

SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 5, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dan Wertz, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Smethport Area Elementary School.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Davis (Virtual), Learn, McKean (Virtual), O'Day (Virtual), Okerlund, Wertz.

Members Absent: Shonts, Stratton, Tronetti.

Administrators Present: Benson, Jordan, London, Zona (Virtual).

Mrs. Woodard, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Kolivoski, and Mr. Lawson 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 the Help Desk Ticket count is still open at 150, but there are a large number of them that will be addressed with one resolution. The number of new tickets coming in is slowing down. He also mentioned that we are getting new students entering every day.

Mrs. Zona reported that Elementary Basketball is starting this week. On Tuesday there will be over 20 boys and on Wednesday there will be about 15 girls playing. She announced that the Elementary School will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week. She told the Board that there will be a Halloween parade in the school on October 30th and the Elementary students will be able to dress up in their costumes. However, parents will not be invited, but the parade is being taped so that parents can view it on-line this year in light of the COVID pandemic situation. She told the Board that the Pre-K class is up to 34 students, of which 9 of them are 3-year olds. She also reported that we have gotten 9 new students this year that are in grade 3. There are 26 in each classroom, but 3 students are working on-line from home. The temporary teacher and aide that were hired this year are helping out in those classrooms as needed.

Mrs. Anderson provided the Board with some updates to the numbers in Special Education, and she said that the numbers reported do not include speech services. She reported that there have been 12 new students enrolled since the beginning of the school year that are receiving Special Education services. She explained the Special Ed number increases and also discussed the Special Ed Mitigation Grant for \$5,000 that we have been awarded to help with providing special education services during the pandemic.

Mr. Benson and **Mr. Lawson** discussed with the Board the Keystone Exams and Graduation Requirements. They discussed the use of three of the state approved "Pathways" to graduation, but they are looking at the others, as well. Mr. Benson explained that the cancelling of the Keystone Tests by the State last year has involved a lot of students. They could take it in January unless the parent allows them to opt out. They hope to add a Pathway for those students to give them other options. Mr. Lawson updated the Board on the number of students (20) that are taking the SAT Exam next week. He said that 14 of the 40 juniors that took the PSAT scored 970 or above. They also reported that the 10th grade CTC class is up to 27 students from Smethport, which they are happy to see.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS - The following items were discussed:

1. To consider donations to the Hamlin Memorial Library and Mt. Jewett Memorial Library (\$300 each).
2. To consider the following addition(s) to the Substitute Support Staff List for the 2020-21 school year (pending proper paperwork):
 Kristina Taylor, Smethport, Clerical/Aide
3. To consider the following addition(s) to the IU9 Guest Program Substitute Teacher List for the 2020-21 school year (pending proper paperwork):
 Jessica Prescott, Port Allegany, Emergency
4. To consider a Letter of Resignation for retirement purposes from Susan Jordan, Business Manager, effective for March 2021.
5. To consider the appointment of the following supplemental position(s) for 2020-21:
 Assistant Baseball Coach
 Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach(es)
 Assistant Softball Coach
 Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach
 Assistant Track & Field Coach(es)
 Volunteer Assistant Track & Field Coach
 Varsity "S" Advisor
6. To consider a proposal for the purchase of natural gas beginning November 1, 2020.
7. To consider approving the Smethport Area Jr./Sr. High School Student Activities Account for the period ending September 30, 2020.
8. To consider approving changes to the High School graduation requirements aligned with PDE Pathways.
9. To consider approving the following Board policies:
 - #103 – Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
 - #104 – Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
 - #203 – Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
 - #209 – Health Examinations / Screenings
 - #247 – Hazing
 - #249 – Bullying / Cyberbullying
 - #252 – Dating Violence
 - #309.1 – Telework
 - #314 – Physical Examination
 - #317.1 – Educator Misconduct
 - #318 – Attendance and Tardiness
 - #331 – Job Related Expenses
 - #332 – Working Periods
 - #334 – Sick Leave

- #340 – Responsibility for Student Welfare
 - #705 – Facilities and Workplace Safety
 - #803 – School Calendar
 - #824 – Maintaining Professional Adult / Student Boundaries
 - #904 – Public Attendance at School Events
 - #907 – School Visitors
10. To consider a request of an 11th grade student to take a BYU (Brigham Young University) online course for credit in “Nursing and Medical Terminology”.
 11. To consider accepting a donation of a 7-man Football Blocking Sled from Smethport Sport’s Boosters in the amount of \$12,639.10.
 12. To consider discarding the current football blocking sled for scrap.
 13. To consider discarding the rectangular elementary cafeteria tables when no longer needed for social distancing.

COMMENDATIONS:

- Congratulations to Karlee Tanner and Austin Coleman for being named Students of the Month at the High School for October!

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 prior to tonight’s meeting to discuss personnel and safety 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 Learn, seconded by Okerlund and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Jordan
Secretary of the Board