrs. Adams

Mrs. Adams reported it was a busy week at the high school. The kick off assembly for Organ Tissue Donation was successful and impactful.


REPORT OF HCESP REPRESENTATIVE-No Report

REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Dellafiora noted on behalf of himself and Mr. Smyers, they wanted to thank the high school for the donation to the Coral Fire Dept. Mr. Smyers asked to have further discussion on Mrs. Evansic's concerns. Mr. J. Bertig noted that they would do that very soon in another meeting. Mr. J. Bertig noted that we will be honoring the 1977 Football Team on October 6th. The turn out from the players on that team has been very good. He also noted that he personally did not feel the need to fill the elementary position. He noted though the candidate we hired was a quality candidate and a welcome addition, he felt moving a teacher from Kindergarten to Fourth Grade could have saved the district some money. No other Board Members had reports.

On a Smyers/Hayes motion the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m. Voice vote; unanimous. On a M. Bertig request, the Board Members then went into Executive Session for personnel and real estate reasons from 9:30-10:00 p.m.

Submitted for board approval, ✓


Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

Seal

Gerald Bertig, Vice President