

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting
May 13, 2019

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, Mrs. Lisa Drabert, Mr. Justin Fillhart, Mr. Kerry Hawver, Mr. Sean Lathrop, Mrs. Cheryl Nasto, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Jason Stake, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Gary Buchsen, Mr. Adam Moate, and Mr. Daniel F. Lane, III.

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Erika Emerick, Mike Stohon of In-Shore Technologies, Lisa VanGorden, Mary Lashway, Sally Claypool, Bonna Tanaka, Anna Stewart, Kim Ball, Toncha Barber, Robert Raudenbush, and Barbara Delacour.

Public Comment

Mrs. Sally Claypool, K-1 Teacher addressed the Board stating there are 22 kindergarten students going to first grade without any Title help – no aides or teachers and she requested they take a look at that as it benefits so many students. She also commented about losing six aides for general population since taking over the life skills program and feels students are losing that lower ratio they really need for reading. Mrs. Claypool also made comment concerning the elementary playground not being handicapped accessible limiting activity for those students. Mr. Buchsen reported that the district still doesn't have the Title I allocation but the budget is assuming level funding.

There were no comments on agenda items or in general.

Minutes of Preceding Meetings

Approved the Minutes of the April 1, 2019 Committee-of-the-Whole meeting and April 8, 2019 regular meeting. Motion: J. Stake; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Hawver asked Mrs. VanGorden the status of Rylie Lawton's competition. She said Riley was selected as one of four finalist to compete in Syracuse, New York on April 27th against three other students who had extensive lab access/backgrounds. She did extremely well and although she didn't win, it was a great boon for her to be selected.

Treasurer's Report

Approved the Treasurer's Report for the period ended April 30, 2019 as presented by Mr. Dan Lane. Motion: C. Nasto; Second: E. Petruzzi. The motion was unanimously carried.

General Fund account balances on April 30, 2019 were as follows: Juniata Valley Bank (JVB) Investment Savings - \$7,095,466.75 and JVB Now Account – \$18,665.55. Receipts since May 1 were \$36,542.59 and expenses were \$399,271.73 bringing the balance in the general fund to \$6,751,953.16.

April 30, 2019 balances for various accounts were reported as follows: Capital Reserve Investment Fund - \$2,704,039.62; Student Activities Account - \$82,370.88; Student Athletics Account - \$53,462.56; and Cafeteria Account - \$39,865.31.

Bill Listings and Payrolls

Approved the General Fund Bill List of May 13, 2019 - \$1,373,568.12 and payrolls of April 11, 2019 - \$245,118.44; April 25, 2019 - \$246,222.18; and May 9, 2019 - \$233,351.55. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was carried unanimously.

Communication

None.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen reminded the board that all school districts received a \$25,000 Safe Schools Grant and administration recommended using it to upgrade/replace the high school camera system. A couple of weeks ago the administration received bids to do a camera upgrade/replacement for which we received two quotes. Mr. Stohon of In-Shore Technologies provided an evaluation of the current camera system that is outdated, is not digital or IP based, has poor coverage, unclear images, and limited coverage throughout the building. Their quote is to upgrade to IP camera network devices, video component using newer technology, new server, new software, new cameras, real-time monitoring that can keep historical data. It also includes local law enforcement access from outside and the ability to pull data remotely. Mr. Budd commented that schools are constantly being encouraged to update systems to allow access to police and first responders in the event of a crisis. Lengthy discussion was held and included upgrading the elementary system, adding devices, night vision and low light programmable cameras, maintenance and upgrade of equipment, and ability to let first responders to see what is happening real-time. Mr. Buchsen polled the Board asking if it's okay to use part of the district's I.T. budget to complete this project, and the consensus was yes. Mr. Buchsen thanked In-Shore for services in helping the district reinvent itself technologically which has made a significant difference. Mr. Stohon thanked Mr. Buchsen and stated he has grown to love it here and appreciates everyone's welcoming In-Shore.

Personnel

Accepted the resignation for retirement purposes of the following employees: Ms. Ann Kinnunen, elementary teacher effective June 1, 2019; Mrs. Ruth Shidner, elementary teacher effective August 18, 2019; Mrs. Annamaria Myers, elementary music teacher effective May 31, 2019; and Mr. Ken Myers, secondary music teacher effective May 31, 2019. Motion with regret: C. Nasto; Second: L. Drabert. The motion was carried unanimously.

Reappointed Dr. Jason Tronetti as School Physician for the 2019-2020 school year as outlined in the proposal dated May 3, 2019. Motion: J. Stake; Second: E. Petruzzi. The motion carried unanimously.

Reappointed Christian T. Mattie, III and the firm of Mattie & Alfieri-Causar as Solicitor for the 2019-2020 school term at a retainer fee of \$4,500 and pre-described services beyond retainer at an hourly rate of \$140. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was unanimously carried.

Renewed the Contract with UPMC Cole to provide athletic trainer services for the 2019-2020 school year at a cost of \$30,000 and hours over 1,000 billed at \$30.00 per hour. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: J. Stake. Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved the agreement with Pediatric Services of America, Inc. to provide nursing services for the 2019-2020 school year if needed. Motion: L. Drabert; Second: C. Nasto. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approved the addition of Sarah Wheaton, elementary education to the Substitute List, pending completion of appropriate paperwork. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: E. Petruzzi. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance

President Carlson opened the floor to receive nominations for 2019-2020 District Treasurer at a salary of \$6,011. Mr. Stake nominated Mr. Daniel F. Lane, III and Mrs. Nasto seconded. Mr. Tanner moved to close nominations and Mrs. Petruzzi seconded. The motion carried unanimously and Doctor Carlson declared Mr. Lane duly elected District Treasurer for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Adopted Resolution 2019-3 approving the Seneca Highlands Career and Technical Center 2019-2020 Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,254,727. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: S. Lathrop. Roll call vote. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1 with Mrs. Drabert opposed.

Approved the 2019-2020 Special Education contract and resolution with the Intermediate Unit Nine to provide support serves at a cost of \$554,621. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Renewed the contract with In-Shore Technologies to provide staffing, network, and information technology services to the district for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: J. Stake. Roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointed Juniata Valley Bank Northwest and Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) as depositories for certain district funds in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: C. Nasto. The motion was unanimously carried.

Reappointed Buffamante Whipple Buttafaro, P.C. as Independent Auditor for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to perform all necessary federal, state, and local audits. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion passed unanimously.

Adopted the PDE-2028 Proposed 2019-2020 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$16,058,172 which reflects a deficit of \$780,793. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Stake. Roll call vote. The motion was carried by a vote of 8-1 with Mrs. Nasto opposed.

Buildings and Grounds

Approved the quote by In-Shore Technologies in the amount of \$32,152.46 for the replacement of high school camera infrastructure with IP-based VMS with costs to be covered with Safe Schools Grant and 2018-2019 technology budget funds. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: L. Drabert. Brief discussion was held relating to getting the elementary school done as well, and as soon as possible. The motion was unanimously carried.

Renewed the rental contract with Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit Nine to rent two classroom spaces in the Port Allegany School District at a cost of \$4,000 each for a total of \$8,000 for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: D. Tanner. Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Curriculum and Instruction

Approved the 2019 Graduation List of 41 students contingent upon meeting graduate requirements. Motion: J. Fillhart; Second: E. Petruzzi. The motion passed unanimously.

Board

Mr. Hawver wondered about the status of pupil transportation for Amish children that was expected to increase significantly. Mr. Buchsen recently spoke with Anthony Muccio, Pupil Transportation Contractor recently and he indicated they may be building another school. If this occurs, it would need to be approved by the Department of Education so we may be in the same situation as last year. Mrs. Petruzzi expressed concern about having "School Zone" signs placed on Route 155 near the Amish school. She said that a state employee told her it is the school district's responsibility. Mr. Buchsen will investigate.

Mrs. Nasto addressed the board about the possibility of adding more staff citing the following data in support. 1) When you have smaller classrooms it promotes a much better teacher/child relationship because it allows more individual interaction and is better for knowing the strengths and needs of each child. 2) Discipline needs to be a consideration. 3) There is less disruption, and more time to actually teach in smaller classrooms.

Mrs. Nasto congratulated the Myers' on this weekend's program which was an absolutely wonderful performance – something to be proud of. Mr. Buchsen concurred adding that the students were amazing, and Ken, Annamaria and Mrs. Brown are, and have been, a treasure to this district. He stated he considers himself fortunate to have work with them.

Doctor Carlson asked the Board to keep in mind that if adding staff is considered, they will be looking at the list and maybe deleting some things off.

President Carlson announced the Board would convene in executive session to discuss personnel and negotiations at 8:08 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:46 p.m. for adjournment.

Adjournment

Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Stake. The motion was unanimously carried. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE
Secretary to the Board of School Directors