

COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT Denver, PA

The regular meeting of the Cocalico School Board of Directors was called to order on Monday, October 25, 2021 by Rev. Kevin Eshleman, President. He welcomed the visitors. A moment of silence was held, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev. Eshleman reported that the School Board met for an Executive Session on October 11, 2021 to interview for a high school principal. The School Board did not meet for a separate public work session this month to review potential textbook adoptions for the upcoming school year as they sometimes do during the month of October. Instead, the Board will conduct a new textbook review at the November 8, 2021 public work session, at which point they will also hear from our auditors regarding the District's local audit review. Rev. Eshleman explained the different types of meetings the Board can hold and clarified that Executive sessions are reserved for specific reasons including personnel, labor relations, confidential student matters, and reviewing information.

Board Members:

Richard Brenner
Pamela Blickle
Juanita Fox

Lin Sensenig
Randall Renninger
Brett Buckwalter

Desiree Wagner
Douglas Graybill
Rev. Kevin Eshleman

Administrators:

Dr. Ella Musser
Sherri L. Stull
Andrew Price
Dr. Susan Snyder
Dr. Andria Weaver
Bradley Kafferlin

Dr. Stephen Melnyk
Chris Irvine
Anthony DiMatteo
Dr. Bryan Watkins
Rebecca Culbert

Dr. Beth Haldeman
Scott Bennetch
Samantha Bensing
Angela Marley
Sherry Luttrell

Visitors:

Kurt Bollinger
Keila Bollinger
Korey Eppinette
Amy Eppinette
Scott Garman
Jodi Garman
Eric Crouse
Jared Fritz
Scott Allen
Shawn Buckwalter
Sara Weaver
Katrine Martin
Jon Hibshman
Mike Price
Theodore Price
Rachel Davis
Rachel Kane
Wendie Sauder
Cornel Weber

Amy Weber
Tom Burkhart
Steve Gerhart
Travis Graham
Jennifer Dirks
Buddy Gentry
Patty Gentry
Clarence Rutt
Holly Rutt
Kyle Zemeski
Tyler Rittenour
Bryan Reinhold
Andy Lockman
Liz Lockman
Rod Redcay
Jose Gonzalez
Leah Shenk
Liz Ackerman
Rick Jacobs

Tara Jacobs
Melanie Weaver
Treva Bollinger
Jodell Balser
Michael Balser
Kathy Martin
Jared Martin
Renelle Martin
Angie Lutz
Lee Sauder
Lisa Sauder
Charlene Bollinger
Randy Hostetter
JoAnne Hostetter
Sherry Brunick
Kirstie Zwally
Rodney Nussbaum
Tara Nussbaum
Bob Grasser

Beryl Grasser
Cynthia Campman
Brenda Strausser
Valentina Rebristy
Brenda Miller
Shannon Martin
James Gehman
Norlene Steinmetz
Josh Benton
Kirby Sensenig
Nancy Sensenig
Todd Weaver
Brian Gossert
Falin Gossert
Katrina Swangren

Chris Lettorale
Amy Lettorale
Barry Weaver
Doris Lutz
Amy Maier
Patti Sensenig
Wendi Sauder
Jason Lutz
Kim Fasnacht
Michelle Hohl
Patrick Jasinski
Jeremiah Weber
Ali Weber
Dan Burton
Tonia Burton

Jason Weidman
Cathlyn Weidman
Erin Carty
Nate Hanna
Rob Fox
Tom McCurdy
Shannon McCurdy
Vince Weaver
Crystal Weaver
Lydia Burton
Melissa Van Zant
Alex Van Zant
Lonny LeVan
Bronson Reedy
Justin Shober

Virtual Attendees:

Allison Ohline
Heather Hibshman
Corey Huber
Elijah Swangren
Stacy Slaymaker
Rick Gehman
Sueda Hurst
Shana Lutz
Janice Lorah
Tara Griest
Janae Hoover
Shannon Rios
Audrey Tangert
Justin Shober
Paula Fleming
Stephanie Cooper
Lauren Baxter
Aubree Fahringer
Wendi Miller
Robin Boyer
Stephanie Miller

Lisa Knarr
Megan Burkett
Alisha Wambolt
Barb Wagner
Soanette Victor
Kelly Youndt
Claudia Hambright
Jamie Leshner
Jim Cage
Chris Perkins
Heather Griest
Laura Stehr
Jen Heim
Diane Hurst
Greg Rowland
Katie Vang
Ashley Leaman
Brenda Buccilla
Nicole Kirste
Julie Zaorski
Kristine Butz

Heidi Rittenour
Matt Landis
Heather Smith
Matt Noll
Gary Hambright
Lauren Musser
Courtney Hall
Faith Horst
Matt Behney
Cara Allen
Barry Esser
Briana Fultz
Katie Steckbeck
Erin Kregar
Michelle Colon
Nicholas Beisker
Jessica Campbell
Jared Davis
Linford Hurst
Melissa Keck

Several attendees spoke during the General Comments portion of the meeting regarding agenda items. Mrs. Leah Shenk, Mrs. Amy Maier, and Mr. Dan Burton questioned agenda item #9, specifically Policy #903, and expressed a desire for the Board to maintain a public comment time of five minutes per individual. Mr. Dan Burton also posed some questions regarding the "Threat Assessment Team" that was referenced in some of the policies. Mrs. Rachel Davis spoke on item #6, the contract for curriculum writing professional development and consultation services with Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, questioning if Cocalico is partaking in diversity equity and inclusion services, verbiage that is included in the Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 catalog. She also requested that a posting be made of the \$317,510.15 in expenditures included in item #5, Capital Project Fund Account, so that the community knows how this money is being utilized.

Mrs. Angela Marley and Mr. Justin Shober reported about the Positive Impact Program for elementary boys and shared details about the activities that are included in this program.

On a motion made by Mr. Buckwalter and seconded by Mr. Sensenig, the Board approved the minutes of the School Board meeting held on September 27, 2021. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Made to motion by Mr. Buckwalter and seconded by Mr. Sensenig, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report as written. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Beginning Balance 9/1/21 \$30,326,482.37

Receipts:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Cocalico Tax Account | 9,756,156.22 |
| PDE – Retirement | 1,162,458.27 |
| PDE – Medical Access | 29,500.00 |
| PDE – Ready to Learn Grant | 400,960.00 |
| PDE – Special Education | 286,618.00 |
| PDE – CARES-ESSER I | 18,079.66 |
| PDE – NSL | 72,466.88 |
| Commonwealth of PA – PCCD Grant | 30,456.41 |
| County of Lancaster – Realty Transfer Taxes | 72,217.17 |
| County of Lancaster – Delinquent Taxes | 22,870.17 |
| LCTCB – Wage Tax | 275,761.54 |
| Achievement House Cyber – pay to play | 502.83 |
| PA Virtual Charter – refund | 11,120.62 |
| Sale of items from Wolgemuth | 148.75 |
| LLIU13 – Caprisk | 12,531.34 |
| Warwick SD – mainstreaming from 2020-21 | 16,196.90 |
| Highmark Foundation – donation | 7,100.00 |
| Weis Market – Weis4School program – Denver & Reamstown | 888.21 |
| Denver PTA – Camp Swatara donation | 1,400.00 |
| Brightbill Transportation – refund 20-21 school year | 30,713.42 |
| District Magistrate – fines | 200.00 |
| School Rental/Land Lease | 615.00 |
| Ephrata Recycling | 57.40 |
| Athletic Revenue | 31,604.94 |
| Credit Recovery Course Fee | 700.00 |
| Mission Inspire Student Fees | 12,992.00 |
| Gym Uniforms | 1,560.00 |
| Parking Permit Fees | 3,516.00 |
| Student Class Fees | 7,676.15 |
| Fuel Sharing Fees | 6,167.94 |
| Insurance Receipts from Retirees | 30,997.19 |
| Insurance Receipts from Employees/Cobra | 1,553.52 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 2,527.00 |
| Interest | 26.07 |
| Total Receipts | \$12,308,339.60 |

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Receipts Plus Beginning Balance | \$42,634,821.97 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|

Expenditures:

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|---|--------------|
| Invoices approved for month of September | 1,281,113.04 |
| Invoices for Athletics for month of September | 19,854.22 |
| Health Insurance Transfer | 300,000.00 |
| Transfer to Capital Projects | 3,000,000.00 |
| PSERS – Employers Share | 2,316,746.47 |
| Payrolls – 9/10 & 9/24 | 2,251,117.93 |
| Fulton Bank – monthly fee | 2,904.62 |

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|--------------------|----------------|
| Total Expenditures | \$9,171,736.28 |
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|--|----------|
| Void ck#155912-Lehigh Valley Charter-duplicate payment | (728.69) |
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|------------------|----------------|
| Net Expenditures | \$9,171,007.59 |
|------------------|----------------|

Ending Balance 9/30/21**\$33,463,814.38**

Ms. Wagner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,720,951.67. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Ms. Wagner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, to approve the Capital Project Fund Account Register in the amount of \$317,510.15. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninger for Board approval of a contract with Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 for curriculum writing professional development and consultation services. Dr. Haldeman provided information regarding the contract and explained that this would be used to help train curriculum leaders how to lead curriculum writing work sessions with other teachers in their departments. The training is not about the actual content that should be taught; rather, it provides a process for how to determine and outline that content. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Renninger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, for Board approval of a Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 Collaborative Services CAFCO Participation Agreement. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Brenner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, for Board approval of the following proposals: Eastern Air Balance Proposal for testing, adjusting and balancing services, and Eastern Air Balance Proposal to provide building systems commissioning services. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion to move forward on all recommended policy manual changes/updates except for Board policy #903, in which he requested that the time limit for each statement made by a participant be amended from a limit of three minutes in duration to a limit of five minutes in duration. Mr. Renninger seconded. The policies approved are Policy 006.1, Policy 103, Policy 113.1, Policy 113.2, Policy 113.4, Policy 122, Policy 123,

Policy 123.2, Policy 137.1, Policy 150, Policy 218.1, Policy 218.2, Policy 218.3, Policy 236.1, Policy 247, Policy 249, Policy 800.1, Policy 805.2, Policy 810.1, Policy 816, and Policy 903. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Brenner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, for Board approval of a recommendation from a student hearing request. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

PERSONNEL

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninger, for Board approval of Scott Bennetch as Cocalico High School Principal, effective January 20, 2022. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Ms. Wagner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brenner for approval the following professional staff leaves of absence:

- (1) Tammy Frey, Certified High School Nurse, Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development, effective the 2nd semester of the 2021/2022 school year
- (2) Samantha Hatt, Reamstown Elementary School, extension of child rearing leave through the remainder of the 2021/2022 school year
- (3) Carrie McKernan, Reamstown Elementary School Counselor, child rearing leave, effective February 22, 2022 through May 23, 2022

Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Sensenig made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fox, for approval of the following long-term substitute teacher:

- (1) Emily Smyth, Reamstown Elementary School, effective the remainder of the 2021/2022 school year

Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fox, for Board approval of the following personnel items:

- (a) Approved the following support staff resignations for the purpose of retirement:
 - (1) Angela Gray, Paraprofessional, effective December 23, 2021
 - (2) Bryan Rupp, Custodian, effective the end of the 2021/2022 school year
 - (3) Sandra Sweigart, Food Service Worker, effective the end of the 2021/2022 school year
 - (4) Darla Weitzel, Part-time Food Service Worker, effective the end of the 2021/2022 school year
- (b) Approval of the following support staff personnel:
 - (1) Anjoli Matorell, Part-time Food Service Worker, effective October 4, 2021
 - (2) Diane Wolf, Substitute Food Service Worker, effective October 25, 2021
- (c) Approval of rescinded and new supplemental contracts for the 2021-2022 school year
- (d) Approval of STS employed guest teachers
- (e) Approval of sport event workers
- (f) Approval of volunteer coaches

Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Buckwalter shared information about the Lancaster-Lebanon IU13's most recent Board meeting and the various ways in which the IU serves the local school

districts. He also spoke of how varied the services are and that they are offered a la carte to the member districts.

Mr. Brenner provided information about the Lancaster County CTC enrollment and program initiatives, citing that they now have increased capacity and shorter wait lists in a number of programs.

Dr. Musser read from a thank you letter sent to her by the first graduating class of Cocalico Union High School, recognized "Music for Everyone" for the funds and instruments they have donated to our school district, and expressed sympathy for the Fassnacht family during this time of loss.

Rev. Eshleman provided an update on the lawsuit in Commonwealth Court challenging the legality of the mask mandate, stating that a decision has not yet been reached. He also said that the Health and Safety Plan was superseded by the mask mandate and that we do not want to be caught off guard with the vaccine mandate; vaccination should be up to the parents.

Several Board members expressed their perspectives about a potential vaccine mandate. Mr. Buckwalter reported that he attended the meeting at the Stevens Fire Company with some of the other candidates for the School Board election. He explained that he wears masks for the sake of his loved ones. He does not support a vaccine mandate in which there is no choice for parents. Mr. Graybill expressed his belief that parents should have a choice in masking and vaccinating their children. Ms. Wagner stated that parents should decide whether to "jab" or not as there are other treatments out there to prevent COVID. She pointed out that people are losing their jobs because of not getting "jabbed" and shared that she must wear a mask at both of her jobs. Mr. Sensenig reported that Dr. Musser said "no" to a vaccine clinic, and he believes staff should have the choice of whether to vaccinate. Mrs. Fox stated that she would not support a vaccine mandate that does not allow for parents' choice. She reported that the Board is still fighting for the children, and that the Board members spend hours preparing for meetings. Mr. Renninger stated that he does not believe Harrisburg should get in the business of requiring vaccinations and will not go along with a vaccine mandate that does not allow for parents' choice. Mr. Brenner read a statement in which he expressed his reasoning behind supporting the mask mandate and why he would want parents to have a choice with regards to the vaccine. He further addressed his concerns about the current environment in the community and the manner in which the Board and administrators have been addressed by the public. He requested that everyone works together in a respectful manner on behalf of the children.

During the general comments portion of the meeting, additional residents voiced opinions and concerns. Mrs. Tara Jacobs commented that masks are just a small portion of what they're fighting against. She asked the Board to let the community know what they can do to help, and to not just give up. Mr. Barry Weaver pointed out that in the past, it was challenging to find people to run for school board positions, but he is encouraged by the crowds showing up for board meetings and asked the community to remain engaged. Mrs. Treva Bollinger shared that she wants to serve this generation and would advocate for excellent education for all. She does not agree with the vaccine mandate and believes that it should be an individual choice. Mr. Patrick Jasinski reported that the number of COVID cases in the State has fallen, and he credited Governor Wolf's mask mandate for the decline. He was disheartened to hear the Board members speak

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against the vaccine mandate and questioned the difference between mandating the chicken pox vaccine and the COVID vaccine. Mr. Dan Burton thanked the Board for speaking this evening, and apologized for any ugly emails or other correspondence the Board members have received. He requested that addendums be attached to the meeting agendas when posted and would like the ability to add additional agenda items. Mrs. Rachel Davis thanked the board for their assurance of not agreeing to a vaccine mandate. She reported that she had spent the better part of the day going through the district library catalog and found books with subjects and illustrations that concerned her. She presented a list of those books and copies of illustrations from one of those books to the Board President and questioned who is responsible for choosing the books and putting them on the shelves, which children have taken out the books and what is the vetting process for library books. Mrs. Cynthia Campman said she feels the children are being punished, and that mask wearing should be a parental choice. She stressed that the leaders of the District should be making their own decisions, not necessarily going along with the State.

The public comments were followed by a few additional comments from Board members. Mr. Buckwalter informed the audience about the CEF Extra Give Event being held on November 19th, 4:30-8:30PM at Bear Mill Estate. He also mentioned that "Cocalico Proud" yard signs are available at the District Office for \$20 each. Mr. Sensenig commented that you can still get COVID, even with the vaccine, and that we must learn to live with it. Mrs. Wagner expressed appreciation that differences in opinion could be expressed in a respectful manner.

Rev. Eshleman reminded the audience that there will be an additional public work session on November 8, 2021 at 7:00PM in the Middle School Media Center.

On a motion made by Mr. Sensenig, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, and unanimously agreed to by the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Sherri L. Stull
Secretary