

On December 7, 2020 the Reorganization Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Wendy Earle, Linda C. Fazzini and Dr. Margaret D. Wright
Region II: Clinton L. Jackson, David R. Shafer and Colleen Zasowski
Region III: Thomas J. DiBello, Christina F. Melton and Diane C. Sullivan
Presiding Officer: Diane Fern (School Board Secretary)
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer: James D. Fink
Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.: Eshika Seth and Allison McVey

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE** (By Diane Fern, Board Secretary)
Board Secretary, Mrs. Fern, opened the meeting with the call to order and the recording of the attendance.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING** (By Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor)
Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the Pennsylvania School Code requires that annually during the first week of December the Members of the School Board meet and reorganize.
- IV. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**
There were no public comments on agenda items only.
- V. **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TEMPORARY BOARD PRESIDENT**
Mrs. Fern opened the floor for nominations of a Temporary Board President. Mrs. Earle nominated Mrs. Fazzini. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Fazzini was elected as the Temporary Board President by a vote of 9-0.
- VI. **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD PRESIDENT**
Mrs. Fazzini opened the floor for nominations of a Board President. Dr. Wright nominated Mrs. Zasowski. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Fazzini made a motion to close the nominations and Mrs. Melton seconded it. The motion to close nominations passed 9-0. Mrs. Zasowski was elected as the Board President by a vote of 9-0.
- VII. **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT**
Mrs. Zasowski opened the floor for nominations of a Board Vice President. Mrs. Fazzini nominated Mrs. Melton. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Earle made a motion to close the nominations and Mrs. Fazzini seconded it. The motion to close nominations passed 9-0. Mrs. Melton was elected as the Board Vice President by a vote of 8-1 with Mr. Jackson voting no.

- VIII. The Board President shall designate a **Member** and an **Alternate** to serve on the **Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee**. This committee is sponsored by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors to provide a forum in which local directors can learn about legislative issues, which can affect education in Montgomery County. **Christina Melton** presently serves in this capacity and **Mr. DiBello** serves as the alternate.

Mrs. Zasowski designated Mrs. Melton to continue as the representative to the Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee and Mr. DiBello to serve as the alternate.

- IX. The Board shall appoint a **PSBA Liaison** to represent the Spring-Ford Area School District. **David R. Shafer** presently serves as the representative.

Mrs. Zasowski asked if Mr. Shafer wished to continue serving as the PSBA Liaison and he stated that he did. Mrs. Zasowski asked if anyone else was also interested in this position and no one expressed interest. The Board elected Mr. Shafer to serve as the PSBA Liaison by a vote of 9-0.

- X. The Board shall appoint a **Representative** to the **Spring City American Legion**. **Mr. DiBello** presently serves as the representative.

Mrs. Zasowski asked if Mr. DiBello wished to continue serving as the Representative to the Spring City American Legion and he stated that he did. Mrs. Zasowski asked if anyone else was also interested in this position and no one expressed interest. The Board elected Mr. DiBello to serve as the Representative to the Spring City American Legion by a vote of 9-0.

- XI. **VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
Members of the Joint Operating Committee for the Area Vocational-Technical School serve three-year terms. One term expires each year to assure continuity in the operation of the joint program. The most recent representatives and the date of expiration for their terms are as follows:

Christina F. Melton	2020
Thomas J. DiBello	2021
Colleen Zasowski	2022

Mrs. Melton nominated Mrs. Earle to serve as the Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee Member for the term expiring in 12/2023. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Fazzini made a motion to close the nominations and Ms. Sullivan seconded it. The motion to close the nominations passed 9-0. Mrs. Earle was elected by a vote of 9-0 to serve as the Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee Member for the three-year term expiring 12/2023.

Mrs. Melton made a motion to approve the attached Listing of Work Session/Board Meeting dates for 2021 and Mrs. Fazzini seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- XII. The Board approved the attached Listing of Work Session/Board Meeting Dates for 2021. **(ATTACHMENT A1)**

Since Mrs. Zasowski was re-elected as the Board President the motion to authorize her signature was not needed so no vote took place.

- XIII. Board approval is needed to authorize the signature of _____ as the Board President so that he/she can sign all documentation on behalf of the Board.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Goodin provided his reasoning for not having students return to the classroom today as previously conveyed to parents saying his decision was based out of an abundance of caution. He spoke about the high COVID numbers in the community and explained what the district must do if we choose to have in-person learning while the county is in the substantial designation. He also explained that buildings may be forced to close without much notification and students will then have to move to virtual learning if certain percentages are attained over a 14-day period. He also explained that this could also occur due to a potential functional closure which could be triggered if there is a staffing shortage or bussing shortages.

Discussion took place on how the communication of today's plans could have been better handled and whether there was any communication sent out to families and staff about the return to school tomorrow. It was advised that the communication was currently going out to everyone.

Mr. Rizzo spoke about updates that have taken place with regards to classroom and building COVID notifications and the notification process. Mr. DiBello questioned why the notification process was different at the 7-12 grade level and Mr. Rizzo explained the reasoning citing a concern for violating confidentiality of the individual who tested positive. DiBello made a motion to direct administration to provide the same notification that is currently used in the elementary level at the secondary level. Mr. Fitzgerald advised that a motion was not needed that the board could just give administration a directive to do this. The Board gave the administration the directive to institute the same notification process that was currently in place at the elementary level which includes notifying the family of every student in the classroom with an individual who tests positive.

Mr. Rizzo showed the newly created COVID Dashboard that could be found on the district's website. He advised how attendance would be taken and student absence excuses. He spoke about the work being done by the Transportation Department and how the bussing company will deal with driver shortages. Discussion also included the use of the new sanitization system that has been purchased and installed.

Mr. McDaniel spoke about winter sports with regards to the PAC/PIAA position and the district's position on sporting activities taking place. It was clarified that in the event of a building shutdown that this would also include any extracurricular activities associated with that building.

Mr. Rizzo lastly spoke about Keystone Exams and the fact that students will not be required to take the exams but it was still unclear on the impact this would have on graduation requirements. He advised that once he has this information, he will be sure to relay it.

Dr. Goodin was asked about plans for 3rd marking period and he advised that the only difference from the current model would be if the board were to decide to have grades 7-12 return to buildings five-days-a-week full-time as the elementary grades are currently doing but he was not recommending that we do this now with the current community COVID rates but rather start looking at what the next steps will be. It was decided that discussion on this would occur at the January Work Session which will take place the 2nd week of January but that the planning could begin now. There was a discrepancy over the GANTT Charts for planning the return of students back to school and whether something different such as a project plan existed and was available for board members to view.

XV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mary Jo Mcnamara, Royersford, expressed her frustration and disbelief over the reason schools remained virtual today.

Mike Lebiezinski, Royersford, commented that there was an erosion of trust in the community towards administration.

Chrissy Pergine, Limerick, expressed an interest in knowing the average number of kids in a high school class and asked that the mental health of kids be taken into consideration.

Craig Tinneny, Collegeville, stated that he has seen personally how far behind the district is when talking about risk assessment and children's mental health.

Lake Deyoc, Royersford, commented that he was glad to be returning to school tomorrow and that his online experience has not been a good one.

Katie Poeth, Royersford, spoke about her child's disappointment over not returning to school today.

Mary Giovanni, Phoenixville, stated that the school district is taking a hit and losing respect in the real estate market due to students not being in school.

Gary Wheaton, Collegeville, expressed frustration over the lack of consistent communication.

Kristen Kovacs, Collegeville, said she was upset over less than ½ a day to prepare for her students not going to school today and felt that there were inconsistencies in the messages relayed by the administration.

Elaine Moore, Royersford, was advised by Mr. Fitzgerald that she needed to speak with her administrator regarding her concerns as her comments were being made as an employee and not as parent or resident.

Chris Martinez, Royersford, spoke of the lack of trust for the administration.

Ed Hudak, Schwenksville, commented on the change in the communication regarding the students returning to school today.

Abby Deardorff, Royersford, requested that the district nurses speak at the board meetings.

Scott Hoffman, Royersford, asked that the virtual option remain throughout the entire school year.

Farrah Aversano, Collegeville, questioned what happened to the Ad-Hoc Committee and the community members who volunteered to serve on the sub-committee.

John Raber, Schwenksville, was advised by Mr. Fitzgerald that he needed to speak with building staff regarding his concerns as his comments were being made as an employee and not as parent or resident.

Erica Love, Royersford, urged the board to consider continuing virtual learning until the county is out of substantial and the infection rates are under control.

Derrick Gilbert, Phoenixville, expressed disappointment over the board permitting the level of adversity being expressed tonight and urged people to work together.

Caroline Myer, Royersford, spoke about the rise in COVID cases and felt that schools reopening was not a safe option.

Krista Weiss, Spring City, questioned why students are not back in school full-time since other districts are able to be back.

Maggie Swahl, Royersford, asked that the district provide licensed psychologists to assist students and staff dealing with mental health issues.

Julie Mukherjee, Schwenksville, felt the board members should visit schools in order to fully understand and be able to visualize what 25 students in a room looks like.

Kristin Morris, Royersford, expressed support of decisions Dr. Goodin and the board are making and asked parents to do their job in keeping their kids safe.

John Osborne, Schwenksville, advised that as of now there has not been a Skylert sent out regarding students returning back to school tomorrow.

Heather Staley, Spring City, urged the administration and board to follow the facts and not just the fear.

Jordan Popky, Limerick, stated that she was disappointed in the decision to open tomorrow and felt the constant switch was not good for students and staff and that the district should remain virtual.

Erica Hermans, Royersford, expressed that she felt it was premature to look at the decision for the next marking period as the metrics for February are not known as of now.

XVI. BOARD COMMENT

Dr. Wright thanked all members of the public who provided their comments. She expressed appreciation to Mr. DiBello for his service as the Board Vice President and welcomed Mrs. Melton as the new Vice President. Dr. Wright commented that she was not opposed to the Board looking at plans for bringing more students into the buildings but felt it was necessary to maintain the virtual option throughout the entire school year.

Mr. DiBello said he wanted to clarify that it was not stated tonight that the board would be doing away with the virtual option and he agreed with Dr. Wright that it needed to be maintained throughout the remainder of the year.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Earle made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary

2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES

SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

**ALL WORK SESSIONS AND BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE HELD
IN THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH
MONDAYS OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 P.M.
UNLESS DESIGNATED OTHERWISE.**

	<u>WORK SESSION</u>	<u>BOARD MEETING</u>
JANUARY	11	25
FEBRUARY	8	22
MARCH	8	22
APRIL	12	26
MAY	10	24
JUNE	14	28
JULY	Emergency Only as Called by the Board President Or Superintendent of Schools	
AUGUST	9	23
SEPTEMBER	13	27
OCTOBER	11	25
NOVEMBER	8	22
DECEMBER	6 (Organizational meeting and board meeting)	13 (Optional)