

**TYRONE AREA SCHOOL BOARD**

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING**

**December 5, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Rose Black, Brian Bressler, James Brokenshire, Cathy Harlow, Heidi Howard, Bill Lash, Jeff Long, Gunter Volders

**Members Absent:** Kris Laird

**Student Representatives Present:** Austin White, Alivia Anderson

**Media Present:** Meredith Peachey, *Tyrone Daily Herald*; *Altoona Mirror Representative*

**Administration Present:** Leslie Estep, Jess Anderson, Shane Cowher, Glen Drager, Jordan Good, Kourtney Klock, Kristin Musselman, Chad Packer, Kristen Pinter, Ashton Shultz, Faith Swanson

**Others Present:** Jennifer Dambeck of the Beard Legal Group

**Public Present:** Daneille Posnett, Dakota Posnett, Cummins McNitt

**\*\*SECTION A – OPENING EXERCISES AND PRESENTATIONS\***

**OPENING EXERCISES**

President Rose Black called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. All present were asked to stand and pledge allegiance to the American flag, followed by a moment of silent meditation. President Black announced that the meeting was being audio taped and welcomed everyone present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

In the form of a motion, Mr. Bill Lash recommended board approval to the proposed agenda for the December 5, 2023 reorganization/regular session meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gunter Volders, and it carried by a roll call vote of 5-0-0. (Brian Bressler, yes; Jeff Long, yes; Gunter Volders, yes; Bill Lash, yes; Rose Black, yes)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

In the form of a motion, Mr. Gunter Volders recommended board approval to the minutes of the November 14, 2023 Regular Session meeting. Mr. Bill Lash seconded the motion and it carried by a roll call vote of 5-0-0. (William Lash, yes; Gunter Volders, yes; Jeff Long, yes; Brian Bressler, yes; Rose Black, yes)

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Cummins McNitt addressed the board and thanked the board for the support during his tenure at Tyrone Area School District.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Board met in executive session immediately following the work session to discuss personnel.

Academic Spotlight was presented during the work session. Students of Ms. Corey Zupon, TAES Technology Teacher, presented Technology and STEM Projects. Participating students were Kennedy Lonsinger and Chloe Brasher (K); Claire and Connor Clark (1<sup>st</sup>); Athena Shultz and Emme Davis (2<sup>nd</sup>); Rya Kelly and Mason Elder (3<sup>rd</sup>); and Kylee Clark and Hazel Hoover (4<sup>th</sup>).

## **\*\*SECTION B – REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD FOR 2024\*\***

### **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF TEMPORARY BOARD PRESIDENT**

President Rose Black opened the floor for nominations for Temporary Board President. Rose Black nominated Gunter Volders. The nomination of Gunter Volders as Temporary Board President carried with a roll call vote of 2-0-0. (Gunter Volders, yes; Rose Black, yes)

Ms. Black turned the meeting over to Mr. Volders.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

As Temporary President, Mr. Gunter Volders administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected board members, Mr. James Brokenshire IV, Ms. Cathy Harlow and Mrs. Heidi Howard and re-elected board members Mr. Brian Bressler. Mr. Bill Lash and Mr. Jeff Long.

### **ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT**

As Temporary Board President, Mr. Gunter Volders opened the floor for nominations for Board President. Brian Bressler nominated Rose Black for Board President and Bill Lash as Vice-President. Motion was made by Jeff Long to close the nominations. The election of Mrs. Black and Mr. Lash carried with a roll call vote of 8-0-0. (Brian Bressler, yes; James Brokenshire, yes; Cathy Harlow, yes; Heidi Howard, yes; Jeff Long, yes; Gunter Volders, yes; Bill Lash, yes; Rose Black, yes)

Temporary Board President Gunter Volders turned the meeting over to re-elected Board President Rose Black.

The floor was opened for nominations of Treasurer. Bill Lash nominated Gunter Volders and Jeff Long nominated Cathy Harlow for Treasurer. The election of Ms. Harlow was carried with a roll call vote of 5-3-0. (Bill Lash, Volders; Gunter Volders, Volders; Jeff Long, Harlow; Heidi Howard, Harlow; Cathy Harlow, Harlow; James Brokenshire, Volders; Brian Bressler, Harlow; Rose Black, Harlow)

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2022**

President Rose Black announced that the 2024 committee appointments will be reviewed and presented prior to the January meeting.

### **PSBA LIAISON**

Appointment of board member to represent the Tyrone Area School District.

The PSBA Liaison serves as a link to the state organization; key contact for the PSBA regional director; legislative representative with primary responsibility to keep the board informed of developments in the PA General Assembly and provide legislators with board's position on key issues; voting delegate to the Legislative Policy Council; and represents the board at county legislative meetings held twice each year. In the form of a motion, Mr. Bill Lash nominated Brian Bressler to be named PSBA Liaison. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8-0-0. (Brian Bressler, yes; James Brokenshire, yes; Cathy Harlow, yes; Heidi Howard, yes; Jeff Long, yes; Gunter Volders, yes; Bill Lash, yes; Rose Black, yes)

### **EMPLOYEE RELATIONS CONTACT**

Appointment of board member to represent the Tyrone Area School District.

Position that creates an opportunity for dialogue between local school directors and PSBA on the many issues facing boards in their role as an employer. Information, ideas, and needs will be solicited from and disseminated through this contact person, in addition to announcements of in-service opportunities. In the form of a motion, Mr. Brian Bressler nominated Kris Laird to be named the employee relations contact. Motion carried with a vote of 8-0-0. (Bill Lash, yes; Gunter Volders, yes; Jeff Long, yes; Heidi Howard, yes; Cathy Harlow, yes; James Brokenshire, yes; Brian Bressler, yes; Rose Black, yes)

### **MEETING DATES**

In the form of a motion, Mr. Gunter Volders recommended approval of the committee and regular meeting dates for 2024 as presented. Mr. Bill Lash seconded the motion and it carried with a roll call vote of 8-0-0. (Brian Bressler, yes; James Brokenshire, yes; Cathy Harlow, yes; Heidi Howard, yes; Jeff Long, yes; Gunter Volders, yes; Bill Lash, yes; Rose Black, yes)

### **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

In the form of a motion, Mr. Gunter Volders recommended approval of the request for a leave of absence for employee #11847 for the period of December 11, 2023 through May 31, 2024. Mr. Bill Lash seconded the motion and the motion failed with a roll call vote of 0-8-0. (Bill Lash, no; Gunter Volders, no; Jeff Long, no; Heidi Howard, no; Cathy Harlow, no; James Brokenshire, no; Brian Bressler, no; Rose Black, no)

### **CONSENSUS VOTE**

In the form of a motion, Mr. Bill Lash recommended board approval to the following items under Section B - Consensus Vote of the December 5, 2023 Regular Session Agenda. Mr. Gunter Volders seconded the motion and it carried with a roll call vote of 8-0-0. (Brian Bressler, yes; James Brokenshire, yes; Cathy Harlow, yes; Heidi Howard, yes; Jeff Long, yes; Gunter Volders, yes; Bill Lash, yes; Rose Black, yes)

### **\*\*NEW BUSINESS – CONSENSUS VOTE\*\***

#### **I. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD**

##### **A. Pending and Current Committee Reports, as called by the Board President**

##### **1. Student Activities and Services Committee**

- A. Request board approval to listing of Field Trip Requests, previously approved by the Building Principal; Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Business Administrator,

and Superintendent.

- B. Request board approval to add Cortlynd Rhoades to the Event Staff Listing.

**2. Financial Operations Committee**

- A. Due to the early date of the of the December 2023 board meeting, request board approval for administration to process December 2023 invoices for payment with report submitted to the board at the January 2024 Regular Session meeting.
- B. Request board approval to authorize the sale of hunting blinds by sealed bid.
- C. Request board approval to transfer \$350,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
- D. Request board approval to add the Rhonda Russell Memorial Scholarship and the Class of 1961 Scholarship for participation in the Scholarship Program.
- E. Request board approval to enter into a 5-year contract with Active Internet Technologies dba Finalsite for the migration of our web platform, contact system (emergency calling), and district mobile app to the FinalSite platform.

Schedule	Amount
Period 1 - Jul 01, 2024	\$13,851
Period 2 - Jul 01, 2025	\$14,174
Period 3 - Jul 01, 2026	\$14,508
Period 4 - Jul 01, 2027	\$14,856
Period 5 - Jul 01, 2028	\$15,219

- F. Request board approval for the following annual contract renewal under budgeted district technology funds.

Product	Company	Effective Dates	Cost
GFI Archiver	GHA Technologies	8/1/2023-7/31/2024	3,800.00

**3. Human Resources Committee – Chairperson Gunter Volders**

- A. Retirements/Resignations

Name	Position	Retirement/Resignation	Effective Date
Shauna Ulrich	Paraprofessional	Resignation	November 15, 2023
Teresa Myers	Technology Coach	Resignation	May 31, 2024
Cummins McNitt	High School Teacher	Retirement	May 31, 2024
Jenna Weaver	Paraprofessional	Resignation	December 6, 2023

B. Elections

Name	Position	Assignment	Salary, Stipend or Rate/Hour	Benefits	Effective Date
Erica Schopp	Long-Term Sub Elementary Teacher – 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	5 days/wk. 7.5 hrs./day 187 Contract Days Prorated	\$23,503.50	5 Sick Days 1 Personal Day Full Benefits	January 23, 2024
Nick McElhinney	After School Detention Monitor	On a rotating basis, as needed	\$27.97/hr.	No Change In Current Benefits	November 15, 2023
Brittany Russell	Daycare Lead Teacher	5 days/wk. 8.0 hrs./day	\$13.54/hr.	10 Sick Days 2 Personal Day No Other Benefits Prorated	December 6, 2023
Lauren Garda	Mentor for TAES Special Education Teacher Kris Guidry - Second through Fourth Marking Periods 2023-24 School Year	N/A	Stipend – \$ 478.32	No Change in Current Benefits	November 28, 2023
Kristen Scheel	Mentor for TAES LTS Special Education Teacher Maddison Butler - Second Semester 2023-24 School Year	N/A	Stipend - \$318.88	No Change in Current Benefits	January 23, 2024

C. Request board approval to additions to the 2023-24 Substitute and Long-Term Volunteer List.

**4. Educational Programs and Materials Committee – Chairperson Kris Laird**

A. Following the 30-day review period prior to board action, request board approval to Tyrone Area Elementary School donated book list.

**5. Board Regulatory Activities Committee – Chairperson Brian Bressler**

A. Submitted for the second reading and board adoption us the following board policy:

1. Policy 816 - District Social Media – New

**6. Physical Plant and Operations Committee – Chairperson Jeff Long**

A. Request board approval to accept the proposal from Master Care Flooring, Inc. to

screen and re-coat the High School gym floor to provide a playable surface for the 2023-24 basketball season at the cost of \$4,676.85.

**REPORTS FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD**

- A. Austin White, Grade 12 – Mr. White reported that the POPS Extension will be performing this Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. POPS will also be caroling at the assisted living and hospital locations. Indoor percussion started this evening and winter sports are in full swing. Mr. White also noted that Drama Club had their first meeting and will be performing the musical *Grease* in the spring. Mrs. Kanuch will be planning a volleyball tournament prior to Christmas break.
  
- B. Alivia Anderson, Grade 11 – Ms. Anderson reported on a variety of charity drives taking place, including a coat and toy drive and a food drive by the Eagle Eye. YAN, the Golden Revolution and Eagle Eye have decorated parking meters as part of the Christmas festivities. Ms. Anderson advised the board that HOSA will be holding a blood drive, Keystone retests are taking place and the Golden Revolution is creating a video to show other schools the meaning of the GOLDEN acronym to TASD students.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Jeff Long motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy Harlow. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Faith M. Swanson  
Board Secretary