

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

May 5, 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. Mrs. Veilleux called the roll.

Board Present: Mr. Eric Button, Mr. Christopher Ernst, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Jason Stake, Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mrs. Ink Young and Mrs. Paula Newell.

Board Absent: Mr. Nathan Burgett and Mr. Nicholas Valentine

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal Gregory Oliver, Assistant Principal Kathleen Bostjancic, Alex Johnson, David Bartlett, Ashley Bartlett, Emilee Zimmerman, Kristi Freeman, Sara Bishel, Chelsea Caden, Crystal Drew, Bethany Mealy, Carey Herndon, Jennifer Funk, Amanda Priest, Toncha Barber, Tabatha Dart, Kiley Wojewoda, Andy Krellner and Nancy Osani.

Superintendent's Remarks

Mrs. Newell wanted to thank everyone involved in making the Prom a great experience as it went off without a hitch. Mr. Budd, Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Bernardi did a great job.

Graduation tickets are going out shortly so the end of the year is coming.

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>

Committee Reports

Christopher Ernst, Intermediate Unit Nine Board of Directors had nothing to report as there is not another meeting scheduled until the 19th of this month.

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

Nicholas Valentine, PSBA Legislative Representative was not present at the meeting.

Communication

None

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Bishel, Mr. Madison and three students will travel to Quebec & Montreal for the French senior trip.

The board discussed the annual renewal of the Care for Children Contract.

Discussed the annual renewal for the Athletic Trainer Agreement with UPMC Cole. Mr. Button asked if it was possible to hire our own athletic trainer but it was discussed that there would be no way we would be able to hire one for the price we pay through UPMC. Mrs. Newell said she could see what it looked like and bring it back to the board.

The board discussed the annual renewal for the UPMC Proposal for School Physician Services.

Mrs. Newell discussed the calendar survey results. There were 77 responses from the community stating that the program would be used if there was one available. A discussion was had with the board afterwards stating that was a low response compared to how many students were in the school but that there was a need. They are concerned about the attendance on those days and the metrics for next year compare to last year's calendar. They will vote on a draft at Monday's meeting, May 12th, and some would like to see the costs of the after school programs before deciding on a calendar.

Mr. Bartlett attended the meeting on behalf of the Gator Network requesting the need for a boosters in order to help offset cost for equipment. The Gator Network went from 970 subscribers to 1,804 in one year and over 90,000 views. The Gator Network received awards this past year - Jim Kelly District 9 Unsung Hero Award and one from the Big 30 corporation. They would like to be able to start a boosters so that they can accept donations from the public as they have had to turn people away from doing so because they do not currently have a boosters.

Mrs. Newell asked the board if anyone was interested in attending the PSBA/PASA Conference which will be held from October 19-21, 2025.

Mrs. Newell discussed the Right to School program which provides a different assortment of options for before and after school, camps, break and anyone who works for the program will not have to pay for childcare and teachers will receive a discount. We can pick which things we would like to have them do and on what days so the cost will depend on those factors. The YMCA is a potential option for us but that will not be available at the start of school so we will need to figure out if we do this until the grant goes through or go with one of the other options. They hire within the community so that is a nice option they have and on early dismissal days the board asked that those days be free to families.

The 2025-2026 IU9 Special Education Budget was discussed.

First reading for the following board policies: 320 - Freedom of Speech; 317.1 - Educator Misconduct; 317 - Conduct-Disciplinary Procedures; 354 - Educational Opportunity for Military Children; 252; Dating Violence and 249 - Bullying-Cyberbullying. Mr. Ernst brought up the fact that he did not agree with the wording in Policy 320 - Freedom of Speech and they would have to discuss that change in further detail.

The board discussed the tuition reimbursement for non-position related degree work. Mrs. Young stated that we will bring it back in June to give us time to evaluate what other schools do for their reimbursements.

Mrs. Newell asked the board for what kind of approval process they need in order for her to go after grants and to set up a process for that. They all would like her to go after the grants and Mrs. Newell asked at what point should she send an email to keep the board in the loop and what impact it will have on the budget then set a limit of what it will be in order to move forward.

SEL/Second Step Curriculum was discussed. Mrs. Newell has a copy of the curriculum and will look over it to make sure there is nothing that is questionable and will bring back a requirement or recommendation to the board.

The annual renewal of the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services, Inc. Student Assistance and Program Services Agreement

There will be a Special Needs Football Clinic - Summer 2025 held here at the Port Allegany High School. This is for ages 8-20 and will be two hours in length. Coach Bienkowski will run this along with the football team.

COPS Grant Application is due June 18, 2025. (School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)). Maximum \$500,000/25% match with low income match considerations.

Finance

Mr. Moate gave a review of the 2025-2026 Budget. The board will need to adopt a tentative budget at the regular board meeting in May. A final budget will need to be approved at the regular June meeting.

Personnel

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

Transportation

None

Buildings & Grounds

Mrs. Newell stated that Schneider Electric paid for our independent party contractor to come in and evaluate the HVAC system.

Curriculum

The 2025 list of 59 seniors was given to the board. Graduation contingent upon completion of graduate requirements.

Board

Approved offer from JVB to provide an interest rate of 4% APY for 12 months. Motion: J. Stake; Second: C. Ernst. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The board met in executive session for personnel matters at 9:47 pm.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously. Mrs. Young adjourned the meeting at 10:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX
Secretary to the Board of School Directors