

Port Allegany School District

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting

September 13, 2021
High School Library
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

President Carlson 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: Dr. Mark Carlson, Mr. Kerry Hawver, Mr. Jason Stake (7:08pm), Mr. Jonathan Stehle, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Adam Moate and Mr. Gary Buchsen

Board Absent: Mrs. Bonna Johns and Mr. Justin Fillhart

Others Present: High School Principal Mr. Marc Budd, Elementary School Principal Mr. Tracy Kio, Eric Button, Ink Young, Arron Austin, Kristin Hawver, Rachel Vargeson, Akane Hanson and Rebekah Dinch

Public Comment

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

Rebekah Dinch approached the podium to speak about a staffing position that she has applied for for a couple of years now and has not had the opportunity to interview for the high school cheerleading position. She was wondering if there was any reason as to why she had not gotten an interview. Possibly something missing that she needs to complete. Mr. Buchsen stated that the district never discusses personal matters in public. He said that it needs to be a private conversation between herself and whoever conducted interviews or to make an appointment with him and he will be happy to discuss it with her. She also had a question if there was any update to the protocols. Mr. Buchsen said that there is a recommendation to update the health and safety plan which will be reviewed later in the meeting.

Minutes of Preceding Meetings

Approved the Minutes of the July 26, 2021 Special Board Meeting with a correction on page 4 adding leave to the last sentence of the Board section, the August 2, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting and the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Approved the Treasurer's Reports for the period ending August 31, 2021 as presented by Mr. Tanner. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was carried unanimously.

General Fund investments on August 31, 2021 were as follows: Juniata Valley Bank (JVB) Investment Savings - \$7,895,611.02 and JVB Now Account - \$12,096.83. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was carried unanimously.

August 31, 2021 balance for various accounts were reported as follows: Capital Reserve Fund - \$2,748,940.03; Student Activities Account - \$84,910.87; Student Athletics Account - \$74,401.87; and Cafeteria Account - \$55,861.95. Motion: Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bill Listings and Payrolls

Approved the General Fund Bill List of September 13, 2021 - \$662,425.57 and payroll of August 12, 2021 - \$205,005.45. Motion: Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was carried unanimously.

Communication

None

Superintendent's Report

Port Allegany School District Health and Safety Plan - discussion on live stream options for students placed into quarantine by the Pennsylvania Department of Health or excluded by the school district due to contract tracing requirements. The district provided the opportunity to all students to the live stream option at the start of last school year. Mr. Buchsen stated that we wanted to be able to start this school year in some sense of normalcy and not offer that at the beginning of this school year. However, since school has started, we have had several students sent home being close contacts of positive COVID cases. Mr. Buchsen has stated that we are recommending at this time to open up the livestream only to those students who are excluded due to close contact. Families can appeal to the building curriculum committees if they believe their child should be able to live stream classes.

Mr. Hawver asked Mr. Buchsen to explain to everyone what the difference between last year and this year for quarantine rules is.

All COVID case data from schools is to be uploaded to a state website. Currently this website does not exist. Schools are continuing to do the work of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Mrs. Petruzzi asked if the teachers will know on a daily basis if they have kids that need to livestream. Mr. Budd did state that teachers do know which students are excluded. Mrs. Petruzzi also asked if students will have access to their Chromebooks if they are sent home and don't have one daily in the elementary school. Mr. Kio said that they will make arrangements for them to have them when they are at home.

Curriculum

Amended the district health and safety plan to allow students in grades 3-12 that are placed in quarantine or excluded by the school district to participate via livestream through the course of their absence unless otherwise recommended by the building's curriculum committee and approved by the superintendent. It was asked when livestreaming would start and Mr. Buchsen stated that it could start tomorrow. Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the fall play *Penny for Your Thoughts* and related costs of \$167.50 (budgeted). Compensation for Ms. Penny Amacher per Schedule B2 of the professional agreement would be \$991. Motion: J. Stake; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was carried unanimously.

Personnel

Approved Ms. Kendyl Guisto to serve as the elementary yearbook advisor. Compensation per Schedule B2 of the professional agreement would be \$536. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Finance

Approved a transfer of \$405,636.45 from the general fund to the capital reserve fund to pay for GESA energy project costs. Motion: J. Stake; Second: K. Hawver. Roll call vote 7-0. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved a transfer of \$3,085,558.62 from capital reserve fund to the Juniata Valley Bank escrow account for phase II energy project costs. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Stake. Roll call vote 7-0. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved a lease with Zook Motors to provide a driver's education car at a monthly cost of \$250.00. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was carried unanimously.

Board

Approved the service agreement with the Custer City Private School. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Accepted the enrollment of a non-resident employee student in accordance with Policy 202 for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion: J. Stake; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was carried unanimously.

Discussion: High School Roof Project. Dr. Carlson stated, "They decreased the insulation from 3 inches to 1 and we are losing insulation in the roofing and why didn't they say anything to the board about something that has changed." Mr. Hawver also has concerns as well. Mr. Tanner stated that Schneider Electric provides construction managers to voice those changes with Mr. Buchsen and the project committee. Dr. Carlson asked, "Do we want to pursue this as a board or let it slide?" Dr. Carlson stated, "I don't think we can change the roof situation and it slipped by the committee's hand and the insulation is going to be a factor."

Mr. Hawver stated that we need to look into doing something about the cell phone service in the school and the surrounding areas of the school for emergency purposes. The practice football field and the votech field does not have good enough service and in case of an emergency, there is no way to get ahold of parents or emergency services. He was wondering if there was any possible way there were some kind of resources that we could tap into to get additional coverage in that area.

Executive Session

The board moved to executive session for a legal matter at 7:52 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was unanimously carried. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX
Secretary to the Board of School Directors