

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Port Allegany School District

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS *Committee of the Whole Meeting*

August 4, 2025
High School Library
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

President Ink Young called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Ms. Plumstead called the roll.

Board Present: Mr. Nathan Burgett, Mr. Eric Button, Mr. Christopher Ernst, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Jason Stake, Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer, Mr. Nicholas Valentine, Mrs. Ink Young and Mrs. Paula Newell.

Board Absent: Mr. Donald Tanner

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal Gregory Oliver, Assistant Principal Kathleen Bostjancic, Business Manager Adam Moate, Katy Klepfer, Nick Klepfer, Chelsea Caden, Crystal Drew, Carey Herndon, Toncha Barber, Kristi Freeman, Lauren Jackson, Erica Babcock, Sandra Shaffer, Bridgette Bidwell, Joshua M, Lisa D, Kelli Burgess, Lindsay Sherwood, Stacey Kinney, Alisha Bachman, Ashley Bienkowski, Alicia Stuckey, Dixie Gay, Jeremy Barnard, Todd Burgess, Tabatha Dart, Kristina Threadgill, Jesse Crum, Paige Crum, Nancy Osani, Journey Wilmoth, Isabella Stiles, Benjamin Palmer, Tammy Boyd, Jennifer Funk, Barb Delacour, Bethany Mealy

Superintendent Remarks

Mrs. Newell discussed the need to transition away from the current Gator mascot due to the trademark and copyright infringement issues with the University of Florida. Mrs. Newell also emphasized on the importance of legal compliance and community involvement in creating a new brand. Concerns were raised about the lack of transparency and communication within the community and board members. The community was invited to participate in the comprehensive planning process on August 11th to address the branding and other district needs. The discussion also touched on potential legal implications and the needs for a unique, copyrighted logo.

Public Comment

Mrs. Babcock stated her concerns about changing the school logo and was discouraged with the lack of communication between the Superintendent, the School Board and community.

Mrs. Burgess briefly stated her concerns about changing the school logo as well but also mentioned she is discouraged with lack of communication.

Mrs. Boyd stated her concerns about changing the school logo also but also commented she was discouraged with the transparency. She said she would like to have the community involved in the design of the new logo.

Mrs. Kinney also voiced her concerns regarding changing the school logo. As well as her discouragement due to lack of communication and transparency.

We encourage and welcome public comment at planning meetings and at our regular monthly board meetings. The following guidelines will permit meetings to move smoothly and allow sufficient time for all comments to be heard:

<https://www.pasdedu.org/Board-of-Directors>

Committee Reports

Mr. Christopher Ernst, Intermediate Unit Nine Board of Directors had nothing to report.

Mrs. Ink Young, Seneca Highlands CTC General Advisory Board had nothing to report.

Nicholas Valentine, PSBA Legislative Representative had reported that there is an upcoming free webinar focusing on building bridges between the school board and community. He had also stated there are going to be 30 new weather stations being installed across the state to better help with weather updates.

Communication

Thank you card from Abbey Johnson-Ernst.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Newell discussed the administrative contract change for vacation days, updated from the vote earlier this year. The verbiage reads "unused vacation days will be compensated through a salary adjustment based on the number of days worked. This adjustment shall be considered a one-time payment and will not be factored into calculations for annual salary increases or merit-based adjustments to the employee's base pay." She stated this is the exact same language our solicitor looked at and recommended.

The board debated the allocation of pre-K slots, deciding to establish an interest list and form a committee to recommend a fair process for filling the remaining 24 available slots. The committee will consider prioritizing income-eligible students, teachers, and community members. Discussion of potential changes to the registration process for next year's Pre-K

Counts openings was discussed. Motion: C.Ernst; Second: E.Petruzzi. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs.Newell discussed the vision Statement of Portrait of a Graduate.

The board was let known of a few important upcoming dates within the district: Elementary Open House: September 10, 2025, 7th Grade Orientation: August 12, 2025, 7th Grade Parent Meeting: August 12, 2025, Teacher in-service: August 15, 2025 and the First Day of School: August 18, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance

None.

Personnel

Approval of Personal Action Report (PAR) along with the board supplementals for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion: J.Stake; Second: N.Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recommended appointing Tiffany Plumstead as Board Secretary for a four year term. Retroactive to July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029.

Recommended appointing Mr. Chris Lantz as PASD Board of Directors solicitor for a term of one year, retroactive from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Recommended approving AASA: The School Superintendents Association membership, in the amount of \$485.00.

Transportation

The board will be approving the [bus/van driver's list and approving bus routes](#) at next week's meeting. It was noted there were no changes, everything is the same as last year.

Buildings & Grounds

Mr.Stone and Mr.Kerr from EI Associates did a virtual presentation. The meeting discussed updates on various school projects, including a new field house at the high school with restrooms, concessions, and storage, totaling around 1500 sq. ft. The field house could be integrated with the existing building for fitness and locker rooms. Concerns were raised about accessibility and congestion. The board liked the idea of a standalone structure versus a split level. There are currently no grants available for a project like this specifically.

Recommended the usage of the soccer field on the hill at the elementary school. Mr.Budd

noted this field really only gets used by the marching band in the pre-season. He stated that our staff currently maintains this field already. This will be recommended for approval at the August 11th meeting.

Approved the new cafeteria table designs including the colors black and orange and the letters PHS. Motion: J.Stake; Second: N.Valentine. Motion was carried unanimously.

Curriculum

None.

Board

Recommend to vote on approval of the roster for tuition waivers for non-resident students of employees will be made available on August 11, 2025.

Recommended changing the regular board meeting date in November from November 10th to November 17th due to Mrs.Newell needing to attend the DALI Conference.

President Mrs.Young stated there will be an upcoming PSBA Board Training in August.

Recommended the acceptance of the Port Allegany Support Staff Contract Agreement - draft.

Approved the following board policies with the exception of the District Social Media 816 and Freedom of Speech by Employees 320: Family Medical Leave Act 335, Personal Necessity Leave 336, Uncompensated Leave 339, Tuition Income 607, Service Animals in School 718, School Security Personnel 805.2, Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays 807, District Social Media 816, and Freedom of Speech by Employees 320. Motion: J.Stake; Second: C.Ernst. Motion was carried unanimously.

Tabled for further committee work policies: District Social Media 816 and Freedom of Speech by Employees 320

Executive Session:

The board met in executive session at 8:48 pm, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act to: Receive legal advice and discuss strategy related to a legal contract involving XXX Company.

Adjournment

Resulting from the executive session - the board voted to move forward with suggested repairs for PAHS HVAC: Motion: J.Stake; Second: N.Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion: J.Stake; Second: N.Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously. Mrs.Young

adjourned the meeting at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Plumstead
Secretary to the Board of School Directors

Next Scheduled Meeting

August 11, 2025 - Regular Meeting