

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

May 2, 2022
High School Library
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

President 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. Nathan Burgett, Mr. Eric Button, Mr. Justin Fillhart, Mr. Sean Lathrop, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mrs. Ink Young, Mr. Adam Moate and Mr. Gary Buchsen.

Board Absent: Mr. Jason Stake (Arrived at 7:40pm)

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary School Principal Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Greg Oliver, Matt Lawton, Sara Bishel, Joyce Stehle, Evelyn Mealy, Debbie Kio, Penny Lilly, Becky Anjeski and Barb Bockoras.

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 amended January 10, 2022.

Mrs. Evelyn Mealy spoke in regards to her role in the school district. She is a paraprofessional at the high school and has been doing this job for 22 years. She has worked with over 30 students between the elementary school and the high school. She wanted to give an insight on a day in the life of a paraprofessional in the district. She is currently working with a graduating senior and she does not know her future here in the school district after her student graduates.

Mrs. Joyce Stehle, president of the Port Allegany Educational Support Professionals Association, spoke on behalf of the cafeteria staff. She stated the importance of the staff in the school district and their role in the school district. She spoke about the budget and she encouraged the board to ask questions regarding what they are being asked to do.

Committee Report

Mr. Eric Button, Intermediate Unit Nine Board of Directors, had nothing to report.

Mr. Nathan Burgett, Seneca Highlands CTC General Advisory Board, had nothing to report.

Mr. Justin Fillhart, PSBA Legislative Representative, stated that the state will have their draft out later this month for Title 9 and they are looking for a new Secretary of Education.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Burgett spoke about the McKean County emergency management communications.

A week ago Tuesday, we had four of the five school districts in McKean County attending the meeting discussing emergency management and radio systems upgrades in McKean County.

A presentation was provided reviewing potential communications upgrades for the McKean County schools including direct contact with 911 in the event of an emergency in any of the school districts. Kevin Kulish from Capital Area Communications spoke in regards to the benefits of joining the county on this project. The district would need a mobile repeater and Mr Burgett identified some of the places on campus where this could be placed to optimize coverage. Mr. Buchsen asked what the potential timeline that the board would need to consider for budgeting and the opportunity to apply for safe schools funding. The project is expected to be completed in October of 2023. The recommended equipment for this project would include four portables, two mobiles and a repeater.

Mrs. Bishel spoke about the itinerary for the French Club trip to Canada and what it entails in order to cross the border into Canada. There are five students participating in this French Club trip. In order to cross the border, you do have to be fully vaccinated. It is no longer required to get a test 72 hours before crossing. In order to reduce the cost, they are only staying in one city (Quebec) and will stop in Montreal on the way back home for a day. They will be leaving Saturday the 28th of May and returning on the 31st of May. This is the first time that we have been to Canada since 2019. Mrs. Young asked if any of them have been excluded due to not getting their vaccinations and how does she handle the personal medical information.

The administration received a quote from Zeptive for vape detectors at the high school and elementary for discussion and consideration. Mr. Budd reviewed with the board the size of the devices, what it detects, and how it functions. Mr. Budd spoke about the intended use and look of the detectors. The detectors are tied into our network and would send an email or text message to district administration when vaping has been detected. The devices are battery operated. The quote includes installation in every public bathroom, locker rooms and the nurse's bathroom. Local schools have been pleased with how they work.

Shared Services Agreement with McKean County School Districts. This addresses Otto-Eldred's vocational agricultural program that they offer. Mr. Splain looked at offering students in McKean County the option to participate in the vocational agricultural program in that district. The agreement sets parameters for participation between three school districts.

Head Start is requesting classroom space at the elementary school. The board is aware that we have provided a classroom at the elementary school for Head Start for the past several years. This is based off of the PreK Counts second classroom. Mr. Kio spoke about our sign ups and we have 17 applications out right now. If the district were to receive 25 eligible applications, we could have two classrooms in the building. Mrs. Petruzzi asked if we didn't have Head Start in the building, would more people choose PreK Counts instead? Mr. Kio stated that the spirit of Head Start is to work with them and not take students from them for our program.

Mr. Buchsen stated that we rent two classrooms in the district to IU9. The district receives \$8,000.00 annually for these rentals. The district may need to use one of the classrooms at the high school depending on PreK enrollment at the elementary school.

Personnel

The administration will have 2022-2023 school year recommendations for supplemental positions for board consideration at next week's meeting. We will fill as many as we can next week at the regular meeting. They will discuss the candidates in executive session.

UPMC Proposal for School Physician Services. UPMC has provided the district with a proposal that would allow Dr. Jason Tronetti to continue as the school physician.

Approved Ms. Allison Lathrop as a volunteer coach for the track team for the remainder of the 2022 season. Motion: J. Stake; Second: I. Young with Mr. Lathrop abstaining. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved Dr. Dan Schott and Mr. Ben Lawton as volunteer soccer coaches for the 2022 season. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Stauffer. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved Mr. John Jones as a volunteer coach for the boys' baseball team for the 2022 season. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Finance

The board will need to adopt a tentative budget for the 2022-2023 at the regular board meeting in May. A final budget will need to be approved at the regular June meeting. Mr. Buchsen stated that this is the next process and next we approve a tentative budget and we post it internally and at the public library for 30 days and once we finalize it, it is submitted to the state. Mr. Buchsen presented the budget in a granular fashion. The board can amend the tentative May budget prior to final approval in June.

Aveanna Healthcare Contract Renewal for the 2022-2023 school year for potential nursing and related services to the school district will need to be approved next week. Mr. Buchsen has stated that we have had this agreement in place for the last three years. This is a service that we have not used to date.

Donation to the Port Allegany Moose Lodge in the amount of \$526.36 to offset property taxes for Moose Park where Port Allegany School District baseball and soccer games are played. The administration reviewed this request made by the Moose Lodge.

Care for Children renewal agreement to provide occupational and physical therapy services for the 2022-2023 school year. This is the occupational and physical therapy services that they provide to the students with a 504 plan. Mr. Oliver stated that we currently have 35 students receiving OT and 4 students receiving PT services.

Curriculum

2022 graduation list of 61 seniors contingent upon completion of graduate requirements. Graduation is Friday, June 3rd and expect a normal graduation in the high school auditorium.

The Seneca Highlands Career and Technical Center 2022-2023 Budget was reviewed. The board will need to approve a CTC budget next week.

Board

First reading of the following policy updates: Policy 218 Student Discipline (mandated policy), Policy 220 Student Expression / Dissemination of Materials (recommended for legal liability purposes), Policy 227 Controlled Substances / Paraphernalia (recommended for legal liability purposes), Policy 237 Electronic Devices (recommended for legal liability purposes).

Act 141 requires school boards to complete an annual evaluation of the superintendent. Evaluation packets were distributed to each board member. The board will need to fill out this evaluation packet individually. Upon completion, a summary will be provided to the entire school board. The last page of the summary packet will be shared on the district website.

Executive Session

The board moved to executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 9:36 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: D. Tanner; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was carried unanimously. Mrs. Petruzzi adjourned the meeting at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX
Secretary to the Board of School Directors