

Members Present Keith Adams

Members Absent

Albert D. Marazas
Kevin Wigoda
Cynthia Lubinsky
Michael Kroznuskie

Michael M. Mistishen
Jessica M. McGrath
Sarah R. Newton
Christopher M. Bowers

The regular monthly meeting of the Minersville Area Board of Education was held in the Career & Counseling Center of the Junior-Senior High School and Zoom on Wednesday evening, January 26, 2022. The meeting was called to order by President, Keith Adams at 7:00 PM.

On roll call, the following responded: Keith Adams, Albert D. Marazas, Kevin Wigoda, Cynthia Lubinsky, Michael Kroznuskie, Michael Mistishen, Jessica McGrath, Sarah Newton, and Christopher Bowers.

Others present: Dr. Carl G. McBreen, Superintendent; Jennifer Laudeman, Business Manager; Nannette Bentz, Elementary Principal; Jill Atkinson, Special Education Supervisor; Nicholas A. Quinn, District Solicitor; and Barbara Conville, Secretary to the Superintendent/Assistant to the Secretary.

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by Mistishen to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 1, 2021. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Approve Meeting Minutes of 12/01/2021

MOTION - by McGrath, seconded by Wigoda to approve the Curriculum Meeting minutes of 11/18/2021 and 01/19/2022, respectively. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Approve Curriculum Meeting Minutes - 11/18/2021 and 01/19/2022

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by Lubinsky to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes of 12/08/2021 and 01/05/2022, respectively.

Approve Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - 12/08/2021 and 01/05/2022

Prior to the start of the Agenda, Adams asked if anyone submitted for public participation. Dr. McBreen stated no, however there were participants in the audience that wished to speak to the mask mandate. First, Jeff Tobin, 80 N. Miners Road, Branchdale, PA. Tobin read a premeditated agenda of item including there is mixed science on masks but cloth masks are ineffective and provide no benefit for children. Tobin touched further on a list of items including:

Public comment

- Medical professionals say children are at lower risk of contracting COVID-19
- Social distancing is not healthy for mental health
- Children need facial recognition
- COVID-19 is still spreading
- Mental health issues
- Outside spread without school
- Asked what metrics the school is looking at
- The need for mask exemptions
- Has the District spoken to other local board members

Second, James Croley, 88 Low Road, Pottsville, PA spoke. Croley began by stating that the District added verbiage to the current Health & Safety Plan on the fly. He claimed the District is putting parents/children's vaccination status on display. He encourages the Board to vote to eliminate masks or provide a fresh N95 mask daily, if required to wear a mask. Masks are a distraction to students and the Board should end masking.

AGENDA

MOTION - by Wigoda, seconded by Marazas to acknowledge the January Students of the Month who are named as Devin Hubler and Luke Tobin. Neither student was present at this meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Students of the Month

MOTION - Newton, seconded by Wigoda to acknowledge Ms. Davelyn Smeltzer, Pennsylvania School Board Association- PSBA, was present in recognition of Mr. Marazas' 28 year tenure as a Minersville School Board Member. His dedication to the District is very much appreciated and commendable. All in favor, motion carried.

Board membership acknowledged - Marazas

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by Wigoda to acknowledge the retirement of 34 year tax collector,

Tax Collector retirement - J. Kowalchick

Mrs. Julianne Kowalchick. All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

HOBY donation

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by McGrath to acknowledge the donation by the GFWC Minersville Women's Club in the amount of \$50 received December 13, 2021 to benefit student HOBY registrations. All in favor, motion carried.

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by Lubinsky to acknowledge the United Way for their generous \$1,000 donation of ten (10) \$100 gift cards, hygiene and self-care products for the "Nurse's Pantry", "See to Succeed" program in collaboration with Eyeland to assist Minersville students to obtain eyeglasses and also provided Christmas presents to two (2) needy families. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

United Way donations

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by Wigoda to acknowledge donations to benefit the Aeviedum Club:

Aeviedum Club donations

1. Lehigh Valley Health Network \$1,000
2. St. Luke's University Health Network \$ 500

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by McGrath, seconded by Bowers to record the donation of the following books to the Elementary and Llewellyn Early Childhood Center libraries:

Library donations

<u>Title:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>
Now and Then	Mrs. Megan Wallace
Amazing Acrobats	Mrs. Megan Wallace
My (Almost) Perfect Puppy	Mrs. Megan Wallace
Big Picture of Dinosaurs	Mrs. Megan Wallace
Ludwig the Space Dog	Mrs. Megan Wallace
Look Inside the Jungle	Mrs. Megan Wallace
Lifesize Dinosaurs	Mrs. Megan Wallace
My New Best Friend	Mrs. Megan Wallace
The Everyday Journeys of Ordinary Things	Mrs. Megan Wallace
The History of Science in 100 Pictures	Mrs. Megan Wallace
American Legends Alphabet	Mrs. Susan Paul
Baseball Legends Alphabet	Mrs. Susan Paul
Left-Handed Legends Alphabet	Mrs. Susan Paul
Yes Day	Mrs. Susan Paul
Dear Teacher: A Celebration of People Who Inspire Us	Mrs. Susan Paul

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by Bowers to approve the following "Use of Facility" requests approved by the Superintendent under standing policy:

Use of facilities

- a. December 2021 - April 2022 - Men's Adult Basketball Recreation - Llewellyn gymnasium - Monday through Friday evenings, when available, from 4:45 PM - 6:45 PM.
- b. 12/11/2021 - Girls' Softball Boosters - Poinsettia pick-up in High School Cafeteria - 8:30 AM - 10:45 AM.
- c. 12/17/2021 - Boys' Basketball Boosters - Cookie Fundraiser pick-up in High School Cafeteria - 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM.
- d. 12/18/2021 - 12/19/2021 - Drama Club - High School Auditorium for Fall/Winter Play "Back to the 80's" - 12/17/2021 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM; 12/18/2021 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM.
- e. 01/23/2022 - 04/03/2022 - Minersville Little League Association - Elementary Center gymnasium - Conditioning and batting cage - 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Sunday evenings or whenever available.
- f. 01/31/2022 - Fifth Quarter Club meeting - High School Cafeteria - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.
- g. 02/08/2022 - 02/09/2022 - Branch/Miners Teener League Baseball sign-ups - Llewellyn School - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM both nights.
- h. 02/24/2022 - 02/27/2022 - Minersville Area Youth Basketball 3rd/4th grade tournament - High School Gymnasium - varies according to schedule; 4:30 PM - 9:00 PM during the week; 7:30 AM

- 9:00 PM Saturday; 10:30 AM – 7:00 PM Sunday.
- i. 03/03/2022 – 03/06/2022 - Minersville Area Youth Basketball 5th/6th grade tournament – High School Gymnasium – varies according to schedule; 4:30 PM – 9:00 PM during the week; 7:30 AM – 9:00 PM Saturday; 10:30 AM – 7:00 PM Sunday.
- j. 03/12/2022 - 03/13/2022 – Minersville Little League Association – Elementary Gymnasium from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM on 03/12/2022 and from 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM on 03/13/2022 for Little League try-outs. In the event of inclement weather only and use the practice fields during the spring and summer months for Little League practice.
- k. 3/31/2022 – 04/02/2022 - Drama Club – High School Auditorium for Spring Musical “Chicago: Teen Edition” – 6:00 PM – 10:30 PM.

On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Mistishen, seconded by Lubinsky to approve payment for credits earned to:

- a. Robyn Chadwick – 3 credits @ \$516 = \$1,548
- b. Lisa Ferguson – 5 credits @ \$650 = \$3,250
- c. David Gonzalez – 3 credits @ \$516 = \$1,548
- d. Jessica Jansson – 3 credits @ \$777 = \$2,331
- e. Alyssa McDonald – 3 credits @ \$516 = \$1,548
- f. Danielle Wank – 3 credits @ \$522 = \$1,566
- g. Danielle Wank – 3 credits @ \$328 = \$984
- h. Scott Yagielniskie – 3 credits @ \$522 = \$1,566

Payment of credits

All members in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Wigoda, seconded by Marazas to record receipt of Notice of Repository Sale and ratify proper Board signatures to proceed without objection by Minersville Area School District for parcel 05-05-0069.001 located at 12 Spruce Lane, Cass Township, Pottsville in the amount of \$1,249.

Repository Sale

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by Newton to record receipt of Private Sales from the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau and authorize sales to proceed without objection by Minersville Area School District:

Private Sales

Parcel	Address	Bidder	Sale Amount
a. 03-04-0028.000	Lot & Improvement, 49 Steins Mill Rd.	Daniel P. Drouare	\$8,192
b. 03-08-0004.000	Lot & Improvement, 9 Bosses Ln.	Mordechai Rothenberg	\$ 8,677
c. 05-06-0086.000	Impr. on Leased Ground, 1230 Valley Rd.	Mordechai Rothenberg	\$ 8,542
d. 52-02-0340.000	Lot & Improvement, 200 North St.	Ana M. Saldana	\$ 8,106
e. 52-02-0352.000	Lot & Improvement, 219 Pine St.	Robbie Burke, Jr.	\$ 4,902.90
f. 52-05-0654.000	Lot & Improvement, 530 Lytle St.	Brett Rutecky	\$11,564

Solicitor Quinn received this information prior and researched that these were all fair offers and gave direction to proceed. All members in agreement on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by McGrath, seconded by Kroznuskie to approve a request for reimbursement by Sarah Quinn for obtaining the yearly Certificate of Clinical Competence for Speech Language Pathology, January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 in the amount of \$253.

Reimburse Clinical fees - S. Quinn

All in favor on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Wigoda, seconded by Lubinsky to authorize the refund in the amount of \$780.82 for duplicate paid 2021 real estate taxes for parcel 52-2-321 owned by Edwin A. Vargas, 236 North Street, Minersville, PA 17954.

Duplicate payment refunded

On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by McGrath to authorize a refund in the amount of \$190.12 for paid 2021 personal tax to Michele Plesnarski, 555 N. Third Street, Minersville, PA 17954 for income exemption.

Refund paid personal tax

On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by Bowers to approve retro-active to January 1, 2022 a revised travel reimbursement of 58.5 cents.

IRS Travel reimbursement

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by Kroznuskie to record in minutes 2021 Real Estate Collection Report.

2021 Real Estate Collection Report

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by McGrath to exonerate the following tax receivers from further tax collection efforts relative to 2021 Schuylkill County Real Estate Duplicate:

Real Estate Duplicates exoneration

- a. Mrs. Gail Bedford, Branch Township
- b. Mrs. Ann Marie Studlack, Cass Township
- c. Mrs. Lisa Michelcavage, Foster Township
- d. Mrs. Julianne Kowalchick, Minersville Borough
- e. Ms. Heather Matukewicz, Reilly Township

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Kroznuskie, seconded by Bowers to recognize Mrs. Heidi Hashin as the new Minersville Borough Tax Collector. Mrs. Hashin will collect the remainder per capita and occupation taxes for 2021 and then start full collections for 2022.

H. Hashin named Minersville Borough Tax Collector

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by McGrath to ratify the Finance Committee decision to seek referendum exception to increase taxes more than the index as set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Resolution attached.

Referendum Exception 2022-2023 budget

On a roll call vote, all members in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by Kroznuskie to approve adjustment of transportation run with Earl Renninger, Inc. as follows:

Add'l transportation runs - Earl Renninger, Inc.

- a. M24 - North Vo-Tech - \$108 per day effective 1/14/2022
- b. M25 - BHA Delighton - \$240 per day effective 12/20/2021

On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by McGrath to record Single Audit Report for year ending June 30, 2019 is approved and in compliance for programs funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Food Assistance.

2018-19 Single Audit Report

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by Wigoda to accept the resignation of Mr. Kenton Martin as Girls Volleyball, Head Coach, effective November 30, 2021.

K. Martin resignation

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by McGrath, seconded by Lubinsky to properly advertise for Head Coach for Volleyball.

Advertise for Volleyball Coach

On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Mistishen, seconded by Kroznuskie to appoint Keith Adams to serve on the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit and Schuylkill Technology Center Boards of Directors to fulfill the unexpired term of Angela DeMario December 2, 2021 through June 30, 2022, and for a new three (3) year term July 1,

K. Adams IU and STC liaison

2022, to June 30, 2025.

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by Bowers to accept the resignation of Milo Schick, Jr. as a part-time bus aide effective December 3, 2021 due to timing interference with his current bus driving assignment.

M. Schick resignation

All in favor on a voice vote, motion carried.

MOTION - by McGrath, seconded by Lubinsky to accept with regret the resignation of Mrs. Judy Evangelista as part-time Instructional Aide, effective December 10, 2021 for personal reasons. {11 years' part-time service to the District}

J. Evangelista resignation

On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by Wigoda to ratify the recommendation by Mrs. Nannette Bentz for Jessica Brown be hired as a teacher in the 21st Century Schuylkill Achieve program at a rate of \$24.40 per hour effective January 3, 2022.

J. Brown hired 21st CCLC After School Program

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by McGrath to ratify the re-hire of Tracey Urquiza as a part-time Instructional Aide, subject to assignment, for up to five (5) hours per day at a salary of \$13.80 per hour effective December 13, 2021. {Assignment - Llewellyn Early Childhood Center}

T. Urquiza re-hired

On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by Marazas to ratify the re-hire of Kimberly Reber-Hole as a part-time Instructional Aide, subject to assignment, for up to five (5) hours per day at a salary of \$13.80 per hour effective December 13, 2021. {Assignment - Llewellyn Early Childhood Center}

K. Reber-Hole re-hired

On roll call, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by Bowers to ratify the hire of Erika Ledezma as a temporary professional employee, subject to assignment, on Step [B00] at a prorated salary of \$37,500 beginning January 3, 2022. {Assignment - Elementary Center, Special Education}

E. Ledezma hired

On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by Lubinsky to approve on recommendation of Administration and Personnel Committee the hire of Ryan Wagner as Assistant Elementary Principal at a salary of \$57,000 with a tentative start date pending release from current employer.

R. Wagner hired as Asst. Principal

On roll call, Wigoda and Newton voted no, all other voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by Bowers to authorize Superintendent to properly post and hire a part-time District Secretary for up to four (4) hours per day at a rate of \$14.00 per hour contracted with ESS, Education & Staffing Management Solutions.

Post and hire PT District Secretary

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by Bowers to approve the Minersville Area Junior-Senior High School Course Selection Guide for the 2022-2023 school year.

2022-2023 Course Selection Guide

All in favor on a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Newton, seconded by McGrath to acknowledge yearly review of the following Board Policies for Federal Programs:

- a. 626 Attachment – Allowability of Costs – Federal Programs
- b. 626 Attachment – Cash Management – Federal Programs
- c. 626 Attachment - Administration of Federal Funds – Type of Costs, Obligations and Property Management
- d. 626 Attachment – Grant Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures – Federal Programs
- e. 626 Attachment – Procurement – Federal Programs
- f. 626.1 – Travel Reimbursement – Federal Programs
- g. 827 – Conflict of Interest

On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by Mistishen to approve as “First Reading” of the following District policy as enclosed:

- a. 221. Dress & Grooming

On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Lubinsky, seconded by McGrath to approve the updated job description for Cafeteria/PM Transportation Secretary.

On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by Kroznuskie to approve on recommendation by the Athletic Director, Mr. Rich Dry, the reassignment of Mr. Joel Motuk from Boys' Baseball Head Coach to Assistant Coach at a salary of \$2,690 effective the start of the 2022 baseball season. ** If state mandatory closures occur during the school year, payments will be prorated based on season length effective from the beginning of the PIAA's first official practice date.

On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by Lubinsky to approve on recommendation by the Athletic Director, Mr. Rich Dry, the reassignment of Mr. Shane Spotts from Boys' Baseball Assistant Coach to Head Coach at a salary of \$4,307 effective the start of the 2022 baseball season. ** If state mandatory closures occur during the school year, payments will be prorated based on season length effective from the beginning of the PIAA's first official practice date.

On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Bowers, seconded by Lubinsky to approve the additional “Use of Facility” requests approved by the Superintendent under standing policy:

- a. 03/13/2022 – Boys' Basketball Boosters – High School Cafeteria for the Annual Banquet; 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by McGrath, seconded by Bowers to authorize the Superintendent to seek renovation proposals for the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

On the question, Kroznuskie wanted to know where the money for renovations was coming from. Mrs. Laudeman stated this is for proposals only, not definite renovations. All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

Federal Programs policy review

First Reading - Dress & Grooming Policy

Cafeteria / P M Transportation job description

J. Motuk for Head Coach to Asst. Coach

S. Spotts from Asst. Coach to Head Coach

Add'l Use of Facilities

Seek proposals - HS Auditorium

MOTION - by Bowers with no second to change the status of mask wearing to optional. Item fails on the floor.

Masks

STAFF REPORTS

Reports were given by Bentz and Atkinson.

Staff Reports

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by Wigoda to approve the Treasurer's Report as prepared and submitted. On a voice vote - all in favor; Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

MOTION - by Mistishen, seconded by McGrath to ratify the payment of bills for December and January from the General Fund in the amount of \$3,382,978.04; Cafeteria Account in the amount of \$185,164.58; 21st CCLC - Schuylkill Achieve Account in the amount of \$1,890.00; Federal Programs Account in the amount of \$1,891.87; High School Athletics in the amount of \$14,417.44; High School Activities Account in the amount of \$6,020.00 for a total bills payable \$3,592,361.93.

Pay bills

All in favor on a voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION - by Marazas, seconded by Wigoda to approve Statement of Taxes as prepared and submitted. All in favor on a voice vote. Motion passed.

Statement of Taxes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marazas stated finance meeting minutes were included and approved. No other members had anything to report.

Committee Reports

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Correspondence

OLD BUSINESS

Old Business

A discussion ensued regarding the Health & Safety Plan. Mistishen stated unvaccinated/vaccinated status should not be considered and people can get COVID more than one time. Bowers said he has three areas of change, vaccination status, quarantine and masks and made a MOTION to do away with all. The motion did not get seconded. Dr. McBreen gave each member the Pandemic Team Meeting notes along with the teacher survey. Discussing the notes of the survey results as the teachers wanting to keep masks voting in favor by 69% on the survey and 74% electing to follow CDC guidelines. He understands the community's desire to move forward, but it needs to be done in a systematic fashion. He continued saying the district does not want to go to virtual, the isolation is not good for students and social emotional learning is a serious concern. Recent numbers have current COVID cases higher now than they were a year ago. Dr. Lubinsky said the internal data Dr. McBreen provided was helpful and surprising. Data was extrapolated by the school nurse reporting of students quarantined for school exposures, 36.3% tested positive or became symptomatic and this percentage was higher than Dr. Lubinsky thought it might be. She suggests to stay the course for a bit longer, it is working and numbers in the community are improving. Children are being hospitalized also, not just adults. There is room for adjustment but right now stay the course.

The discussion progressed to vaccinated/unvaccinated status. Mistishen said that

asymptomatic/symptomatic persons both spread the illness so there should be not distinction; all can get it, all can spread it. Each member gave opinions, and pros and cons to changes. Newton made MOTION to do away with quarantine unless symptomatic, McGrath seconded that only to rescind due to household exposure needing consideration. Lubinsky said a change wording of the motion to quarantine only if symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status for any exposure. Now seconded by Mistishen, to do away with quarantine, regardless of vaccination status for any exposure. On the question, Wigoda said that would go against CDC guidelines and Dr. McBreen confirmed and stated he did not agree with that change. On roll call vote, Kroznuskie, Mistishen, Newton and Bowers all in favor, remaining five member voted against. Item was not passed.

Adams concluded that a lot of information was discussed and recommended time to process all items and suggested a Special Meeting the first week of March, and concluded that said meeting be in two weeks and advertised. Adams reopened the floor for further public comment prompting both Tobin and Croley to restate their positions. Tobin had follow-up questions, asking whether our District reached out to other local school to determine what they are doing differently as apposed to CDC guidelines and would there be an exemption form for parents to sign for their student to not wear a mask. Croley also reiterated his stance on masking and believes in ending quarantine for all exposures. Exemption forms for mask wearing should be made available and continued that changes were made to the wording of the covid policy on the district website. Bowers made a MOTION for a mask exemption form that was not seconded.

Adams closed the discussion with a plan for a special meeting in two weeks to keep the conversation alive.

There being no further business to report or discuss, the meeting adjourned on MOTION by Kroznuskie seconded by Wigoda at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Wigoda, Secretary



Barbara J. Conville, Assistant to the Secretary