

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

February 3, 2024  
High School Library  
7:00 p.m.

**AGENDA**

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. Mrs. Veilleux 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: Business Manager Adam Moate, High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal Gregory Oliver, Assistant Principal Kathleen Bostjancic, Alex Johnson, Carey Herndon, Renee Corey, Katy Klepfer, Crystal Drew, Amanda Priest, Chelsea Caden, Bethany Mealy, Nancy Osani, Toncha Barber, Barbara Delacour, Lindsay Sherwood, Stacey Kinney, Kristy Clark, Andy Krellner, Kiley Wojewoda, Tabatha Dart, Jennifer Funk, Jeremy Morey and Laura Fillhart.

Superintendent Remarks

Mrs. Newell noted that we had a "Portrait of a Graduate" comprehensive planning meeting and gave a little bit of a rundown of what they discussed and what they accomplished at that meeting.

We have low scores within the district and right now we are trying to find where the gaps are. We have everything we need as far as the correct reading program and great teaching staff. We do not want to wait, we want to use the resources not to start correcting the problem. The Literacy Lab is not part of the fine arts rotation. It will be a separate rotation in the day.

We are looking at a long term substitute teacher for the open music position for the remainder of the school year.

The elementary school has chronic absenteeism and it is an issue. We tried to come up with an idea that we thought was going in the right direction but we all make mistakes and learn from what works and what doesn't. We will look at different avenues to correct this issue.

## Public Comment

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>

Mr. Alex Johnson, a member of the community who has children within the school district, spoke in regards to STEM being moved into the fine arts rotation in place of music because we do not have a music teacher at this time. He feels that this is not the right thing to do as music along with STEM are very important things that our children need and either cutting them completely out or cutting down the students' time in the subject area are a detriment to our children's learning.

Mrs. Renee Corey, a member of the community who also has children within the school district, spoke in regards to behavior within the classroom being one of the issues that we may have in regards to literacy. She feels that because there are a lot of behavior issues within the classrooms, it is difficult for the teacher to deal with those issues along with teaching.

Mrs. Stacey Kinney has a daughter who just entered kindergarten this school year and at kindergarten registration, she found out that her daughter was flagged for speech and they stated that they would catch it in kindergarten and that she was behind. She was unaware of the qualifications for kindergarten and suggested opening up the pre k program to everyone and not just based on income. Her daughter entered kindergarten and the speech therapist was providing things to the paraprofessional within the classroom for her to help with her speech. She was not evaluated until January which is almost the end of the first semester. She likes the speech therapist but the process needs to be different.

Mrs. Barbara Delacour, a former elementary school teacher here at Port Allegany School District, spoke in regards to her stating there was a literacy problem three years ago and had been saying all along that things need to be done differently. The teachers need to be taught how to teach the children. They need the time to teach them as well. There isn't enough time. There needs to be a foundation built, not more curriculum added.

Lindsay Sherwood, a member of the community spoke on behalf of the teachers within the district. They are not happy and because they are not happy, it is affecting the children. They notice the things that are happening around them. Things need to change.

## Committee Reports

Christopher Ernst, Intermediate Unit Nine Board of Directors stated that there was not a meeting since the last board meeting.

Ink Young, Seneca Highlands CTC General Advisory Board stated that there has not been a meeting.

Nicholas Valentine, PSBA Legislative Representative stated that he had nothing to report.

## Communication

None

## Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Newell spoke in regard to literacy data's mid-year assessment. She provided a document showing evidence for the need for a literacy lab in the elementary school.

## Finance

Discussion was had regarding the Singer Equipment Quote for replacement of cafeteria warmer at the high school for \$7,199.06. This will be approved at next Monday's meeting.

## Personnel

Approved the Personnel Action Report (PAR). Motion: J. Stake; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

## Transportation

None

## Buildings & Grounds

None

## Curriculum

Mrs. Newell discussed implementing a curriculum review cycle and establishing a committee. Mr. Ernst is concerned about the Math rotation on the cycle being reviewed.

## Board

Mrs. Newell stated that the PPA Principal Coaching gives both Mrs. Bostjancic and Mr. Oliver each a mentor to give them feedback. Mr. Stake stated that we need to change where it says Allegany because it is spelled incorrectly before we sign it.

HMH Coachly is a support tool for the RTII coordinator to support classroom teachers in "Into Reading" curriculum. Mrs. Dart will filter this out to teachers. Mrs. Stauffer asked if she is going to take care of both RTII and the literacy lab and Mrs. Newell replied by stating that she will be doing the literacy lab.

## Executive Session

The board met in executive session for legal matters at 8:21 pm.

## Adjournment

Motion: J. Stake; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously. Mrs. Young adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX  
Secretary to the Board of School Directors