

Port Allegany School District  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Special Meeting  
September 26, 2020

**MINUTES**

Call to Order

President Carlson brought the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Mr. Buchsen called the roll.

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, Adam Hamilton, Douglas Archer, Eric Button, and Ink Young.

Public Comment

Mrs. Ink Young encouraged the Board to consider allowing parent attendance from opposing teams at sporting events noting that last week her son was pretty seriously injured at an away game, and she was outside the stadium. She stated that data does not support all these restrictions and we can see how personal responsibility at all levels is working. Mrs. Young thanked the Board for supporting our youth.

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

New Business

The District's Athletics Health and Safety Plan changes related to increasing the number of spectators at the football games and providing passes to visiting team members were discussed at length. There were several comments of concern from those opposed and many comments in support of making changes. Mr. Budd commented extensively about concerns with opening up to a larger risk. Mr. Lathrop commended the administration for everything they have done throughout the pandemic. Mr. Buchsen reviewed what has taken place over the past week noting that the superintendents call each other prior to events to evaluate whether it is safe for our students to travel to that school. He also shared the response received from Otto-Eldred relating to today's game cautioning the Board that any decision made will have an effect for other school districts and there are logistics to be considered. Lengthy discussion ensued and Doctor Carlson suggested leaving it the way it is and called for a motion. Hearing none, he asked for any other motion. Mr. Tanner expressed his concerns about the Board making decisions based on emotions rather than a value judgment because he feels that is what they are about to do.

Amended the Athletics Health and Safety Plan to provide four (4) passes for participants of varsity football and volleyball (varsity football passes include players, cheerleaders, and band members), and to provide two (2) passes for visiting team members in football and volleyball.

Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: B. Johns. Aye: Fillhart, Hawver, Johns, Lathrop, Petruzzi, and Stake. Nay: Carlson, Stehle, and Tanner. The motion passed 6-3.

Approved allowing the Youth Football Program to start. Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was unanimously carried.

Adjournment

Motion: S. Lathrop; Second: B. Johns. The motion carried unanimously. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE  
Secretary to the Board of School Directors