

**Jim Thorpe Area School District**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Board Members and Press Only – Due to COVID-19**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

**1. OPENING OF MEETING – BOARD PRESIDENT**

**1.01 & 1.02**

Board Meeting Opened with Moment of Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.03**

Roll Call

**ROLL CALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Jim Thorpe School Board of Education was opened at the Jim Thorpe Administration Building, with a moment of silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. School Board Directors were present by phone and Google Meets: Mr. Raniero Marciante, Mr. Gerald Strubinger, Mr. Scott Pompa, Mr. TJ Garritano, Mr. Paul Montemuro, Mrs. Pearl Sheckler, Mr. Dennis McGinley and Mrs. Cindy Henning. Mr. Glenn Confer, was absent. Administrators present: Mr. John Rushefski, *Superintendent*, Mr. Ken Marx, *Business Manager*, Attorney Carl Beard, *Solicitor* Mr. Jerome Brown, *IT Director*, Mr. Thomas Lesisko, *High School Principal*, Mrs. Holly Mordaunt, *Penn Kidder Principal*, Mr. Shawn Albert, *LB Morris Principal*, Mr. Jeff White, *LB Morris Asst. Principal*, Ms. Sara Mass, *Penn Kidder Asst. Principal*, Mr. Mark Rosenberger, *High School Asst. Principal*. Mr. Ted LaRizzio, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*, Ms. Katherine Doll *Curriculum Coordinator*, Mrs. Sandra Michalik, *Special Education Director*, Mrs. Tina Champ, *Staff Accountant*, & Mrs. Kimberley Hill, *Recording Secretary*. Visitors present: BRC TV13 and the Times News.

## **2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS**

### **2.01 READING OF COMMENTS & QUESTIONS BY EMAIL**

Due to COVID-19, the public was invited to email questions or comments to Kim Hill, Recording Secretary to be read to the Board via Google Meets.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **3.01 APPROVAL/ MINUTES REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 13, 2021**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Mr. Marciante to Approve School Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting January 13, 2021 as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYES**

## **4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was a brief Executive Session Monday February 10, 2021 for Litigation & Personnel issues. No decisions were made.

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **5.01 APPROVAL/ BILLS PAYABLE GENERAL FUND, CAFETERIA FUND & OTHER JANUARY 13, 2021**

**Motion** by Mr. Garritano, **Seconded** by Ms. Sheckler to Approve Bills Payable General Fund, Cafeteria & Other- January 13, 2021 as presented:

Roll call vote:

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 8 NAY 0 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

### **5.02 APPROVAL/ JANUARY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Mr. Garritano to Approve January 2021 Financial Reports as presented:

1. Budget vs Actual
2. January Deposit Listings
3. Treasurer's Report

Roll call vote:

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 8 NAY 0 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

**5.03 APPROVAL/  
ATHLETIC  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
& ARBITER PAYMENTS  
JANUARY 2021**

**Motion** by Mr. Strubinger, **Seconded** by Mr. Garritano to Approve Athletic Financial Reports & Arbiter Payments for January 2021  
Mr. Dustin McAndrew Director of Athletics as presented:

Roll call vote:

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 8 NAY 0 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

**5.04 APPROVAL/  
SCHOOL BANK  
QUARTERLY  
FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Ms. Henning to Approve School Bank Quarterly Financial Reports – July 2020 to September 2020 and October 2020 to December 2020 as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYES**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**6.01 INFORMATIONAL:** Thank you to the School Board – LaRizzio Family

**6.02 INFORMATIONAL:** Traffic concerns between 476 and Route 115 – Mr. Louis Hall 1/24/2021 – Discussion.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business at this time.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **8. FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

#### **8.01 APPROVAL/ GENERAL OPERATING BUDGETS CCTI, CLIU 21, & LCCC FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Motion** by Mr. Strubinger, **Seconded** by Ms. Sheckler to Approve General Operating Budgets – CCTI, CLIU 21, LCCC for the 2021-2022 School Year as presented:

#### **CCTI & CLIU 21 Budgets as presented:**

Roll call vote:

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 8 NAY 0 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

#### **LCCC Budget as presented:**

Roll call vote:

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Abstain</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 7 NAY 0 Abstain: 1 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

**8.02 APPROVAL/  
TAX COMMITTEE  
DELEGATE  
MR. KEN MARX  
PRIMARY & MRS.  
TINA CHAMP ALTERNATE**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Mr. McGinley to Approve Tax Committee Delegate – Mr. Ken Marx (Primary) & Ms. Tina Champ (Alternate) as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYES**

**8.03 APPROVAL/  
PURCHASE LICENSE  
TO UTILIZE  
DOCUSIGN PROGRAM  
SOFTWARE**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Ms. Henning to Approve Purchase License to utilize DocuSign Program Software at a cost of \$5,699.20 as presented:

Roll call vote:

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 8 NAY 0 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

**8.04 APPROVAL/  
DISABLED VETERAN  
REAL ESTATE TAX  
EXEMPTION  
CERTIFICATION**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Mr. Strubinger to Approve Disabled Veteran Read Estate Tax Exemption Certification as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYES**

**\*\*\*\*Reminder February 17, 2021 Finance & Insurance Committee Meeting**



## **9. POLICY & PERSONNEL**

### **9.01 APPROVAL/ COMPLETED APPLICATIONS**

**Motion** by Mr. Strubinger, **Seconded** by Ms. Sheckler to Approve Completed Applications January 1, 2021 – February 4, 2021 as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYE**

### **9.02 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Teacher Achieving Tenure**

Ms. Amy Patterson – Tenure Recognition

### **9.03 APPROVAL/ JOB DESCRIPTION DIRECTOR OF SECURITY/TRUANCY OFFICER**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Mr. Garritano to Approve Job Description – Director of Security/Truancy Officer – Ms. Lori Lienhard as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYE**

**9.04 APPROVAL/  
EMPLOYMENT OF  
AMANDA BUTCH  
ELEMENTARY**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Mr. Montemuro to Approve Employment of Amanda Butch – Elementary Teacher effective March 1, 2021 at a salary of \$47,675.00 Bachelors Step 2 prorated as presented:

Roll call vote.

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Nay</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 7 NAY 1 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

**\*\*\*Mr. McGinley rescinded his vote to Aye**

**AYE 8 NAY 0 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

**9.05 APPROVAL/  
EMPLOYMENT OF  
ALBERT SAMPSON  
ELEMENTARY**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Mr. Montemuro to Approve Employment of Albert Sampson – Elementary Teacher effective March 1, 2021 at a salary of \$46,675.00 Bachelors Step 1 prorated as presented:

Roll call vote.

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Nay</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 7 NAY 1 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**



**9.06 APPROVAL/  
POSTING  
ELEMENTARY  
TEACHER**

**Motion** by Ms. Sheckler, **Seconded** by Mr. Montemuro to Approve Posting a Position for an Elementary Teacher as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYE**

**9.07 APPROVAL/  
(PER BUSINESS  
MANAGER CONTRACT)  
KEN MARX PAY  
INCREASE**

**Motion** by Mr. Strubinger, **Seconded** by Mr. Pompa to Approve (Per Business Manager Contract) – Ken Marx, Business Manager to receive a 2.5% pay raise as a result of receiving a “Satisfactory” rating on his 6 month evaluation as recommended by the Superintendent as presented:

Roll call vote.

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 8 NAY 0 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

**9.08 APPROVAL/  
FIRST READING  
REVISIONS DISTRICT  
POLICIES #'S:  
304,123.1, 123.2 & 143**

**Motion** by Mr. Montemuro, **Seconded** by Mr. Pompa to Approve First Reading – Revisions – District Policies #'s 304, 123.1, 123.2 & 143 as presented:

Roll call vote.

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Nay</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Nay</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 6 NAY 2 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

## **10. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

### **10.01 APPROVAL/ UTILIZING AS A RESOURCE “HOPE” EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

**Motion** by Mr. McGinley, **Seconded** by Mr. Pompa to Approve Utilizing, as a resource, “HOPE-Early Intervention Program” for Adolescents & Young Adults experiencing – First Episode Psychosis as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYE**

### **10.02 APPROVAL/ INCREASE THE HIGH ART POSITION**

**Motion** by Mr. McGinley, **Seconded** by Mr. Garritano to Approve Increasing the high school art position from 80% to 100% as presented:

Roll call vote.

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 8 NAY 0 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

### **10.03 APPROVAL/ ELIMINATE THE GRADUATION PROJECT**

**Motion** by Mr. Montemuro, Seconded by Mr. Garritano to Approve Starting with the Class of 2021, eliminate the graduation project as a graduation requirement (.5 credit) and replace it with a Career Readiness Portfolio (.5 credit) as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYE**

**10.04 APPROVAL/  
ELIMINATE THE  
JIM THORPE AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S  
LOCAL KEYSTONE  
EXAMS GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENT**

**Motion** by Mr. McGinley, **Seconded** by Mr. Garritano to Approve Eliminating the Jim Thorpe Area School District's local Keystone Exams graduation requirement for scoring Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Algebra I and Literature exams or complete remediation in place of the passing scores for Algebra I (.25 credit) as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYE**

**11. ATHLETIC AND FIELDS & CONCESSIONS**

\*\*\*Recognition 2 Student Athletes Achievements: Miss Skylar Searfoss 1,000 pts. as of 1/13/21, & Miss Layla Hurley 1,000 pts. as of 2/10/21

Mrs. Sheckler questioned why Weight/Powerlifting Team is not yet having a season, they have not been allowed to utilize the weight room or participate in any events due to COVID. This will be looked into by our COVID response team.

**11.01 APPROVAL/  
BOROUGH INVOICES  
DECEMBER 17, 2020**

**Motion** by Mr. Strubinger, **Seconded** by Ms. Henning to Approve JT Borough Invoices – Storm Management Permit & Inspection Fees as presented:

Roll call vote.

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 8 NAY 0 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

**11.02 APPROVAL/  
ACCEPTANCE  
RESIGNATION  
ASST TRACK COACH  
SHAWN O'TOOLE**

**Motion** by Mr. Strubinger, **Seconded** by Ms. Sheckler to Approve Acceptance Resignation (effective immediately) Assistant Track Coach – Shawn O'Toole as presented:

**Voice Vote: ALL AYE**

**11.03 APPROVAL/  
EMPLOYMENT  
SAMUEL LUX  
BOYS & GIRLS HEAD  
TENNIS COACH**

**Motion** by Mr. Strubinger, **Seconded** by Ms. Sheckler to Approve Employment - Samuel Lux – Boys & Girls Head Tennis Coach - pending clearances – at a salary of \$3,300.00 for (Boys Tennis – Spring) plus a salary “to be determined” for (Girls Tennis – Fall) as presented:

Roll call vote.

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Nay</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 7 NAY 1 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**

\*\*\* Recognition to Miss Christy McClean on 1/8/21, she was named Times News – Lehigh Valley Health Network's Girls Tennis Player of the Year.

\*\*\*Recognition to Mr. Andrew Sutton, Mr. TJ McKeon and Mr. TJ Garritano for commentary on Sport Event on the district's YouTube Channel.

\*\*\*Recognition to Mr. Derrick Hunter named Defensive Tackle to PA All State Team for 3A

## **12. CAFETERIA AND BUILDING & GROUNDS**

Mr. Strubinger will be having a meeting with Mr. LaRizzio to discuss the use of funds from the State COVID funds for the school districts \$1.7 Million Grant. Looking to use a portion of these funds for HVAC/COVID safety. Mr. LaRizzio wanted to recognize his staff for the excellent job of snow removal from the last snow storm.

## **13. TRANSPORTATION & SECURITY**

There will be a meeting with Brandywine on February 11, 2021 to discuss Transportation issues.

## **14. LEGISLATIVE**

The Governor's proposed 2020-2021 Budget includes a 21% increase to school districts K-12 funding.

## **15. CARBON CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE BOARD**

### **15.01 APPROVAL/ ALTERNATE TO CARBON CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE MR. PAUL MONTEMURO**

**Motion** by Mr. Garritano, **Seconded** by Ms. Sheckler to Approve Mr. Paul Montemuro as the Alternate to Carbon Career & Technical Institute as presented:

Voice vote.

G. Confer	<b>Absent</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	P. Montemuro	<b>Aye</b>
S. Pompa	<b>Aye</b>	T. Garritano	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Nay</b>
C. Henning	<b>Aye</b>		

**AYE 7 NAY 1 Absent 1 : Motion PASSES**



## **16. CARBON-LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD**

No Report

**Motion** by Mr. Montemuro, **Seconded** by Ms. Henning to nominate Mr. Marciante to the CLIU Board as JTASD Board Representative.

Mr. Marciante respectively declined the Nomination.

## **17. LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD**

Thank you for approving the budget. Current enrollment at LCCC are at 151 – 92 Full Time & 59 Part Time students. 12 students are enrolled in the early college program. 64 Students taking Dual Enrollment classes.

## **18. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Montemuro would like to see a cost analysis on the District Office Building. Cost effectiveness of the rental space.



## **19. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **19.01 PENN KIDDER CAMPUS PRINCIPAL – MRS. HOLLY MORDAUNT**

February 2021 Administrative Report

### **19.02 LB MORRIS K-8 PRINCIPAL – MR. SHAWN ALBERT**

February 2021 Administrative Report

### **19.03 HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL – MR. THOMAS LESISKO**

February 2021 Administrative Report

## **20. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **20.01 JTASD CURRENT ENROLLMENT UPDATE – MR. RUSHEFSKI**

Review of current enrollment as of February 4, 2021

### **20.02 NUTRITION GROUP REPORT – MRS. REBECCA FARINA**

February 2021 Cafeteria Report

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cindy Henning/Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
Scott Pompa/Board President