

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
February 1, 2021

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. Mrs. Veilleux 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. Donald Tanner, Mr. Adam Moate and Mr. Gary Buchsen

Others Present: Elementary School Principal Tracy Kio, High School Principal Marc Budd, AssistantPrincipal Erica Emerick, Larry Myers and Kirby Slear (conference call) of Schneider Electric.

Public Comment

There were no comments relating to agenda items, Title I or Title II.

Minutes of Preceding Meetings

Mrs. Johns has nothing to report as they have not had a meeting at the Intermediate Unit.

Mr. Tanner had nothing to report from the Seneca Highlands CTC General Advisory Board.

Mr. Fillhart reported that PSBA is trying to push state testing to be waived and are asking for support for that.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen stated that two teachers have submitted retirement letters for the end of the 2020-2021 school year...Mr. Mike Bodamer at the High School and Mrs. Sally Claypool at the Elementary School.

Discussion of the 2021-2022 School Calendar draft - Mr. Young, Director of the CTC, prepares a calendar that is shared with the member school districts. We both will have the first student start day being August 25, 2021 and the last student day at CTC will be June 1, 2022 and Port

Allegany's will be the 31st of May. CTC has 190 days for teachers and we have 185 days. They have to accommodate all schools when preparing their calendars. Port Allegany will have built in snow days at Easter...one day at the beginning and one at the end of that break. As far as graduation...could we end the school day before the Memorial Day weekend but then we run into track and field issues. Again, this is tentative and he asked the board to look over it and see if there were any issues or concerns.

Phase II Energy Project; Larry Myers, Kirby Slear, and Mr. Buchsen stated that the facilities committee met early last week with both Kirby and Larry and received some feedback. Larry started by stating that they had looked at air conditioning throughout the entire high school building with the exception of the two gyms which would cost \$4,231,000. They were asked to reduce this cost. Schneider Electric went back to the drawing board. LED lighting will start being installed at the high school and elementary school in March. We pushed the HVAC off until the summer while the roof was being replaced. The district could put air conditioning on the stage in the auditorium and that could potentially open up the possibility to use the auditorium stage for classroom space for the music department. The Art room will be another \$60,000 because there is a kiln, a spray booth, chemicals and paints that need proper ventilation which added additional costs. The seating area of the cafeteria is not included so adding fans would help move the air from the hallways as the hallways will be air conditioned. They added a transfer air duct that will transfer the cool air from the hallway into the cafeteria and will cost \$14,000. Gym units run off of pneumatic controls and so does part of the library system. All of the areas that Schneider is not replacing the HVAC, have pneumatic controls so we need to eliminate them because they leak and water has infiltrated the control system. Kirby stated that is the reason the systems are running 24 hours per day. The elementary school and the high school will all be on the same system so that we can control both systems from a remote location. These controls give Schneider the availability to oversee the efficiency of both buildings and will allow them to detect HVAC issues in either building.

The total cost being \$5,000,000 and applying funds and utility rebates. The rebates are applied to the spreadsheet. Direct purchase for restroom items so there is no overhead profit. Net out of pocket is just over \$3,000,000. We could possibly finance \$1.5 million and use \$1.5 million of the capital reserve.

Dr. Carlson was wondering what we could get for the \$2 million dollars quote that was given to us last summer. Kirby stated that on July 20th we illustrated the entire building classrooms and had a number of \$2,067,000 and did not include overhead and profit for the high school. They did more design work and moved forward with the design so that they could get the timeline to match with the roofing system and they dropped the price which is the lowest it has been yet out of the three times it has been brought forward. They have broken out the areas so that we can pick and choose what we want to add and not add.

Mr. Fillhart asked if there was an opportunity to purchase materials directly to save on cost. Kirby states it will be difficult to stay on the timeline to coordinate and control that the correct piece of equipment shows up at the right time due to timeline issues. Bathroom fixtures can be bought ahead of time. Kirby stated that it would be a big savings to the school if we could but makes it difficult as far as the timeline with the roofing project.

Kirby addressed one of the reasons for putting the HVAC off to come up with a better idea for the building envelope. It is critical that we get the HVAC equipment very soon and ideally have a direction tonight so that they can put together the contract for board action next week. Getting equipment ordered and available for the timeline for the roofing project is an important consideration.

The windows will be expected to be a Phase III project which will be a summer project for 2022 or later. Kirby is hoping to have window project numbers soon. There will be improved savings for solar panels and they will look into it for a solar application and O & M savings.

Mr. Fillhart addressed the pumps and controls at the high school and elementary school and is included in Phase I. All pneumatic controls will be taken off and new controls installed.

Dr. Carlson wants to discuss with the administrators what we can afford on an annual basis based on where we move forward. Kirby stated that we need to have an answer by next week so that we can move forward based on the timeline to stay with the roofing project.

Mr. Lathrop stated that he feels that there should not be air conditioning in the auditorium. It has been discussed before to air condition the auditorium and along with other major renovations, it has been turned down. Mr. Carlson asked Mr. Budd if the music department is hot during those months and Mr. Budd stated that it is in use more months out of the year than the rest of the classrooms as Mr. Stewart uses it in the summer for practices for marching band. Mr. Buchsen stated that there is more activity in the music suite and auditorium area over the whole year. Dr. Carlson wants to know what we can afford and what we should include. Mr. Fillhart wants to include the cafeteria area and Mrs. Petruzzi stated that there should be air conditioning on the stage at the very least.

Mr. Buchsen asked Mr. Budd to share a document (PIAA form) with the board regarding winter sports and how we want to approach it. Mr. Budd stated that the District IX wrestling tournament will be on the 19th of February and is usually a two day event. This year it is a one day tournament and will be in Clearfield. Weigh-ins are at 8am that morning, and putting kids on a bus that early doesn't seem feasible. Preferably the team could go down the night before. If the board permitted the overnight trip, we would potentially have four kids in a room together and there is no way they can stay 6 feet apart. We have 11 kids participating, 3 rooms for kids, one for each coach and one for the bus driver. Mrs. Petruzzi brought up what we would do for regionals and districts. What happens if we have two or three days before districts and there is a shutdown then the kids can't go to the tournament. They have moved all tournaments to one day tournaments. Another issue we will run into is that many of the schools in District X do not wear masks. The District IX Committee is not going to ask for a doctor's note for mask exemptions. We may see a similar document for basketball. Mrs. Johns asked what precautions they would take as far as cleaning mats sanitation between matches. There will be no spectators and all athletes and coaches when not engaged are to have a mask on. Mr. Lathrop brought up a media pass to stream the matches for spectators. Mrs. Johns wanted to know how many schools and how many kids participate. Mr. Budd is asking direction from the board as to what we are going to do if the school is forced to move to distance learning. Language will be brought up at the next board meeting.

Communications

A letter from Mr. Christian Mattie, School Solicitor was provided to the board stating his retirement as of July 1, 2021.

Mr. Buchsen addressed the board asking if we want to do something collaboratively with the districts that all are contracted with Mr. Mattie. We could get a price to save money with other districts and go with who we want as a group. Dr. Carlson suggested that we try to see what the other districts are doing and see if we can save some money.

Personnel

The elementary teacher hire was tabled until the next board meeting on February 8.

Accepted the resignation of Ms. Carla Gigliotti as a teacher aide effective February 5, 2021. Motion: J. Stake; Second: K. Hawver . The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved Jamie Evens as a volunteer baseball coach for the 2020-2021 season. Motion: J. Stake; Second: B. Johns. The motion was carried unanimously.

Finance

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding - Mr. Buchsen stated that pandemic related supplies and equipment are not an issue. ESSERs I funding has a balance of approximately \$260,000, and ESSERs II funding will be \$1.6 million dollars. We may see more funding later with a third stimulus package. The building payment that we are coming out of is right around a half a million dollars a year. Could we use our capital reserve to offset costs? What are the big ticket items in terms of facilities that we need to address and is it the right time to address it and the stimulus money coming in? Mrs. Johns asked when the timing of the ESSERs part 2 could come. ESSERs funding for building ventilation projects is an allowable expense. We may not see the same rates for loans as we already have. Do we want to bring the facilities committee back together to discuss it? Mr. Tanner wants to meet with the facilities committee so that we can commit to something. They need to see everything and a financial breakdown from Mr. Moate.

Board

The Potter County Education Council and the Port Allegany School District Agreement is for the 3 year career mentor program that we participate in. We originally participated in Potter County but we now fall under the McKean County program. Mr. Fillhart asked if they do mock interviews with the students at the school and Mr. Budd said that we do them here at the school for juniors, not through the career mentor program.

Mrs. Johns asked Mr. Buchsen how the COVID vaccination process here at the school was going and where we stood at this point. Mr. Buchsen stated that it is a mess. We have no idea who we are working with. The District has spoken with Rite Aid, Bradford Hospital and UPMC Cole. There has been no information shared by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. They have

stated that if there are extra vaccinations at the hospitals that they will call and we will prioritize who to send based on the information given here at the school.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Stake; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion carried unanimously. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA VEILLEUX
Secretary to the Board of School Directors