

SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
MARCH 9, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dan Wertz, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. in the Smethport Area Elementary School.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: McKean, O'Day, Okerlund, Stratton, Wertz.

Members Absent: Davis, Learn, Shonts, Tronetti.

Administrators Present: Benson, Jordan, London, Rounsville, Zona.

Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Kolivoski were also present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Wertz

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – None.

Allegations regarding students or employees are to be provided to the Administration. They are not to be discussed in public. Speakers may be held liable for untrue statements.

V. REPORTS

**Mr. Kolivoski** reported that last Wednesday our content filter had flagged some unusual activity. Malware was found, and it had inflicted some minor infections. He was able to take all of our servers off-line for the evening and eliminated the Malware. He said that normally the content filter flags about 4,000 issues, but last Wednesday it flagged between 14,000 and 16,000 issues. He reported that the phone system connected to the internet is what caused some of these flagged issues.

**Mr. Rounsville** reported that Tremco took five roofing samples over the HS music room over a 10' x 10' area.

**Mrs. Anderson** gave the Board an update on the Special Ed student count. She reported that the Special Education Conference was cancelled due to the Coronavirus. She also told the Board that the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Gifted students made a manufacturing video for the Manufacturing Contest. She showed the video of our students to the Board. They worked with the ABC Company of Bradford.

**Ms. Zona** reported that the Elementary students celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday last week. She also mentioned that the students participated in a Wax Museum. She announced that Kindergarten registration is next week and they have 37 signed up so far. In April they will have an Elementary STEM / Art Show and the Circus.

**Mr. Benson** reported that he attended the PETE & C Conference with Mr. Locke and Mr. Cospers, and they were all very impressed with the technology that will be coming to classrooms. He also announced that he has received the Winter Keystone results and that they were pretty good. There were 61 improved student scores and 11 of those students have moved up to "Advanced" in their scores. He also reported that there is a concert scheduled for tomorrow.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS - The following items were discussed:

1. To consider renewing VLN Partners as a Cyber School resource for the 2020-21 school year.
2. To consider the healthcare insurance premium deposit rate increase of 6% for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

3. To consider accepting the resignation of Mrs. Andrea Yingling, Teacher effective February 29, 2020.
4. To consider approving an Easement Agreement for work to be completed by the Smethport Borough as per recommendation from the District Solicitor.
5. To consider approving the following policies and procedures:
  - #150 – Title I Comparability of Services
  - #220 – Student Expression / Distribution & Posting of Materials
  - #913 – Non-School Organizations / Groups / Individuals
  - #233 – Suspension and Expulsion
  - #311 – Reduction of Staff
  - #333 – Professional Development
  - #335 - FMLA
  - #626 – Procurement Procedure– Federal Programs Attachment
  - #806 – Child Abuse
  - Safe2Say Procedures
6. To consider approving the following Fall Sports Coaching Supplementals for the 2020-21 school year:  
Assistant Cross Country Coach..... TBD  
Assistant Volleyball Coach ..... Michele Ruffner
7. To consider a resolution regarding Cyber Charter School Reform.
8. To consider an Affiliation Agreement with Mansfield University of PA regarding student teacher placements.
9. To consider approving the CBA with SAEA for the time period August 24, 2020 to August, 23, 2023 (20-21, 21-22, 22-23).
10. To consider approving action for restoration of the gymnasium, auditorium, music room, and cafeteria roofs.
11. To consider the appointment of a science/chemistry substitute teacher for a medical leave. The appointment is contingent on not being able to find a regular education certified sub to take the position.
12. To consider accepting the resignation of Mrs. Jennifer Mack, for retirement purposes, effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- The Kindergarten field trip to the Old Red School House and Nature Center will take place on May 8, 2020. The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip to the Buffalo Zoo will be take place on May 7, 2020.
- Eric Petrazio, McClure, will be here on March 17<sup>th</sup> to report on our calculated ESCO savings.

- The Board of Education has been presented with the following policies and procedures for first reading with possible approval in April:
  - #222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Pupils
  - #323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Employees
  - #701 – Facilities Planning
  - #702 – Gifts, Grants, Donations
  - #702.1 – Crowdfunding
  - #704 – Maintenance
  - #705 – Facilities and Workplace Safety
  - #707 – Use of School Facilities
  - #709 – Building Security
  - #804 – School Day
  - #805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response
  - #805.1 – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
  - #805.2 – School Security Personnel
  - #810.1 – School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers
  - #811 – Bonding
  - #904 – Public Attendance at School Events
  - #917 – Parental/Family Involvement

### **COMMENDATIONS:**

- Congratulations and good luck to CTC Student Zachary Persing who recently participated in the Gannon University Hackathon in Erie on February 16<sup>th</sup>. He qualified for the event through a virtual online competition in November and earned his place to compete at the live, on-campus competition. Zachary received advanced cybersecurity educational training and competed for a full tuition scholarship to the university in Erie in addition to \$1,500 increase to his admission merit award if he chooses to attend Gannon and does not receive the full scholarship. Winners will be announced soon.
- A group of students from the Smethport Area School District are competing in the 4th Annual Manufacturing Contest. The group of students worked with the Allegheny Bradford Corporation (ABC) to study, interview and film for a two-minute video that captures “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing?”

The Project is organized by Workforce Solutions for North Central PA along with an advisory committee made up of several regional partners. This year’s sponsors include the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Labor and Industry, Miller Fabrication Solutions, Domtar - Johnsonburg Mill, Horizon Technology Inc., Penn Pallet and JIT Tool and Die.

The public is able to view and vote for the Viewer’s Choice Award. Please support us by watching our video and voting. Online voting opens on March 2, 2020 and you can vote daily from March 2, 2020 to March 4, 2020 at <https://www.whatssocool.org/contests/north-central-pa/>.

Participants include: Fisher Szuba, Mara Ours, Brennan Donovan, Ruth Line, Caleigh Wolosewicz, Madison Faes, Emily Higley, and Haydn Riekofsky. Awards Ceremony: March 11, 2020.

- Congratulations to our Smethport DECA state qualifiers that traveled to Hershey, PA, last week to compete against 2,357 high school students in 61 business events. Each student took a written test in his/her event and performed in two role play scenarios in front of a judge. The PA state rankings are as follows:
  - Kassidy Didomizio – Principles of Business Administration and Management – 17<sup>th</sup> place
  - Anna Holohan – Marketing Communications – 5<sup>th</sup> place. Anna is also a Role Play Medal Winner.
  - Parker Jack – Business Services Marketing – 19<sup>th</sup> Place
  - Jordan Pavlock – Quick Service Restaurant Management – 10<sup>th</sup> Place
  
- Congratulations to the following students who were chosen from the High School Band to represent Smethport in the PMEA District 2 Band Festival at Thiel College: Celeste Baker, August Cox, Delanie DiFonzo, and Abbye McKeirnan played in a band of over 150 students from Cameron, Crawford, Erie, McKean, Potter, and Warren Counties.
  
- Congratulations to Kassidy Didomizio, Parker Jack and, Matthew Nolte on their participation in the PMEA District 2 Chorus Festival at Conneaut Area Sr. High School on January 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Parker on qualifying for the Region 2 chorus that will be held in February at Corry High School.
  
- Congratulations to the following Students of the Month – Dominic Ritts, Jr. High and August Cox, Sr.-High. Also congratulations to Jaden Causer for being named CTC Student of the Week.
  
- The Pennsylvania High School Mock Trial Competition was held on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 (playoff rounds were completed on this day) at the McKean County Courthouse. The competition, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA YLD), bestows upon high school students firsthand experience with the American judicial system. The McKean County Bar Association supports our students by paying the registration fee for the competition and Mr. Tony Alfieri volunteers his time to work with the students. We had two additional volunteers this year, Miss Stephanie Smith and Ms. Lynn McBride. There were six (6) trials held on Friday, January 31, 2020. The top four (4) teams advanced to the playoff rounds. The four (4) teams that advanced to the District Finals were: Brockway, Otto-Eldred, Saint Marys, and Smethport. Brockway and Smethport were 2-0 and Otto-Eldred and Saint Marys were 1-1. The coordinator paired Smethport against Otto-Eldred for the semi-finals and we won, advancing us to the finals. Finals took place on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> against Saint Marys. We lost the final round.

“This year's case, Addison Babbage v. Ruffed Grouse High School, LLC, is a civil case to determine whether the defendant is liable for failing to address cyberbullying at a private school.”

<https://www.pabar.org/site/For-the-Public/Mock-Trial-Competition>

The Mock Trial Team consisted of 20 participants. 15 main roles and 5 understudies.

- **Main Roles: Prosecution** – Attorneys Griffin Hess, Anna Holohan & Parker Jack
- Witnesses August Cox, Kassidy DiDomizio, & Kelsey Martin
- **Defense** – Attorneys Kyler Alexis, Celeste (Baker) Austin, & Jordan Pavlock
- Witnesses Chase Burdick, Ashley Day, & Caroline Todd

**COMMENDATIONS cont.:**

- Timekeepers for both sides Nathan King, Charity Lapp, Elaina Murray, & Serena Smyntek
- **Mock Trial – All Participants**
  - ❖ **12<sup>th</sup> Grade**
    - Anna Holohan – Attorney
    - Griffin Hess
    - Kelsey Martin
    - Hunter Tanner
  - ❖ **11<sup>th</sup> Grade**
    - Parker Jack
    - Kyler Alexis
    - Jordan Pavlock
    - Kassidy DiDomizio
    - Eli Todd
    - Chase Burdick
  - ❖ **10<sup>th</sup> Grade**
    - Celeste Austin (Baker)
    - Ashley Day
    - Serena Smyntek
    - Caitlyn Munsell
    - August Cox
    - Caroline Todd
    - Nathan King
  - ❖ **9<sup>th</sup> Grade**
    - Eliana Murray
    - Charity Lapp
    - Reilly Walker

**NOTE:** Executive Session may be held between tonight’s meeting and the next board meeting.

Mr. Wertz announced that the Board met in Executive Session tonight to discuss personnel matters.

- IX. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – GENERAL ITEMS – None.  
Allegations regarding students or employees are to be provided to the Administration. They are not to be discussed in public. Speakers may be held liable for untrue statements.
- X. ADJOURNMENT  
Moved by Stratton, seconded by O’Day and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Jordan  
Secretary of the Board