

Albert Gallatin Area School Board – Regular Meeting Minutes

D. Ferd Swaney Cafeteria

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Ryan Porupski, Vice President Jeff Myers, Secretary Betty Moser, Carl Planiczka, Dan Janesko, Paul Dunham, David Howard (via conference call), Eric Miller, Doug Sholtis

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

President Porupski called the meeting to order at 6:56 pm.

PUBLIC FORUM

Allison Haragos, Instructor introduced students who participated in the Fluid Power Challenge - Design and Operation Champions from AG South. Students competed against 28 teams. Team Members: Robert McCormick, Riley Allen, Sebastian Roderick, and Khloe Brown.

Allison Haragos, Instructor introduced students who participated in the Quiz Bowl. Recognized team members from AG South on their First place win at the Fayette County Academic League Tournament: Owen Hintz, Elliott Sines, Nathan Rockwell, Blake Cobb, Xavier Murphy, Xander Bogden, Sebastian Roderick, Khloe Brown, Riley Allen, Kyhaire Pruitt and Robert McCormick.

Zack Dillow, Principal recognized the following Firemen's essay winners from AG North Middle School: Jacob Cunningham, Bailey Guty, Brynn Starke. Winners from AG South Middle School: Kylie Krupa, Sophia Stafford

LC Otto, Steve Hranec and Tom Matthews addressed the school board as a follow-up from their request for a LERTA resolution for German Township.

Michelle Cartwright, Parent updated the school board on Sapphire Portal and IEP issues. She stated there have been some improvements on the timelines.

Dr. Joyce Royster addressed the school board regarding diversity and discrimination.

Erin Mudery, Parent, Smithfield. Mrs. Mudery addressed the board regarding the middle school basketball coaching positions hiring policy and procedures.

Russ Mudery, Parent, Smithfield. Mr. Mudery addressed the board regarding the middle school basketball coaching positions hiring policy and procedures.

Superintendent Pegg announced that January is School Board Appreciation Month. Superintendent Pegg recognized the board and thanked the school board members for the dedication and service to the district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 from 6:58 pm – 8:24 pm for personnel and student confidentiality.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Planiczka to adopt agenda as presented
All members present voting in favor of motion.

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Dunham to approve minutes of the Special Meeting held on December 18, 2023.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

IU#1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A motion was made by Janesko second by Moser to nominate Jeff Myers to stand for election or appointment to the Intermediate Unit 1 Board of Directors for a 3-year term effective July 1, 2024.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Janesko second by Moser to accept the treasurer's report including tax collections for December 2023 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 Sholtis to grant permission to pay the following bills and payroll for January 2024:

1. Bills, utilities, insurance and contractual obligations paid at the end of the previous month in the amount of \$4,284,971.54
2. Current month general fund bills in the amount of \$1,299,380.31
3. Cafeteria fund bills in the amount of \$60,065.72

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS

A motion was made by Janesko second by Miller 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 Myers second by Planiczka 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.

INTERNET CONNECTION CONTRACT

A motion was made by Moser second by Janesko to award contract for district internet connection to DQE Communications, solicited through the FCC E-Rate program. 2-year agreement will commence on July 1, 2024 for a 2Gbps fiber connection at a cost of \$1,350.00 per month after eligible discount.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

PALCO POWER SYSTEMS

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Myers to approve the Preventative Maintenance Agreement with PALCO Power Systems to provide semi-annual service (two visits) at a cost of \$2,346.43.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

TRANSFER FUNDS

Solicitor Price stated there are two types of budgetary transfers: 1) designate the funds to be used for capital projects or discretionary purposes or 2) designate the funds permanently to be used for only capital projects.

A motion was made by Janesko second by Myers to approve the transfer of \$800,000 to the Capital Projects Account to be designed for permanent future capital projects. Funds are provided from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

Ayes: Planiczka, Moser, Janesko

Nays: Dunham, Miller, Sholtis, Myers, Howard, Porupski

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Porupski to approve funds can be moved from restricted to unrestricted as needed and be moved back to the general fund or can spend on something that is not capital projects.

Ayes: Planiczka, Moser, Miller, Dunham, Sholtis, Myers, Howard, Porupski

Nays: Janesko

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None

UPDATED SCHOOL CALENDAR

A motion was made by Moser second by Dunham to approve the revised 2023-2024 School Calendar.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

NEW HIRE

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Dunham to hire Joshua Hall as Bus Monitor.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Janesko to hire Tanya Forsythe as Special Education Aide at Friendship Hill Elementary effective 2024-25 school year.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

UPDATED CONTRACT

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Dunham to approve the updated James Pierce, Chief of School Security contract as presented.

Ayes: Planiczka, Moser, Miller, Dunham, Sholtis, Janesko, Howard, Porupski

Nays: Myers

RESIGNATION

A motion was made by Dunham second by Planiczka to accept the resignation of Nicholle Knox, cafeteria employee effective January 4, 2024.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Myers to accept the resignation of Harlyrae Geary, School Police Officer effective January 15, 2024.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Myers to grant Richard Nevlud, Custodian a leave of absence from December 20, 2023 – January 19, 2024.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

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A motion was made by Myers second by Janesko to grant Scott Arbogast, security a nonpaid leave of absence from January 8, 2024 through February 5, 2024.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

HEAD TEACHER RESIGNATION

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Janesko to accept the resignation of Kate Armstrong as Head Teacher at AG North Middle School effective January 3, 2024.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

AWARD HEAD TEACHER

A motion was made by Dunham second by Sholtis to award Tiffany Duncan as Head Teacher at AG North Middle School.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SECTION 1127 RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Dunham second by Sholtis to approve Section 1127 Resolution and Notice for Employee No. 1-2023-24.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

AWARD POSITIONS

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Janesko to award the following High School extra-curricular musical activity sponsors for the 2023-2024 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

All members present voting in favor of motion.

COACHES

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

1. Assistant Track and Field – Russ Psenicska
2. Assistant Track and Field – Andy Miles
3. Assistant Track (field events) – Matthew (Shea) Fleenor
4. Volunteer Assistant Track and Field – Brady Shore and Andrew Larkin
5. Assistant Girls Softball – Marissa Dugan
6. Assistant Girls Softball – Makayla Munchinski
7. Volunteer Assistant Girls Softball – Jonathan Chapman
8. Assistant Baseball – Mike Etheridge

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Janesko second by Myers to hire Logan Embacher, Head Track and Field middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

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A motion was made by Janesko second by Moser to hire Lea Epps, Assistant Track and Field middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Janesko to hire Stephany Smearcheck, Assistant Track and Field middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Moser second by Myers to hire Darrell Samuel, Volunteer Assistant Track and Field middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Janesko second by Sholtis to table the motion to hire Sydney Phillips, Head Girls Basketball middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting to table motion.

A motion was made by Janesko second by Sholtis table the motion to hire Craig Hoone, Assistant Girls Basketball middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting to table motion.

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Dunham to table the motion to hire Jules (Buddy) Quertinmont, Volunteer Assistant Girls Basketball middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting to table motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Myers to hire David Lowry, Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Dunham to hire Jeff Rush, Head Baseball middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Dunham to hire Dylan Rush, Assistant Baseball middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Sholtis to hire Joe Embacher, Spring Athletic Director middle school coach for one season, pending receipt of all proper documents.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SUBSTITUTE LIST

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

Professional: Rebecca Sykes, Felicia Young, Rachael Grimm, Melanie Rua, Eric Sheetz

Non-Professional: Devon Fulmer

All members present voting in favor of motion.

FACILITY USE

A motion was made by Myers second by Sholtis to grant permission to Fayette County Church Basketball League to use AL Wilson cafeteria on Wednesdays from December 20, 2023 through March 14, 2024 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm for elementary age basketball practice; Neeley Clelland

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Janesko second by Dunham to grant permission to Fayette County Church Basketball League (Blue Team) to use AL Wilson cafeteria on Mondays from January 8, 2024 through April 29, 2024 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm for elementary age basketball practice; Brittany Myers

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Miller second by Janesko to grant permission to CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) to use Smithfield Elementary cafeteria on Mondays from February 5, 2024 through March 25, 2024 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm for Good News Club – after school bible club; Jennifer Rossi

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Dunham second by Planiczka to grant permission to AG Track and Field to use High School Track and Football field from 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm on May 1, 2024 for middle school track event; Jeremy Keefer

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Myers to grant permission to AG Elementary Basketball to use AL Wilson Elementary cafeteria on Thursdays from January 11, 2024 through March 31, 2024 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm for grades K -2 basketball practice; Eric Miller

All members present voting in favor of motion.

Abstain: Miller

AD CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Janesko to grant permission for Duane Dupont to attend the PA State Athletic Directors Association Conference from March 19 through March 22, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$700.00.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ADJOURNMENT

The February Work Session will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the D. Ferd Swaney cafeteria. The regular meeting will be held Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the D. Ferd Swaney cafeteria.

Superintendent Pegg announced Monday, February 19, 2024 will be a make up day and school will be in session.

A motion was made by Myers second by Janesko to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm.

All members present voting in favor of motion.