

Port Allegany School District

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Committee of the Whole Meeting

March 3, 2024
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. Mrs. Veilleux called the roll.

Board Present: Mr. Nathan Burgett, Mr. Eric Button, Mr. Christopher Ernst, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi (7:25pm), Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer, Mr. Nicholas Valentine, Mrs. Ink Young and Mrs. Paula Newell.

Board Absent: Mr. Eric Button and Mr. Jason Stake

Others Present: Business Manager Adam Moate, High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal Gregory Oliver, Assistant Principal Kathleen Bostjancic, Katy Klepfer, Stacey Kinney, Lindsay Sherwood, Kristi Barber, Amanda Priest, Bethany Mealy, Toncha Barber, Samantha Weidner, Tabatha Dart, Chelsea Caden, Crystal Drew, Benjamin Palmer, Mark Carlson, Andy Krellner, Carey Herndon, Nancy Osani, Christina Fessenden, Mike Fessenden and Kiley Wojewoda

Superintendent Remarks

Mrs. Newell spoke about the EMS Tax Credit and that for the first time, we had a great turn out.

Mrs. Newell also wanted to congratulate the girls basketball team for making it to the first round of the playoffs which will be on Friday, March 7th at 7pm.

Congratulations goes out to all of the wrestlers who made it to states (11 athletes) as well which is the biggest number in school history.

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>
Mrs. Katie Klepfer, mom of two and President of the Parent/Teacher Boosters, began by thanking the board for volunteering their time to the school and community. She spoke in

regards to the comprehensive plan and policies and communication with the public. She also brought up the 2025-2026 school calendar and wanted to be sure we were speaking openly about it as a community and not behind closed doors.

Mrs. Stacy Kinney, mother and community member, read an email that she sent in regards to the 2025-2026 school calendar and how it will impact not only her but I am sure most of the community with young children if there are late start days put into the calendar as there will be difficulty being able to find child care on those days when there are two family households with parents working and no family close to help.

Kristi Barber, mother and community member, asked questions to the board regarding the calendar that will need to be answered by the board after some discussion.

Dr. Mark Carlson, community member and business owner, spoke about the issues of attendance on our two hour delay days in the past and how they are more likely to just not attend school than they are to come in late and if anyone had thought about that issue.

Committee Reports

Mr. Christopher Ernst, Intermediate Unit Nine Board of Directors, distributed a handout to everyone regarding the meeting.

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

Mr. Nicholas Valentine, PSBA Legislative Representative, said that PSBA is having a webinar about AI in Education on April 1st.

Communication

None

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Newell discussed the calendar discovery & consideration: which includes: 1. Childcare Partnership Update - YMCA partnership - apply for cohort and there may be other opportunities that we have not explored yet. 2. Professional Development Requirements Update - goal is to set aside time for professional development to give enough time for the teachers for high quality in depth training to improve for the children and 3. Contractual Issues Update - 185 day calendar, one day a month 45 mins extra connecting to holidays.

Mr. Ernst stated that he agrees with the public. The grant is contingent for the YMCA program and the time for PD is concerning. There needs to be further discussion about the calendar and our options. There is a drastic change from one year to the next.

Mrs. Stauffer asked the time frame for the LETRS program and Mrs. Newell stated that Volume 1 in the first year and Volume 2 in the second year.

Mr. Burgett asked if we could possibly change our approach and instead of two hour delays, combine all of them and make full days instead.

The board agreed that we need to circle back and discuss the calendar further and get feedback from teachers.

Finance

Mrs. Newell provided a budget summary for 2024-2025 Year at a Glance.

A discussion was had regarding the Fire/EMS Tax Credit for 2024-2025. Mr. Burgett responded by letting us know that just because they were eligible for the credit through the department, it did not make them eligible to apply because they didn't qualify for other reasons like not owning their own home and so on. We had a great response for the first time offering it.

Personnel

Approved the Personnel Action Report (PAR). Motion: D. Tanner; Second: E. Petruzzi. The motion was carried unanimously.

Transportation

None

Buildings & Grounds

An overview of the Fire Alarm Deficiencies at the high school was provided to the board along with a Johnson Control Quote. Mr. Moate stated that during the annual inspection, they found that the strobe lights were not working properly and it would be \$19,000 for panel upgrades

Mrs. Newell gave an update on the HVAC and the suggestions that were given from Schneider Electric. The units are undersized and they want to put in supplemental heat and not replace the ones that are incorrect.

Curriculum

None

Board

Pennsylvania School Board Association does have professional development for the board to undergo. They will speak about a time to do that in the near future.

First reading for the following board policies: Board Organization 005, Discipline of Students with Disabilities 113.1, Behavior Support 113.2, Employment of Substitutes 305, Employment Contract/Board Resolutions 308 and Medications 210.

Executive Session

PASD Board of Directors entered executive session at 8:34 pm for the following items: Legal Matters in reference to facilities, Student Discipline and Labor Relations.

Exited Executive Session at 9:04 pm and voted in lieu of expulsion. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: N. Valentine. The motion was carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Stake; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously. Mrs. Young adjourned the meeting at 9:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX
Secretary to the Board of School Directors