

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
August 3, 2020

MINUTES

Call to Order

President Carlson brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Mr. Moate called the roll.

Roll Call

Board Present: Dr. Mark Carlson, Mr. Justin Fillhart, Mr. Kerry Hawver, Mrs. Bonna Johns, Mr. Sean Lathrop, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Jason Stake, Mr. Jonathan Stehle, Mr. Adam Moate, and Mr. Gary Buchsen.

Board Absent: Mr. Donald Tanner.

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Erika Emerick, Trisha Kallenborn, Lisa VanGorden, Thrisa Borro, and Ink Young.

Public Comment

There were no comments relating to agenda items, federal programs or in general.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Johns reported new officers were appointed at the Intermediate Unit Nine Board of Directors meeting and said the next meeting is scheduled for August 17.

Mr. Fillhart said he will be attending the weekly PSBA meeting tomorrow afternoon. PSBA has developed a petition and letter to sign to request additional funding for COVID expenses.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen reviewed a Google slide presentation relating to the opening of schools highlighting the following: Kindergarten Readiness and Kindergarten Camp were cancelled this summer, and the Extended School Year was completed, but was done so online. The Athletics Health and Safety Plan has been updated. Administration will have an updated District Health and Safety Plan with additional guidance and clarification from the state.

60 percent of parents have responded to the return to school survey and of those 86% are planning to return to the buildings and 14% will be participating online. He noted that one of the largest concerns parents have is the requirement to wear masks. Mr. Buchsen said the district purchased wide throw cameras and wireless microphones for all teachers. The cameras provide an 180° view that shows the entire front of the room that allows teachers to live stream their lesson to students at home. They are USB, plug and play. The wireless microphones will allow students at home to hear the teacher instruction as they walk around the room.

At the elementary school, we may assign staff members to certain levels depending upon the survey results. In the past the district worked with VLN Partners for on-line schooling. However, the administration recently spent some time with the Warren County School District and believe they have a better platform, better price point and are a better fit for our district. Ms. Emerick gave an overview of the platform as follows: at the elementary level they provide up to five sessions a week that are face to face, the middle school has two sessions a week; and at

the high school an option for tutoring sessions or a face-to-face check in. The layout of the computer design is more interactive and engaging, they didn't stick to one publisher so the lessons were interactive with many supports available such as Text-to-Speech, Repeat, Highlight, Look Up and likely more engaging than what VLN had. Any videos, etc. are required and cannot be skipped by students. Mr. Buchsen mentioned that Bradford has worked with Warren County for many years and Kane Area School District is also going to work with them. Administration is recommending approval this evening.

Mr. Buchsen stated that administration has been in conversation with the school physician and school nurses relating to the quarantine expectations (here's where additional guidance from the state is needed). Highmark is doing a webinar Wednesday for everyone within their network.

Athletics programs are moving forward with athletic events under new limitations – indoor events are limited to 25 people in the gym and no spectators; outdoor events are limited to 250 persons and no spectators. The district is again looking for guidance from PDE, Governor Wolf, and the PIAA.

Lengthy discussion was held relating to the mask requirement, tracking attendance for on-line students, temperature checks, social distancing, bus runs, instructional hours, and guidelines.

Schneider Electric will be in the district for a meeting Wednesday afternoon in the high school library to review their findings related to the potential energy project.

Personnel

Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Stephanie Rankin as a cafeteria server/attendant effective June 25, 2020. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Petruzzi. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointed Mrs. Samantha Wight as Mentor for Ms. Lexi Callander, newly hired elementary teacher during the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the District's Induction Plan at a supplemental salary of \$1,588 per Schedule B of the Professional Agreement. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointed Mrs. Tamera Johnson as Mentor for Ms. Crystal Sams, newly hired elementary teacher during the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the District's Induction Plan at a supplemental salary of \$1,588 per Schedule B of the Professional Agreement. Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: J. Stake. The motion was unanimously carried.

Appointed Mr. Matthew Lawton and Mr. Aaron Clark as Co-Mentors for Mr. Benjamin Palmer, newly hired high school teacher during the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the District's Induction Plan at a shared supplemental salary of \$1,588 per Schedule B of the Professional Agreement. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: B. Johns. Co-mentors are recommended because Mr. Palmer will be teaching English and social studies. The motion was passed unanimously.

Filled 2020-2021 supplemental positions as follows: Cheerleader Advisor, Erica Babcock - \$1,880 and JH Volleyball Coach, Matthew Burr - \$1,854. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Stake. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved Mr. Adam Greenman as a volunteer football coach for the 2020-2021 season. Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approved Mrs. Tracy Smith and Mrs. Denise Evens as volunteer volleyball coaches for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion: B. Johns; Second: K. Hawver. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance

The county assessment offices have recommended property assessment changes for 2020 real estate taxes that amount to a decrease of \$802.53. These changes were not included in the tax duplicates and will need Board approval next week.

The McKean County Tax Claim Bureau has received a bid of \$50.00 for a mobile home in Liberty Township that is listed on the Repository. They are recommending sale of the property which would get it back on the tax rolls. Details will be included on next week's agenda.

Student meal prices are being reviewed and a recommendation will be provided at next week's regular meeting. Mr. Moate said he is gathering information from area schools and working with The Nutrition Group to determine a recommendation next Monday.

Curriculum

The student handbooks are being updated for the elementary and high schools. These will need to be approved by the Board next Monday.

Partnering with Warren County School District for cyber school options for the 2020-2021 school year which were previously contracted with VLN was discussed. Mr. Buchsen re-emphasized that the administration believes this is the best fit for the district and a formal agreement will be presented next week.

Approved the proposal from In-Line Virtual Consulting to provide distance learning professional services for the district at a cost of \$1,159. Plans are to provide two days of optional professional development for the teaching staff on August 5 and 7 (CARES Act Funds). Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Petruzzi. Discussion was held. The motion was passed unanimously.

Buildings and Grounds

Hired Taylor & Armstrong Construction, Inc. to seal the high school staff, student and elementary parking lots, including the bleacher walkway at the high school at a cost of \$10,860 per quote dated July 10, 2020. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: E. Petruzzi. Mr. Buchsen reminded Board members there was a previous discussion relating to spray-on versus squeegee application. The motion carried 7-1 with Mr. Stake opposed.

Approved the bid of \$55,832 by Mazza Mechanical to complete the water line replacement project at the high school. This is a capital project. Lengthy discussion was held with concern expressed for undermined asphalt and the Board directed administration to bring this to the attention of Schneider Electric. Motion: J. Stake; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was carried unanimously.

Transportation

Annually the Board approves the bus routes and the list of bus/van drivers. Mr. Muccio will have recommendations for next week's agenda.

Board

Approved the revised Port Allegany School District Athletics Health and Safety Plan. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Petruzzi. Mr. Buchsen reviewed the changes in the Plan and lengthy discussion was held. The motion carried 7-1 with Mr. Stehle opposed.

Student Chromebook insurance information will be provided at next week's meeting. Last year parents were able to purchase Chromebook insurance for their student at a very reasonable cost. We hope to continue offering this resource to parents and students. There is

no cost to the district. Mrs. Petruzzi asked if home students will have Chromebooks. Mr. Buchsen responded that students in grades 3-12 will have them and the district also has others available for student use.

First reading of Policy 800.1 – Streaming. This policy is recommended by the Tech Pool attorneys. Mr. Buchsen explained what a tele-present robot is, noting it would be used in special needs circumstances.

Approved the updated high school and elementary school Title I SchoolWide Plan. Mr. Buchsen stated that Board approval is required as part of the federal programs consolidated application and the use of Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal (FRCPP). Mr. Buchsen said the state has recently changed the filing/reporting portal and the school-wide plan for the elementary and high school did not migrate. The plan is still in place but the state is requiring school boards to approve the plans for the new portal. Motion: J. Stake; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was unanimously carried.

Doctor Carlson thanked the public for their attendance. Mrs. Borro expressed her appreciation for the Board being here and trying to solve these problems and as a community member and teacher recommended the board err on the side of caution.

The Board convened to an executive session at 8:50 p.m. for personnel matters. The Committee-of-the-Whole meeting reconvened at 9:18 p.m. for adjournment.

Adjournment

Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Stake. The motion carried unanimously. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE
Secretary to the Board of School Directors