

MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR WORK SESSION High School

Tuesday, October 25, 2022
7:02 PM

Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence
Call to Order - Board President
Roll Call - Board Secretary

MEMBER

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

MEMBER

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

OTHERS

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

Public Comment

Pamela Nelson felt the security survey was too short, and vague and would like more information. She made comments on the agenda items, mental health, and what would make her children feel safe.

Jack Callahan praised the cheerleaders and advisors. He looked ahead to summer inquiring if Montoursville will have summer school in conjunction with Loyalsock High School. Jack was interested in knowing about advanced ticket sales for the Friday night football game being held at Loyalsock.

John Houseknecht believes we need armed security as a deterrent.

Shawn Rehn shared news articles concerning school shootings. Shawn wants a student poll.

Sharon Meyer thanked the Board for the time and effort put into the safety plan. Ms. Myer commented on the current security team being a vital role in greeting students entering and exiting the buildings. She concluded with a report released by the CDC.

Gregg Stapp mentioned the CDC should be considered a guideline. Mr. Stapp made suggestions on doing research and taking the deepest dive possible into past school shootings verifying sources and facts. He also thanked the board for addressing student safety.

Action Items

- General
- G-1 Approval of an agreement between Montoursville Area School District and Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania. (Attachment)
Motion: LeCrone Second: Ulmer

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

G-2 Approval of the Job Description for Security Guards. (Attachment)

Motion: LeCrone Second: Badger
Yes: Badger, LeCrone, Shimmel, Ulmer, Young, Snell
No: Beery, Mathers
Absent: Albert
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell feels the Board is putting the cart before the horse.

Mr. Shimmel cited the discussion from the last meeting as an agreement to move forward.

Mr. Taormina explained the intention and direction of the agenda item reminding the Board they have the right to vote the item up, down, or table the item. He further explained what it means to approve a job description.

Dr. Beery and Dr. Mathers agree with Mr. Snell.

G-3 Approval of the Job Description for a Captain of the Security Guards. (Attachment)

Motion to table approval of Job Description for a Captain of the Security Guards.

Motion: Snell Second: Mathers
Yes: Berry, Snell
No: Badger, LeCrone, Mathers, Shimmel, Ulmer, Young
Absent: Albert
Result: **Motion Failed**

Motion: Badger Second: LeCrone
Yes: Badger, LeCrone, Shimmel, Ulmer, Young
No: Beery, Mathers, Snell
Absent: Albert
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell made comments about the current SRO acting as the Captain of the Security Guards. He would like to table the vote until the Borough is consulted.

Dr. Beery had concerns about the placement of armed guards on the properties.

Mr. Young explained the role of security as a resource in the building to respond to an active shooter. He further explained the current SRO is a contracted employee and the conflicts this causes with ACT 120.

Mr. Ulmer is in favor of discussing the preliminary steps in the process of armed security but needs more information on the three-step process Mr. Taormina presented.

Mr. Taormina would like to Board to have a work session to walk through the buildings and discuss building deficiencies in private to protect building security.

- Policies

PY-1 Approval of the first readings of the following Policies: (Attachment)

Policy 805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

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

Mr. Snell questioned if the changes were in line with PSBA.

Mr. Taormina confirmed the changes are in line with PSBA.

Policy 805.2 School Security Personnel
Motion: Le Crone Second: Badger
Yes: Badger, Beery, LeCrone, Shimmel, Ulmer, Young, Snell
No: Beery
Absent: Albert
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell has requested for the air quality report to be put on the website.
The group discussed having the January work session at the Plunkett's Creek Firehall.
Mr. Badger asked for a student survey to be conducted. No decision was made on conducting a student safety survey.

Public Comment

Jack Callahan wants to know where the soccer game is, why the game is so late, and the size of the field. Mr. Callahan would like a message board.

Mr. Taormina assured everyone the field is the correct regulation size.

Mr. Snell would like soccer games to be played on Saturday to save money on the electric bills.

Pamela Nelson commented on hiring the captain at the next meeting. Ms. Nelson feels there is not enough information and would like to hear feedback from SRO and the local police department. She feels we need to look at other variables.

Tanya Shaffer shared frustration with previous security concerns and no action. Ms. Shaffer would like to have armed security guards and would like Parents to track their student's mental health. She concluded that it should not be a choice between money and security.

Brenda Oberheim would like decisions to be made and the district to have armed security.

Gregg Stapp shared information from past school shootings and covid reporting and asked again for the Board to do a deep research dive on facts.

Zack Smith feels strongly that working on mental health is more important than having armed security. He would like to know if recent school shootings sparked the conversations about armed guards at Montoursville. Mr. Smith is willing to get students' opinions as the student representative to the Board. He also agrees schools are responsible to make sure students are okay.

Mr. Shimmel made the Board and the Administration aware that the building project will be discussed at the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING 8:30 PM

Motion: Beery Second: Le Crone
Result: **Motion Carried**



David Shimmel, President



Brandy N. Smith, Board Secretary