

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



The mission of the Saint Clair Area School District is to work with the community to provide a safe, welcoming, student-oriented learning environment in which each student is challenged to reflect, question, and create.

MISSION STATEMENT
AGENDA

December 6, 2023

A regular meeting of the Saint Clair Area School District Board of School Directors will be held at 6:00 PM on December 6, 2023 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>P</u>
Scott Clews	<u>P</u>
Jennifer Fegley	<u>P</u>
Michael Holobetz	<u>P</u>
William Kimber	<u>A</u>
Thomas Kaledas	<u>P</u>
Bernard Kuperavage	<u>P</u>
Erin Murhon	<u>P</u>
Dr. Erin Portland	<u>P</u>

4. The Secretary announced that a quorum was present and business could proceed. Others present were 0 citizens; Superintendent, Thomas McLaughlin, Principal, Jennifer Buletza; Business Manager, Terry Schane; 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 1, 2023 from 5:35PM to 6:21PM and 6:31PM to 6:50PM 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 Holobetz and Murhon that the Board adjourn “Sine Die.”

ROLL CALL: 8-0

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

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

ROLL CALL: 8-0

SEATS VACATED

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

- Thomas Kaledas
- Scott Clews
- Jennifer Fegley
- 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 2023
- Jennifer Fegley 4 year term commencing first week of December 2023
- Gerald Kuperavage 4 year term commencing first week of December 2023
- Erin Murhon 4 year term commencing first week of December 2023
- Dr. Erin Portland 4 year term commencing first week of December 2023

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 P
- Scott Clews P
- Jennifer Fegley P
- Michael Holobetz P
- William Kimber A
- Bernard Kuperavage P
- Gerald Kuperavage P
- Erin Murhon P
- Dr. Erin Portland P

ELECTION-PRESIDENT

Temporary Chairman Kaledas announced that nominations for the office of President and Vice President for the Saint Clair Area School District for a one (1) year period would be in order.

Murhon/ Clews nominated Holobetz for President.

_____ nominated _____ for President.

Moved by Murhon and Holobetz that the nominations be closed.

ROLL CALL:8-0

Temporary Chairman Kaledas announced that Holobetz was elected President of the Saint Clair Area School District Board of Directors for a one (1) year term commencing December 6, 2023.

President Holobetz then assumed the chair and Temporary Chairman, Kaledas vacated the seat.

ELECTION - VICE PRESIDENT

President Holobetz announced that nominations for the office of Vice President for the Saint Clair Area School District Board of Directors for a period of one (1) year would be in order.

Holobetz nominated Bartashus for Vice President.

G. Kuperavage nominated Bartashus for Vice President.

Moved by Holobetz and Bartashus that the nominations be closed.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

President Holobetz announced that Bartashus was elected Vice President of the Saint Clair Area School District Board of Directors for a one (1) year term commencing December 6, 2023.

ELECTION - TREASURER

Election of a Treasurer for a term effective December 6, 2023- June 30, 2024

Clews nominated Fegley

_____ nominated _____

Moved by Holobetz and Bartashus to close nominations for Treasurer.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

President Holobetz announced that Fegley was elected Treasurer of the Saint Clair Area School District Board of Directors for a term commencing December 6, 2023.

ELECTION - SECRETARY

Election of a Secretary for a term effective December 6, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at the rate of \$0 per hour for services performed

Bartashus nominated Murhon

_____ nominated _____

Moved by Clews and B. Kuperavage to close nominations for Secretary.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

President Holobetz announced that Murhon was elected Secretary of the Saint Clair Area School District Board of Directors for a term commencing December 6, 2023.

ELECTION JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER

Election of a committee member to represent the Saint Clair Area School Board on the Joint School Committee for the High School Program for a term effective December 6, 2023 through November 30, 2024.

Clews nominated Holobetz

_____ nominated _____

Moved by Bartashus and Murhon to close nominations for committee member.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

ELECTION OF ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Election of an alternate committee member to represent the Saint Clair Area School District on the Joint School Committee for the High School Program for a term effective December 6, 2023 through November 30, 2024.

Holobetz nominated Clews

_____ nominated _____

Moved by Fegley and Bartashus to close nominations for alternate committee member.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

Members of the Public may speak at this time on any items on the Agenda.
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5. Moved by Portland and Clews to approve the following motions:
(Presented prior to Meeting)
Approval of Minutes of November 1, 2023
Approval of Invoices presented for payment
Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending October 31, 2023
Approval of the Tax Report for the period ending October 31, 2023
Approval of the Cafeteria Fund Report for the month of October
ROLL CALL: 8-0
6. Moved by Clews 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
2024-2025 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 2024-2025, the resolution must be adopted no later than January 4, 2024.

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 4, 2024. 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 2024-2025 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 7.8%, 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 6, 2023 by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 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:

President

Secretary

ROLL CALL: 8-0

7. Moved by Clews and Bartashus 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: 8-0

PERSONNEL (can be approved in one motion at the Board’s discretion 8-12)

8. Moved by Clews and Fegley to approve Attorney Thomas J. Campion, Jr. as the Solicitor for 2024 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.

9. Moved by Clews and Fegley to approve Adriana Romeu as a per diem cleaner at a rate of \$12.50/hr and a start date of 11/7/23.

10. Moved by Clews and Fegley to approve leave without pay requests:

Employee 3355- 11/9/23, 11/13/23, 11/30/23, and 12/1/23

Employee 3382- 11/9/23, 11/10/23, 11/13/23, 11/14/23, 11/15/23, 11/16/23, 11/17/23, 11/21/23, 11/22/23, 11/28/23, 11/29/23

Employee 3042- 2/23/23

Employee 3265- 11/29/23

Employee 3414- 11/28/23 and 11/29/23

11. Moved by Clews and Fegley to approve the resignation letter for Thomas Dempsey as Maintenance Supervisor letter dated 11/22/23.

12. Moved by Clews and Fegley to approve Hannah Leskin as an Achieve teacher at the contract rate.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

13. Moved by Clews and B. Kuperavage to approve the following Superintendent’s Motions as presented:

Approval of Work Session/Board Meeting and Finance Meeting Schedule and advertise in the local newspaper

Approval of 2024 Board Committees

Recognition of the Students of the Month

K- Exodus Kieta

1- Londyn Platts

2- Preston Rhoads

3- McKaelyn Brannan

4- Acacia Lenosky

5- Kayleigh Koropchak

6- Aubree Bowers

7- Ava Stankavage

8- Janellie Barbecho

VOICE VOTE: 8-0

REMARKS

18. Moved by Clews and Murhon that the meeting be adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

IMPORTANT DATES:	December 22, 2023	Student Early Dismissal @ 12:00 PM
	December 25-	School Closed
	January 2, 2024	
	January 3, 2024	Finance Meeting/Work Session/Board Meeting