

Albert Gallatin Area School Board – Regular Meeting Minutes

D. Ferd Swaney Cafeteria

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Eric Miller, Vice President Doug Sholtis, Secretary Betty Moser, Treasurer Ryan Porupski, Paul Dunham, Carla Franks, David Howard, Carl Planiczka, Jamey Capozza

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

Miller called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm followed by a moment of Silent Meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance after which all present responded to roll call.

PUBLIC FORUM

Emily Crowe from Washington Health System Teen Outreach presented the 2023 Educator Award to Gary Serock.

Matt Stackhouse, High School Instructor presented the course description for a proposed Diversity in US History elective course.

Ryan Porupski, Board Member addressed the school board and public regarding the proposed high school course elective and ask the school board to strike down a proposed course.

Melonie Lewellen addressed the school board regarding school curriculum and article in the local newspaper about the proposed high school course elective.

Kim Swaney, High School Instructor present awards to the following students:

- Kade Clark, Senior: Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Key Award
- Grayson Smith, Senior: George and Stella Knight Essay Contest (Regional Winner)
- Patrica (Trystan) Adams, Senior: Scholastic Art and Writing Gold and Silver Key Award(not present)
- Joselyn Kuhns, Junior: poem, "Pieces of Me," second prize in Category I of Ligonier Valley Writers' Student Poetry Contest.(not present)
- Karen Westerlund and Lance Westerlund -present Grayson Smith's Award (\$100.00, a medallion, and certificate, Kahlen Darnell Participation Certificate in George and Stella Knight Essay Contest. (SAR Chapter).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held on Monday, May 15, 2023 from 7:38 pm – 8:51 pm for personnel, student confidentiality and grievance.

ADODT AGENDA

A motion was made by Howard second by Capozza to adopt the agenda as presented.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Capozza second by Howard to approve minutes of the regular meeting held on April 19, 2023.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Capozza second by Franks to accept the treasurer's report including tax collections for April 2023 and preliminary financial statements as presented.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

BILLS AND PAYROLL

A motion was made by Moser second by Capozza to grant permission to pay the following bills and payroll for May 2023.

1. Bills, utilities, insurance and contractual obligations paid at the end of the previous month in the amount of \$3,023,368.90
2. Current month general fund bills in the amount of \$482,472.59
3. Cafeteria fund bills in the amount of \$108,623.78

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS

A motion was made by Capozza second by Franks to accept activity account report as presented by building principals.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

A motion was made by Franks second by Capozza to approve the following payments from the Capital Projects Fund:

- a. TriStar Chevrolet \$56,108.00 for the purchase of an Express 3500 Box Truck.

Ayes: Dunham, Planiczka, Howard, Porupski, Franks, Moser, Capozza, Miller

Nays: Sholtis

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

A motion was made by Porupski second by Sholtis to resolved, that the Board of Directors of Albert Gallatin Area School District, hereby adopts the General Fund Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 in the amount of \$62,726,911 as presented and authorizes that a tax on real estate be levied at the rate of 15.592 mills which represents a no mill increase of each \$100.00 assessed evaluation of all property taxable for school purposes located within the School District. All Act 511 and other School Code Taxes will remain in effect at the same rate.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

HOMESTEAD AND FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION

A motion was made by Dunham second by Capozza to approve Resolution authorizing the Homestead and Farmstead exclusion real estate assessment reduction for the Albert Gallatin Area School District's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 under the provisions of the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1, 2006), as presented.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None

PARKING LOT SEALING AND LINE PAINTING

A motion was made by Howard second by Porupski to award bid to Brite Stripe for parking lot sealing and line painting at Masontown, George J. Plava, and AG North in the amount of \$62,425.00.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

PLAYGROUND AREA SEALING

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Capozza to award bid to Brite Stripe for playground area sealing at Masontown and George J. Plava in the amount of \$3,120.00.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

2023 GRADUATION LIST

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Howard to approve the 2023 Graduation List as presented.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE ADDITIONS

A motion was made by Capozza second by Franks to table 2 items listed in the 2023-2024 High School Course additions as presented.

Ayes: Porupski, Capozza, Moser, Miller

Nays: Howard, Planiczka, Franks, Dunham, Sholtis

Motion Fails

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Franks to vote on each course elective separately.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by Sholtis to approve Diversity in US History course elective.

Ayes: Sholtis, Howard, Planiczka

Nays: Capozza, Franks, Moser, Dunham, Porupski, Miller

Motion Fails

A motion was made by Howard second by Sholtis to approve Portals – Project Perennial course elective.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by Sholtis to approve Introduction to Web Design course elective.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by Sholtis to approve Biotechnology course elective.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by Sholtis to approve Health Wellness/Self-Development course elective.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

STEP BY STEP LEARNING

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Capozza to motion to award the Science of Reading Project as stated in the RFP to Step By Step Learning contingent on allocation of Title I funding.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SPANISH BOOKS

A motion was made by Capozza second by Porupski to approve purchase of Spanish language books from Vista Higher Learning at a cost of \$74,889.58 for a six-year license agreement.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

MATH K-5

A motion was made by Moser second by Howard to approve the contract extension of Into Math K-5 for additional three years at a cost of \$91,983.92.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

MATH 6-8

A motion was made by Howard second by Capozza to approve the contract extension of Into Math 6-8 for additional three years at a cost of \$32,366.96.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

READING K-6

A motion was made by Capozza second by Sholtis to approve the one year contract extension of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys K-6 Reading Series not to exceed \$40,000.00.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Porupski to approve the articulation agreements with the following universities:

1. Pennsylvania State University
2. Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

All members present voting in favor of motion.

RETIREMENT

A motion was made by Moser second by Dunham to accept the retirement of Marycarol Kezmarsky, Elementary Secretary effective June 15, 2023.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

Mr. Pegg thanked Marycarol for her 35 years of service and wished her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

FMLA

A motion was made by Howard second by Capozza to grant Stephanie Humbert, Elementary Secretary an intermittent FMLA effective April 10, 2023.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Howard to grant Thomas Shiflett, Custodian an FMLA effective April 19, 2023 through May 12, 2023.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A motion was made by Moser second by Porupski to grant Raegan Jordan an unpaid leave of absence from May 9, 2023 through June 8, 2023.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SABBATICAL

A motion was made by Capozza second by Franks to grant Karla Lent, high school instructor a Sabbatical for the 2023-2024 school term.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

NEW HIRE

A motion was made by Planiczka second by Capozza to hire James Sadler for Afternoon Shift Custodian at George J. Plava Elementary School.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

Abstain: Dunham only

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Dunham to hire Kendra Guthrie as Custodian to be placed in the next open position.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by Dunham to hire Clarence Sawyers as Custodian for a second floating custodian position, to be eliminated when an open position becomes available.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Porupski second by Sholtis to approve all motions under Personnel Item I through N.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

AWARD EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPONSORS

I. Award the following High School extra-curricular activity sponsors for the 2023-24 school year:

1. Art Club – Kristen Venturino
2. Interact Club – Rebecca Taylor
3. Academic League – Rebecca Taylor
4. Math Team – Julia Pillar
5. Mock Trial/Debate Team – Rebecca Taylor
6. Newspaper – Eric Nuttal
7. Young Astronauts – Mike Revak
8. Future Educators – Allie Richter
9. Geology Club – Kim Swaney
10. Honor Society – co-sponsors Allison Perry & Elizabeth Mulac
11. Yearbook – Taylor Saghy
12. Student Council – Christy Wolfe and Joyce Umble
13. Book Club – Alison Vandegrift
14. Freshman/Sophomore Activities–co-sponsors Alison Perry and Elizabeth Mulac with shared contractual stipend
15. Junior/Senior Activities - co-sponsors Christy Wolfe and Joyce Umble with shared contractual stipend
16. Video Productions – Eric Nuttal
17. SADD – Alison Perry
18. NAACP Youth Club – Tom Colebank
19. Diversity Club – Megan Smiley
20. Envirothon Club – James Comunale
21. E Sports Club – Jonathan Clark
22. Vocal Music Director – Gail Diamond
23. Choral Pep Club – Gail Diamond
24. Drama (plays) – Toby Maykuth and Megan Cerullo
25. Musical (as per Board budget) – Toby Maykuth

AWARD HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT HEADS

J. Award the following High School Department Heads for the 2023-24 school year:

1. Math – Cindy Kopas
2. English – Kim Swaney

3. Science – Bethany Herman
4. Social Studies – Jeff Kopas
5. Electives/Specialists – Ken Musko
6. Special Education – Megan Smiley

AWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPONSORS

K. Award the following Middle School extra-curricular activity sponsors for the 2023-24 school year:

1. Student Council – AG South – Andrew Hostetler
2. Newspaper Sponsors – AG South – Andrew Hostetler
3. Yearbook Sponsor – AG North – Jeri Turner
4. Band Directors – AG South - Mary Kendall
5. Vocal Music Director – Gail Diamond
6. Elementary Band Director - Brandon Gift, Megan Cerullo, Jeremy Kendall

AWARD HEAD TEACHERS

L. Award the following Head Teachers for the 2023-24 school year:

1. AG North Middle School - Tiffany Duncan
2. AG South Middle School – Brooke Patterson
3. AL Wilson Elementary – Stacey Peton-Tenny
4. Friendship Hill Elementary – Tammy Bricker
5. Smithfield Elementary – Toby Maykuth
6. George J. Plava Elementary – Jamie Kamp

ELIMINATE POSITIONS

M. Grant permission to eliminate the following positions for the 2023-24 School Year:

1. Grade K at AL Wilson Elementary – 1 year only
2. Grade 1 at AL Wilson Elementary – 1 year only
3. Grade 4 at AL Wilson Elementary – 1 year only
4. Grade 2 at George J. Plava Elementary – 1 year only
5. Grade 3 at George J. Plava Elementary – 1 year only
6. Grade 3 at Friendship Hill Elementary – 1 year only
7. Grade 5 at Friendship Hill Elementary – 1 year only

CREATE AND POST 2023-24 POSITIONS

N. Grant permission to create and post the following positions for the 2023-24 School Year:

1. Grade K at AL Wilson Elementary – 1 year only
2. Grade 1 at AL Wilson Elementary - 1 year only
3. Grade 2 at AL Wilson Elementary – 1 year only
4. Grade 5 at AL Wilson Elementary – 1 year only
5. Grade 3 at Friendship Hill Elementary – 1 year only
6. Grade 5 at Friendship Hill Elementary – 1 year only
7. Grade 3 at George J. Plava Elementary – 1 year only
8. Grade 4 at George J. Plava Elementary – 1 year only

CREATE AND POST POSITIONS

A motion was made by Capozza second by Franks to grant permission to create and post Summer School Instructor positions.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Capozza second by Moser to grant permission to create and post Elementary Assessment Team positions.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

SUBSTITUTE LIST

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

Professional: Tammy Rinkhoff, Harley Constable

All members present voting in favor of motion.

IU EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Dunham second by Capozza to approve the Educational Services Agreement with the Intermediate Unit 1 for the 2023-2024 school year.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

IN-HOUSE ESY AND SUMMER PROGRAM MOU

A motion was made by Howard second by Moser to approve the AGEA In-House ESY and Summer Program Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ENVIROTHON COMPETITION

A motion was made by Moser second by Dunham to grant approval for five students of the Envirothon team, who won first place at the Fayette County Competition, to attend the state Envirothon competition held at Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg, PA from May 23, 2023 to May 24, 2023 at no cost to the district. A district van will be used for transportation; James Comunale and Katie Turner

All members present voting in favor of motion.

STUDENT TEACHER

A motion was made by Howard second by Dunham to approve Grand Canyon University student teacher, Amber Gibbs to complete student teaching from August 2023 through December 2023, placement to be determined.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

FACILITY USE

A motion was made by Capozza second by Howard to grant permission to Duck Hollow Learning Center to use AG High School Auditorium on May 26, 2023 and May 27, 2023 from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm for Pre-K graduation ceremony; Rebecca Belski

All members present voting in favor of motion.

A motion was made by Moser second by Capozza to grant permission to AG Girl's Basketball to use the AG High School Gym from June 7, 2023 through August 23, 2023 from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm for 5th grade basketball practice: Sydney Phillips, Coach

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ELECT PARTICIPATION APPLICATION

A motion was made by Howard second by Capozza to grant permission to Application Participation Certification – Consortium Members only to authorize and complete the Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT) application.

All members present voting in favor of motion.

RESOLVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

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

All members present voting in favor of motion.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm in D. Ferd Swaney cafeteria.

A motion was made by Porupski second by Capozza to adjourn the meeting 6:53 pm.

All members present voting in favor of motion.