

February 13, 2017

A meeting of the Galeton Area School Board was held in the Music Room of the Galeton Area School District on February 13, 2017.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Bonita Stover at 6:30 PM.

Board Members and all others present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following School Board Members were also present, as confirmed by roll call:

Tony Cimino, Dr. Mary Geiter, Michael Hoza, Rick Yonkin, Julie Lane, Charles Bach, Beth Fuller and Charles Tameris.

Others present included Superintendent Alanna Huck, Principal Clyde Pierce, Business Manager/Board Secretary Penny Crowell, and interested community members.

Citizen Recognition: No citizens commented.

Students of the Month:

Isaac Miller, Elementary Student, was nominated for being an outstanding student and taking pride in his work.

Kyra Allen, Elementary Student, was nominated for her outstanding attitude and bubbly personality.

Nick McCarthy, High School Student, was nominated for helping out in class and going above and beyond to help all teachers.

Audit Report: Dave DiTanna of Buffamante, Whipple, Buttafaro, P.C., District Auditor, reported to the board that the District received a clean, unmodified opinion with no exceptions for the year ended 6/30/16. All areas are in compliance. General recommendations were made in the following areas: adjusting entries, segregation of duties and bank reconciliations—all areas relative to a small school. Expenses for the year were down, with an overall deficit. The annual deficit, however, has declined significantly over recent years. The reduction in fund balance over the past few years is due in large part to the cyber charter tuition. Most schools in this area experience cyber charter tuition at approximately 2% of budget, Galeton's is 7.5%. Food service has nice results with a break even experience for the first time in five years. Lunch participation is up by 2% and breakfast participation is up by 14%. Expenses for food purchases are down. The gross margin has increased from 25% to 45%, which is within the range recommended by the auditor in prior years. Generally this is a difficult environment for schools. Revenue is flat and PSERS and insurance costs continue to increase. And for Galeton, cyber tuition makes it very difficult.

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the minutes from the January 9, 2017, Board Meeting. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mr. Cimino, the Board voted 9 to 0 to approve the minutes.

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the General Fund Bill List. On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mr. Bach, the Board voted 9 to 0 to approve the bill list (EXHIBIT).

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the School Lunch Fund Bill List. On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Mrs. Lane, the Board voted 9 to 0 to approve the bill list (EXHIBIT)

President Stover asked for a motion to accept a notice of retirement from Norma Cornell, Prek Teacher's Aide, effective February 1, 2017. On motion of Mr. Cimino and second of Mr. Bach, the Board voted 9 to 0 to accept the notice.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance

Citizen Recognition

Students of the Month

2015/16 Audit Report

Minutes

General Fund Bill List

School Lunch Fund Bill List

Correspondence

President Stover asked for a motion to approve a field trip request for the Primary Tigers Reading Club (grades PreK through 2), Mansfield Bowling Alley and Wellsboro Pizza Hut, January 27, 2017. The cost will be paid by the reading club. On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 9 to 0 to approve the request.

Field Trip Request

Superintendent Alanna Huck reported on the following:

Audit – Mrs. Huck discussed the importance of having the auditor come to the district and indicated that she has seen the items on an audit, as reported this evening, year after year. In reference to the management letter, the most important items to consider are an equipment inventory and a five year financial plan.

Superintendent’s Report

Budget – A new way to budget has been instituted and administration will be working on a five year plan. A better process for purchase orders is also being put in place.

2017/18 Budget – The Governor’s address was given on Tuesday. The District looks to gain \$27,000 in basic education subsidy and \$1,200 in special education subsidy, with a proposed cut in transportation subsidy for all districts. Transportation bidding requirements are also being discussed by the Governor and by others at the state level.

Transportation on West Main Street – We have had some concerns about providing transportation for West Main Street students. The bus comes through this area now and we will be looking to add a stop here. The state had previously approved this street as a hazardous route.

Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education – Newly appointed national Secretary DeVos has a strong view point on school choice which could negatively affect the District. The Administration is looking at building a strong program so that students will want to attend Galeton.

Principal Clyde Pierce reported on the following:

Principal’s Report

ROAR – This student program has been successful but we are looking to make improvements. Nine committees have been organized to focus on the different areas of school improvement, resulting in 40 people helping with the program now.

Varsity Basketball – The girls are 13 -8 and the boys are 8 – 13

Other Items – A discipline report and the following curriculum program reports were provided: 4th grade, driver’s education, family & consumer sciences and personal finance.

Business Manager Penny Crowell reported on the following:

Business Manager’s Report

A Treasurer’s Report was reviewed, showing an ending January balance of \$1,823,433 (EXHIBIT).

Action Items:

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to adopt a Resolution to continue the SHWAN Contract with Seneca Highlands IU 9 for the time period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, for Wide Area Network (WAN) services and technical staff. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 8 to 1, with Mr. Bach voting no, to approve the Resolution (EXHIBIT).

SHWAN Resolution

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to enter into the Amended Agreement with multiple IU 9 area school entities to continue securing and purchasing employee insurances by means of a premium stabilization fund structure through the Seneca Highlands Regional Insurance Trust. On motion of Mrs. Fuller and second of Mrs. Lane, the Board voted 8 to 1, with Mr. Bach voting no, to approve the Agreement (EXHIBIT).

Seneca Highlands Regional Insurance Trust

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to add Tammy McConaghay to the support staff day-to-day substitute employees’ list retroactive to January 13, 2017. On motion of Mr. Cimino and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 9 to 0 to approve the substitute.

Day-to-Day Substitute List

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration's recommendation for the first reading of a new board policy, #828 Narcan Storage and Administration. Mr. Tameris expressed concern about the violence of persons after receiving the Narcan. Mrs. Huck replied that it is a valid concern but think we should have this available for our students. On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Dr. Geiter, the Board vote 9 to 0 to approve the first reading of the policy (EXHIBIT).

Narcan Policy –
1st Reading

President Stover made the following announcements:

Announcements

Next Board Work Session:

February 27, 2017, 6:30 PM, Galeton Area SD Library

Next Board Meeting:

March 13, 2017, 6:30 PM, Galeton Area SD Music Room

Mr. Plummer requested to make a citizen comment, which was acknowledged by President Stover. He asked the board to designate March 14th as Pi day highlighting the importance of math in the curriculum and requested that the Principal organize the Pi recognition, which includes serving pie, donated by parents and community members, to students at lunch. The Administration concurred.

Pi Day

Being that there was no other business before the Board, President Stover asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mrs. Lane, the meeting was adjourned by a vote of 9 to 0.

Adjournment

Approved as read March 13, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny L. Crowell, Board Secretary