

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
October 5, 2020

MINUTES

Call to Order

President Carlson brought the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Mr. Moate called the roll. Doctor Carlson announced the Board met in executive session at 6:15 p.m. prior to this meeting for teacher interviews.

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: High School Principal Marc Budd, Assistant Principal Erika Emerick, Kim Ball, Anna Stewart, Brandon Bliss, Matthew Lawton and Shane Lawton.

Public Comment

There were no general comments. Mrs. Kim Ball, elementary teacher asked about the four Title I and II paraprofessionals and Mr. Buchsen responded they are the four in the kindergarten classrooms. She further stated that things are not okay at the elementary school. Teachers are doing virtual learning and asynchronous learning which is very difficult. There are 20 virtual students in grades 3-6 which they are doing themselves whereas K-2 has seven virtual students and they have two teachers. Mrs. Ball explained some of the issues for 3-6 level teachers including trying to recoup the last six months. She noted they have asked for help to no avail and feel like they are alone in this situation. Mr. Buchsen noted that the STEM lab will be reopened next week which will free up time for the sixth grade teacher, and the transportation dismissal changes at the end of the day will free up additional time for teachers.

Mr. Hawver asked if they have any suggestions for a solution. Mrs. Ball said it would be helpful if teachers could have someone to free up the lunch or recess duty and possibly additional relief in the morning for the planning time.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Johns had nothing to report from the Intermediate Unit Nine Board of Directors as the next meeting is October 17.

Mr. Tanner reported that the senior program has been recognized for what the students have been doing to help senior citizens learn technology. This speaks well for the Career and Technical Center's programs.

Mr. Fillhart reported that HB2696 from PSBA was tabled. October 8 is fall virtual advocacy day and the 14-15 is PSBA School Leadership Conference which is virtual this year.

Superintendent's Report

Youth Football Discussion. Mr. Buchsen asked Mr. Brandon Bliss to share some information with the Board. Mr. Bliss thanked the Board for allowing the practices to begin last week. They have pursued having a modified schedule with area communities of 3-4 games. They had a lawyer draft a liability form, their insurance is in place, and they are screening students for virus symptoms. All teams are within the Intermediate Unit Nine region.

Mr. Buchsen asked what teams have committed and how are they dealing with the 250-person limit. Mr. Bliss said participants confirmed are Cameron County, Coudersport, and Bradford. He stated they are using wrist bands for our parents, a questionnaire to visiting teams, and no spectators from visiting teams in addressing the current limits. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Buchsen said the Governor got his stay so the limits are back to 25 indoor and 250 outdoor for sporting events. The court case could go on for months so this will likely go on for some time. The anticipation for winter sports is keeping competition within the Intermediate Unit Nine bubble. However, play-offs can be outside the bubble but each game is still very fluid. Discussion was held and Mr. Buchsen indicated that next week the Board will have an adjusted Athletic Health and Safety Plan.

Mr. Buchsen updated the Board on the PITA Grant which is a \$250,000 matching grant. He is cautiously optimistic and thanked Larry and Kirby of Schneider Electric. Mr. Buchsen referenced and reviewed the e-mail timeline relating to the GESA project received from Larry of Schneider Electric. Doctor Carlson stated that the Board needs to look into the financing, particularly since rates are at record lows. He also indicated that he would like to see if something can be done for the roof leaking areas prior to winter setting in. Brief discussion was held. Mr. Buchsen asked for direction from the Board relating to the project. The Facilities Committee will meet Wednesday at 6 p.m. to review Phase I items.

Mr. Stehle requested the administration provide an update relating to COVID and how things are going in the schools.

Personnel

The district has a 4.5-hour cafeteria position open due to the resignation of Mrs. Erica Babcock. Administration intends to have a candidate recommendation at next week's meeting.

Appointed Mrs. Sally Claypool as Mentor for Chelsea Wymer, newly hired kindergarten teacher during the 2020-2021 school year at a supplemental salary of \$1,588 in accordance with Schedule B of the Professional Agreement. Motion: J. Fillhart; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was unanimously carried.

Board

First reading of the following policy updates was held with Board discussion.

1. Policy 113.1 – Immunizations and Communicable Diseases. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
2. Policy 113.2 – Behavior Support. (Mandated for compliance with State Board of education regulations.)
3. Policy 113.4 – Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
4. Policy 122 – Extra Curricular Activity. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
5. Policy 123 – Interscholastic Athletics. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
6. Policy 123.2 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)

Mr. Fillhart wondered what was going to be done relating to the junior high soccer team being in the yearbook since it was the first year of this sport. Discussion was held and the administration will investigate.

Mr. Fillhart asked why the Athletic Trainer is not at all games. Mr. Buchsen responded the position is a contracted service for 1,000 hours. He noted that it's at the Board's discretion if they want to change it. Some discussion was held.

Mr. Hawver would like to revisit the substitute policy where they changed it from 10 to 90 days as he believes it has had an effect on the quality of substitutes we are able to attract. It will be placed on next week's agenda.

Doctor Carlson thanked the visitors for their attendance. The Board convened to an executive session at 7:56 p.m. for negotiations and personnel matters. The meeting reconvened at 8:21 p.m. for adjournment.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Stake; Second: B. Johns. The motion carried unanimously. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE
Secretary to the Board of School Directors