

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Reorganization Meeting

December 6, 2021
High School Library
7:00 o'clock p.m.

Minutes

Superintendent Mr. Buchsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Mr. Buchsen swore in Mr. Nathan Burgett, Mr. Eric Button, Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer and Mr. Donald Tanner as new and re-elected board members. 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: Mr. Sean Lathrop

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary School Principal Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Greg Oliver, Matt Lawton, Brielle Button, Adam Hamilton, Ink Young, Joyce Stehle, Michelle Wooten and Brad Stewart.

Election of Temporary President

Mr. Buchsen opened the floor to receive nominations for a temporary president. Mr. Buchsen asked for anyone to volunteer and Mr. Tanner volunteered. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Buchsen declared Mr. Tanner duly elected to serve as temporary president.

Election of President

Mr. Tanner then opened the floor to receive nominations for President of the Board. Mr. Stake nominated Mrs. Erica Petruzzi and Mr. Fillhart seconded. Mr. Stake moved to close nominations and Mr. Fillhart seconded. The motion was carried with Mrs. Petruzzi abstaining. Mr. Tanner declared Mrs. Erica Petruzzi duly elected President and she assumed the Chair.

Election of Vice President

Mrs. Petruzzi opened the floor to receive nominations for Vice-president. Mr. Fillhart nominated Donald Tanner and Mrs. Johns seconded. Mrs. Petruzzi nominated Mr. Stake and Mr. Burgett seconded. Mrs. Petruzzi moved to close nominations and Mrs. Johns seconded. The vote was then brought forward to the board with two votes for Mr. Tanner and five votes for Mr. Stake. The motion carried with Mr. Stake abstaining. Mrs. Petruzzi declared Jason Stake duly elected Vice-president of the Board of School Directors.

Public Comment

Adam Hamilton, father and community member, spoke in regards to the Health & Safety Plan and quarantine (exclusion). He commented on mental health issues impacting students.

Ink Young shared many of the same concerns that Mr. Hamilton spoke about. She walked through some data, research, practices and legalities that she discovered in regards to quarantine and contact at home compared to in school. She thanked Mr. Buchsen for responses and resources in helping her come up with the data.

Michelle Wooten spoke as a mother and a health care provider. Adults are resuming a relatively normal life again, our schools and children are forced to carry the brunt of some of the harshest restrictions even though the data shows that they are at the lowest risk. We need to move back to providing education to our students and not trying to provide health care into our schools.

There were no comments relating to agenda items, Title I and II, or the District Health and Safety Plan approved by the board on July 26, 2021.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. David DiTanna of Buffamante, Whipple, Buttafaro, PC presented the 2020-2021 independent auditor's report. Mr. DiTanna provided individual paper copies for the board to review while he presented the report.

ESSERs II funding was received in November. Mr. Buchsen stated that information was shared with the board last month. The district was waiting to receive these funds and once received most of the funds would be transferred back to the capital reserve with the balance placed in the general fund.

The board will need to approve a 2022 board meeting calendar and have it posted publicly. Traditionally, Port Allegany board meetings have been held the first and second Monday of the month.

Mr. Brad Stewart presented the online ticket sales process for the music program. TicketSpice will allow people to purchase tickets online with their debit or credit cards and pick their seats at two different tiers. Individuals may also purchase tickets in person with cash.

Mr. Buchsen stated that the board will need to determine if it intends to stay within the taxing limitations of Act I and the Resolution 2022-1. The caps are set by the state. Should a board decide to increase taxes below the index, a public referendum vote would need to be conducted. This upcoming year's cap is 5.2% for the district and would generate approximately \$116,000 if the board raised taxes to the index next spring.

Updates to the District's Health & Safety Plan. Right now where the Health and Safety Plan stands, should the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturn the Department of Health's mask mandate, the district will fall back into the current district Health and Safety Plan which would make masking optional.

'Test to Stay' Rapid Antigen Testing Program. The district could allow close contacts to remain eligible for in-person instruction and participation in district extracurricular activities if they are participants in the test-to-stay program. This is at no cost to families or the district. The program is for asymptomatic students who were determined to be close contacts. Many schools in the area have introduced the test-to-stay program with parental permission. Students would be tested at school and as long as the

test comes back negative, they can stay in school and participate in all activities. It is the school district's responsibility to gather the permission slips. If the board were to adopt the test-to-stay program, they would test upon notification in school and test again within 4 and 8 days and as long as the test comes back negative, they will stay in school. Board discussion held.

Committee Appointments

Discussion regarding committee appointments - current listing attached. (The President will appoint these positions in January.) Mrs. Petruzzi stated that if anyone has any interest in getting off of a committee or being on a specific committee, please let her know. IU Career and Technical Center Advisory Board (1 member), PA School Boards Association/Legislative Representative (1 member), Act 93 Committee (3-4 members), Negotiations Committee - Professional Staff (3 members), Negotiations Committee - Support Staff (3-4 members), Transportation Committee - (3 members), Comprehensive Plan Committee (1-2 members), Wellness Committee (1 member), Facilities Committee (3-4 members), and Academic Improvement Committee (Standing Committee).

Personnel

Approved the addition of Ms. Kalie Cowburn to the Substitute Teaching List, pending completion of paperwork. Motion: B. Johns; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the addition of Mrs. Pam Tinder to the Support Staff Substitute List, pending completion of paperwork. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: B. Johns. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved Nate Stauffer as a volunteer wrestling coach for the 2021-2022 season. Motion: B. Johns; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the following volunteer basketball coaches for the 2021-2022 season: Tony Edgell and Denise Evans. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the addition of Mr. Steven Bressan, BS degree in Biology, to the Substitute List. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Finance

Accepted the independent Auditor's Report for the year ended June 30, 2021 as prepared by Buffamante, Whipple, Buttafaro, PC. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion was carried unanimously.

Authorized the administration to complete a transfer of \$932,126.48 from the general fund to the capital reserve. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion was carried unanimously.

Adopted Resolution 2022-1 electing not to increase the tax rate above the index of 5.2% to support the 2022-2023 budget. Motion: J. Stake; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously.

Appointed G.H. Harris Associates, Inc. as the 2021 delinquent per capita tax collector at no cost to the district. Motion: J. Fillhart; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously.

Board

Adopted the 2022 Schedule of Meetings. Motion: B. Johns; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the Minutes of the November 1, 2021 Committee of the Whole and the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting with the correction to the November 8th meeting stating that Sean Lathrop was absent but was in fact present. Motion: J. Fillhart; Second: . The motion was unanimously carried.

Approved the minutes of the November 1, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting and the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Designated The Bradford Era as the newspaper of general circulation in accordance with Policy 005. Motion: J. Fillhart; Second: E. Stauffer. The motion was carried unanimously.

Appointed Mr. Adam Moate Primary Delegate and the Borough Manager as First Alternate Delegate to serve as district representatives to the Tax Collection Committee (TCC) in accordance with Act 32. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: E. Stauffer. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amending the district's Health and Safety Plan to include a "Test to Stay" rapid antigen testing program as presented. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: N. Burgett. Roll call vote. The motion did not pass. It was a 4-4 vote with Mr. Stake, Mrs. Petruzzi, Mrs. Stauffer and Mr. Button opposing.

Executive Session

The board met in executive session at 9:30pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Adjournment

Motion: B. Johns; Second: J. Stake. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Petruzzi adjourned the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX

Secretary to the Board of School Directors