

Port Allegany School District  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting  
October 7, 2019

**MINUTES**

Call to Order

President Carlson brought the meeting to order at 7 o'clock p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. The Secretary called the roll.

Roll Call

Board Present: Dr. Mark Carlson, Mrs. Lisa Drabert, Mr. Kerry Hawver, Mrs. Cheryl Nasto, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Jason Stake, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Gary Buchsen, and Mr. Adam Moate.

Board Absent: Mr. Justin Fillhart and Mr. Sean Lathrop.

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Erika Emerick, Barbara Bockoras, Lisa VanGorden, and Joyce Stehle.

Public Comment

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

Committee Reports

Mr. Tanner reported that the Seneca Highlands Career and Technical Center Advisory Board will meet later this month.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen addressed the Board relating to the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Program (SYOCS) which is indoor bocce ball competition. A promotional video was viewed. Mr. Budd said it is a great opportunity for our life skills and special needs students that will allow them to get involved. He provided an overview of the program's history noting everything needed is provided including equipment, coach training and stipend, jerseys, etc. Minimum participation is 3 general education and 3 life skills students but can have up to 8 members. Season runs from December 2 – March 4. Students participating in a winter sport are not eligible to participate. Ms. Emerick said that a club is to be formed and ran by special needs and general education students. The club would focus on school climate, inclusion, acceptance and respect and needs to sponsor 2-3 full school activities per year. The staff from the SYOCS group will help provide funding resources and full support for these activities. The district would need to find a coach (salary paid by SYOCS) by the 15<sup>th</sup> and host one event during the season. Muccio Transportation has generously offered to provide transportation at no cost. The administration is very excited and fully support participation noting it is a great opportunity for the kids and the school. Extended discussion was held and Doctor Carlson asked if the Board would like to vote tonight. Mr. Tanner moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Program. Mr. Stake provided a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel

Transferred Mrs. Kimberly Bartholomew from a 4.5 to a 5.5 hour life skills aide position effective October 8, 2019 with compensation and fringe benefits set according to the Support Staff Agreement. Motion: J. Stake; Second: K. Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved the addition of Ms. Jessica Prescott, IU Guest Teacher to the Substitute List effective September 26, 2019. Motion: C. Nasto; Second: E. Petruzzi. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following personnel items were discussed and will be presented for approval next Monday. 1) The 5.5 hour custodial position vacated by Mr. Gordon's transfer to full-time needs to be filled. Administration will have a candidate recommendation next week. 2) A 4.5 hour position opened with the transfer of Mrs. Bartholomew to a 5.5 hour position tonight. 3) With Mr. McEwen's resignation a science position will need to be filled. As expected, it is proving a difficult position to fill. The item will be discussed further in executive session. 4) Mr. Bob Raudenbush has notified us of his plan to retire in January. Administration would like to get the position posted and get a candidate in front of the Board in December. Mr. Kio praised Mr. Raudenbush stating his reputation speaks for itself, he has had a stellar career, great with children always putting them first, and beyond that working with the community, faculty, and administration he has always been a top shelf type of guy who will be greatly missed. 5) Supplemental Positions. Mrs. Hamilton is interested in returning as student council advisor. Mr. Buchsen stated there have been other letters coming in so there will be a few more recommendations next week. 6) Volunteer Coaching. Mr. Greenman, Varsity Wrestling Coach has requested approval of the following volunteers: Adam Greenman, Nick Budd, Brian Spencer, Nate Schwab, Brian Neal, Josh Saltsman, and Karl Lightner. Mr. Budd supports the request.

#### Finance

The Board will be asked to consider approving assessment changes in the 2019 real estate tax due to veteran's exemption and repository. These changes are recommended by the County Commissioner's Office and would net a decrease of \$2,232.36 in real estate taxes.

#### Transportation

Addendum Agreement. This agreement relates to extending the bus runs for the Amish Valley View and Pine Grove schools for days the District is not in session. The cost is \$30.00 per day. Mr. Buchsen explained there are several days the district is closed while the Amish schools are in session.

#### Curriculum and Instruction

Mr. Buchsen reviewed the 2018-2019 PSSA and Keystone Exam test scores with a detailed slideshow presentation noting we do not have the regional comparison or the state comparison components tonight. Elementary results are seeing the same trends year-over-year showing English proficiency levels outpacing math – this is true of the state level as well. In looking at proficiency levels we use the same cohort group for comparison. Sixth grade has the highest proficiency in the building at 73% in ELA. Math levels have increased year-over-year, but are still lower than ELA. Science that is tested in grades 4 and 8 has dropped off a bit. High School Literacy Keystone scores are up a bit and Algebra shows a slight increase. Mr. Buchsen reminded everyone that when the state changed to the Pennsylvania Common Core, expectations on assessment were raised which resulted in a decrease in proficiency levels across the state.

Keystone test results showed Algebra up from 32% to 52%; biology is 10 points higher; and literature is down slightly. Mr. Buchsen said Keystone assessment proficiency is still not required for graduation, but is required for accountability. The School Performance Profile (SPP) is not going away as it is tied into the teacher evaluation system. The new evaluation - Future Ready Index will be made public later in the fall.

Mr. Kio said they are collectively looking at PVAAS data and E-metric data for each student and teachers have that data at their fingertips. They can generate a Google spreadsheet to list a student, grade level, efficiency score, cut score and advanced scores along with student

scores. The school has done a tremendous amount of work in the area of English Language Arts which is starting to be reflected in scores. Their plan is to continue sending staff for training, improved teaching strategies, progress monitoring, and trying to narrow down to individual student needs. Mr. Kio said something that goes unnoticed is how much energy is expended by the staff for behavior and interaction to make connection to the kids. Without this, the PSSA's and those things go by the wayside.

Mr. Budd reported the High School is also reviewing the data. High school teachers are modifying curriculum and using online resources to assist students. Math teachers in grades 7-9 are attending trainings on constructed response knowledge questions. The state curriculum specialist in Math is coming out and working specifically with staff on PVASS and curriculum going over tests so teachers know exactly what they are trying to look for on state assessment, and how to supplement that in the curriculum as well as modeling the test. He said it is important that students know and understand what the tests are asking of them. Mr. Budd reported that this year they are following the RTII model, targeting and pulling students from homeroom and working with them in small group settings on specific underperformed areas to increase proficiency levels.

### Board

Policy Updates – first reading. The Board reviewed the following policy change recommendations from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

1. Policy 333 - Professional Development. Trauma training for staff. (recommended for legal liability purposes)
2. Policy 705 - Facilities and Workplace Safety (recommended for clarification and communication of school operations)
3. Policy 805 - Emergency Preparedness and Response (recommended for legal liability and auditing purposes)
4. Policy 805.1 - Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies (recommended for legal liability and auditing purposes). Safe to Say Something procedures for information provided as well.

Doctor Carlson commended the administration for staying on top of these things, along with normal duties considering how much is added year after year.

The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:52 p.m. for negotiations and personnel matters. The Committee-of-the-Whole meeting reconvened for adjournment at 8:39 p.m.

### Adjournment

Motion: J. Stake; Second: D. Tanner. The motion carried unanimously. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE  
Secretary to the Board of School Directors