

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
November 2, 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. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Jonathan Stehle, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Adam Moate, and Mr. Gary Buchsen.

Board Absent: Mrs. Bonna Johns, Mr. Sean Lathrop, and Mr. Jason Stake.

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary School Principal Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Erika Emerick, Larry Myers and Kirby Slear of Schneider Electric, Dan Schott, and Olivia Schott.

Public Comment

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

Mr. Daniel Schott addressed the Board thanking members for the opportunity to coach the junior high soccer team. He expressed concerns relating to the condition of the current soccer field. Mr. Schott encouraged the Board to consider revisiting the possibility for a multi-purpose field, or at the least to have the current field leveled. Brief discussion was held relating to the former field that is now owned by Ardagh.

Committee Reports

Mr. Tanner reported that the Student Committee at the Career and Technical Center put together a leadership concept program for the different shops and faculty. They had a good turnout which was a great growth experience for students. He further noted that Senator Scarnati recognized the network group for their work with senior citizens.

Mr. Fillhart, PSBA and Legislature Representative reported that a recent study regarding virtual education indicated that 80% of students responded that there is much more work added to their plate, but less vigor. He commented virtual learning does not seem beneficial to students, not just here but across the county, and he believes it's in their best interest to try to keep as many students in class as possible.

Superintendent's Report

Schneider Electric Energy Project Update. Mr. Buchsen pointed out that Mr. Moate put together a snapshot of potential finance options for Board review.

Mr. Myers said he provided an additional handout relating to the HVAC cassette option that will allow independent thermostat control in each area. This option will improve the thermal comfort in the room and the sound acoustics as well. This is a refrigerant system and will only treat the air in the room, not outside air. The boilers will be heating the outside air and heating the room. These units will then control, maintain the room air. Because it is a refrigerant system, it also cools. Utility savings would be 30% even with adding air conditioning.

Mr. Myers reviewed the Final Design Option: Requested Phase 1 and the Comprehensive High School HVAC Upgrades documents. Each project has a one-year warranty, and this project also includes two-year post project support, monthly control system monitoring, 160 hours training available, quarterly savings reports, and a secure online dashboard. The first project produces \$54,200 in savings in the first year; the comprehensive project produces \$90,500 in savings the first year. He recommended the Board have a scope selection and for next Monday they will have an installation contract put together for the Board with total cost, total savings, and install dates. Mr. Myers reported that the elementary systems are unbalanced, sequences are not consistent, set points are missing – recommend rebalance and retro-commission the 7-8 systems in the elementary school which will go a long way in fixing current comfort issues. The PEDA grant board will be meeting later this month and we should know by the 25th if the \$250,000 grant is awarded. Mr. Myers said that for next Monday the Board would select a financing vendor, determine a down payment for the project, and approve the install contract for Phase I with the scope the Board selects.

Mr. Myers then reviewed a potential Phase II project that includes elementary school restrooms and roof; at the high school underpass insulation (cost to be determined), addressing windows (replacement/repair to be determined), any solar options, and various options and visual scope items. He provided detailed information relating to rebates through legislation noting we need to complete the elementary school before May 31, 2021 to get the rebates processed under Phase 3. The high school will, by default, go into Phase 4 which has not been determined by the legislature so the documents reflect a conservative estimate for rebates. Lengthy discussion was held regarding recommended project costs, Phase I, salvage value of equipment, and the project scope. Mr. Myers indicated that once the contract is approved he can issue letters of intent locking in prices, particularly the roof costs, get a jump start for the elementary school scope and begin mobilization mid-January, and finalize the design for the mechanical system with the controls to get equipment on order to be ready to go by the end of May.

Mr. Moate reported we received financial proposals with fixed rates ranging from 1.95%-4.41%. They will be talking with Schneider and the lending institutions to make sure everything is in order noting that JVB came in very competitively. Mr. Buchsen cautioned the Board in light of the current economic situation, upcoming elections, and state legislation to seriously consider when moving forward. He recommends the Board start with Phase I and see what the future holds. Lengthy discussion among the Board, Mr. Myers and Mr. Slear was held relating to financing and the project scope.

Mr. Buchsen provided an overview of the handout on Health and Safety Plans and the Department of Education's recommendations in determining instructional models. State guidance is based on case rates. McKean County is now identified in the high moderate range at 3.7% and there are 15 counties in the substantial range. Many of the schools in the 15 counties are continuing in-person instruction; case spread has not been linked to school buildings. Mr. Buchsen asked for Board direction in determining at what point we alter our plan. Lengthy discussion was held.

Mr. Buchsen reviewed the handout relating to the winter sports bubble proposal to create basketball and wrestling schedules against schools within the Intermediate Unit Nine. The consensus was to move forward, monitor, and be discretionary. There was brief discussion relating to the youth programs. It was suggested that Port Allegany basketball students only play each other. The J.O. Wrestling Program was discussed at length.

Mr. Buchsen reported that 72 applications were received for the two secretarial positions, administration interviewed 16 candidates last week, are interviewing another 4 in-person this week, and hope to have names for the Board next week.

Personnel

Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Nancy Andreano as a 4.5-hour cafeteria cook/server/attendant effective November 5, 2020. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved Denise Evens and Justin Bienkowski as volunteer basketball coaches for the 2020-2021 season. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: D. Tanner. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Andreano's position has been posted internally. The posting comes down after Monday's board meeting, so a recommendation will be made to hire retroactively at the December meeting.

Curriculum and Instruction

Zook Motors Driver's Education Car Lease Proposal was discussed. There are 23 students who want to take driver's education. Administration has had multiple conversations to this result. Zook Motors requires that parents sign a waiver of liability and hold harmless agreement. Some discussion was held.

Board

Memorandum of Understanding with McKean County Department of Human Services. The board will need to approve an updated MOU with McKean County approving transportation procedures for foster care youth. This is required to be updated every three years.

The Board was notified that Mrs. Laura Strawderman, mathematics teacher; Mr. Seth Lowery, health and physical education teacher; Ms. Crystal Genaux, Pre-K teacher; and Mrs. Tamera Johnson, elementary teacher have been employed by the Port Allegany School District for three years and have been rated satisfactory during the last four months of the third year; therefore, this sixth rating made to comply with Section 1108 of the Pennsylvania School Code results in professional employee status (tenure).

Doctor Carlson thanked the visitors for their attendance. The Board convened to an executive session at 9:20 p.m. for personnel matters. The meeting reconvened at 9:46 p.m. for adjournment.

Adjournment

Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion carried unanimously. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE
Secretary to the Board of School Directors