

SAINT CLAIR AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
227 South Mill Street
Saint Clair, PA 17970
570-429-2716



The foremost mission of the Saint Clair Area School District is the pursuit of excellence in education, its focus being to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to society as ethical, responsible citizens, establishing a personal commitment to life-long learning.

MINUTES

December 4, 2019

A regular meeting of the Saint Clair Area School District Board of School Directors was held at 6:00 PM on December 4, 2019 in the cafetorium of the Elementary/Middle School, 227 South Mill Street, Saint Clair, PA 17970-1338.

1. Call to Order by President, Michael Holobetz
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Virginia Bartashus	<u>Present</u>
Marlene Cook	<u>Absent</u>
Michael Holobetz	<u>Present</u>
Thomas Kaledas	<u>Present</u>
Bernard Kuperavage	<u>Present</u>
Gerald Kuperavage	<u>Absent</u>
Erin Murhon	<u>Present</u>
Dr. Erin Portland	<u>Present</u>
Jeanette Zembas	<u>Present</u>

4. The Secretary announced that a quorum was present and business could proceed. Others present were 5 citizens; Superintendent, Dr. Sarah Yoder, Assistant Principal, Samuel Kochenberger; Solicitor, Thomas J. Campion; and 0 members of the press.

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Saint Clair Area Board of Directors conducted an executive work session on November 6, 2019 from 7:21 PM to 7:45 PM to discuss personnel and legal issues. No vote or formal action was taken at that time.

“SINE DIE”

President Michael Holobetz announced that according to Section 404 of the PA School Code the Board of Directors is to reorganize each year during the first week of December.

Moved by Murhon and Bartashus that the Board adjourn “Sine Die.”

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 7 – 0.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

Moved by Murhon and Holobetz that Zembas be named temporary President Pro-Tem during the reorganization activities.

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 7 – 0.

SEATS VACATED

The seats of Board Members whose term expired on the Board of School Directors were vacated.

Marlene Cook
Thomas Kaledas
Bernard Kuperavage
Gerald Kuperavage
Erin Murhon
Dr. Erin Portland

NEW MEMBERS

The secretary announced that the County Board of Election has certified the following to serve on the Board of School Directors of the Saint Clair Area School District.

Scott Clews	4 year term commencing first week of December 2019
Jennifer Fegley	4 year term commencing first week of December 2019
Thomas Kaledas	4 year term commencing first week of December 2019
Bernard Kuperavage	2 year term commencing first week of December 2019
Erin Murhon	4 year term commencing first week of December 2019
Dr. Erin Portland	4 year term commencing first week of December 2019

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

OATH OF OFFICE

I do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

ROLL CALL

Virginia Bartashus	<u>Present</u>
Scott Clews	<u>Present</u>
Jennifer Fegley	<u>Present</u>
Michael Holobetz	<u>Present</u>
Thomas Kaledas	<u>Present</u>
Bernard Kuperavage	<u>Present</u>
Erin Murhon	<u>Present</u>
Dr. Erin Portland	<u>Present</u>
Jeanette Zembas	<u>Present</u>

Members of the Public may speak at this time on any items on the Agenda.

5. Moved by Holobetz and Zembas to conduct an executive session regarding student discipline.

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

6. Moved by Kaledas and Holobetz to approve the following motions:

(Presented prior to Meeting)

Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2019

Approval of Invoices presented for payment

Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending October 31, 2019

Approval of the Tax Report for the period ending October 31, 2019

Approval of the Cafeteria Fund Report for the month of October

Approval of the Communications

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

7. Moved by Bartashus and Murhon to approve the Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution Certifying Tax Rate within Inflation Index.

SAINT CLAIR AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution Certifying Tax Rate Within Inflation Index
(and No Need to Comply with Act 1 Accelerated Budget Procedures)**

2020-2021 School Year

[The purpose of this resolution is to allow the school district to follow normal budget procedures, and dispense with the more complicated, expensive, and accelerated Act 1 budget requirements. This option is available only to school districts that are certain the next year budget can be funded without increasing the real estate tax rate by more than the index (and therefore without seeking approval for any index limit exceptions). This resolution may be adopted after the preliminary budget is available, or the board has sufficient information to be certain the budget can be funded by a tax increase within the index. For fiscal year 2020-2021, the resolution must be adopted no later than January 9, 2020.]

Background. Act 1 § 311(a), 53 P.S. § 6926.311(a), requires an accelerated budget adoption timeline and procedure unless a school district, no later than 110 days before the primary election, adopts a resolution containing the certifications incorporated in this resolution. The deadline this year is January 9, 2020. After adoption of a resolution containing such certifications, § 311(d) authorizes a school district to comply with pre-Act 1 budget adoption rules as set forth in School Code § 687, 24 P.S. § 6-687. The School Board has reviewed the school district preliminary budget or has other information sufficient to make a determination that the budget for the next fiscal year can be funded based on maintaining current tax rates or increasing taxes by an amount less than or equal to the Act 1 index. In lieu of the Act 1 budget adoption timeline and procedure, the School Board wishes to make the required certifications and comply with pre-Act 1 budget adoption rules.

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of Saint Clair Area School District, makes the following unconditional certifications:

1. The school district's various tax levies and other revenue sources will be sufficient to balance the school district final budget for the next fiscal year 2020-2021 based on maintaining current tax rates or increasing tax rates by an amount less than or equal to the Act 1 index applicable to the school district as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This conclusion is based on the school district preliminary budget or other information available to the School Board.
2. The applicable index for the next fiscal year is 3.7%, and the School Board will not for the next fiscal year increase the rate of its real estate tax, or any other tax for the support of public education, by an amount that exceeds the applicable index.
3. The School Board has to date and in the future will comply with the rules set forth in School Code § 687 for adoption of the school district proposed and final budgets for the next fiscal year.

4. The School Board understands that the school district will not be eligible to use Act 1 referendum exceptions for the next fiscal year.

ADOPTED by the School Board _____ December 4 _____, 20__ 19__ by a vote of __9__ ayes __0__ nays, abstentions and __0__ members absent

[Per Act 1 §§ 311(d)(2)(ii) and (iii), the school district must, within 5 days after adoption of this resolution submit to PDE: (1) on a PDE prescribed form, information on any proposed tax increase – **Real Estate Tax Rate Report**; and (2) a copy of this resolution.]

ATTEST:

Michael Holobetz, President

Thomas Kaledas, Secretary

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

8. Moved by __Holobetz__ and __Zembas__ to commit funds for the anticipated debt service payment \$236,578.

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

9. Moved by __Kuperavage__ and __Portland__ to recommend granting authorization to the administration to file the signatures of the Board President, Secretary and Treasurer with Secretary of the Commonwealth. (This is required under the provisions of the Pennsylvania *Uniform Facsimile Signature of Public Officials Act*).

ROLL CALL:

10. Moved by __Zembas__ and __Kuperavage__ to recommend granting authorization to Terry Schane and Joan Dranginis to use hand and/or electronic signature stamps of Board President, Secretary and Treasurer to sign instruments of payment.

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

11. Moved by __Kaledas__ and __Bartashus__ to recommend withdrawing from the Schuylkill Educational Technology Advisory Council (SETAC), and withdrawing authorization for the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit to submit E-rate funding/support on behalf of Saint Clair Area School District for the consortium purchase of Regional Wide Area Network services. In doing so, the Board considered the fact that the 2016 Services Agreement (E-Rate) is between Comcast and IU #29, not SETAC, and that neither the 2016 Services Agreement (E-Rate) nor the SETAC by-laws provide for termination fees to be paid by the terminating party.

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 8 – 1 – 0. (Portland abstained)

12. Moved by __Holobetz__ and __Zembas__ to recommend AR Technologies move to Task #2 in the Statement of Work.

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

13. Moved by __Kuperavage__ and __Kaledas__ to approve Attorney Thomas J. Campion, Jr. as the Solicitor for 2020 at a monthly retainer of \$250.00 to include attendance at regular monthly Board Meetings and an hourly rate of \$100.00 for additional services provided as per school code.

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

14. Moved by Kaledas and Holobetz to approve the following Agreements/Addendums:

- True Green Commercial Agreement
- Independent Consultant Agreement with Trinna Delia (Retroactive)
- ESS Northeast, LLC Addendum to the Agreement

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

15. Moved by Kuperavage and Portland to approve the following new employees pending required documents on file.

- Kaitlin Bowers - Per Diem Cleaning (\$8.25 hourly rate as per contract)
- Angel Uroskie – Part Time Paraprofessional (\$9.00 hourly rate as per contract effective January 2, 2020)

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

16. Moved by Kaledas and Bartashus to reclassify the following employees:

- Joseph Frantz from Part-Time Cleaning to Part-Time Cafeteria Worker/Delivery Driver
- Thomas Dranginis from Part-Time Cleaning/Delivery Driver to Part-Time Cafeteria Worker/Delivery Driver

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 - 0.

17. Moved by Murhon and Holobetz to approve the following Leave without Pay Requests:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Employee ID: 3286 | January 22 – 24, 2020 |
| Employee ID: 3269 | November 19, 2019 (3 hours) |
| Employee ID: 3287 | November 19, 2019 (2 hours) |
| Employee ID: 3174 | November 27, 2019 (2 hours) and December 3, 2019 |
| Employee ID: 3245 | December 4, 2019 |
| Employee ID: 3260 | December 5, 6, and 9, 2019 |

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

18. Moved by Kaledas and Bartashus to approve the following Superintendent’s Motions as presented:

- Approval of Policies 011, 110, 111, 113, 113.3, 113.4, and 114
- Approval of Work Session/Board Meeting and Finance Meeting Schedule and advertise in the local newspaper.
- Approval of Ski Club Trips to Big Boulder (01/10/20, 01/24/20, 02/07/20, 02/21/20 and 03/06/20)

VOICE VOTE:

Ayes: 9 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

19. Moved by Kuperavage and Kaledas to approve the Student Discipline Agreement 001-2019 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

REMARKS

20. Moved by Murhon and Kuperavage that the meeting be adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

All members present voted. Motion passed 9 – 0.

IMPORTANT DATES: December 12, 2019
December 13, 2019
December 21, 2019
December 22, 2019 -
January 1, 2020
January 8, 2020
January 15, 2020

Choral/Band Concert
Winter Dance Grades 6 - 8
Student Early Dismissal @ 12:00 PM
School Closed

Finance Meeting/Work Session
Finance Meeting/Board Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Kaledas
Board Secretary