

MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR BOARD MEETING High School Auditorium

Tuesday, January 11, 2022
7:12 PM

Pledge to the flag
Call to Order - Board President
Roll call - Board Secretary

MEMBER

x Daniel L. Albert
x Todd A. Badger
x Susan Beery
x Joseph B. LeCrone
x Dottie M. Mathers, Vice President
x David Shimmel, President

MEMBER

x Ronald E. Snell
x Dale Ulmer
x David J. Young
x *Richard Galtman, Solicitor
*Christina Bason, Superintendent
x *Brandy N. Smith, Business Mgr./Bd. Secretary
*(Non-Voting Member)

OTHERS

x Feerrar, Darrin - Elementary School Principal
x Gnoffo, Joseph - Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
x Hanner, Timothy - Supervisor of Special Education
x King, Christopher - Assistant Middle/High School Principal
x Myers, Curtis - Middle School Principal
x Peipher, Sebastian - Lead Network Administrator
x Taormina, Daniel - High School Principal
Yonkin, Jamie - Elementary School Principal
x Residents x Media x Students

Awards and Recognitions

Zach Smith announced the academic decathlon team competitions.

Approval of minutes for the following meetings:

- Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Motion: Mathers Second: Badger
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell asked if a use of facilities fee schedule had been discussed as mentioned in item G-6 in the December 7th minutes.

Mrs. Smith said updated information was presented at the last meeting and it would be followed up on at the next scheduled meeting.

Dr. Mathers said that the meeting location was listed incorrectly in the organizational minutes for December 7th.

Public Comment

Jack Callahan said he was glad that the meetings are back in person. He wanted to make sure it was mentioned how well the district does at the farm show. He also wanted to recognize Noah Kirby's baseball accomplishments. He also recognized students who competed in a bass fishing event. He also thanked the third-grade teachers and students who sang on Veterans day. He also stated that he would like the artist's signature back below the painting in the gym.

Gregg Stapp provided a hand out from the CDC regarding COVID tests. He stated that no one knows the number of cases there has been. He said that he believes masks do not work and if they were mandated there could be legal issues.

Kathy Burns shared concerns about Cory Flick being assigned to the Health and Safety Committee due to harassment issues.

Kim Rehn shared that Danville and Milton are virtual. She shared that the CDC has set up different ways to keep students in school through masks and vaccines when contact tracing. She shared information from the CDC regarding the effectiveness of tests.

Brenda Oberheim shared how the private school her kids attend handle COVID cases and contact tracing.

Tina McCoy shared why she thinks masks are a form of child abuse.

Sharon Meyer stated that she was glad to be back in person for the meeting. She also thanked Mr. Feerrar for bringing back morning recess. She said that cloth masks do not work. She said that teachers should not be a part of contact tracing if they are not showing symptoms.

Joslyn Dougherty asked what the requirements were to be on the health and safety committee. She asked if members of the committee have a health background. She said that masking should be up to the parents. She thanked some of the principals and teachers who have worked to help her kids through this tough year.

Veronica Lepley stated that masks are hindering learning and causing issues with speech.

Cory Flick provided an update on legal fee costs totaling \$37,000 for the lawsuit against the school district.

Tonya Shaffer requested exemptions for students with special needs if there will be a masking rule in place.

Nevin Weaver shared that he is pro-choice for masking. He requested the Board to allow exemption forms from parents.

Dan Asiello stated that teachers need to be building relationships with students. He said if a mask rule is established then Administration needs to police the masks, not teachers.

Mindy Vlachich said that she is opposed to mandatory masking. She also shared that she is concerned about a drug issue in the District.

Business Manager's Report

A. General Fund and Cafeteria Fund Treasurer's Report

Motion: Ulmer Second: Mathers

Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young

No: None

Absent: None

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Result: **Motion Carried**

B. Budgetary Transfers –

C. Presentation of Bills (Roll Call)

General Fund	– \$ 2,605,956.12
Cafeteria Fund	– \$ 95,186.75

Motion: Ulmer Second: Young
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

D. Business

Mrs. Smith shared that the audit is taking a little bit longer due to the review ESSER funding.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Myers shared that they are happy to be back in session. He said that McCall received a lot of support for the holiday fundraisers.

Mr. Hanner said that early intervention meetings have been scheduled in February. He shared that PASA testing training has begun and that a sign language group is starting at Lyter.

Mr. Feerrar said that students are transitioning back well but they want warmer weather.

Mr. Taormina shared the success of the holiday concerts.

Mr. King shared that he and the kids are glad to be back.

Agenda Items

- **General**

G-6 As long as Lycoming County remains in the very high transmission category (as noted on <https://lycoming-county-pa-covid-19-lyco.hub.arcgis.com> Montoursville Area School District will require universal indoor masking by all students, staff, faculty, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, with exceptions as noted by the most current CDC guidelines.

Motion: Mathers Second: LeCrone
Yes: Beery, LeCrone, Mathers
No: Albert, Badger, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Failed**

Mr. Snell said the board has yet to receive information from the health and safety committee.

Dr. Mathers said she wants to prevent the school from going remote.

Motion to table the vote until the health and safety committee submits a report to the board.

Motion: Snell Second: Young
Yes: Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Failed**

Dr. Beery suggested an amendment to change "substantial" to "high".

Dr. Mathers said she would accept that but they need to decide on a number of cases.

Mr. Ulmer asked how he can debate and discuss matters involving the health and safety plan without seeing it.

Mr. Snell said that cases in school aged students aren't any higher during the mask optional period.

Mr. Albert said the committee has failed and that there is no understanding. He believes masking is an individual's choice.

Dr. Beery said that the social harm of remote learn is something that we need to avoid at all costs.

Dr. LeCrone asked if parent opt out is an option.

Dr. Beery said that it is for strongly held religious beliefs and certain disabilities.

Mr. Snell said it is up to the school district on how it is handled.

Dr. Beery wanted a friendly amendment to remove "substantial" from the motion and replace with just "high".

Mr. Young wants to add parental choice to the motion.

Mr. Shimmel asked if the vote would take place on the agenda item as is.

Dr. Mathers said she would accept the friendly amendment to remove substantial and only include the high transmission category.

G-1 Approval of the 2022-2023 school calendar for the second and final reading. (Attachment)

Motion: Ulmer Second: Snell
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

G-2 Approval of the purchase of a Convection Steamer, at a price of \$18,600.00 for the Montoursville Area High School Cafeteria. (Attachment)

Motion: Mathers Second: Ulmer
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell asked if this was being paid for by excess cafeteria funds.

Mrs. Smith provided a background on the situation and shared that the money is coming from cafeteria funds that need to be spent on items like this.

Mr. Snell asked how old the machine was when it broke.

Mr. Gnoffo said it was only 4 years old and that a two-year warranty was the best he could do on the new steamer.

G-3 Approval to hire up to 5 Special Education Teachers.

Motion: LeCrone Second: Badger
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**
Mr. Snell asked if these hires would be temporary employees.

Mr. Feerrar said they would be long-term appointments for this year only, but then re-evaluated at the end of the year.

G-4 Approval of the Montoursville Area High School Course Catalog for the 2022-2023 school year: (Available online)

Motion: Mathers Second: Young
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

G-5 Approval of a Use of Facilities request from Courtney Petrowski, Montoursville Youth Football and Cheer, Lyter Elementary Gym, Mondays from January 10, 2022 to May 2, 2022, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM. (Attachment)

Motion: Young Second: Badger
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

G-7 Approval of the draft copy of the Emergency Instructional Time Template Section 520.1, for the 2021-2022 school year, as requested by PDE. (Attachment)

Motion: Young Second: Mathers
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

G-8 Approval for Westchester, A Chubb Company, to provide Cyber Liability Insurance at a total cost of \$13,442.00. This policy will be in effect from January 2022 to January 2023. (The cost last year was: \$9,085.86. (Attachment)

Motion: Young Second: Ulmer
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Young asked why there was an increase in cost.

Mr. Peipher said the current company will no longer be providing the service. While looking for a new policy, the district learned of new requirements which increased costs for the service.

- **Personnel**

P-1 Approval of the following retirement from a member of the Professional staff:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Steven Tressler	Science	21	End of the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion: Ulmer Second: Badger

Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young

No: None

Absent: None

Result: **Motion Carried**

Dr. Mathers congratulated Mr. Tressler on his retirement and thanked him for his years of service.

P-2 Approval of the following retirements from members of the Support staff:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Valarie Mowrey	Paraprofessional	19	April 13, 2022
Anne Strein	Paraprofessional	10	December 1, 2021

Motion: LeCrone Second: Young

Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young

No: None

Absent: None

Result: **Motion Carried**

P-3 Approval of the following leave of absence from a member of the Professional Staff:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Leave Dates</u>
101701	March 7, 2022 to the end of the 2021-2022 school year

Motion: Mathers Second: LeCrone

Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young

No: None

Absent: None

Result: **Motion Carried**

P-4 Approval of the following addition to the Substitute Teacher list for the 2021-2022 school year:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Laurel Denham	Art	December 22, 2021

P-5 Approval of the following addition to the Guest Teacher list for the 2021-2022 school year:

<u>Guest Teacher</u>
Barth Carson

P-6 Approval of the following addition to Long-Term Professional positions:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Replacement for:</u>
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Alexus DegBrina	English	February 14, 2022 to May 30, 2022	101923
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P-7 Approval of the following addition to the Support Staff, effective January 12, 2022:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>	<u>Replacement for:</u>
Douglas Sauter	Custodian	\$15.24	Marc Guthrie

P-9 Approval of the following resignation from a member of the Support Staff:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Ranae Savidge	Paraprofessional	January 14, 2022

P-10 Approval of the following FMLA leave from a member of the staff:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Effective</u>
101774	January 3, 2022

P-11 Approval of the following additions to the Coaching staff for the 2021-2022 school year:

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Replacement for:</u>
Keith Bennett	Wrestling	Volunteer Coach	NA	NA
Jessica Reich	Cheerleading	Jr High Coach (Winter Season only)	\$1,200	Caitlin Shek

Motion: Mathers Second: Young
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Ulmer requested that agenda item P-8 be voted on separately from the grouping.

P-8 Approval of the following addition to the Professional Staff, tentative effective date January 27, 2022:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Replacement for:</u>
Robyn Smelko	Art	Master's Step 8 \$62,768 pro rata	Debra Taylor

Motion: Ulmer Second: Mathers
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Ulmer said he wanted the name of the teacher announced. Mr. Ulmer said that he has known her for a long time and that she will be a great addition to the district.

- **Transportation**

T-1 Approval of Promiseland Bussing rates in the amount of \$2,303.20 and \$2,538.82 for December, 2021. (Attachment)

Motion: Mathers Second: Young
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None

Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

- **Academics**

A-1 Approval for a waiver of tuition be granted to student 222200, grade 12, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion: Ulmer Second: Badger
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

Motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes

Motion: Snell Second: Badger
Yes: Albert, Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer, Young
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

Other Reports

A. Committee Reports

- PSBA – January is school board recognition month
- Policy Committee – Nothing to report
- IU Rep. – January 19th will be the first meeting
- LCTC Rep. – Transition to the new executive director has occurred
- Memorial Gardens – Meeting next week on fundraising
- Budget – Nothing to report
- Buildings and Ground – Nothing to report
- Montoursville Foundation – Nothing to report
- Extra-Curricular Activities – Nothing to report

Public Comment

Jack Callahan commented on the district needing teachers. He recommended hiring teachers that could be considered for coaching positions. He said that basketball players and wrestlers had their names listed at the school for people to see and he would like that to come back. He said that people should not be using hand sanitizer constantly.

Gregg Stapp stated that he holds no personal animosity toward the Board. He shared information from court cases involving mask mandates and stated that masks do not work.

Kathy Burns asked the Board to remove Cory Flick from the Health and Safety Committee because she is in fear of him.

Dan Asiello asked if any progress was made in getting the proper technology for board meeting streaming. He asked for communication improvements from the District and individual schools. He said that he believes the Superintendent needs to be the leader in this. He said that he is a special education teacher and that he will not

leave his classroom to cover another class. He hopes that the district is not asking teachers to do that. He asked how often the board members have been in a classroom.

Kim Rehn said to broadcast the meeting as requested it will be very expensive and take a lot of work.

Tonya Shaffer said she appreciated the program to teach sign language at Lyter.

Mr. Shimmel commented that the technology department is working on the technology for interactive board meetings. He stated that the Health and Safety Committee meets every six months and gives the public an opportunity to give their input. He said six people asked to be on the committee and they were invited to participate. He said that it will be re-evaluated before the next meeting.

Mr. Snell gave a thank you to Mr. Yonkin for helping to clear sidewalks at Loyalsock Valley.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING 9:26 PM

Motion: Young Second: Badger
Voice Vote: **Unanimous**



David Shimmel, President



Brandy N. Smith, Board Secretary