

MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR BOARD MEETING High School

Tuesday, October 11, 2022
7:01 PM

Pledge to the flag
Call to Order - Board President
Roll call - Board Secretary
Executive Session for safety

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
_____*Richard Galtman, Solicitor
_____*Christina Bason, Superintendent
x *Brandy N. Smith, Business Mgr./Bd.Secretary
_____(Non-Voting Member)

OTHERS

x Blaise, Tyler - Elementary School Principal
x Feerrar, Darrin - Elementary School Principal
x Gnoffo, Joseph - Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
x Hanner, Timothy - Supervisor of Special Education
____Johnson, Matthew – High School Principal
____King, Christopher - Assistant Middle/High School Principal
x Myers, Curtis - Middle School Principal
x Peipher, Sebastian – Director of Technology
x Taormina, Daniel – Assistant Superintendent
x Residents x Media x Students

Awards and Recognitions

Zach Smith student representative shared that homecoming activities made for a great weekend. The Arrowhead advanced to States.

Mr. Taormina added over 400 students attended the homecoming dance.

Approval of minutes for the following meetings:

- Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 13, 2022
- Work Session, Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Motion: Badger Second: LeCrone

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

No: None

Absent: None

Result: **Motion Carried**

Pastor Shimko offered words of encouragement and prayer.

Public Comment

Tina Marie Kline commented on the security and the sign on the door.

Jack Callahan inquired about Halloween activities and would like to see the Board bob for apples. He reminisced about activities that took place in the old days.

Business Manager's Report

A. General Fund and Cafeteria Fund Treasurer's Report

Motion: Badger Second: LeCrone

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

No: None

Absent: None

Result: **Motion Carried**

B. Budgetary Transfers –

Attachment for Board awareness no action needed.

Mr. Snell would like the name to be printed next to signatures on budgetary transfers.

C. Presentation of Bills (Roll Call)

Motion: Ulmer Second: Beery

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

No: None

Absent: None

Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell inquired about check #633557 for the Dove connection. He would like to know what it is for and if it is a reoccurring cost every year.

Mr. Peipher explained it is for Adobe sign. It allows paperwork to be signed digitally and will be charged by usage.

Mr. Snell questioned check #63673 for SSM Group Inc.

Mr. Gnoffo explained the district does air quality testing before the start of school every year.

Mr. Snell would like the results shared.

Mr. Gnoffo shared the results were great and would be happy to share the findings.

D. Business

Mrs. Smith gave an update on the implantation of the new Tyler software system that is now live. The auditors are in the District Office working on the audit. It is a busy but good start to the month.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Hanner started the Special Education report with an update on upcoming meeting dates concerning the IU parent task force meetings. The meetings will also be offered over zoom. All dates and locations are listed on the Montoursville District website. Wendy Baker, School Psychologist gave training on how to administer and score the Kaufman test of educational achievement to the secondary special education team during the Professional Development portion of teacher in-service day. Mr. Hanner ended the report with news that the Special Education Plan for the Montoursville Area School District was received and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Mr. Feerrar thanked the Fire Companies for coming out and giving fire safety training to the elementary students. He also thanked the High School Key Club for continuing the Warrior Pal writing program with the elementary students. The current high school freshman was the first set of fourth graders to participate in the first-ever Warrior Pal program and Mr. Feerrar noted how special it was to see the full circle moment. He wrapped the report by noting the various fall activities that are forthcoming at Lyter Elementary School.

Mr. Myers began the McCall Middle School report with a reminder that October is bullying awareness month and the various activities that McCall is doing to educate and eliminate bullying. The Builder's Club inducted 25 new students into the program. The Warrior Innovation Lab has secured drones with the use of grant money. The kids are enjoying flying the drones. Mr. Myers went on to thank Weis for a \$1100.00 check that was earned from parents using a link to sign up. On October 28th McCall will hold a PBIS award day for students to color pumpkins and make scarecrows all tying into positive behavior within the school. Mr. Myers ended the report by thanking the students and community for all the fundraising efforts and is looking forward to using the funds for the McCall students.

Mr. Blaise reported that the Loyalsock Valley Elementary School conducted the Warrior Pride games for the PBIS incentive. Students used their PBIS points on Pride games such as tug of war, sack bags, and three-legged races. Ice cream and juice snacks were given as rewards and all the students enjoyed the activities. Mr. Blaise was immensely proud and happy to participate in his first-ever Walkathon. The PTO set a \$7,000 goal and the community and students surpassed that goal by \$2500. As a result of surpassing the goal, Mr. Blaise will camp out at Loyalsock Valley overnight. On October 1st Snyder's Nursery and LVE teamed up for a glow night that was successful in raising additional funds. October 14th will be fall day at the Valley. Students will participate in coloring pumpkins and all the fun activities of fall.

Mr. Taormina shared that Act 13 was finished with the completion of Educator Effectiveness training that took place on October 10 during the in-service day. The evaluation software is up and running and the transition is complete on the student performance measures. The district is now on track with the employee-teacher evaluation program and the software that goes along with it. Mr. Taormina took a moment to reflect on the community involvement shared in each building report. Noting that the district is the Hub of Montoursville and thanked the community and the students for working together.

Agenda Items

- **General**

- G-1 Approval of PSBA Officers:
President-Elect – Michael Gossert or Abstain
Vice President – Allison Mathis or Abstain
Central Zone Representative – Julie Preston or Abstain
Trustee – Seat 1 – Kathy Swope or Abstain
Trustee – Seat 2 – Roberta Marcus or Abstain

Motion: Mathers Second: LeCrone

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

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Ron

Result: **Motion Carried**

- G-2 Approval of a Use of Facilities request from Misty Emick, Montoursville Brough, to use the parking lot of C.E. McCall to stage the 75th Anniversary of the lighting of the Sylvania Tree Parade, November 19, 2022, from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. (Attachment)

- G-3 Approval of a Letter of Authorization to secure E-Rate consulting services of The Education Consortium (ECTS). (Attachment)

- G-4 Approval of an agreement between Montoursville Area School District and Lycoming College. (Attachment)

Motion: LeCrone Second: Badger

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

No: None

Absent: None

Result: **Motion Carried**

G-5 Approval of S Jean Cohick as a contracted certified School Guidance Counselor. Ms. Cohick will be assigned to the Montoursville Area High School and be paid from ESSERS funds, effective October 17, 2022, for the remainder of the school year as well as the 2023-2024 school year. (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 we are adding a guidance counselor using Essers funds.
Mr. Taormina explained the Mental Health Funding offered by the state to cover the position.

- **Personnel**

P-1 Approval of the following resignation from a member of the Professional Staff:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Joshua Haley	Business Education Teacher	December 2, 2022

P-2 Approval of the following additions to the Guest Teacher Substitute list for the 2022-2023 school year:

<u>Guest Teacher</u>
Kylie Crawford
Christopher Lair

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 Ronda Albert as Assistant Middle School Principal, effective October 17, 2022, at \$85,000 prorated.

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

Mr. Snell stated it is ironic fellow board members use enrollment numbers going down to fit their narrative yet vote yes to expand administrative positions.

Mr. Ulmer disagreed that enrollment numbers had anything to do with the position being approved. He also stated the position was in response to the teachers, staff, and faculty having a fervent desire for this position to be filled.

Mr. Taormina congratulated Mrs. Albert and is excited to have her as a part of the administration.

Mrs. Albert thanked the Board and is looking forward to her new role.

P-4 Approval of the following addition to the Coaching Staff, effective 2022-2023 school year:

Coach	Sport	Position	Stipend	Replacement for:
John Houseknecht, Sr	Boys Basketball	8 th grade Coach	\$2,600	Ed Rogers

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

- **Transportation**

T-1 Approval of Promiseland Bussing Rates in the amounts of \$2,298.02 and \$2,415.97 for September 2022. (Attachment)

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

T-2 Approval of the Bussing Rate for the 2022-2023 school year. (Attachment)

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

G-6 Discussion on the addition of Armed Security.

Mr. Taormina gave a presentation on the quick snapshot survey sent to parents and guardians of the district. He also gave a list of questions to consider with costs and recommendations from the Administrative Team.

Mr. Snell stated unarmed guards are not needed if there are armed guards. He also stated doors cannot be left open. Dr. Mathers would rather have stronger school entrances, and panic buttons in classrooms that call 911.

Dr. Mathers cannot find supporting documentation in favor of armed guards, noting school shootings have happened even with armed guards. She would like to focus on deterring shooters from entering the buildings.

Dr. Mathers would like to also know the negative impact on students of having armed guards in buildings.

Mr. Badger and Mr. Young both agreed that it would be important to decide how that security presence would look.

Mr. Ulmer questioned the survey. He is not convinced that there is a community desire for armed guards.

Mr. Ulmer referenced the responses to the survey and facts of which he was unaware. He is interested to know if the high school realizes they already have an armed guard.

Mr. Young made comments that the parents surveyed were divided on the issue of having armed security and not having armed security.

Mr. Albert agrees with Mr. Ulmer that not enough data was collected.

Mr. Albert is torn on what way to go but the cost is not more important than safety.

Mr. Young would like to have armed officers. He gave statistics based on his 30 years of experience in this area. He also stated a decision cannot be made on cost. He stated that if something happens and a decision is not made the board is responsible. He also stresses reading statistics cannot quantify a non-crime incident.

Mr. Badger agrees with Mr. Young statistics are difficult to quantify. He is not in favor of not acting, he is in favor of having armed security. He would like to make the best decisions for the safety of the students now instead of waiting on reports. Mr. Badger concluded his thoughts on armed security with the idea that all the ideas discussed during the

meeting should be implemented, armed guards, hardening school buildings, and providing counselors, psychologists, and educators needed.

Mr. Albert stated he thought armed guards should be the last line of defense but does not want that blood on his hands.

Dr. Beery stated cost should have been included in the survey.

Dr. Beery said the risk vulnerability assessment should be done before deciding where to put security money. One of the determining factors is the location and time for the police to get to each school. Having an armed guard might make the most sense at Loyalsock Valley based on the time it takes to get to the building. She also was curious to know of the school shootings that have occurred did any of the armed guards apprehend the shooter.

Dr. LeCrone is on the fence about armed security.

Mr. Snell asked what the tax increase would be.

Mrs. Smith answered it is half of mil at 100% collection, at 95% it is .55 mills on \$357,000.

Dr. Beery noted the cost of the possible building project and armed security team.

Mr. Taormina added the cost of the annual tax increase and stated the community is approaching the index on a tax increase.

Mr. Shimmel asked about figures on different building projects.

Mr. Young asked for a monthly breakdown of tax increases.

Mrs. Smith stated taking on any kind of building project and security upgrade the tax increase will go to the index at .87.

Dr. LeCrone does not see a building project happening for the next two to five years.

Mrs. Smith gave interest rate information.

Mr. Taormina reminded the board that the start-up of the security upgrade is covered by Essers funds.

Mr. Shimmel agreed with Mr. Ulmer that the survey needs a deeper dive. He also added that he has no qualms about securing the buildings and always having someone there to keep students safe.

Dr. Beery asked questions about the insurance company.

Mrs. Smith concludes having armed personnel will cause the district to carry additional insurance.

Dr. LeCrone furthered the insurance discussion. He also considered Dr. Mather's stand as well as Mr. Young's stand on the issue of armed security. He does not want to unnecessarily spend taxpayer dollars. Agreeing at the same time with Mr. Albert that to do nothing and have students harmed is not an option either.

Mr. Shimmel invites the community to attend the next board meeting to give input.

Other Reports

A. Committee Reports

- PSBA – None
- Policy Committee – None
- IU Rep. – None
- LCTC Rep. – None
- Memorial Gardens – Start date sometime in Oct. fundraising is close to \$110,000
- Budget – None
- Buildings and Ground – The side bank at the High School Baseball field located at the Middle is being renovated to help with the drainage issues
- Montoursville Foundation – Thank you to the administration for supporting the fundraiser, buying a table, and providing a raffle basket.
- Extra-Curricular Activities – Recapped fall sports, and the YMCA is doing a fundraiser for Coach Boughton

Public Comment

Jack Callahan wants to investigate old-school bus stop shelters. Jack would like to need to bring back assemblies, and May Day activities.

Tina Marie Kline thanked board members for abstaining to vote when there was a conflict of interest. She appreciated the security discussion and agreed the district needs to do multiple things to protect the students. She wants to see more done for mental health.

Scott Metzger stated there are 500 school districts in the state of Pennsylvania and the administration cost (not teachers) is 1 billion dollars. The average household income in Lycoming County is \$52,000 and made further comments on tax increases. Mr. Metzger also agreed with Mr. Young and acknowledged that current-day society has mental health issues. Mr. Metzger did not receive the survey but did receive phone calls that his senior student is absent from school.

Mr. Taormina let Mr. Metzger know he has the school district email address blocked and he missed additional emails concerning picture day, free breakfasts, and PSAT dates and times.

Brenda Oberheim is concerned with the Sun-Gazette publishing that Montoursville does not have armed security in the buildings. She referenced past school board decisions on tax increases.

Sharron Myer commented on security and mental health. She wants smaller class sizes and armed guards, and extra teachers.

Mr. Snell wanted to add additional comments concerning a local news story from Midwest School District that involved a student bringing a gun and ammunition on the school bus to show classmates.

Mr. Taormina made comments on the importance of effective communication between students and the administration. He addressed the continuous comments on additional members of the administrative team and the necessity of each member of the team.

Mr. Shimmel gave facts on several of the comments made by the public concerning positions throughout the district.

Mr. Badger made personalized comments on the importance of teachers being aware of students' mental health.

Mr. Myers gave additional comments supporting Tina Marie Kline and the need for mental health support for students and the community.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING 9:06 PM

Motion: LeCrone Second: Badger

Voice Vote: all



David Shimmel, President



Brandy N. Smith, Board Secretary