

Port Allegany School District

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting

August 14, 2023
High School Library
7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

President Erica 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. Eric Button, Mr. Nathan Burgett, Mr. Sean Lathrop (via phone), Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Jason Stake, Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mrs. Ink Young and Mr. Gary Buchsen

Board Absent: Mr. Justin Fillhart

Others Present: Business Manager Adam Moate, High School Principal Mr. Marc Budd, Elementary School Principal Mr. Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Gregory Oliver, Matt Lawton, Rachel Vargeson, Rachel Foote (Kooth), Tina Sanders (Kooth), Terri Woodruff and Carl Woodruff.

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 approved by the board on July 26, 2021 and most recently amended on February 13, 2023.

Minutes of Preceding Meetings

Approved the Minutes of the June 5, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting and the June 15, 2023 Regular Meeting with a correction on the adjournment of the meeting which was Mr. Burgett and not Mrs. Petruzzi. Motion: J. Stake Second: N. Burgett. The motion was unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report

Approved the Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2023 and July 31, 2023 as presented by Mr. Tanner. Motion: J. Stake; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

General Fund investments on June 30, 2023 were as follows: Juniata Valley Bank (JVB) Investment Savings - \$5,107,259.80 and JVB Now Account - \$39,311.12. Motion: J. Stake; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

General Fund investments on July 31, 2023 were as follows: Juniata Valley Bank (JVB) Investment Savings - \$4,320,344.28 and JVB Now Account - \$59,700.14. Motion: J. Stake; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

June 30, 2023 balance for various accounts were reported as follows: Capital Reserve Fund - \$1,354,887.82; Student Activities Account - \$93,000.53; Student Athletics Account - \$113,983.10; and Cafeteria Account - \$355,495.16. Motion: J. Stake; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

July 31, 2023 balance for various accounts were reported as follows: Capital Reserve Fund - \$1,360,025.10; Student Activities Account - \$93,728.97; Student Athletics Account - \$114,004.82; and Cafeteria Account - \$385,148.59. Motion: J. Stake; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bill Lists and Payrolls

Approved the General Fund Bill List of July 13, 2023 - \$169,097.16 and August 14, 2023 - \$143,011.66 and payrolls of July 6, 2023 - \$218,387.02, July 20, 2023 - \$213,183.58, June 8, 2023 - \$338,796.66 and June 22, 2023 - \$279,373.78. Motion: J. Stake; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen, Mr. Budd, and Mr. Oliver provided a summary of activities leading up to the start of the school year.

Mr. Buchsen stated that with the release of the state budget the district will see basic education funding increase of \$436,829 and an additional \$58,684 in special education funding.

Mr. Buchsen introduced Rachel Foote and Tina Sanders from Kooth which is an online mental health support for students. The board requested additional information on this grant funded program in Pennsylvania. A brief presentation was shared with the board with a question and answer period upon completion.

The district has the opportunity to hire two resource officers along with approving the School Police Officer IU9 agreement, job description, and employment contract this evening. A review of the agreement, job description, and contract was completed.

Finance

Approved payment to provide two continental breakfasts and one lunch for district employees during the August in-service days at a cost not to exceed \$1,750.00. Motion: J. Stake; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the Securanty proposal to offer voluntary Chromebook insurance to families. No cost to the school district. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Personnel

Hired Rebecca Schwab as a temporary professional employee assigned as a high school business / gifted education teacher at a salary of \$47,031 (B, Step 1) and fringe benefits set in accordance with the Professional Agreement and district policy. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously with Mr. Lathrop abstaining.

Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Gina Decker as an elementary library aide effective August 4, 2023. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Elizabeth Valentine as an elementary paraprofessional effective August 4, 2023. Motion: J. Stake; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Accepted the resignation of Holly Schena as a food service worker effective August 9, 2023. Motion: J. Stake; Second: I. Young. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the addition of Mrs. Deanna Tronetti to the substitute teaching list. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the following volunteer coaches for volleyball for the 2023-2024 school year: Tracy Smith, Josh Nelson, Laurie Lathrop, Hannah Lathrop and Becca Schwab. Motion: J. Stake; Second: I. Young. The motion was carried unanimously with Mr. Lathrop abstaining.

Approved the Joint Employer and Employee Sharing Agreement - School Police Officer Program with the Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit IX. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: I. Young. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the job description and employment contract for school police officers. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Hired George Jones as a school police officer with terms outlined in the school police officer employment contract. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Hired John Pascuzzi as a school police officer with terms outlined in the school police officer employment contract. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Transportation

Approved the 2023-2024 bus routes as developed by Joseph Muccio, LLC, pupil transportation contractor. Motion: J. Stake; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the 2023-2024 bus/van driver's list as recommended by Joseph Muccio, LLC, pupil transportation contractor. Motion: J. Stake; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously.

Board

Approved the 2023-2024 Purchase of Service Agreement and Business Associate Agreement between Port Allegany School District and Beacon Light Academy to cover services actively being provided, or in anticipation of future placements. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Reauthorized the district health & safety plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Continued voluntary participation in the Kooth online mental health support services program for 2023-2024 school year. (No cost to the school district.) Motion: N. Burgett; Second: J. Stake. Roll Call Vote. The motion passed with a 5-3 vote with Mr. Stake, Mr. Tanner, Mr. Lathrop, Mr. Burgett and Mrs. Petruzzi voting yes and with Mrs. Young, Mr. Button and Mrs. Stauffer voting no.

Approved the following policy updates: Policy 006 - Meetings. (Recommended to exhibit compliance with the Sunshine Act.), Policy 216.1 - Supplemental Discipline Records. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.) and Policy 251 - Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability. (This is mandated.)

Accepted the superintendent's intent to retire letter. Mr. Buchsen's last day in the district would be June 28, 2024. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The board met in executive session regarding personnel and student issues at 8:07 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Stake; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was unanimously carried. Mr. Petruzzi adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX
Secretary to the Board of School Directors