

## MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING High School

Tuesday, November 15, 2022  
7:05 PM

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

#### MEMBER

☒ Daniel L. Albert  
☒ Todd A. Badger  
☒ Susan Beery  
☒ Joseph B. LeCrone (7:22)  
☒ 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

\_\_\_\_ Albert, Ronda - Assistant Middle School Principal  
\_\_\_\_ 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 High School Principal  
\_\_\_\_ Myers, Curtis - Middle School Principal  
\_\_\_\_ Peipher, Sebastian – Director of Technology  
\_\_\_\_ Taormina, Daniel – Assistant Superintendent  
☒ Residents ☒ Media ☒ Students

#### Public Comment

None

#### Agenda Items

##### • Personnel

#### **P-1 Approval of the hiring of armed Security Guards for all Montoursville District School Buildings.**

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

Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Ulmer agrees building security is needed, but he is not convinced armed security is needed. He would prefer to secure the buildings and take further measures to access internal threats. Mr. Ulmer believes Montoursville Area School District is in a unique position having three buildings located within minutes of two separate law enforcement

units. He concluded that he is in favor of securing buildings, accessing internal threats, and depending on local law enforcement.

Mr. Young stated that depending on local law enforcement would limit bodily injury, not stop bodily injury. Depending on local law enforcement does not guarantee a quick response. Mr. Young said a 30 to 60-second response will save lives. He concluded that his approach is to stop or mitigate a problem before it begins.

Mr. Snell stated a year ago he would not have been in favor of armed security at the Montoursville Area School District, but further research and community input has changed his view. He is not comfortable with limiting a shooter, he is comfortable with stopping a shooter.

Dr. Beery referenced studies and research over a 20–25-year period on school shootings and the effect armed guards had on the outcome. The second point Dr. Beery discussed was the collateral damage of an armed guard reacting to a toy gun and shooting a student in error.

Mr. Shimmel would like to look past studies and research and ask why the studies have been conducted. He would like an immediate response to a threat and not a wait-and-see approach. He further explained the armed guards would be expected to and trained to eliminate the threat.

Dr. LeCrone asked Mr. Young to give further information and the training that would be given on a toy gun situation.

Mr. Young gave examples of what the law states in scenarios where a toy gun is used with intent to make a victim believe it is real. He went on to say there is a difference between bringing a gun to school would be handled differently than displaying and pointing a gun at school.

Mr. Taormina spoke to the conversations held during the interview process about using non-deadly force as well as the need to use deadly force.

Dr. Mathers concluded that so much more could be done to prevent violence that would help students. She would rather hire psychologists for the buildings. Spending money on armed security takes funds away from education and mental health for students.

Mr. Albert inquired how a psychologist would prevent a student from getting a gun and bringing it to school.

Dr. Mathers would like to focus on the data supporting working on the mental health of students to prevent a shooting.

Mr. Young agrees that mental health is connected to violence, and it is the District's responsibility to address both mental health and safety.

Mr. Badger agreed with Mr. Ulmer, Dr. Mathers, and Mr. Young. He would like the mental health of students addressed, and students to have the immediate safety of armed security.

**P-2 Approval of the following additions to the School Security Guard, effective January 3, 2023 (Paid training in December 2022):**

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Rate of Pay</b>	<b>Replacement for:</b>
Edward Dammer	Full-Time Security Personnel	\$32.00/hour 188 days	New Position
William Holmes	Full-Time Security Personnel	\$32.00/hour 188 days	New Position
John Whipple	Full-Time Security Personnel	\$32.00/hour 188 days	New Position
James Wool	Part-Time Security Personnel	\$32.00/hour on an as-needed basis	New Position

Motion: Young Second: Badger

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

No: Beery, Mathers

Absent: None

Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell asked for clarification on job postings.

The Board continued to discuss the hours and need for part-time vs. full-time coverage as well as extracurricular activities.

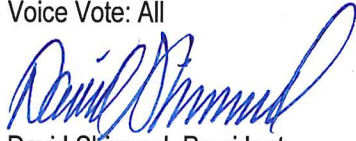
Mr. Shimmel recommends the Board adjourn the regular meeting to go into executive session to discuss the details of personnel.

Public Comment

None

ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION 8:20 PM

Motion: LeCrone      Second: Young  
Voice Vote: All



David Shimmel, President



Brandy N. Smith, Board Secretary