

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors Fort Cherry School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Fort Cherry School District was held Monday, January 22, 2024, beginning with Executive Session at 6:00 PM, with the Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM via Zoom electronic meeting/held in the Learning Commons at the High School located at 110 Fort Cherry Road, McDonald, PA 15057.

The following members were present:

Mrs. Jodi McKay
Mrs. Cynthia Gaskill
Mrs. Julie Sepesy
Mrs. Leslie Maxin
Mr. Paul Bianchini

Mr. Chase Ogburn
Mrs. Jeanine Miles
Ms. Beverly Schwab
Ms. Amanda Herforth

The following members were excused/absent:

none

The following non-members were present:

Mr. Thomas Samosky, Superintendent
Mrs. Mary Burford, Business Manager
Mrs. Pam Staley, Board Secretary
Mr. Sal Bittner, Solicitor, Andrews and Price

The following community members were present:

Mr. Loni Libert
Musical performers' parents

List of all members that attended virtual session will be filed with official Board minutes

I. Executive Session (6:00pm)

Executive Session was held starting at 6:00 pm and ending at 7:07 pm.
Executive session items discussed were student matters and personnel.

II. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

By Whom: President McKay

Time: 7:14 pm

III. Approval of Agenda – Regular Meeting of January 22, 2024

1st: Mrs. Sepesy

2nd: Mr. Ogburn

Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, to approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2024. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

IV. Remarks by Visitors

(As per Fort Cherry School District Policy for Conducting Meetings of the Board of School Directors)

none

V. Presentations

A. Fort Cherry Musical - Mrs. Andrea Garry and student performers; Anabella Alderson, Brenden Ballard, Jaxon Fry, Sophia Holmes, Ricky Growden, Tristan McBride, Paige Orlandini, Darci Sarchet, Mason Schulz, Larelei Snatchko, Abby Walker, Julia Wasco.

Mrs. Garry introduced the students from this year's musical, Willy Wonka, and they performed a song and invited the board to attend the musical. Everyone enjoyed their fantastic performance.

B. Presentation - Mr. Thomas Scarpone, Athletic Director

Mr. Scarpone's presentation reviewed the numerous accomplishments of each sport, showed examples of our community involvement and fundraising, and illuminated some challenges the District is facing. Mr. Scarpone shared that the challenges were transportation (driver shortage) and also that the District is at capacity and we need more room. He also had several slides which showed the positive impact of extracurricular participation on students' overall academic performance including higher GPA, fewer absences, tardies and instances of misconduct.

Mr. Samosky thanked Mr. Scarpone for a job well done. Mrs. Sepesy asked for the slides to be shared with the Board and posted on the website.

VI. Action on the approval of Minutes – Reorganization/Regular Meeting of December 4, 2023.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy

2nd: Mr. Ogburn

Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, to approve the minutes of the Reorganization/Regular Meeting of December 4, 2023. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

VII. Secretary's Correspondence

none

VIII. Treasurer's Actions

- A. Action on the approval of Bills for Payment
1st: Mrs. Gaskill 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Gaskill made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Schwab, that the Board approve the Bills for Payment. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- B. Action on the approval of the Treasurer's Report Account Summaries
1st: Mrs. Gaskill 2nd: Ms. Schwab Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Gaskill made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Schwab, that the Board approve the Treasurer's Report Account Summaries. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- C. Action on the approval of the Budget Control Reports
1st: Mrs. Gaskill 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Gaskill made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve the Budget Control Reports. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

IX. Reports

A. Board Reports

Ms. Schwab provided the Board with an historical perspective on previous capital projects.

B. Solicitor's Report

No Solicitor's Report

C. Superintendents Report

The Superintendent's Report is attached and has been made part of the official minutes. The report is also posted on the website. Mr. Samosky commented on the success of the Fort Cherry Education Foundation's Dueling Pianos fundraising event held on January 20, 2024. There was great entertainment and attendance. Thank you to the Foundation for their support of Fort Cherry student education and teachers.

X. Personnel and Curriculum

- A. Action on the approval to hire Ms. Jessica Donaho as a part-time Paraprofessional Aide per the Fort Cherry Secretary/Aides ESPA

Collective Bargaining Agreement contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Ogburn Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, to approve to hire Ms. Jessica Donaho as a part-time Paraprofessional Aide per the Fort Cherry Secretary/Aides ESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- B. Acknowledge the resignation of Ms. Vanessa Metcalf as an eight (8) hour cleaner, effective immediately.

Mrs. McKay acknowledged the resignation of Ms. Vanessa Metcalf.

- C. Action on the approval to hire Ms. Stacey Halloran as an eight (8) hour cleaner per the Fort Cherry ESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork.

1st: Mr. Ogburn 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mr. Ogburn made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve to hire Ms. Stacey Halloran as an eight (8) hour cleaner per the Fort Cherry ESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- D. Action on the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fort Cherry School District and the Fort Cherry Secretaries/Aides ESPA regarding starting salaries moving from 75% of first step to 80% of first step.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mrs. Maxin Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fort Cherry School District and the Fort Cherry Secretaries/Aides ESPA regarding starting salaries moving from 75% of first step to 80% of first step. Mrs. Gaskill asked why this was necessary and Mrs. Burford replied that the starting rate at 75% was less than the substitute rate. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- E. Acknowledge the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Mrs. Linda Whalen, Professional Employee, effective June 30, 2024.

Mrs. McKay acknowledged the retirement of Mrs. Linda Whalen and thanked her for her service to the District.

- F. Acknowledge the extension of a medical/FMLA leave for professional employee #2023-24-07 until June 7, 2024.

Mrs. McKay acknowledged the medical/FMLA leave extension for professional employee #2023-24-07 until June 7, 2024.

- G. Acknowledge a maternity leave request for a professional employee # 2023-24-08 beginning approximately May 1, 2024 and continuing through June 7, 2024.

Mrs. McKay acknowledged the maternity leave request for a professional employee # 2023-24-08 beginning approximately May 1, 2024 and continuing through June 7, 2024.

XI. Buildings and Grounds

- A. Action on the approval to replace heating valve actuators on eighty-five (85) existing unit vents per the attached quote of \$35,550.00 from CMS Controls.

1st: Mr. Ogburn 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 9-0

Mr. Ogburn made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sepesy, that the Board approve to replace heating valve actuators on eighty-five (85) existing unit vents per the attached quote of \$35,550.00 from CMS Controls. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- B. Action on the approval to purchase a Steiner 450 Diesel Tractor from Burks Lawn and Saw, Inc. for \$36,209.93 per the attached quote.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve to purchase a Steiner 450 Diesel Tractor from Burks Lawn and Saw, Inc. for \$36,209.93 per the attached quote. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XII. Transportation

none

XIII. Finance

none

XIV. Technology

- A. Action on the approval to replace the Clock and Paging System UPS at the High School per the attached quote of \$2,640.00 from Bozic Communications. Inc.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 8-0-1

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve to replace the Clock and Paging System UPS at the High School per the attached quote of \$2,640.00 from Bozic Communications. Inc. Motion passed, 8-0-1. Ms. Schwab abstained do to conflict of interest. Abstention paperwork is on file with the Board documents.

- B. Action on the approval to purchase 50 recertified Chromebooks at a cost of \$1998.00 per the attached quote.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve to purchase 50 recertified Chromebooks at a cost of \$1998.00 per the attached quote. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- C. Action on the approval to purchase Google licenses for the recertified Chromebooks at a cost of \$855.25 per the attached quote.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mrs. Maxin Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, that the Board approve to purchase Google licenses for the recertified Chromebooks at a cost of \$855.25 per the attached quote. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- D. Action on the approval to award the attached proposal and bid to Hickory Telephone Company for a building-to-building fiber connection between Fort Cherry High School and Elementary schools for a term of 15 years at a cost of \$8,400.00. Funds coming from the WCCF grant obtained by the FC Foundation, pending solicitor review.

1st: Mr. Ogburn 2nd: Mrs. Gaskill Motion: 9-0

Mr. Ogburn made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Gaskill, that the Board approve to award the attached proposal and bid to Hickory Telephone Company for a building-to-building fiber connection between Fort Cherry High School and Elementary schools for a term of 15 years at a cost of \$8,400.00. Funds coming from the WCCF grant obtained by the FC Foundation, pending solicitor review. Ms. Schwab asked about the two fibers currently run through the conduit. Mrs. Burford explained the speed is not enough for our current and future needs. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XV. Athletics

- A. Action on the approval of Mr. Chad Matthus as a volunteer Varsity Baseball coach, contingent upon the receipt and final review of any and all clearances.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve Mr. Chad Matthus as a volunteer Varsity Baseball coach, contingent upon the receipt and final review of any and all clearances. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- B. Action on the approval for Mr. Thomas Scarpone, Athletic Director, to attend the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) conference in Hershey, PA from March 19 - March 22, 2024.

1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve Mr. Thomas Scarpone, Athletic Director, to attend the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) conference in Hershey, PA from March 19 - March 22, 2024. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XVI. Activities

none

XVII. Policy

- A. Action on the approval of the second reading and adoption of Policy 827 - Conflict of Interest.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mrs. Gaskill Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Gaskill, that the Board approve the second reading and adoption of Policy 827 - Conflict of Interest. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XVIII. Miscellaneous

- A. Action on the approval of an affiliation agreement Fort Cherry School District and Waynesburg University.

1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Mrs. Gaskill Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Gaskill, that the Board approve an affiliation agreement Fort Cherry School District and Waynesburg University. Mr. Samosky explained the affiliation agreements serve as an agreement between Fort Cherry and colleges/universities to place and supervise student teachers. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

B. Action on the approval of an affiliation agreement between Fort Cherry School District and Point Park University.

1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sepesy, that the Board approve an affiliation agreement Fort Cherry School District and Point Park University. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

C. Action on the approval to nominate _____ as a candidate to serve on the Intermediate Unit I Board of Directors for (up-to) a three (3) year term. Mrs. Sepesy nominated Mrs. McKay to represent Fort Cherry School District on the Intermediate Unit I Board of Directors.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Ogburn Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, to approve to nominate Mrs. McKay as a candidate to serve on the Intermediate Unit I Board of Directors for (up-to) a three (3) year term. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

D. Action on the approval of the District calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.

1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve the District calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XIX. Public Comment

(As per Fort Cherry School District Policy for Conducting Meetings of the Board of School Directors)

none

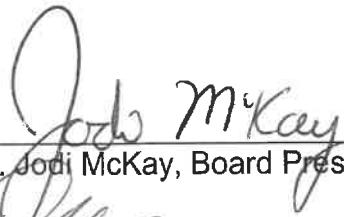
XX. Executive Session

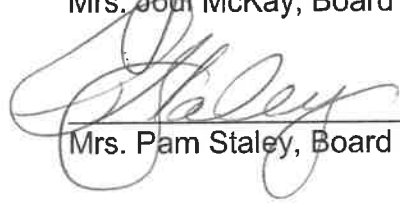
none

XXI. Adjournment

1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 8-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sepesy, that the Board approve the adjournment of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2024. Motion passed, 8-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm. (Mr. Bianchini lost electronic connection to the meeting just prior to adjournment and therefore did not vote to adjourn.)


Mrs. Jodi McKay, Board President

 2/26/24
Mrs. Pam Staley, Board Secretary

