

Stone Valley Community Charter School

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2021 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM. A quorum was present.

Board members present: Ken Bookhamer, Katie Baker, Cheryl Casner, Katie Rupert, Kendra Lapp, Celina Seftas, David Smead,

Board members absent: Rod Cook, Ashley Suydam, Valerie Long,

Public: Jeff Thomas, Dan Berger, Dustin Bishop, Jay Hurley, Brian Spicher, Andi Suydam, Angela Turnbaugh

Via Zoom: Brett Miller, Michael Simone, Mary Beth and Kelvin Kauffman, Anna Hagans, Jessica Kauffman, Starla Fogleman,

II. Approval of Minutes from August Meeting Motion by Baker/Bookhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Broadband Grant Presentation - Jeff Thomas, Dan Berger, Dustin Bishop - Thomas presented the need for increased broadband and cellular service coverage was identified as a top priority in the Alleghenies Ahead 2018 County Comprehensive Plan. It is needed for business competitiveness, public safety, and with the pandemic, for the essential function of schools. True county coverage is available to view via PSU M lab. A feasibility study conducted in 2019 indicated that over 90% of respondents believed local government should assist with rural broadband development. Most respondents were also unsatisfied with their current connectivity. Alleghenies Broadband Inc was formed as a 501(c)3 in 2020 as a public private partnership with the goal to leverage public funding as well as work with private providers to increase broadband access within the Southern Alleghenies Region. They are working with existing companies in the region. They have already applied for and received funding, but are now planning to apply for NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program for 12 new towers in Huntingdon County (with new towers in Bedford and Fulton Counties as well). The speed would be 150 Mbps download and 50 Mbps upload. There is a 10% cost share required for the grant (\$881,241 total matching funds needed). There are 3 phases - existing infrastructure, erecting new towers, and fiber ring. The ABI non profit is asking for \$40,000 from each school district to contribute to the matching funds, guaranteed to be spent in our area. The Counties are also contributing funds. The letters of commitment are needed by November of this year, but the funds could come from next year's budget. Implementation would take place in phases, with some work in 1-2 years and fiber in the 8-10 year time period. They invited the board to contact them with further questions if needed.

IV. Board Business

A. Swear in new trustees (this item was moved up in the agenda to accommodate the notary who came to the meeting to swear in the new member). Turnbaugh administered the oath of office for new member, David L. Smead Jr.

V. Public comments - Bookhamer reminded the visitors that they have 2 minutes to speak. He first called on Brett Miller to speak. She mentioned that she and her husband are against masks, but is content with the current SVCCS mask policy. She also commented that the Mudcats football program shouldn't be allowed to utilize the bathrooms at the school when they are here using the field. Michael

Simone commented that he believed everyone on both sides of the mask debate are just trying to do the safest thing for the children, but that in his medical opinion that it does not make sense to mask the students all day. He acknowledged that the students should be masked when they are close to each other. Anna Hagans commented that as a teacher she'd rather have students wear masks than to have to return to online or hybrid school. Richelle Gearhart asked about the return to school policy following illness. Casner replied that a negative COVID test is not required, but the school policy asks for 24 hours symptom free before returning to school. Suydam added that there are other layered mitigation efforts in place, such as screening upon entry, handwashing, distancing, etc.

B. Presentation of potential board members - Brian Spicher attended the meeting as a potential board member. He commented that he is a graduate of Huntingdon Area High School, and after ward went to school and worked construction in Lancaster County. Their family just moved back to this area and want to get involved in the community. They have 3 children in the school. Sara Dries (out due to illness) also expressed interest in joining the board. Baker will send out her resume to the board for consideration.

VI. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee Report - Rupert reported that all expenses are normal expenses. She will start billing districts for students tuition next week now that the student count is finalized. She reported that the audit was delayed due to the auditor being ill, but it should be starting soon. Bank balances are in good standing.

Board Action- approve expenditures Motion by Lapp/ Baker. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Education Director's Report - Casner reported that SVCCS safety plan already complies with the Dept. of Health mandate on masks. She reported that the students are doing well with compliance. Suydam proposed that the temperature screening appears to no longer be needed. She would rather screen their behavior visually for symptoms instead of using the temperature as the primary gauge of their status each day. She said anyone who appears unwell will be screened with an ear thermometer (more accurate than the forehead thermometer). No students were turned away at the door last year due to the morning temperature.

Casner discussed the staff quarantine policy. Suydam suggested that regardless of vaccination that there should be a 5 day quarantine with a test on day 5. **Motion to pay for sick time for staff quarantine (regardless of vaccination status) until the next board meeting Bookhamer/Seftas. Motion carried unanimously.**

Casner reported that she is working with Shaver's Creek Environmental Center to do a mini outdoor school on October 14 & 15 for 5th grade.

Casner reported that she recommends Jessica Filson be hired as art/stem teacher on salary step 9. She comes with experience from Mifflin County School District and museum curation. She is willing to learn the STEM components of the position. **Motion by Baker/Lapp to hire, starting September 15. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.**

Casner reported that the Blackboard system is not functioning well. She recommended the Focus call out system for a cost of \$500/year (with the initial startup cost being \$1200/year). Blackboard currently costs \$500/year but has issues with people not receiving calls. Focus is already being utilized for other features, so this would be to add in the call feature. **Motion to add Focus call system by Seftas/Smead. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Executive Committee - no report

D. Academic Policy Committee - meeting at the end of the month

E. Admissions/Parental Volunteer Committee - no report

F. Facilities and Grounds Committee -

Bookhamer reported that Mudcats Youth Football was approved to utilize the fields at SVCCS (they were also approved last year). Building use is not permitted (emergency use only). They have a port a potty for use during the games.

Roof repairs with Mains will be discontinued, but instead Mid State will instead be our consultant on an as-needed basis. Recent repairs were needed and may be covered by insurance.

The front door system will be installed this November and entry will be via card access instead of a physical key. Smead brought up options for access for the fire department.

Bookhamer reported that the fencing company was switched due to nonresponse from the first company. It is scheduled to be installed in November. The new mower was purchased and also has a plow attachment.

Casner reported that after the community recycling bin was removed last spring, the school needs to get a new recycling service. Rupert will get prices for the service and locations for the new bin were discussed.

G Fundraising Committee - The fall bulb sale is underway and going well so far. The committee will be meeting next week to discuss the meat raffle.

H. Community Relations Committee - Seftas reported that the committee plans to meet next week. She said the committee plans to discuss board development and also onboarding and training for new and existing members.

I. Technology Committee - no report. Smead volunteered to join the committee.

J. Closed Session - Motion to enter closed session at 8:36 PM by Baker/Bookhamer. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to leave closed session at 9:18 PM by Baker/Seftas . Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment (No action will be taken on any discussion after adjournment) Motion to adjourn at 9:18 by Baker/Lapp. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings:

*Board Meeting: October 14, 2021 @ 6:30pm
All meetings are held at SVCCS unless otherwise stated.*