



# School Board Meeting Highlights

October 15, 2018

*Great Valley School District  
Office of the School Board Secretary*



## **DURING THE October 15, 2018 BOARD MEETING...**

The meeting was called to order by President David Barratt. **Board members present:** Ellen Behrle, Amy Chain, Stephanie Gunderson Samantha Jouin, Bryan Paluch, and Mary Ravenfeld. **Absent:** Jennifer Armstrong, Philip Foret

### **Presentations**

#### **Secretary's Correspondence**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, **Mr. Barratt** announced that the board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

**Mr. Barratt** then asked Mr. Linderman if there was any Secretary's Correspondence. There was none.

#### **Legislative Report**

**Mrs. Ravenfeld** spoke about these items of note: SB 1095, which would allow an alternative path for those students who are not able to pass the Keystone Exams; SB 2593 and 2571 which would amend the Employee Relations Act; Certificate Grade Spans bill would change the grade spans of teacher instructional certifications currently established under PDE regulations; study on school start times-Senate Resolution 417; and SB 1181-Student Mental Health Exams.

#### **Chester County School Authority Report**

**Carol Palmaccio** stated that she serves as the Great Valley School District representative to the Chester County School Authority. She reported that the Authority board consists of one member from each Chester County school district who serves a five year term. Representatives do not have to be school board members, but do have to be residents of the District. The Authority meets three times a year. Their purpose is to manage school construction and financing of school buildings for the Intermediate Unit.

#### **Student Council Reports**

##### General Wayne Elementary School

**Abby Diamond, Christian Hall, Raj Dhillon, and Nicolas Opielski** reported on the following activities: Homecoming parade, Snap Tabs collection for Ronald McDonald House, Annual Soup Night dinner, Spirit Days, and Jingle Bell necklace sale.

##### Great Valley Middle School

Student Council officers **Megan Ramick, Sophia Giebel, Lauren Fredrick, Mia Maslowski, Mason Segarnick, Amit Keshet, and Gavin Sorce** reported on several events. These include fall theme dance held on September 28 for seventh and eighth graders, Pumpkin Guessing Game which will end on Halloween, Spirit Week and participation in the Homecoming parade. Council members will attend the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils Conference from November 8-11. The Middle School musical, *Into the Woods*, will be performed at General Wayne Elementary School in January.

## **Student Representative to the Board**

**Millie Field** spoke about Spirit Week and Homecoming. She stated that on Friday at the football game basket raffles and club raffles will be held. She reported that sophomores and juniors participated in the PSAT tests last week, while freshmen attended a cybersecurity workshop, and seniors had their senior picture taken on the football field. Lastly, Millie stated that the fall show, *Peter and the Star Catcher*, will be performed on October 26 and 27. Tickets may be purchased online or at the door.

## **Recognition**

**Mr. Barratt** stated that recognition would take place at the next business meeting.

## **Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Speaker Palubinsky** spoke about the Calendar Committee. She stated that an announcement will be made soliciting representatives to serve on the Committee. The Committee will be comprised of parents, a board member, teachers and administration. They will be tasked with reviewing survey data and comments that we have from years past as well as conversations that have been conducted around the calendar in order to bring feedback to the Board by December. This is not a decision-making committee but one to provide a more comprehensive perspective on recommendations.

**Dr. Speaker Palubinsky** then reported about the reformation of an Equity Committee as a community and culture committee. The goal will be to find ways to include all pockets of the community in a proactive, positive way. This is embedded into our Comprehensive Plan and into the district goals. Applicants for this committee will also be solicited in the near future.

## **Public Presentations on Agenda Items**

There were none.

## **Consent Agenda Items**

The following consent agenda items were approved by a vote of 7 to 0.

### **Routine Approvals**

- Minutes of September 17, 2018
- Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Report
- Invoices

### **Financial Approvals**

- Student Activity Clubs
- Agreement for Parent Presentation on Mental Health and Bullying
- Roofing Consultant Services Proposal
- Architectural/Engineering Services for Concrete/Brick work at the Middle School
- Elevator Bid
- Agreement with the COAD Group
- Acceptance of Donation to Great Valley High School
- Acceptance of Donation to Charlestown Elementary School
- Professional Development Training Agreement with Leslie Arceneaux
- Special Education Settlement Agreement for Student #018406



## **Consent Agenda Items**

(continued)

### **Program Approvals**

Memorandum of Understanding with Immaculata University

Student Overnight Trip Request:

#### **Great Valley High School**

Biology 2 Classes, Honors Bio2 Partnership with University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, Wednesday, September 26 – Thursday, September 27, 2018. Approximately 38-40 students. (Trip funded by District.)

### **Financial Approval**

The board voted 7 to 0 to approve the agreement with Chester County Intermediate Unit for Medical Access Authorizations.

### **Personnel Approvals**

The following personnel items were approved by a vote of 6 to 0. Mr. Paluch abstained as his wife is a teacher and listed for approval.

### **Resignations**

#### Professional Staff

**Sheila Amodei**, full-time STEAM teacher, K. D. Markley Elementary School, effective November 20, 2018

#### Support Staff

**Dennis Cathcart**, full-time custodian, Great Valley Middle School, effective September 16, 2018.

**Laura Sullivan**, part-time instructional aide, General Wayne Elementary School, effective October 10, 2018.

### **Requests for Leave**

#### Administrative Staff

**Andrea Dinsmore**, Secondary Supervisor of Special Education, requests FMLA from approximately December 3, 2018 through February 22, 2019.

#### Professional Staff

**Don Morabito**, social studies teacher, Great Valley High School, requests FMLA from September 26, 2018 through up to 12 weeks.

#### Support Staff

**Awilda Rivera**, full-time cafeteria aide, requests FMLA from October 10, 2018 through approximately December 3, 2018.

**Robert Nixon**, full-time custodian, Great Valley Middle School, requests FMLA from September 6, 2018 through approximately October 12, 2018.

### **Change of Assignment**

#### Professional Staff

**Katie MacDonald**, grade 5 teacher, K. D. Markley Elementary School to grade 3 teacher, General Wayne Elementary School.

## **Personnel Approvals**

(continued)

### **Changes of Status**

#### Professional Staff

**Jamie Himmelberger**, grade 4 teacher, Charlestown Elementary School to reading specialist, Charlestown Elementary School/Great Valley Middle School, effective November 19, 2018

#### Support Staff

**Maria DiGiallorenzo**, part-time cafeteria aide, General Wayne Elementary School to substitute cafeteria aide, Great Valley School District, effective October 10, 2018.

**April Fanning**, 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian, Great Valley High School to 3<sup>rd</sup> shift lead custodian, Great Valley Middle School.

**Janine Spiker**, part-time cafeteria aide, Charlestown Elementary School, (certified food handler), effective January 1, 2019.

**Catherine Bernardi**, part-time cafeteria aide, General Wayne Elementary School, (certified food handler), effective September 1, 2018.

**Tina D'Antonio**, part-time cafeteria aide, K. D. Markley Elementary School, (certified food handler), effective September 1, 2018.

#### Extra Duty Responsibility

**Emily Beyer**, Yearbook, (.5), to Yearbook, (full contract), Great Valley Middle School, F.

### **Appointments**

#### Administrative

**Beth Zigmont**, Secondary Supervisor of Teaching and Learning, Great Valley School District, (Hoffritz), pending completion of all employment requirements and satisfactory background checks, effective date is pending upon release from current employer.

#### Professional Staff

**Erin Jochym**, full-time professional employee, mathematics teacher, Great Valley High School, (Craig), pending completion of all employment requirements and satisfactory background checks, effective date is pending upon release from current employer.

#### Support Staff

**Kathleen Ayers**, Instructional Technology Support, Great Valley School District, (DeMitis), pending completion of all employment requirements and satisfactory background checks, effective October 22, 2018.

#### 2018-2019 Extra Duty Responsibility

##### *High School Coaching*

**Krista Russell**, Swimming, Assistant, (.75), Great Valley High School, F.

**Katherine Arnao**, Swimming, Assistant Diving, (.25), Great Valley High School, NF.

##### *High School Non-Coaching*

**Brennan Judge**, Drama Guild Producer, (Fall), Great Valley High School, F.

**Brennan Judge**, Stage Crew, (.5), Great Valley High School, F.

**Brennan Judge**, Student Musical Producer, Great Valley High School, F.

**Kathy Crisi**, Chamber Singers, (.75), Great Valley High School, (.75), F.

**Elizabeth Mahovsky**, Chamber Singers, (.25), Great Valley High School, (.25), NF.

**Mairead Barrett**, Asst. Marching Band Director: Winds Instructor/Pep Band, (.6), Great Valley High School, NF.

## Personnel Approvals

(continued)

### Appointments - continued

#### 2018-2019 Extra Duty Responsibility - continued

##### *Middle School Coaching*

**Carly Henry**, Soccer, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, Great Valley Middle School, NF.

**Sheila Amodei**, Volleyball, Head 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, Great Valley Middle School, F.

**Hali Mellow-Bargella**, Cheerleading, Head Coach, Great Valley Middle School, NF.

##### *Middle School Non-Coaching*

**Emily Byrne**, Student Musical, Technical Director, (.5), Great Valley Middle School, NF.

##### *Elementary School Non-Coaching*

**Eric Schmidt**, Reading Olympics, (.5), General Wayne Elementary School, F.

**Christine Parthemore**, Envirothon, General Wayne Elementary School, F.

**Allison VanOcker**, Science Fair, General Wayne Elementary School, F.

#### 2018-2019 Great Valley High School/Great Valley Middle School Athletic Worker

**Amy Sellman**

#### Substitute Teacher

**Penny Keaton**, PK-4, Gifted

### Salary Adjustments

#### Part-time Staff for Full Day In Service

**Veronika Paluch**, (.7), 9/10/18

**Alice McBrearty**, (.55), (Total = 1 hour, 9/20/18), 8/28/18, 8/29/18, 8/30/18, 9/10/18

**Allison VanOcker**, (.5), 8/28/18, 8/29/18, 8/30/18, 9/10/18

**Audrey Hoyt**, (.5), 9/10/18

**Colleen Molchany**, (.62), 8/28/18, 8/29/18, 8/30/18, 9/10/18

#### Homebound Instructor

**Molly O'Sullivan**, speech therapist

### Staff Conference Requests – October 2018

**Dr. Daniel Goffredo**, Assistant Superintendent, District Office, **Dr. Stephen, O'Toole**, Assistant Superintendent, District Office, Chester County Superintendents Conference, Apple Executive Briefing Center, Reston, VA, Wednesday evening, October 24 – Friday, October 26, 2018.

**Samuel Ellis**, physical education teacher, K. D. Markley Elementary, **Dustin Kasper**, health and physical education teacher, Great Valley High School, PA State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance State Convention, Seven Springs Mountain Resort, PA, Friday, November 9 – Saturday, November 10, 2018.

#### Staff Conference Requests – October 2018 - continued

**Carolyn Stewart**, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, General Wayne Elementary School, 2018 National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, Houston, TX, Wednesday evening, November 14– Saturday, November 17, 2018, Houston, TX.

## **Policy Approvals**

### **Discussion**

The board accepted the following policies for 1<sup>st</sup> repeal reading:

- Policy 611 - Purchases Budget
- Policy 612 - Purchases Not Budgeted
- Policy 613 - Cooperative Purchasing
- Policy 617 - Petty Cash

The board accepted the following policies for 1<sup>st</sup> reading:

- 116.1 – English Language Development (AG)
- 202- Eligibility of Nonresident Students
- 348 – Prohibited (Unlawful) Harassment
- 448 – Prohibited (Unlawful) Harassment
- 548 – Prohibited (Unlawful) Harassment
- 601 – Fiscal Objectives
- 602 – Budget Planning
- 603 – Budget Preparation
- 604 – Budget Adoption
- 605 – Tax Levy
- 606 – Tax Collection
- 606.1 – Senior Citizens’ Volunteer Service Tax Rebate Program
- 607 – Tuition Income
- 608 – Bank Accounts
- 609 – Investment of District Funds
- 610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation (AG)
- 614 – Payroll Authorization
- 615 – Payroll Deductions
- 616 – Payment of Claims
- 618 – Student Activity Funds (Special Purpose Funds) (AG)
- 619 – District Audit – Public
- 620 – Fund Balance
- 625 – Procurement Cards – Employee Use (AG)
- 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance (AG, A, B, C, D, E)
- 626.1 – Travel Reimbursement – Federal Programs
- 627 – District-initiated Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals
- 628 – Tax Waiver Requests
- 815.3 – Acceptable Use of Technology by Employees

## **Program Approval**

### **Discussion**

The board accepted the draft of the 2019-2022 Comprehensive Plan. A lengthy discussion was conducted by the board around specific areas of the Plan including consideration of full day kindergarten. Dr. Speaker Palubinsky stated that the Plan will be changed to reflect the decision to explore this option. Research will be done and the bulk of the information will need to be brought before the board in January so that a decision could be finalized in February. If approved, full day kindergarten would begin in the 2019-2020 school year.

## **Public Comments on Other Issues**

There were none.

## **Adjournment**

Seeing no further comments or questions, the board voted 7 to 0 to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.