

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES MEETING**

**August 9, 2023
Virtual (ZOOM)
7:00 P.M.
Minutes**

- I. The Chairperson,** Dr. Damary Bonilla, called the Education Programs & Resources Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and let those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Board Committee Members Present:** Dr. Damary Bonilla, Rebecca Bear, Debbie Kulick, Jason Gullstrand
- III. School Personnel Present:** William Vitulli, George Andrews, Angela Byrne, Rebecca Lopez, Eric Forsyth, Brian Baddick, Tabitha Bradley, Heather Piperato, Trenee Lurry, Amy Polmounter, Matthew Triolo, and Lisa Vitulli.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Rebecca Bear to approve the agenda from August 9, 2023, and with members of the Committee reserving the right to add to the agenda and take further action in the best interest of the district. Motion was seconded by Jason Gullstrand. Motion was carried unanimously 3-0.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Dr. Damary Bonilla to approve the minutes from June 14, 2023. Motion was seconded by Jason Gullstrand. Motion was carried unanimously 3-0.

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. BE ALLiance Update - Trenee Lurry started her update with the calendar dates from July and August since the Board members didn't meet in July. July was Disability Pride Month and French Heritage Month. On July 1st Hush Ends, 7/18 South Asian Heritage Month, 7/18-7/19 Islamic New Year, 7/26 American with Disabilities Act Anniversary, 8/9 International Day of Indigenous People, 8/17 South Asian Heritage Ends, 8/26 Women's Equality Day. In addition, on Sept 7 it will be our 1st Coffee chat.
- b. Dual Enrollment - Amy Polmounter and Matthew Triolo
Amy Polmounter started her visual presentation of the Dual Enrollment which shows what we could provide to the parents and students and how it could save money towards future degrees. Matt Triolo continued with the presentation showing how the students could get a jump start with college courses that could be transferable credits towards a future degree while they are in high school. He also discussed how some of the credits could be transferred to either ESU or Northampton College. Amy continued to talk about the two Institutes that work with our District (ESU and Northampton College) and how great it has been working with them and the partnership we have built with both Institutes. Next was the Subsidy Plan

which ESASD will pay 80% of tuition and 100% for materials. Also, students could apply for the subsidy up to two college courses for the 2023-2024 school year. There are two options (Dual Credits and Grading Policy) which are explained in the presentation. Also, we have Traditional Enrollment. A contract has been made for the students to sign in for Dual Credits/Dual Enrollment. There is a link for ESU for the students to check how to do the enrolled and a link for Northampton College. Amy finalized her presentation by opening for questions or comments. Rebecca Bear asked a few questions which Amy was able to answer. Jason Gullstrand also said a few words and had a few questions which Amy also answered. Eric Forsyth was able to explain a little bit more about one of the questions regarding the grading numbers.

- c. Communications Update - Rebecca Lopez started her presentation mentioning the last Board Meeting approval of 6 weeks display of 6 Billboards, 3 for registration and 3 for hiring which were set up around the community to specific locations in our ESA. They were placed for the parents to register the new students, and for those who are moving to the area and are looking for work and are interested in joining our District. Then Rebecca went ahead and presented the student registration process on our website and explained how parents could register their students by following step by step the online registration. Parents will also be able to see this page in our social media pages Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We added for parents that are new to the area to see what school their student might be assigned to depending on the zone by going into our home page under the Department then clicking on Transportation. Here they will be able to enter their address and see the building the student will be assigned to. Then Rebecca opened to questions and comments. Debbie Kulick made a suggestion to send a letter to the Building Association and Realtors with this information when they are talking to prospective clients moving to the area. Eric Forsyth discussed the registration process and that he has received some feedback from Ann Bauer. They are still receiving 200 to 300 open registration and they are trying to process them as soon as they get them, but they will not find out if they are a little bit ahead of the curve on the student registration or still trickling down after Labor Day, until after we gather all the data. On 8/21/23 letters will be going out to the parents indicating what building the student will be going to, what bus they will be taking and the location of where they are getting picked up and dropped off and also the student will be receiving their schedule the same day. Carissa Johnson is working on getting all of the student ID in hand by 8/28 when school starts. Lastly, Eric gave an update on how the Student Information System is now synchronized with our new CSIU System and how it is running with our Blackboard System. This is key to start the new 2023-2024 school year, in order to be able to be in contact with parents and staff and to have Sapphire working as well.
- d. ESACA by the Numbers - Lisa Vitulli started her presentation for the 2022-2023 ESACA school year by showing a draft of the logo they might be using for the Cyber Program. At the beginning of the school year, we had 210 students that was a little bit higher than our Pre Covid numbers. At the end of the school year, we had 506 students. Then there was a breakdown of the students on full time for High School, Intermediate and Elementary and Schedule Conflict. She also did a breakdown of the staff at the Cyber Academy building. Lisa also discussed what ESACA/Blended Building did throughout the year for the students. She also mentioned that on the occasion that the district has some teachers absent, they have a list of courses and classes for the students with a certified substitute teacher. The student could also enroll into annuity and get help that way if they need it. Lisa also presented the District Charter School Savings which the total was \$9,940.398. Lisa collaborated with Eric Forsyth's

office to send out some postcards to the families which she has to follow up. She sent letters to all the current ESACA families to confirm they still are in our District. Also, ESACA provides Summer School for High School and Middle School and lastly she shared some Highlight throughout the year. Then moving forward to the new year 2023-2024, she will continue to communicate with families, building relationships and continuing working with each student to make everyone a positive experience with ESACA. Dr. Damary Bonilla was very pleased with the presentation and update. Jason Gullstrand had a question about the percentage of students that came from one of our buildings or other students that came from other private Cyber Academies to which Lisa responded that she only had a handful that came out of cyber. Also, Rebecca Bear wanted to know if Cyber students could use the Dual Enrollment and Lisa pointed out that the students will be able to do the Dual Enrollment in our District.

- e. STEAM*R 2023 Pics - Angela Byrne started her presentation by talking about the four-week STEAM*R program running in July. We had a record of 500 students participating this year. That is 20% of our students from kindergarten to 5th grade. This year's theme was, "Theme Parks and Adventures". The coordinators split up the weeks. The 1st week was Safari Parks, Animal Habitat Survivor Challenges, and Building Animal Bridges. The 2nd week was Amusement Parks. The 3rd week was Explore National Parks and then the final week was the Water Parks. We were able to bring some outside presenters through funding from the EITC Grant through the Pocono Mountain United Way. We were designated the Educational Improvement Organization. We received a Grant for our program by being selected by their organization. A survey of 80 parents was done and we received a great response from parents and students. Overall, 98 % are satisfied with the program and they will participate again next year. Then Dr. Vitulli played some slides with pictures of the summer program, STEAM*R. Dr. Damary Bonilla wanted to mention that we are the only ones in Monroe County providing this program. Jason Gullstrand said how great it was to see the kids' faces and the excellent jobs everyone did participating in the program. Also, Debbie Kulick was so happy that we are the only ones doing this in our District. Dr. Vitulli then thanked Angela for all the hard work she did for the STEAM*R program.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - LIMITED TO ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

None

VII. PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

None

VIII. ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Dr. Damary Bonilla to move the following items to the Board of Education Motion was seconded by Jason Gullstrand. Motion was carried unanimously 3-0.

1. Global Vending Group - Book Vending Machines (8) - \$49,220 paid with Learning Loss Grant
Jason Gullstrand wanted to know the plan for the Book Vending machine. Dr. Vitulli discussed the Book Vending machines by saying that it is taking a little longer than expected but that we are planning to put a machine in every Elementary and Intermediate school at a total of eight machines.
2. CodeHS - Coding Software - renewal - \$7,200 paid by C&I
3. McGraw Hill - Reveal Math Materials & Support - Pilot - \$8,731.80 paid by ESSER III
4. HMH - ELA Support & Materials - Pilot - \$75,310.00 paid by ESSER III
5. Zaner-Bloser - Super Kids - Additional materials K-2 - \$23,155 paid by C&I
6. SmartPass - Electronic Hall Pass System - Secondary Only - \$10,231.50 paid by ESSER
7. HMH - Read 180 2-Year Proposal - Intermediate - \$287,216.43 paid by Access/ESSER III/C&I
8. Zaner-Bloser - Super Kids - Grade. 2 Backpack pages - \$6,514.75 paid by ESSER III
9. Zaner-Bloser - Handwriting Materials Grades 3-5 - All Elementary schools - \$23,008.43 paid by ESSERs III (total of 6 separate similar quotes)
10. Zaner-Bloser - Additional Materials (Bushkill) - \$11,789.80 - paid by ESSERs III
11. Zaner-Bloser - Additional Materials (JM Hill) - \$10,574.30 - paid by ESSERs III

IX. NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, September 13, 2023

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Debbie Kulick to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Jason Gullstrand. Motion was carried unanimously 3-0.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 8:45 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Myrian Cole**