

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Committee of the Whole Meeting

April 4, 2022
High School Library
7:00 o'clock p.m.

Minutes

President Petruzzi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Mrs. Veilleux called the roll.

Board Present: Mr. Nathan Burgett, Mr. Eric Button, Mr. Justin Fillhart, Mrs. Bonna Johns, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Jason Stake, Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Adam Moate and Mr. Gary Buchsen.

Board Absent: Sean Lathrop

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Matt Lawton, Ink Young and Dan Schott.

The board met in executive session on March 22, 2022 from 5:30pm until 7:50pm to conduct a superintendent interview.

Public Comment

There were no comments related to agenda items, no comments relating to Title I and Title II and no comments relating to the District Health and Safety Plan.

Mr. Lawton spoke in front of the board regarding a meeting with the Port Allegany Education Association and he wanted to express his thanks to the board on how well the negotiations went.

Committee Reports

Mr. Eric Button spoke on behalf of the Intermediate Unit Nine Board of Directors. They passed the budget and updated several policies. The Intermediate Unit is hosting a legislative day for local legislators. There is no meeting for April and the next meeting will be May 16, 2022.

Mr. Nathan Burgett had nothing to report for the Seneca Highlands CTC General Advisory Board.

Mr. Justin Fillhart, PSBA Legislative Representative, stated that Senator Dush introduced Senate bill 1143 trying to increase the PILT (Payment in lieu of taxes) to reduce the burden on the property owners specifically in rural areas.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen presented the 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget Overview. The tentative budget will need to be approved in May with the final budget approval in June.

The district has received a renewal proposal from Warren County Cyber School to deliver distance learning options for the school district. Approximately 20 district students are served via Warren County programming.

Mr. Buchsen stated that with the budget we always include a fund transfer from the district to the cafeteria fund. The cafeteria is supposed to be a stand alone operation that should break even each year.

Mr. Budd reviewed an option to install vape detectors in district restrooms. He provided examples of what has been confiscated from students. It is hard to catch a student in the act and installing vape detectors will detect the resin from the vapes and will send an email or text message identifying the location.

Technology Pool Contract with Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams. Every two to three weeks something will come up in regards to technology. They do a one day seminar in June and it is money well spent.

Tentative Agreement with the Port Allegany Education Association. Memo shared with the board summarizing the agreement including the length of the contract, salary increases, and other items.

Mrs. Johns has turned in her intent to resign and Mr. Buchsen thanked her for her service and leadership. The board will need to fill this seat within the next 30 days.

Personnel

Hired Andrea Brem as a temporary professional employee assigned as a high school health/PE teacher beginning with the 2022-2023 school year at a salary of \$52,826 (BS, Step 8 and fringe benefits set in accordance with the Professional Agreement and district policy.

The administration will have candidates recommended to serve as volunteer football coaches at next week's meeting.

Finance

The 2022-2023 Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit IX General Operating Budget in the amount of \$449,037 is presented for review and discussion. Port Allegany's share is \$29,868.

Buildings and Grounds

Discussion on extending the current classroom agreement with the Head Start Program for the 2022-2023 school year. The district makes this space available at no cost to Head Start. These students are residents of the Port Allegany School District.

Classroom Rental Agreement with the Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit IX. The IU is requesting two classrooms for office space in the district.

Board

Approved a 5 year agreement with the Port Allegany Education Association beginning July 1, 2022. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Athletic Trainer Agreement with UPMC Cole. UPMC Cole has proposed to provide athletic trainer services for the 2022-2023 school year at a cost of \$31,600. This would be for 1,000 hours of service.

Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Bonna Johns as a board member. Motion: J. Stake; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously.

Authorized the administration to make public notice of an open board seat. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The board moved to executive session to discuss negotiations and a personnel matter at 8:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Stake; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously. Mrs. Petruzzi adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX
Secretary to the Board of School Directors