

Port Allegany School District

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Committee of the Whole Meeting

February 5, 2024
High School Library
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

President Erica Petruzzi called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Mrs. Veilleux called the roll. The board met in executive session from 6:15 pm until 7:18 pm to discuss student safety and security.

Board Present: Mr. Nathan Burgett, Mr. Christopher Ernst, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Nicholas Valentine, Mrs. Ink Young and Mr. Gary Buchsen.

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

Others Present: Business Manager Mr. Adam Moate, High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal, Paula Sewell and Matt Lawton.

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 reauthorized on January 17, 2024.

Committee Reports

Mr. Christopher Ernst, Intermediate Unit Nine Board of Directors stated that his first meeting will be in two weeks and had nothing to report as of yet.

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

Mr. Nicholas Valentine, SBA Legislative Representative noted that Governor Shapiro will be giving his proposal on February 6, 2024.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen spoke about Varsity Tutor which is Chat-based tutoring, on-demand essay review, live enrichment, and test prep classes offered to school districts by the PA Department of Education through June 30, 2027.

USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants I/II. Mr. Buchsen stated that we ordered new equipment for the lab when we received grant money along with the Austin school district. Some of the equipment will be installed later on in the school year and the rest of the equipment will be put up in the summer. We have teamed up with Kent Brooks from Illuminated Integration to help us with our next application which will aid with design upgrades to the sound equipment in the auditorium.

The board approved the E-rate project at last month's board meeting. InShore is working with Rosemary Enos from Epic Communications in order to tap into those funds to get new switches in both buildings. InShore will be starting the project this summer.

The IU9 would like Port Allegany to participate in the artificial intelligence collaborative. A couple of our teachers will be attending the meetings and trainings they will have.

Mr. Buchsen stated that February 1st is the date that we ask employees to put in for their retirement. We have a letter for Beth Scanlon along with the board packet tonight. We ask that we move forward with the posting and hiring of these positions sooner rather than later.

PDE will be conducting webinars next week on the PCCD school safety and mental health grants. Governor Shapiro will be giving his budget address tomorrow. Applications are due by the end of this month and we ask the board to give the go ahead to move forward with this. The budget is to be in place by July 1.

Schneider Electric will be attending and providing an update at next week's meeting.

Curriculum

The administration will seek approval of the dual enrollment agreement with the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College at next week's meeting.

Personnel

The administration will have recommendations for the assistant baseball coach and volunteer baseball coaches at next week's meeting.

Approved of Mrs. Lauren Jackson as a day-to-day substitute for Mrs. Chelsea Caden at a daily rate of \$150.00 beginning January 17, 2024. Motion: N. Burgett; Second: C. Ernst. The motion was carried unanimously.

Accepted for purposes of retirement the letter from Mrs. Beth Scanlon (elementary guidance counselor). Motion: D. Tanner; Second: N. Burgett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Finance

The McKean County Tax Claim Bureau has received bids for a property within the school district for repository sale. The Board will need to review the bids and subsequently approve or reject bids at the next board meeting.

Executive Session

The board met in executive session at 7:32 p.m. for personnel matters.

Adjournment

Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was unanimously carried. Mrs. Petruzzi adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX
Secretary to the Board of School Directors