

**OIL CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Oil City Area School District was held on Monday evening, March, 27, 2023, in the cafeteria of Hasson Heights Elementary, 833 Grandview Road, Oil City, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joseph McFadden, Board President, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. McFadden opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and announced an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and contracts.

Roll Call: *Present:* Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy,
Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner (via telecommunication/phone), Mr. Weaver

Absent: None.

Administrators

Present: Dr. Weller, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Curran, Mr. Siembida, Mrs. Zuck

Mr. McFadden announced the following changes to the agenda:

Under Superintendent's Report, Section A, Item 5, "APPROVAL TO HIRE PROFESSIONAL STAFF"

- Strike item from agenda.

Under Superintendent's Report, Section A, Item 6, "APPROVAL TO HIRE CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY"

- Add candidate name Tisha Urey, effective March 28, 2023, with a salary of \$38,000.00.

Under Superintendent's Report, Section A, Item 9c, "APPROVAL OF BASEBALL COACHES FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, FOLLOW REORGANIZATION"

- Add retroactive approval to March 6, 2023.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, moved to approve the amendments to the agenda as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: *Ayes* – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely,
Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS/INVITED GUESTS

Mr. Greg Merkel, Solicitor, Mr. Gavin Fish, reporter for *Explore Venango*, Ms. Kara O'Neil, reporter for *The Derrick*, Mr. Richard Sayer, reporter for 8 & 322, and Mrs. Robin Evans were also in attendance, as well as approximately 35 members of the public, per the sign in sheet.

Mr. Eric Smith and the High School Boys' Swim Team were in attendance, many with their families present. Mr. Smith mentioned this was the first undefeated season for the swim team in 53 years. The team members introduced themselves, as well as their length of participation on the high school team. Dr. Weller and President McFadden gave praise for their tremendous season.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Theresa Dominique provided comment regarding “We Care Elementary”. Due to the addition of item A of Old Business since the Work Session, President McFadden provided the opportunity for public comment on the agenda items. **Following the suspension of policy 903 with motion made by Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, and all voting in favor with the exception of Mr. Sterner**, Mr. David Strickland was given opportunity to address the board regarding “We Care Elementary” and “SAFE-T”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kelley, moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023, Board Meeting and the March 20, 2023, Work Session.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: *Ayes* – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, moved to approve the following financial reports: Payment of Bills, Treasurer’s Reports, and Activity Reports. (Copies of these reports will appear in the Minutes book.)

The voice vote is recorded as follows: *Ayes* – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The following items were presented for approval by Mr. McFadden, Board President:

A. Personnel Items:

1. APPROVAL OF RESIGNATIONS

- a. Jennifer Mattocks-Newton, Title 1 Reading/Math Paraprofessional for the South Side Schools.
- b. Christina Links, Paraprofessional at the High School and Middle School, effective March 15, 2023.
- c. Kriss Stevenson, Paraprofessional at Hasson Heights Elementary School, effective March 22, 2023.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kelley, moved to approve the resignations of staff, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: *Ayes* – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

2. APPROVAL TO POST OPEN PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- a. 7-hour Special Education Paraprofessional for the High School/Middle School Complex.
- b. 5-hour Title 1 Reading/Math Paraprofessional for the South Side schools.
- c. 3-hour Paraprofessional at Hasson Heights Elementary School.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, moved to approve the posting of paraprofessional staff vacancies, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

3. APPROVAL TO POST OPEN PROFESSIONAL POSITION

a. District-wide Speech Language Therapist

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, moved to approve the posting of a Speech Language Therapist, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

4. APPROVAL TO HIRE PROFESSIONAL STAFF

a. Megan Kistler, Director of Technology for the Oil City Area School District beginning April 3, 2023, at a salary of \$70,000.00.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, moved to approve Megan Kistler as Director of Technology, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

5. THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED, AS PER THE VOTED UPON AMENDMENTS

6. APPROVAL TO HIRE CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY (AMENDED)

a. Tisha Urey, PIMS Coordinator/Confidential Secretary effective March 28, 2023, with a salary of \$38,000.00.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Neely, moved to approve Tisha Urey as PIMS Coordinator/Secretary, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

7. APPROVAL OF GUEST TEACHER

a. Richard Hasty

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, moved to approve the list of bus and van drivers, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

8. MOTION TO APPROVE A PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED ITEM

a. WHEREAS, the agenda for the February 27, 2023, meeting of the Board of School Directors included a personnel item to approve the hiring of Melissa Proper as a long-term substitute teacher for semester 2 of the 2022-2023 school year at *step 1 of the master's scale*;

WHEREAS, the said agenda item erroneously referenced the master's scale when it should have referenced the bachelor's scale.

WHEREAS, as a result of such error, the Board of School Directors erroneously adopted a resolution at its meeting on February 27, 2023 by which Melissa Proper was hired as a long-term substitute teacher for semester 2 of the 2022-2023 school year *at step 1 of the master's scale*;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the resolution to hire Melissa Proper adopted on February 27, 2023, be amended and is hereby approved as follows:

The Board of School Directors approves and authorized the hiring of Melissa Proper, as a long-term substitute math teacher at Oil City Area Middle School for semester 2 of the 2022-2023 school year, effective as of January 23, 2023, at *step 1 of the bachelor's scale*.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kelley, moved to approve the previously adopted item, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None.

9. APPROVAL OF BASEBALL COACHES FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, FOLLOWING REORGANIZATION (AMENDED)

- a. Mike Highfield, Interim Head Coach
- b. Dan Staub, Interim Assistant Coach
- c. Mike Rybak, Interim Middle School/Elementary, retroactive to March 6, 2023.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kelley, moved to approve the list of Baseball Coaches, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – Mrs. Pikna

10. APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIP REQUEST

- a. The High School requests approval for 1 student and 1 advisor to travel to the Wyndam Orlando Resort in Orlando, Florida, to participate in the National Academic/Gifted Competition from April 20-25, 2023.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, moved to approve the field trip request, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

11. RETROACTIVE APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIP REQUEST

- a. The High School Music Department requests approval for 1 teacher and 1 student to travel to Marion Center High School to participate in PMEA Region Band from March 23-25, 2023.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kelley, moved to approve the field trip request, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

B. Additional items requiring Board approval:

1. APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Neely, moved to approve the 2021-2022 audited financial statement, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

2. APPROVAL TO RENEW THE FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE NUTRITION GROUP FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kelley, moved to approve the 2023-2024 Food Service Contract, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

3. APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR RIVERVIEW INTERMEDIATE UNIT 6 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,488,687

Dr. Weller asked Mrs. Fisher to clarify the District's responsibility, which Mrs. Fisher noted as \$15,038.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, moved to approve the RIU6 Fiscal Budget, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Piercy, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

4. APPROVAL OF PLANCON PART I: INTERIM REPORTING, PROJECT 3872, HASSON HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALTERATIONS AS APPROVED BY THE PA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PER THEIR LETTER DATED MARCH 1, 2023.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kelley, moved to approve the PDE letter for alterations, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

5. APPROVAL TO REMOVE UNUTILIZED BUS STOP SHELTERS IN STATES OF IRREPAIR

Dr. Weller noted that there are various shelters no longer in use and find it reasonable for maintenance to remove these shelters to eliminate concern of damage and harm.

Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Weaver, moved to remove the unutilized bus stop shelters in states of irreparable, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

6. APPROVAL FOR OIL CITY ROUGHNECKERS TRAVEL BASEBALL/MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TO HOLD BATTING PRACTICE AND FIELDING WORK ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AFTERNOONS FOR 2 HOURS FROM APRIL 1-MAY 14, 2023.

Ms. Neely, seconded by Mr. Weaver, moved to approve the request for batting and fielding practice for Oil City Roughnecks, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

7. APPROVAL OF DISCIPLINE WAIVER AND STIPULATION FOR STUDENT “B” FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR
- a. RESOLVED, that the Oil City Area School Board of School Directors approves the Waiver and Stipulation Agreement for Student “B” for the 2022-2023 school year. The Oil City School Board of Directors authorizes the Superintendent to sign the Waiver and Stipulation on behalf of the District.

THIS IS AN APPROVED ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kerr, moved to the discipline Waiver and Stipulation, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

INFORMATIONAL

Dr. Weller provided details about the recently held Career and College Fair, hosted at OCHS. School Guidance Counselors Mr. Bill Burkett and Mrs. Vera Campbell organized the event. Dr. Weller also mentioned student Jackson Dilks, who was invited to participate in an education opportunity at Harvard this upcoming summer.

Mrs. Fisher reviewed the Athletics Budget for the 2023-2024 School Year, providing Board members with a copy.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

None.

OLD BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

- A. Remove from the table, Retroactive Approval of Curricula to April 18, 2022
 1. “We Care Elementary” (Grades 3-6)
 2. “Sexual Abuse Free Environment for Teens” (Grades 7-8)

Dr. Weller began by issuing a statement, followed by Mr. Kerr. Mr. Sterner, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Weaver, and Mr. McFadden also provided comment.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Sterner, moved to remove “Retroactive Approval of Curricula to April 18, 2022” from the table.

District resident Mr. Klapec interrupted the motion to raise an objection under the Sunshine Act. No specific objection was stated, as clarified by the school solicitor.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

A new motion was brought to the table by Mr. Kerr and read as follows:

- B. FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, THE OIL CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL SUSPEND IDENTIFIED PROGRAMMING AND FOLLOWING, ACTING UNDER CURRENT POLICY, PROCEED FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR AS OUTLINED THROUGH THE CURRICULUM/EDUCATION COMMITTEE AT ITS MARCH 13, 2023, MEETING
- a. RFP’s for Anti-bullying/ Sexual Harassment programming to Oil City Area School District by May 1, 2023.
 - b. Committee presentation(s) on June 10, 2023.
 - c. Formal Board discussion/vote on July 17, 2023
 - d. Posting/public review from July 18 through August 28, 2023.
 - e. Exemption from instruction opportunity as outlined under, then current, SOP 105.2.

Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Kelley, moved to suspend the programming for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, followed by the outlined proposed, as presented.

The voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kerr, Mr. McFadden, Ms. Neely, Mr. Piercy, Mrs. Pikna, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Weaver

Nays – None

ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS

Mrs. Curran addressed the Board with updates from Seventh Street and Smedley schools. They recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of arts day with live presentations, demonstrations, projects, as well as news on robotics.

Mr. Siembida addressed the Board with and update from Hasson, including the 4th grade musical, family night and book fair, Donuts with Dad, and the upcoming Career Day in April.

Mrs. Zuck addressed the Board with an update from the Middle School, regarding Heights Family Night, beginning of spring sports with an enthusiastic display of school spirit and encouragement. 4th grade Transition Day was also reviewed.

Mr. Stahl address the Board with an update from the High School, mentioning the recent success of “Shrek: The Musical,” the aforementioned Career and College Fair, student Jackson Dilks’ opportunity at Harvard, and student Matt Myers’ participation with PMEA Region Band.

VENANGO TECHNOLOGY CENTER REPORT

None.

RIVERVIEW INTERMEDIATE UNIT 6 REPORT

None.

PSBA LIAISON REPORT

None.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Lehnortt reminded Board members and those running for School Board to complete and return their Statement of Financial Interests forms prior to May 1, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Weaver noted his appreciation for the public's participation.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Kelley. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Lehnortt
Board Secretary