

School Board Meeting Highlights

January 22, 2019

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



DURING THE January 22, 2019 BOARD MEETING...

The meeting was called to order by President David Barratt at 7:30 p.m. **Other Board members present:** Ellen Behrle, Amy Chain, Stephanie Gunderson, Bryan Paluch, and Mary Ravenfeld. **Absent:** Jennifer Armstrong, Philip Foret, Samantha Jouin

Executive Session

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

Presentations

Secretary's Correspondence

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

Chester County Intermediate Unit Board Report

Mrs. Behrle gave a report about recent CCIU meetings. She stated that the Authority Board conducted an Executive Session to discuss real estate issues. The CCIU Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Mrs. Behrle gave a review of other discussions that took place at the board meeting and items that were approved. She reported that on January 29 the board will conduct an Executive Session to discuss the replacement of the IU Executive Director. The next regular meeting of the IU board is scheduled for February 20.

Legislative Report

Mrs. Ravenfeld stated that she will have a Legislative report at our next meeting as the first Legislative meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23.

Mr. Barratt reported that board members recently had the opportunity to meet with the new legislators at a meeting held at the CCIU.

Student Council Reports

K. D. Markley Elementary School

Student Council members, **Lily McCusker**, **Natalie Payne**, **Nandana Pagilla** and **Ethan Raab** reported on various Service Council events and fund raising activities. The students displayed a large banner that they made for the Board in acknowledgement of January being School Board Recognition Month.

Great Valley Middle School

Megan Ramick, **Sophia Geibel**, **Lauren Fredrick**, **Mia Maslowski**, and **Mason Segarnick** spoke about several Middle School events. Among them were attendance at the 82nd Annual PA Association of Student Councils Conference in November, 7th and 8th grade Winter Dance, Ugly Sweater Spirit Day, and Mother/Son Bingo night. Student Council will host the 4th Chili Cookoff on February 1 from 6-8 p.m. and the Father/Daughter dance will also be coming in February. In closing, the students expressed appreciation for the opportunities that are provided to them because of the support of the school board.



Recognition

Sheila Startup spoke in recognition of **Caitlyn Gosa (9th)** who designed the artwork selected for the 2018 Great Valley District holiday card. Mrs. Startup also spoke about **Patrick McDermott (12th)** whose Poem was selected as the verse for the 2018 Great Valley District holiday card.

Shawn Whitelock reported that the Great Valley Middle School Student Council was recognized at the 82nd annual Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils State Conference. The officers of the GVMS Student Council accepted the recognition on behalf of the entire council. The officers are: **Lauren Fredrick (8), Sophia Geibel (8), Amit Keshet (7), Mia Maslowski (8), Nadia Nemeth (7), Megan Ramick (8), Mason Segarnick (7), and Gavin Sorce (7).**

Mr. Whitelock introduced **Kate Bevec (9)** who received the Dale Hawley Award recognizing her as the outstanding delegate of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) Alvernia Advanced Blue Summer Leadership Camp, which was held in July.

Ann Search spoke about seven Great Valley Middle School students who received recognition for their outstanding performance on the American Mathematics Competitions Math test. The AMC are a series of examinations and curriculum materials that build problem-solving skills and mathematical knowledge in middle and high school students. The recognized students are:

- Dylan Xu (7)** – 1st Place, Gold Distinction, top 1% nationally
- Harene Aparna (8)** – 2nd Place in grade, Silver Distinction, top 5% nationally
- Owen Li (7)** – 2nd Place in grade, Silver Distinction, top 5% nationally
- Aditya Pola (8), Ritish Kodali (7), Stanley Sha (7), and Lucas Ochis (7)** earned Bronze Distinction

Coach Emily Close recognized junior **Ava Cofiell** who won her race at the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in the category “Women’s High School Trainer Singles.” Recognized as one of the most important regattas in the country, the event draws thousands of competitors. This is quite an achievement for Ava and the Great Valley Crew Team.

Dr. Speaker Palubinsky reiterated that January is School Board Recognition month. Each board member was presented with a special gift in honor of their service.

Student Representative to the Board

Millie Field stated that Student Council will be meeting on January 23 and she will report about that meeting in February. She announced that there will be a class fundraiser at P. J. Whelihan’s next Wednesday. She also stated that students are in the midst of mid-term exams.

Superintendent’s Report

An [update](#) on the Full-Day Kindergarten initiative was presented by **Chris Pickell, Kelly DeMillion, Kim Colvin, and Jessica Paraschak.**

Public Presentations on Agenda Items

There were none.

Consent Agenda Items

The following consent agenda items were approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

Routine Approvals

- Minutes of December 3, 2018
- Treasurer’s and Tax Collector’s Report (November/December)
- Invoices

Consent Agenda Items

(continued)

Financial Approvals

Student Activity Club: Science Fair Club, Biology Club, Toys for Tots Club
 Private Transportation Agreement
 Standard Fee Agreement for Services from Sweet Stevens Katz Williams for 2019-2020
 Approval of Center for Families to provide Student Assistant Program Consulting, Assessment, and Counseling Services.
 Renewal of PA Reap Technology Services and Support
 Renewal of Global Compliance Network, Inc.
 Acceptance of Donation to Great Valley School District from GVCO Caring Hands Foundation
 Acceptance of Private Donation to Great Valley High School
 Acceptance of Private Donation to Sugartown Elementary School
 Agreements for Placement in LearnWell's Partial Programs for Students #210095, #210009, #220430, #240309, #200896
 Professional Development Training Agreement with Professional Learning Collaborative, LLC
 Guardian Services Contract Extension

Financial Approvals

The board voted 6 to 0 to approve the Act 1 Opt Out Resolution.

The awarding of the Technology Efficiency Review to Widenhammer was approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

By a vote of 6 to 0 the board approved the Shared Services Agreement with Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.

The board voted 6 to 0 to approve the agreement with Monroe Operations, DBA Center for Families, for Student Assistance Program support from January 23, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

Personnel Approvals

The board approved the following personnel items by a vote of 5 to 0. Mr. Paluch abstained from the vote as his wife is a teacher and listed for approval.

Resignations

Support Staff

Amy Bladel, Instructional Aide, Sugartown Elementary School, effective January 10, 2019.

Lee Brand, Warehouse/Maintenance, Great Valley School District, for the purpose of retirement, effective February 28, 2019.

Nancy Shaw, part-time cafeteria aide, Charlestown Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective March 28, 2019.

Extra Duty Responsibility

Henry McCloskey, Spring Track Coach, Great Valley High School, effective December 10, 2018.

Leaves of Absence

Professional Staff

Michael Fuguet, science teacher, Great Valley Middle School, requests FMLA from January 31, 2019 through approximately February 19, 2019.

Tina Akers, special education teacher, Charlestown Elementary School, requests FMLA from approximately May 16, 2019 to the end of the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year.



Personnel Approvals

(continued)

Leaves of Absence - continued

Professional Staff - continued

Molly Furlong, science teacher, Great Valley Middle School, requests FMLA from approximately January 14, 2019 to April 5, 2019.

Lauren Kielinski, special education teacher, K. D. Markley Elementary School, requests FMLA from approximately March 14, 2018 to June 14, 2019.

Courtney King, grade 1 teacher, Charlestown Elementary School, requests FMLA/child-rearing leave from approximately May 6, 2019 to the end of the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year.

Meredith Melasecca, special education teacher, Sugartown Elementary School, requests extension of sabbatical leave for restoration of health from January 28, 2019 through the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Support Staff

Melissa Gala, part-time aide, Sugartown Elementary School, requests part-time unpaid leave, from January 2, 2019 to approximately February 25, 2019.

Change of Status

Professional Staff

Emily Shick, half-year long-term substitute teacher to full-year long-term substitute special education teacher, Sugartown Elementary School, (Melasecca), effective January 28, 2019.

Appointments

Professional Staff

Lyndsay Hashem, long-term substitute business/computer/information technology teacher, Great Valley High School, (McCloskey), pending completion of all employment requirements and satisfactory background checks, effective approximately February 4, 2019.

Hamida Toomey, long-term substitute grade 3 teacher, K. D. Markley Elementary School, (Hennessey), pending completion of all employment requirements and satisfactory background checks, effective December 20, 2018.

Daniel Brady, long-term substitute social studies teacher, (.6), Great Valley High School, (Venarchik), pending completion of all employment requirements and satisfactory background checks, effective upon release from current employment.

Paige Morabito, Ed.D., full-time professional employee gifted teacher, Great Valley High School, (Keaton), pending completion of all employment requirements and satisfactory background checks, effective January 7, 2019.

Jillian Pechiro, long-term substitute grade 3 teacher, General Wayne Elementary School, (Sullivan), pending completion of all employment requirements and satisfactory background checks, effective December 17, 2018.

Support Staff

Diamand Donovan, full-time secretary, Great Valley High School, (Hatten), pending completion of all employment requirements and satisfactory background checks, effective January 14, 2019.

Extra Duty Responsibility

Great Valley Middle School Coaching

Robert Montgomery, Softball, Head 8th Grade, Great Valley Middle School, F.

Salary Adjustments

Part-time Staff for Full Day In-Service

Allison VanOcker, (.5), 11/27/18

Veronika Paluch, (.7), (Total = 14 hours – 11/6/18, 11/7/18)

Personnel Approvals

(continued)

Salary Adjustments - continued

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

Juana Herman, (.7), (Total = 5 hours – 11/28/18, 12/3/18, 1/9/19, 1/11/19)

Alice McBrearty, (.55), (Total = 2 hours – 12/11/18, 1/9/19)

K. D. Markley Elementary School Choral Accompanist

Leigh Donofrio, Rehearsal/Concerts, 2/13/19, 2/27/19, 3/21/19, 3/26/19, 4/10/19

Great Valley High School Accompanist

Patrick O'Neill, Rehearsals/Concerts, 11/29/18, 12/1/18, 12/5/18, 12/10/18, 12/11/18

Mentors

Half Year Mentorship

Stephanie Bricker, mentor to Erin Jochym, 2018-2019, second semester

Full Year Mentorship

Betty Byrne, mentor to Susan Bullard, 2018-2019

Staff Conference Requests

Beth Zigmont, Secondary Supervisor of Teaching and Learning, PA Association of Middle Level Educators Conference, State College, PA, Sunday, February 24 – Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

Dr. Daniel Goffredo, Assistant Superintendent, Leadership Institute – Employee Engagement, Orlando, FL, Monday, March 25 – Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Kelsey Bogan, Librarian, Great Valley High School, PA School Librarians Association Annual Conference, Hershey, PA, Thursday, March 28 – Saturday, March 30, 2019.

Policy Approvals

The board accepted the following policies for 1st Reading:

227AG - Controlled Substances

Policy 622 - Capital Assets and GASB Statement 34 (AG)

Policy 623 - Continuing Disclosure of Financial Info for Bond Issues (AG)

Policy 625 - Procurement Cards (AG)

Policy 701 - Facilities Planning

Policy 703 - Sanitary Management

Policy 704 - Maintenance (AG)

Policy 706 - Property Records

Policy 706.1 - Disposal of District-Owned Property

Policy 707 - School Facilities Use (AG)

Policy 802 - School Organization

Policy 803 - School Calendar

Policy 804 - School Day

Policy 806 - Child Abuse (AG)

Policy 807 - Opening Exercises/Flag Displays

Policy 808 - Food Service (AG)

Policy 808.1 - Free/Reduced Lunch (AG)

Policy 832 - District-Wide Safety (AG)



Policy Approvals

(continued)

The board accepted the following policies for 1st Repeal Reading:

- Policy 624 - Taxable Fringe Benefits
- Policy 705 - Safety/Smoking
- Policy 709 - Building Security
- Policy 713.1 - Video Surveillance
- Policy 805 - Emergency Preparedness

Public Presentations on Other Items

There were none.

Other Board Comments

Mr. Barratt responded to comments made at previous board meetings. A tax issue that was presented to the board at the December 3, 2018 meeting was quickly resolved by the Business Office. Mr. Barratt then read a statement from the board in response to comments made at the January 14, 2019 work session. He stated that due to their commitment to protect and preserve the privacy rights of students, the board will never speak specifically about a child's educational program in a public meeting.

Adjournment

Being there were no further comments or questions, the board voted 6 to 0 to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.