

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting
September 14, 2020

MINUTES

Call to Order

President Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Mr. Moate called the roll. Doctor Carlson reported the Board met in executive session at 6:30 p.m. tonight for personnel matters.

Board Present: Dr. Mark Carlson, Mr. Justin Fillhart, Mr. Kerry Hawver, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Sean Lathrop, Mr. Jason Stake, Mr. Jonathan Stehle, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Gary Buchsen, and Mr. Adam Moate.

Board Absent: Mrs. Bonna Johns.

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Lisa VanGorden, Nicole Parish, Ink Young, Trisha Kallenborn, Todd Burgess, and Bob Tarbox.

Public Comment

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

Minutes of Preceding Meetings

Approved the Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Committee-of-the-Whole meeting and August 10, 2020 regular meeting. Motion: J. Stake; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Approved the Treasurer's Reports for the period ended August 31, 2020 as presented by Mr. Donald Tanner, District Treasurer. Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: J. Stake. The motion was unanimously carried.

General Fund account balances on August 31, 2020 were as follows: Juniata Valley Bank (JVB) Investment Savings - \$7,074,548.53 and JVB Now Account - \$156,223.76. Receipts since August 1 were \$476,691.70 and expenditures were \$370,048.66 bringing the balance in the general fund to \$7,337,965.33.

August 31, 2020 balances for various accounts were reported as follows: Capital Reserve Investment Fund - \$2,745,058.33; Student Activities Account - \$84,454.19; Student Athletics Account - \$75,537.30; and Cafeteria Account - \$10,914.55.

Bill Listings and Payrolls

Approved the General Fund Bill List of September 14, 2020 - \$1,576,751.76 and payrolls of August 13, 2020 - \$204,185.38; August 27, 2020 - \$203,693.94; and September 10, 2020 - \$221,564.30. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: S. Lathrop. Clarification was provided for various bill list items. The motion was carried unanimously.

Communications

None.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen provided an update on the Port Allegany Athletics Health and Safety Plan noting administration used the current guidelines that are in place and incorporating language relating to attendance. He reminded the Board this is fluid, noting that the judge ruled in favor of plaintiffs challenging the closing of business and occupancy claiming it was unconstitutional. The Governor is going to appeal and ask for a stay. The District Solicitor will review the opinion. We will likely hear something tomorrow with a potential impact of how schools handle attendance both indoor and outdoor. Mr. Hawver asked about live streaming and Mr. Budd responded that yes it is set up and ready to go through YouTube channels. Lengthy discussion was held concerning students identified as sick and returning to school procedures.

Mr. Buchsen discussed the flier for a Port Allegany Flag Football League requested by Mr. Bienkowski. The program would be very abbreviated, only allowing district students, Saturdays through October for students grades 2-6. Discussion included the desire to have parental waivers and independent insurance in order to protect the district. The Board definitely wants to support the students and consensus of the Board was to support the program as long as an insurance policy is purchased. Mr. Lathrop offered to have a fundraiser to pay for insurance for the program.

The Facilities Committee met last week to review the recommendations for a proposed energy project for the high school and elementary schools as provided by Schneider Electric. Doctor Carlson commented that we have a valuable asset to maintain noting the roof needs attention – possible replacement; some areas of the building are deteriorated; and he highlighted the itemized areas from the handout that the committee is recommending for the energy project. He said the Committee discussed adding a retractable cover for the swimming pool. Mr. Fillhart said if we had an agreement with the recreational authority, adding a modular roof system over the swimming pool (cost of \$475,000) and tying it in with the locker room area of the existing building that could become the new weight room and fitness center. It would also give the school and the recreational authority use of the pool through the year and reduce the energy cost for everyone. We would have a full functioning, more attractive school to try to get more students to come to our school district and better suit everyone still here. It would benefit our students and bring in new families. The option will be discussed further with Schneider Electric. Doctor Carlson continued highlighting the items recommended for the elementary school – all totaled the estimated cost of the energy project without the pool is \$10,881,000.

Doctor Carlson reported that Brenda Sawyer had contacted Mr. Fillhart indicating there is potential for the school being put in the national historic registry which means they may be able to provide some funding. This would mean keeping the building with the glass block intact. The district and Schneider are pursuing that avenue. There is a concern about how much renovation the Board could do if placed on the registry. Discussion was held and included having the roof built to support solar panels which would practically eliminate the electric costs; potential upfront payment; concern for actual project costs; roof replacement material; interest rates which are historically low; material costs are up dramatically; concerns about the historic registry, and financing options. Lengthy discussion continued. Mr. Fillhart said the next step is to get Board approval so Schneider can get more detailed, accurate estimates. Mr. Buchsen recommended the Board wait and act on this item next month. Doctor Carlson suggested getting more information before the next meeting, and if necessary scheduling a special meeting. The Board agreed.

Personnel

Accepted Mrs. Michelene Horning's resignation for retirement purposes effective January 14, 2021 as a reading teacher (nine years of service). Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was unanimously carried.

Hired Mrs. Donna Shelander as a 4.5-hour cafeteria cook/server/ attendant effective September 15, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$17.75 and fringe benefits set in accordance with the Support Staff Agreement and district policy. Motion: J. Fillhart; Second: J. Stake. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved the addition of Cynthia Setzer, support staff to the Substitute List pending completion of appropriate paperwork. Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: J. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the addition of Mr. Daniel Kysor, elementary and special education certified to the Substitute List. Motion: J. Stake; Second: S. Lathrop. Aye: Fillhart, Hawver, Petruzzi, Lathrop, and Stake. Nay: Tanner, Stehle, and Carlson. The motion was carried 5-3.

Hired Ms. Lindsay Bower as a temporary professional employee assigned as a secondary English and English Language Learner teacher for the 2020-2021 school year at a prorated salary of \$51,849 (M+30, Step 3) and fringe benefits set in accordance with the Professional Agreement and district policy. Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: D. Tanner. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance

Approved property assessment changes as recommended by the Assessment Offices resulting in a decrease of \$486.33 in 2020 real estate taxes. Motion: J. Fillhart; Second: K. Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

Board

Approved the updated athletics health and safety plan for the district. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion carried 7-1 with Mr. Stehle opposed.

Adopted revised and new policies as follows: Policy 203 - Immunizations and Communicable Diseases; Policy 209 - Health Examinations/Screenings; Policy 309.1 - Telework; Policy 314 - Physical Examination; Policy 331 - Job Related Expenses; Policy 332 - Working Periods; Policy 334 - Sick Leave; Policy 340 - Responsibility for Student Welfare; Policy 705 - Facilities and Workplace Safety; Policy 803 - School Calendar; Policy 904 - Public Attendance at School Events; and Policy 907 - School Visitors. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was unanimously carried.

The Board directed Mr. Moate to cast the full slate of candidates, with the exception of Sabrina Backer for the 2020 PSBA Election of Officers.

Approved a 2020 flag football intramural league for Port Allegany students at no cost to the district under the condition the program has insurance. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hawver reported that he, administration, and Anthony and Joseph Muccio met with the Amish School Board to hear their grievances – they want to get their children home sooner and have them picked up at home. Mr. Muccio pointed out that we provide separate runs for their students which other districts don't; we transport their teacher; have made various compromises for them; and that we have students that walk a mile to stops and to the school. They emphasized that some accommodations cannot be made (they do not observe daylight savings time). Mr. Buchsen indicated that Mr. Muccio is looking at making some time adjustments.

Discussion was held relating to providing student transportation to/from the Career and Technical Center. This has not been utilized to date due to COVID. Mr. Hawver expressed his concern for liability in having students unsupervised during the transition between buildings.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Stake; Second: S. Lathrop. The motion was unanimously carried. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE
Secretary to the Board of School Directors