

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting
February 10, 2020

MINUTES

Call to Order

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. Mr. Moate called the roll.

Board Present: Dr. Mark Carlson, Mr. Justin Fillhart, Mr. Kerry Hawver, Mrs. Bonna Johns, Mr. Sean Lathrop, Mr. Jason Stake, Mr. Jonathan Stehle, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Gary Buchsen, Mr. Adam Moate, and Board Treasurer Mr. Daniel F. Lane, III.

Board Absent: Mrs. Erica Petruzzi.

Others Present: Rachel Vargeson of The Nutrition Group, Mary Lashway, Lisa VanGorden, Anna Stewart, Kim Ball, Trisha Kallenborn, Brad Stewart, and student Hannah Hartman.

Public Comment

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

Minutes of Preceding Meetings

Approved the Minutes of the January 6, 2020 Committee-of-the-Whole meeting and the January 13, 2020 regular meeting. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion was unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report

Approved the Treasurer's Report for the period ended January 31, 2020 as presented by Mr. Daniel Lane, District Treasurer. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: K. Hawver. Brief comment was made. The motion was passed unanimously.

General Fund account balances on January 31, 2020 were as follows: Juniata Valley Bank (JVB) Investment Savings - \$7,062,269.96 and JVB Now Account - \$11,547.62. Receipts since February 1 were \$14,743.83 and expenditures were \$52,379.65 bringing the balance in the general fund to \$7,036,731.76.

January 31, 2020 balances for various accounts were reported as follows: Capital Reserve Investment Fund - \$2,737,655.08; Student Activities Account - \$91,962.33; Student Athletics Account - \$72,516.93; and Cafeteria Account - \$33,564.34.

Bill Listings and Payrolls

Approved the General Fund Bill List of February 10, 2020 - \$1,111,200.65; and payrolls of January 16, 2020 - \$224,739.97 and January 30, 2020 - \$239,972.45. Motion: J. Stake; Second: S. Lathrop. Clarification was provided for various bill list items. The motion was carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen gave an overview of Governor Wolf's proposed education budget via Google slides. The Governor has advocated a \$100 million increase in basic education funding that would provide a \$53,202 increase for Port Allegany. He reminded the Board that all new funding money is driven by the fair funding formula. The budget includes a \$30 million increase for Early Childhood Education (Pre-K/Headstart) – the District could potentially see an additional Pre-K classroom next year. A \$25 million increase in special education is proposed that would increase Port Allegany's funding by \$14,485. Additionally, Governor Wolf's budget advocates universal free full-day kindergarten. He revisited raising starting teacher salary to \$45,000. Mr. Buchsen indicated there is a big push to change charter school funding and there are several proposals out there. The Governor's proposal includes setting a universal charter school tuition rate of \$9,500 per student. The district's current rates are \$13,000 for regular education and \$24,000 for special education. In a surprising move, the budget proposes to cut Safe Schools funding by about 2/3 to \$15.9 million. Mr. Buchsen said he is cautiously optimistic that the state budget will be in place by June 30 considering it is an election year.

Mr. Buchsen reported there were about 30 parents in attendance at the meeting held Thursday, February 6 relating to Flexible Instruction Days. He thanked Doctor Carlson and Mr. Stehle for their attendance and noted further discussion will be held in March when the Board will be adopting next year's school calendar.

Mr. Buchsen mentioned the Board had two handouts at their seats relating to PSBA travel insurance and the ethics statement.

Personnel

Ratified the three-year (2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022) collective bargaining Agreement with the Port Allegany Education Association as outlined by the Board's Negotiations Committee. Motion: J. Stake; Second: J. Fillhart. Roll call vote. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0-1 with Mr. Lathrop abstaining.

Accepted the resignation for retirement purposes of Mrs. Kimberly Bowser, High School Teacher effective June 3, 2020 (32 years of service). Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was unanimously carried.

Accepted Mrs. Debra Cox's letter of resignation for retirement purposes as an elementary teacher effective June 1, 2020 (27 years of service). Motion: D. Tanner; Second: B. Johns. The motion carried unanimously.

Doctor Carlson expressed thanks to both teachers for their many years of service.

Approved the addition of Ms. Tori Transue, registered nurse to the Substitute List, pending completion of appropriate paperwork at a daily rate of \$238.10 to cover Mrs. Bickford's leave of absence. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Stake. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved the continuation of Mr. Merle Morey and Mr. Randy Garzel and the addition of Mrs. Kera Hendershot as volunteer softball coaches for the 2019-2020 season. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was unanimously carried.

Finance

Authorized the administration to submit a Food Service Request for Proposal to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the 2020-2021 school year for food service

operations including management, direct labor and all related activities. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. Some discussion was held. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the 48-month copier leases with ComDoc for the high school and elementary school at a monthly cost of \$370.83 per building. Motion: J. Fillhart; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was unanimously carried.

Curriculum and Instruction

Accepted the quote from Go Guardian in the amount of \$3,545.00 for device management software Chromebook licenses effective now through the 2020-2021 school year. Motion: J. Stake; Second: K. Hawver. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved the addition of the following secondary music courses beginning the 2020-2021 school year: Guitar I, Guitar II and Percussion Ensemble. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: B. Johns. The motion was unanimously carried.

Adopted Resolution 2020-2 approving the Articles of Agreement for the Seneca Highlands Career and Technical Center. Motion: J. Stake; Second: J. Fillhart. Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously. The Resolution reads as follows.

“Be It Resolved that the Port Allegany School District hereby agrees to and approves the “ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SENECA HIGHLANDS CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER,” (dated March 16, 2020) which Agreement is by and between the school districts of Austin Area, Cameron County, Coudersport Area, Galeton Area, Kane Area, Northern Potter, Oswayo Valley, Otto-Eldred, Port Allegany, and Smethport Area, said Agreement to be effective upon agreement and approval by all ten above listed school districts. Be It Further Resolved that the Agreement, when accepted and approved by all ten school districts listed above shall be effective July 1, 2020.”

Board

The board convened to executive session to discuss negotiations at 7:37 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m. for adjournment.

Adjournment

Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: B. Johns. The motion was unanimously carried. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE
Secretary to the Board of School Directors