

Albert Gallatin Area School Board – Regular Meeting Minutes

D. Ferd Swaney Cafeteria

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Jeff Myers, Vice President Eric Miller, Secretary Betty Moser, Dave Howard, Carl Planiczka, Ryan Porupski, Doug Sholtis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Dunham, Dan Janesko

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Christopher Pegg, Vince Belczyk Business Manager, Lee Price, Solicitor

President Myers called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Reams recognized students of Mrs. Hadenak and Mrs. Policicchio at AG North for taking first place in the Fayette County Firefighters' Association essay: Abigail Lavish, Myla Pattison, Luke Whoolery. The students took place in an awards ceremony in Perryopolis in December.

Mrs. Kendall recognized AG South student Camdyn Holbert and High School student Paxton Kendall who participated in the PMEA participates in Music Festival. Paxton has also participated in Honors Orchestra, Districts and Regional Orchestras.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held on Monday, January 13, 2025 from 7:28 pm to 8:47 pm for personnel and litigation. confidentiality.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Porupski to amend the agenda to add Item P under VIII Administration to appoint a district representative to fill a building authority vacancy at the Fayette CTI.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

Solicitor Price stated the matter of business has arisen within twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting, is de minimis (minor) in nature, and does not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into a contract or agreement.

A motion was made by Howard second by Moser to adopt amended agenda as presented.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Miller to approve minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held on December 3, 2024.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Howard to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 3, 2024.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

FCCTI JOC BOARD MEMBER

A motion was made by Howard second by Sholtis to accept the resignation of appointment of Carl Planiczka as FCCTI Joint Operation Committee board member.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Porupski second by Sholtis to appoint Jeff Myers to the FCCTI Joint Operation Committee commencing January, 2025 through December 2025.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

IU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A motion was made by Moser second by Howard to approve the Resolution to appointment Carl Planiczka to fill the vacancy on the Intermediate Unit 1 Board of Directors until the 2025 annual election.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Howard second by Planiczka to accept the treasurer's report including tax collections for December 2024 and preliminary financial statements as presented.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

BILLS AND PAYROLL

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Howard to grant permission to pay the following bills and payroll for December 2024:

1. Bills, utilities, insurance and contractual obligations paid at the end of the previous month in the amount of \$3,912,283.08
2. Current month general fund bills in the amount of \$451,428.95

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Miller to grant permission to pay the following bills and payroll for January 2025:

1. Bills, utilities, insurance and contractual obligations paid at the end of the previous month in the amount of \$3,251,222.85
2. Current month general fund bills in the amount of \$3,223,050.27
3. Cafeteria fund bills in the amount of \$155,636.91

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS

A motion was made by Howard second by Moser to accept activity accounts as presented by building principals. All members present voting in favor of motion.

LIBRARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Sholtis to grant permission to give financial support to the following public libraries:

1. German Masontown - \$6,800.00
 2. Smithfield - \$2,500.00
 3. Point Marion - \$2,500.00
- Total: \$11,800.00

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ACT 1 MAILING

A motion was made by Howard second by Planiczka to approve Act 1 Homestead/Farmstead mailing not to exceed \$1,800.00.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ACT 1 INFLATIONARY INDEX

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Planiczka to approve the Resolution indicating that Albert Gallatin Area School District will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the 2025-2026 fiscal year by more than the Act 1 inflationary index, which is 5.9%.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SWRTB REPRESENTATIVE

A motion was made by Miller second by Porupski to appoint Vince Belczyk to Southwest Regional Tax Bureau 2025 Representative for a one-year term and Doug Sholtis as Alternative.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

Abstain: Sholtis

CAPITAL PROJECTS

A motion was made by Howard second by Planiczka to approve Administration to move forward on the program to upgrade the Cisco Wireless Access Points and Licensing for all district buildings. Funds will be provided through the E-Rate program and the District's Capital Projects Fund. (The District's estimated cost is 15% of the project).

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by Miller to grant permission to pay Open Systems Pittsburgh LLC Payment Application No. 6 in the amount of \$75,773.75 representing the balance of the Fire Alarm Panel Phase of the Vestibule Project through Capital Projects.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

POLICIES

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Howard to approve second reading of Policy 308 – Employment Contract/Board Resolution.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Moser second by Howard to approve second reading of Policy 005 – Organization.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Miller to approve second reading of Policy 823 – Opioid Antagonist.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Howard to approve first reading of Policy 800-AR-0, 800-AR-1, and 800-AR-2 – Records Management Administrative Regulations.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

UPDATED SCHOOL CALENDAR

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Moser to approve revised 2024-2025 School Calendar.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

RETIREMENT

A motion was made by Howard second by Planiczka to accept the retirement of Tammy Kisko, Bus Monitor effective December 10, 2024.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

NEW HIRE

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Miller to hire Brandon Saghy as 180 Day Substitute at George Plava Elementary effective December 9, 2024.
All members present voting in favor of motion.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Porupski second by Sholtis to seek blanket approval for Personal motions C-J.
All members present voting in favor of motion.

NEW HIRE

C. Hire Bradleigh Lincoln as 180 Day Substitute at AL Wilson Elementary effective December 18, 2024.

FMLA

D. Grant Julie Bell, Elementary Instructor an intermittent FMLA to commence on October 28, 2024.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

E. Grant Elissa Christopher a paid and nonpaid leave of absence from February 18, 2025 through May 27, 2025.

RETIREMENT

F. Accept the retirement of Cindy Halfin, High School Instructor effective end of the 2024-2025 school term.

Superintendent Pegg congratulated Cindy on her 35 years of service with the district and wished her a long health and happy retirement.

NEW SECURITY HIRES

G. Hire Lance Mitchell as 180 Day Security Guard pending receipt of all proper documents.
H. Hire Melissa Hustosky as 180 Day Security Guard pending receipt of all proper documents.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

I. Grant Jared Plisko, Administrator a leave of absence from December 18, 2024 through January 22, 2025.

RETIREMENT

J. Accept the retirement of Cindy Kopas, High School Instructor effective February 7, 2025.

Superintendent Pegg congratulated Cindy on her 32 years of service with the district and wished her a long health and happy retirement.

COACH HIRES

A motion was made by Porupski second by Moser to hire the following high school coaches for one season pending receipt of all proper documents.

1. Assistant Girls Softball – Annalia Paoli
2. Assistant Girls Softball – Maddie Flowers
3. Assistant Boys Baseball – Mike Etheridge
4. Assistant Boys Baseball – Nate Zimcosky
5. Volunteer Assistant Boys Baseball – Mark Smith
6. Winter Conditioning – Dylan Rush
7. Volunteer Wrestling - Jonathan Chapman

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Porupski to hire the following middle school coaches for one season pending receipt of all proper documents.

1. Head Baseball – Jeff Rush
2. Assistant Baseball – Dylan Rush
3. Head Girls Volleyball – Bailey Powell
4. Assistant Girls Volleyball – Kristen Dunham
5. Spring Athletic Director – Joe Embacher

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Sholtis to award the following High School extra-curricular musical activity sponsors for the 2024-2025 school year.

1. Producer/Director – Rebecca Taylor
2. Art Director - Lynn Wagner
3. Music Director – Megan Cerullo
4. Technical Director - Jeremy Kendall
5. Program Director –Megan Cerullo
6. Choreographer – Justin Cerullo
7. Faculty Musicians - Charles Durso, Jeremy Kendall, Mary Kendall, Wyatt Wilson, James Miller, Gail Diamond, Brandon Gift, Edward (Dane) Shultz, Lori Greene

All members present voting in favor of motion.

NEW HIRE

A motion was made by Moser second by Miller to hire Bernard Caffery as Bus Monitor pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SUBSTITUTE LIST

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Howard to grant permission to add the following to the substitute list pending receipt of all proper documents.

Professional: Lynda Livingstone, Samuel Tinker

Non-Professional: John Janesko

FACILITIES USE

A motion was made by Howard second by Planiczka to grant permission to Whitehouse Free Methodist Church to use AG South gym from January 2025 through June 2025 on Friday's from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm for youth activities; Jeff Myers

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Porupski to grant permission to AG Student Council to use AG South gym on January 17, 2025 from 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm for school dance; Andrew Hostetler

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Moser to grant permission to Middle School Boys Basketball to use AG High School gym on January 31, 2025 from

6 pm – 9 pm for set up and February 1 and 2, 2025 from 7:00 am – 10:00 pm for basketball tournament; Jules Quertinmont.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by Sholtis to grant permission to JROTC to use the AG High School Cafeteria on April 26, 2025 from 8:00 am – 11:00 pm for Commanders reception, social hour formal attire, dinner and dance; LTC Cassem

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Miller second by Howard to grant permission to Fayette County Church Basketball agree to use AL Wilson Cafeteria on Thursday's from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm from January 2, 2025 through March 3, 2025 for elementary church league basketball practice; Neeley Clelland

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Miller second by Sholtis to grant permission to FCCBL/Prophets to use the AL Wilson Cafeteria on Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays from January 13, 2025 through March 14, 2025 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm for basketball practice; TJ Fowler & Jennifer Whoolery.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

STUDENT TEACHER

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Porupski to authorize Western Governors University student teacher Prophecy Burk to be placed at Masontown Elementary and AG High School from February 3, 2025 through May 15, 2025.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

WVU STUDENT NURSES

A motion was made by Howard second by Planiczka to approve the following WVU student nurses for clinical's at various times, throughout the district, from January 14 through May 2, 2025, pending receipt of clearances: Ashley Apisa, Emily Brooks, Lauren Kerscher and Nicole Catalfo

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SINGLE AUDIT REPORT

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Millers to accept the Single Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024 as prepared by McClure and Wolfe, Certified Public Accountants.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Howard second by Planiczka to request approval for Jared Plisko to attend a PDE Special Education conference in Hershey, PA from February 5 through 7, 2025 at a cost to not exceed \$900.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Miller to grant permission for Duane Dupont to attend the PA State Athletic Directors Association Conference from March 18 through March 21, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$900.00.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

RESOLVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

A motion was made by Howard second by Moser to approve agreement resolving special education services for student X-25 as presented.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

TAX COLLECTORS RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Howard second by Porupski to approve Resolution setting compensation for future elected Tax Collectors, as amend with a 5% increase.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

CONTRACT INSULIN PRICING LITIGATION

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Porupski to ratify Attorney-Client Fee Contract between the District and Frantz Law Group, APLC for purposes of participating in the Insulin Pricing Litigation on a contingency fee basis, which is a mass action lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey against certain pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers claiming that they artificially inflated the price of diabetes medications.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

CTI BUILDING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE

A motion was made by Moser second by Planiczka to appoint Carl Bezjak as district representative to fill the building authority vacancy at the Fayette CTI at no cost to the district and de minimis (minor) in nature.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the D. Ferd Swaney cafeteria.

A motion was made by Howard second by Planiczka to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm.

All members present voting in favor of motion.