

Port Allegany School District

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting

February 12, 2024
High School Library
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

President Erica 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. Christopher Ernst, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Nicholas Valentine and Mr. Gary Buchsen

Board Absent: Mr. Jason Stake

Others Present: Business Manager Adam Moate, School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary School Principal Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Greg Oliver, Matt Lawton, Kirby Slear, Bob Nordin and Larry Myers.

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 most recently amended on January 17, 2024.

Minutes of Preceding Meetings

Approved the Minutes of the January 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting and the January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting. Motion: E. Button Second: I. Young. The motion was unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report

Approved the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2024 as presented by Mr. Tanner. Motion: E. Button; Second: N. Burgett. Motion was carried unanimously.

General Fund investments on January 31, 2024 were as follows: Juniata Valley Bank (JVB) Investment Savings - \$5,814,512.54 and JVB Now Account - \$35,292.92. Motion: E. Button; Second: N. Burgett. Motion was carried unanimously.

January 31, 2024 balance for various accounts were reported as follows: Capital Reserve Fund - \$1,394,260.37; Student Activities Account - \$119,876.79; Student Athletics Account -

\$134,139.30; and Cafeteria Account - \$375,552.21. Motion: E. Button; Second: N. Burgett. Motion was carried unanimously.

Bill Lists and Payrolls

Approved the General Fund Bill List of February 12, 2024 - \$345,493.25 and payrolls of January 4, 2023 - \$266,946.64 and January 18, 2024 - \$236,919.34. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: N. Burgett. Motion was carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen gave the floor to Larry Myers, Bob Nordin and Kirby Slear from Schneider Electric updated the board on the history of the project development in both the elementary school and the high school leading up to today. Phase III is the next phase which would include the windows and facade at the high school and solar arrays for both the high school and elementary school. We are hoping to leverage external funding to fund a majority of the project. Schneider Electric is asking to move forward with putting the project out for bid to get an idea of what the estimated cost will be and also gave a proposed timeline for the project.

Mr. Buchsen stated that the PCCD mental health and safe schools grant application will need to be submitted by the end of February. This grant will be in partnership with IU9.

Mrs. Chelsea Caden, Mrs. Crystal Kio, Mr. Benjamin Palmer and Mrs. Kiley Wojewoda have been employed by the Port Allegany School District for three years and have been rated satisfactory during the last four months of the third year; therefore, this sixth rating made to comply with Section 1108 of the Pennsylvania School Code results in professional employee status (tenure).

The Act 93 contract is up at the end of June which includes administrators. We will need to create an Act 93 committee moving forward.

This is the last year of the Muccio transportation contract. The contract will need to be looked at moving forward.

Curriculum

Approved the dual enrollment agreement with the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the use of Varsity Tutor offered to school districts by the PA Department of Education through June 30, 2027. (No cost to the school district.) Motion: N. Burgett; Second: E. Stauffer. The motion was carried unanimously.

Personnel

Approved Mr. Todd Higley as the assistant baseball coach for the 2023-2024 season. Compensation per schedule B2 of the professional agreement is \$1,833. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the following volunteer coaches for baseball for the 2023-2024 season: Ron Daniels, Jamie Moses, Blaine Moses, Wade Barber and Melissa Veilleux. Motion: C. Ernst; Second: I. Young. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the following volunteer coaches for track for the 2023-2024 season: Dan Schott, Allison Lathrop, Matt Decker, Alliyah Penick, Erik Lloyd and Jennifer Lloyd. Motion: E. Button; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the addition of Mrs. Kendyl Holjencin to the substitute teaching list. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: C. Ernst. The motion was carried unanimously.

Accepted the resignation of Ms. Cailey Barnett as the assistant softball coach for the 2023-2024 season. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved Ms. Cailey Barnett as the head softball coach for the 2023-2024 season. Compensation per schedule B2 of the professional agreement is \$2,839. Motion: C. Ernst; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the following volunteer coaches for softball for the 2023-2024 season: Mark Wilcox, Amanda Morey, Will Daniels and Lorinda Smith. Motion: E. Button; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Finance

Approved Repository Sale. There has been a bid received in the Port Allegany Borough on property 14-002-131 (.05 acres) at 104 Smith Avenue in the amount of \$259.00 submitted by Edward Vicic. The Tax Claim Bureau is recommending approval. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Authorized the superintendent to submit the PCCD 2023-2024 safe schools and mental health grants. (Application deadline is February 29.) Motion: D. Tanner; Second: E. Button. The motion was carried unanimously.

Board

Approved a 5 year contract with Mrs. Paula Newell to serve as the superintendent of the Port Allegany School District at a starting salary of \$125,000 beginning July 1, 2024. Motion: C. Ernst; Second: N. Valentine. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved payment of \$15,000 to Mrs. Paula Newell for moving expenses. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: I. Young. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the travel reimbursement from February 3-10, 2024 for Mrs. Paula Newell and Mr. Steven Newell for airfare, lodging, car rental, meals, and other related expenses at a cost not to exceed \$2,925.26. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: E. Petruzzi. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The board met in executive session for personnel matters at 8:30 pm.

Adjournment

Motion: D. Tanner; Second: E. Valentine. The motion was carried unanimously. Mrs. Petruzzi adjourned the meeting at 9:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX
Secretary to the Board of School Directors