

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



MISSION STATEMENT

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.

AGENDA- Minutes
JUNE 7, 2023

A regular meeting of the Saint Clair Area School District Board of School Directors will be held immediately following the Work Session on June 7, 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>
Thomas Kaledas	<u> P </u>
William Kimber	<u> A </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 Bulezta; Business Manager, Terry Schane; Solicitor, Thomas J. Campion, Jr. and 0 members of the press.

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Saint Clair Area Board of Directors conducted an executive work session on May 3, 2023 from 6:54 PM to 7:14 PM to discuss personnel and legal issues. No vote or formal action was taken at that time.

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

SAINT CLAIR AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET ---2023-2024

Secretary Thomas Kaledas announced that the Tentative Budget presented at the meeting on May 03, 2023 has been advertised and final adoption would be in order at this time. Copies were distributed to each member of the Board prior to the May 03, 2023 meeting.

- A. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Saint Clair Area School District, County of Schuylkill, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopt the Budget in the amount of \$13,381,652.72 for the fiscal year 2023-2024.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the expenditures as set forth therein be authorized for the fiscal year 2023-2024 with the difference between planned expenditures and anticipated revenue coming from the unreserved fund balance.
Moved by Kaledas and Clews that the Resolution be adopted.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
- B. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the following tax heretofore levied and imposed under the Local Tax Enabling Act No. 511 of 1965; be levied, imposed and continued for the fiscal year 2023-2024 in accordance with the terms of the original tax resolution.
(1) An Occupational Tax of 100 mills, on \$410.00 Occupational Assessment on each resident of the Saint Clair Area School District for a total of \$41.00.
Moved by Bartashus and Murhon that the Resolution be adopted.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
- C. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the following tax heretofore levied and imposed by the Local Tax Enabling Act No. 511 of 1965, be levied, imposed and continued for the fiscal year 2023-2024 in accordance with the terms of the original tax Resolution.
(2) A Per Capita Tax on every resident of the Saint Clair Area School District who shall be 18 years of age on or before July 1, 2023 of \$5.00.
Moved by Holobetz and Fegley that the Resolution be adopted.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
- D. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the following tax heretofore levied and imposed under Local Tax Enabling Act No. 511 of 1965, be levied, imposed and continued for the fiscal year 2023-2024 in accordance with the terms of the original tax Resolution.
(3) An Earned Income Tax of ½ of 1% on the earned income for every resident of the Saint Clair Area School District.
Moved by Clews and Kaledas that the Resolution be adopted.
ROLL CALL: 8-0

E. BE IT RESOLVED that the following tax heretofore levied and imposed under the Local Tax Enabling Act No. 511 of 1965, be levied, imposed, and continued for the fiscal year 2023-2024 in accordance with terms of the original tax Resolution and amendments thereto.

(4) A Realty Transfer Tax of 1% of the value of Real Estate or an interest in Real Estate in the Saint Clair Area School District so transferred pursuant to Local Tax Enabling Act and local Real Estate Transfer Tax.

Moved by Kuperavage and Murhon that the Resolution be adopted.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

F. BE IT RESOLVED that the following tax heretofore levied and imposed under the Local Tax Enabling Act No. 511 of 1965, be levied, imposed, and continued for the fiscal year 2023-2024 in accordance with the terms of the original tax Resolution.

(5) A Local Services Tax (LST)-(formerly Emergency and Municipal Services Tax (EMST) at the rates listed on all non-residents of the Saint Clair Area School District who are engaged during such fiscal year in an income-producing occupation within the Saint Clair Area School District.

Blythe Township \$ 5.00 District \$5.00
East Norwegian Twp. \$47.00 District \$5.00
Middleport \$ 5.00 District \$5.00
New Castle Twp. \$47.00 District \$5.00
New Philadelphia \$ 5.00 District \$5.00
St. Clair \$47.00 District \$5.00

Moved by Kuperavage and Fegley that the Resolution be adopted.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

G. BE IT RESOLVED that the following tax heretofore levied and imposed under the Local Tax Enabling Act No. 511 of 1965, be levied, imposed, and continued for the fiscal year 2023-2024 in accordance with the terms of the original Tax Resolution and amendments thereto.

(6) Rate and Basis of the Business Privilege Tax

The rate of this tax on each and every dollar of the whole or gross volume of business transacted within the territorial limits of the Saint Clair Area School District shall be one and one-half mills, (1½) that is \$1.50 per \$1,000 gross volume of business, except for wholesale business shall be one (1) mill, that is \$1.00 per \$1,000 of gross volume of business.

Moved by Bartashus and Clews that the Resolution be adopted.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

H. BE IT RESOLVED that the Per Capita Tax for the year 2023-2024 be set at \$5.00 for persons over 18 years of age in the Saint Clair Area School District, jurisdiction to be authorized under Section 679 the Public School Code of 1949 as revised January 1993.

Moved by Kaledas and Kuperavage that the Resolution be adopted.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

I. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Saint Clair Area School District set the Real Estate Tax 38.136 mills, (\$3.8136) on one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation for the area under the at jurisdiction of the Saint Clair Area School District.

Moved by Kaledas and Kuperavage that the Resolution be adopted.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

J. Moved by Portland and Holobetz that the Schuylkill County Recorder of Deeds be designated and retained as the collector of the Real Estate Transfer Tax and receive the commission now established.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

K. Moved by Fegley and Clews that the duly elected tax collectors be designated as the collectors of the taxes levied under Act 511 within their respective municipalities and to receive the salaries now established for them, other than the Business Privilege Tax, Earned Income Tax, LST Tax and the Realty Transfer Tax.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

L. Moved by Bartashus and Kaledas that the Schuylkill County Treasurer be designated and retained as the collector of delinquent real estate taxes for 2012 and prior years and to receive the established commission for collection of same.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

M. Moved by Fegley and Holobetz that the Portnoff Law Associates be designated and retained as the collector of delinquent real estate taxes for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

N. Moved by Kaledas and Clews that the following guidelines for the exemption of taxable from the Occupational Assessment Tax be read and reaffirmed.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

To All Taxpayers of the Saint Clair Area School District:

Please be advised that the following are the guidelines set by the Saint Clair Area School District with respect to the Occupational Assessment Tax. Exonerations shall be granted to:

1. Any person who has an annual earned income of less than \$5,000.
2. Any person who is a full time student. The possibility of exoneration will begin the calendar year after graduation from high school and continue for a maximum of the next 4 calendar years (a total of five years). This will allow for up to ten semesters of enrollment beginning the calendar year after graduation from high school. An allowance will be made for the student not being enrolled for a second time during the ten allowed semesters. When the student is not enrolled for a second time during the ten allowed semesters, that student will not be exonerated from that calendar year forward. Students must provide proof of enrollment for both the spring semester and the fall semester for the year in which they are applying for exoneration. Example: for taxes mailed in July - You must show proof of enrollment for both Spring and Fall semesters.

3. Any person who is on active duty with any branch of the United States Armed Forces.
Any person who does not meet these guidelines and refuses to pay the Occupational Assessment Tax will be turned over to the Delinquent Tax Collector for the District who will collect this tax with penalty added.

O. Moved by Clews and Kaledas that Berkheimer Associates, Pen Argyl, PA be retained and designated a collector of the Business Privilege Tax, Earned Income Tax, Delinquent Per Capita Taxes, and LST Tax for Blythe Township, East Norwegian Township, New Castle Township, Middleport, New Philadelphia, and St. Clair Boroughs and to receive commission established for collection of same.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

5. Moved by Bartashus and Holobetz to approve the following motions:
(Presented prior to Meeting)

Approval of Invoices presented for payment

Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2023

Approval of the Tax Report for the period ending April 30, 2023

Approval of the Cafeteria Fund Report for the month of April

Approval of the Federal Projects Report for the month of April

Approval of acknowledging receipt of correspondence

ROLL CALL: 8-0

6. Moved by Kaledas and Clews to commit funds for the anticipated employer increase in PSERS, Debt Service, Capital Reserve and Capital Projects.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

7. Moved by Kuperavage and Fegley to authorize the purchase of a fidelity bond for the treasurer of the school board in the amount of \$35,000.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

8. Moved by Portland and Bartashus to authorize the purchase of a fidelity bond for the secretary of the school board in the amount of \$50,000.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

9. Moved by Holobetz and Clews to authorize the purchase of a fidelity bond in the amount of \$50,000 for other employees.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

10. Moved by Kuperavage and Kaledas to exonerate the Tax Collectors from collection of 2022 Delinquent Per Capita Taxes as per the summary available.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

11. Moved by Portland and Fegley to acknowledge Certification Renewal of the District's Safety Committee by the Department of Labor and Industry entitling the District to a 5% discount in workers' compensation rates.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

12. Moved by Clews and Kaledas to approve the 2023-2024 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as follows:

SAINT CLAIR AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2023-2024 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of Saint Clair Area School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2023, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. **Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.** The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2023:

a. **Gambling tax funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$183,581.30

b. **Remaining Property Tax Reduction Funds.** Funds will be available during the school year for real estate reduction as a result of undistributed funds from the property tax reduction funds received in 2022-2023. These funds will be added to the allocation for this school year in the amount of \$0.00.

c. **Property Tax Reduction Funds Distributed Over the Allocated Funds.** During the 2022-2023 school year additional funds beyond those funds allocated for property tax reduction were distributed. As a result, those funds distributed in excess of the allocated funds will be deducted from the allocation for this school year in the amount of \$0.00.

d. **Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds.** PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$3,714.12.

e. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$187,295.42.

2. **Homestead/farmstead numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:

a. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 1747.

b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 0.

c. **Homestead/farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 1747.

3. **Real estate tax reduction calculation.** The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(e) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$187,295.42 by the paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 1747 (before considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead and farmstead exclusion amount), the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$107.21.

Based on calculations provided by the School District Business Office from the best available information and carefully evaluated by the School Board, considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead exclusion and the farmstead exclusion amount, an additional aggregate amount of \$68.10 will be available during the school year for real estate tax reduction applicable to approximately 1745 homesteads and farmsteads, resulting in an additional real estate tax reduction amount available for each homestead and farmstead of \$.03. Adding this additional amount to the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$107.21, the final maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$107.24.

4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$107.24 by the School District real estate tax rate of 38.136 mills (.038136), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$2,812, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$2,812.

5. **Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$2,812. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$2,812. For purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

6. **Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization – interim real estate tax bills.** No homestead or farmstead exclusion will apply to any interim tax bill except an interim tax bill applicable to a property that includes an approved homestead or approved farmstead listed in the report received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, but not included in the tax assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill for the property. In most cases, the assessment of approved homesteads and approved

farmsteads will be reflected in July 1 tax bills. However, in any case when there is an approved homestead or an approved farmstead that is not included in the assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill, and when an interim real estate tax notice is issued later based on an interim assessment including the approved homestead or approved farmstead, the interim tax notice shall reflect a homestead or farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction calculated under paragraph 5, except that the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be prorated in the same manner as the real estate tax is pro rated. Assuming the interim tax notice reflects taxation as of July 1, as will occur in most such cases, the full amount of the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will apply. In the extraordinary case where the new interim tax assessment is effective after July 1, the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be pro rated in the same manner as the real estate tax reflected in the interim tax bill is pro rated.]

Adopted this 7th day of June 2023 by a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays, abstentions and 1 members absent.

ATTEST:

Michael Holobetz, President

Thomas Kaledas, Secretary

13. Moved by Portland and Fegley to approve the request for the St. Clair Midget Football Association to use the football stadium, concession stand, and bathrooms for their season.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
14. Moved by Bartashus and Clews to reappoint Dr. Walter Setlock of Lehigh Valley Physician's Group at a remuneration of \$2,500 per year and examination fees of \$2.00 for Students and \$15.00 for employees.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
15. Moved by Kaledas and Kuperavage to reappoint Smile Pennsylvania Dental Program at no cost to the District.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
16. Moved by Clews and Fegley to approve Summer Food Program.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
17. Moved by Fegley and Bartashus to approve the request for the Special Olympics to use the stadium 6/1/23 from 5:30PM- 7:30PM.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
18. Moved by Murhon and Clews to approve the request for William Dempsey to use the Gym for boys basketball summer workouts 5/30 & 5/31- 9:30AM – 11:00AM and starting June 5, 2023 Mondays & Wednesday 9:30AM – 11:00AM.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
19. Moved by Portland and Bartashus to approve Ron-Troy Asphalt Paving Inc. to install the track at a cost of \$59,900.00.
ROLL CALL: 8-0

- 20. Moved by Fegley and Holobetz to approve the following agreements
2023-2024 Helping Harvest Weekender Program.
Safety Net Counseling, Inc.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
- 21. Moved by Murhon and Bartashus to approve Speech Therapy Services between the St. Clair Area S.D. and the Mahanoy Area S.D.
ROLL CALL: 8-0
- 22. Moved by Kaledas and Clews to approve the LPN substitute nurse rate of \$120/day and the RN substitute nurse rate of \$150/day.
ROLL CALL: 8-0

PERSONNEL (can be approved in one motion at the Board’s discretion 23-31)

- 23. Moved by Kuperavage and Clews to approve Shane McGrath for Tenure.
- 24. Moved by Kuperavage and Clews to approve Jacob Filiac as a summer maintenance worker.
- 25. Moved by Kuperavage and Clews to approve Eric Andruchek as a summer cleaner.
- 26. Moved by Kuperavage and Clews to approve the resignation of Brian Delaney as a full- time cleaner letter dated 5/11/23.
- 27. Moved by Kuperavage and Clews to approve the leave without pay request
Employee for 3039 5/9/23, 5/10/23, and 5/11/23
Employee 3355 for 5/15/23, 5/16/23, and 5/25/23
Employee 2947 for 9/18/23- 9/24/23
- 28. Moved by Kuperavage and Clews to approve Elizabeth Crites as a middle school math teacher with a salary of \$40,000 with a start date of 8/23/23.
- 29. Moved by Kuperavage and Clews to approve the resignation of Jamison Gunosky as the Title I Reading Teacher effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 30. Moved by Kuperavage and Clews to approve the resignation of Melissa Litwhiler as a Full Time Special Education Teacher effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 31. Moved by Kuperavage and Clews to approve Gary Rumberger as a summer school teacher.
ROLL CALL: 8-0

32. Moved by Clews and Portland to approve the following Superintendent's

Motions as presented:

Authorization to advertise for openings and post bids that may occur from now until the beginning of school year

Accept, receive, and file the Act 44 – School Safety and Security Coordinator Annual Report

Recognition of the Students of the Month

- K- Emma Ogden
- 1- Kinley Yalsovec
- 2- Paige Kennemore
- 3- Payton Bernitsky
- 4- Aubrei Sadusky
- 5- Charlotte Gould
- 6- Daniel Trezise
- 7- Charlee Fix
- 8- Emily Koinski

VOICE VOTE:

REMARKS

33. Moved by Kuperavage and Kaledas that the meeting be adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

ROLL CALL: 8-0

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Work Session/Board Meeting

August 2, 2023