

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
September 8, 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, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Jason Stake, Mr. Jonathan Stehle, Mr. Donald Tanner, Mr. Adam Moate, and Mr. Gary Buchsen.

Board Absent: Mr. Sean Lathrop.

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Erika Emerick, Rachel Vargeson of The Nutrition Group, Joyce Stehle, Trisha Kallenborn, Lisa VanGorden.

Public Comment

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

Mrs. Lisa VanGorden shared a comment written by a former student commending Mr. Aaron Clark for his positive influence in her life and thanking him.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Johns offered to field questions about the August 17, 2020 Intermediate Unit Nine Board minutes noting that Mr. William Robinson, Building and Grounds Supervisor at the Career and Technical Center is retiring after 33 years of service.

Mr. Tanner reported that the Career and Technical Center has received a \$90,000 CARES grant which was used to purchase PPE supplies, water stations, etc. Teachers are using outdoor space, larger shop areas and new supplies to promote social distancing. Their intent is to remain open for in-person instruction as long as sending district are in session.

Mr. Fillhart, PSBA Legislative Representative reported that another bill was sent to the Governor regarding attendance at sports events. It was approved on both sides; however, they are anticipating the Governor will veto the bill. There are 175 yes votes in the house for that bill which would be enough to overturn a veto. There should be more information later this week.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen said an item is on the agenda to approve the Summer Food Service Program – Seamless Summer Option (SSO). Mr. Moate reported that the USDA is extending the SSO option they did over the summer through the end of December 2020. He said this means all students regardless of their financial status will get a free breakfast and lunch through December or until the funds run out. The District would get reimbursed at the free rate which would be good for the cafeteria. Discussion was held relating to processes should one or more buildings be closed due to COVID.

Mr. Buchsen stated that if the Board approves the item, it will be announced immediately and would start tomorrow. Mrs. Vargeson, Cafeteria Supervisor indicated she believes the cafeterias are prepared for the immediate change.

Mr. Buchsen provided an update relating to the district's Athletics Health and Safety Plan and recent state guidance for spectators at sporting events which are limited to 25 persons for inside events and 250 people at outside events. He cautioned the Board that this is very likely to change considering current legislative activity. Volleyball is the only indoor sport and unfortunately spectators will not be able to attend these events. Mr. Budd provided an overview of how the numbers have been established for varsity football games which results in each athlete, band member, and cheerleader getting 2 tickets each for spectators. There will be a 30-minute time block for folks who have tickets to come in the high school building main foyer, down the junior high wing, through the gym and out the doors to the stadium. All the gates and other doors will remain locked. The back parking lot will be open for folks who want to park and observe from outside the fence. Junior High games will offer 5 tickets per student as there are fewer ancillary people involved. Mr. Tanner expressed a concern about the student body attending and Mr. Budd said their obligation was to parents first. Mr. Buchsen noted that we will be live streaming the games. For soccer, Mr. Budd said the bleachers will be moved behind the bench so both teams can sit there and maintain social distance. He said they will rope off an area around the field to provide space between it and spectators. Mr. Budd reported that they are looking at options for Homecoming noting we cannot have a parade (due to the 250-person limit), are hoping to have an outside dance, and reviewing options for senior nights (all in consideration of the 250-person limit). Lengthy discussion was held.

Mr. Buchsen shared a proposal received from Mr. Bienkowski to establish a flag football league since the students have missed out on so much since March. This item will be discussed further at a later date.

Mr. Buchsen updated the Board noting there are funds available to assist in energy projects and the district could be eligible for up to \$250,000. Administration is working with Schneider Electric. Additionally, Mr. Buchsen asked where the Board is relating to the project, what should be included and whether to narrow it down. Mr. Lathrop expressed his belief that the Board should move forward. Lengthy discussion was held and it was the consensus of the Board to have the Facilities Committee meet to review the information provided by Schneider Electric. Mr. Hawver left the meeting briefly.

Personnel

Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Brittany Smith as a cafeteria server/attendant effective August 10, 2020. Motion: E. Petruzzi; Second: J. Stake. The motion carried unanimously.

Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Kellie Guilds as a life skills aide effective September 11, 2020. Motion: J. Stake; Second: J. Fillhart. The motion carried unanimously.

Transferred Ms. Chelsea Wymer from a pre-kindergarten assistant teacher to a temporary professional employee assigned as an elementary teacher effective the 2020-2021 school year at a salary of \$44,828 (BS, Step 2) and fringe benefits in accordance with the Professional Agreement and district policy. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: B. Johns. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hawver returned to the meeting.

Hired Mrs. Holly Chilson as an Assistant Pre-Kindergarten Teacher effective the 2020-2021 school year at a salary of \$22,000 and fringe benefits in accordance with the Professional Agreement and district policy. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: E. Petruzzi. The motion was unanimously carried.

Hired Ms. Lacey Riale to fill the 4.5-hour life skills aide vacancy effective September 14, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$16.75 and fringe benefits in accordance with the Support Staff Agreement and district policy. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: K. Hawver. The motion was passed unanimously.

Approved the addition of Ms. Lori Edgar, Pennsylvania emergency certification and Florida certification in elementary education and reading to the Substitute List beginning the 2020-2021 school year. Motion: J. Stake; Second: B. Johns. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved Mr. Joshua Nelson as a volunteer volleyball coach for the 2020-2021 season. Motion: B. Johns; Second: D. Tanner. The motion was unanimously carried.

The Board will need to fill the 4.5-hour cafeteria vacancy. A recommendation will be made next Monday night.

Curriculum

Ms. Amacher has shared the proposal for the fall play, "Hey, Journal" which was included in the packet. Mr. Buchsen said Ms. Amacher has done a great job in this position and commended her for trying to do a play this year.

Board

Approved fall sports competitions in accordance with the district's athletics health and safety plan and regional scheduling agreements during the 2020-2021 school year, and authorized the Superintendent to revise the plan as needed based on additional guidance, with the understanding that any such revisions will be presented to the Board for approval at the next scheduled meeting. Motion: J. Stake; Second: K. Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved participation in the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations providing free breakfast and lunch for all students through December 31, 2020 or until program funds are exhausted. Motion: K. Hawver; Second: J. Stake. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approved the following revised policies: Policy 103-Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students; Policy 104-Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff; Policy 247-Hazing; Policy 249-Bullying/Cyberbullying; Policy 252-Dating Violence; Policy 317.1-Educator Misconduct; and Policy 824-Maintaining Professional Adult/Student. Motion: D. Tanner; Second: J. Stake. The motion carried unanimously.

First reading of the following policy updates was held. Mr. Buchsen noted the changes are all COVID related.

1. Policy 203 – Immunizations and Communicable Diseases. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
2. Policy 209 – Health Examinations/Screenings. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
3. Policy 309.1 – Telework. (This is a new policy recommended for legal liability purposes.)
4. Policy 314 – Physical Examination. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
5. Policy 331 – Job Related Expenses. (Recommended by PSBA.)
6. Policy 332 – Working Periods. (Recommended by PSBA.)
7. Policy 334 – Sick Leave. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
8. Policy 340 – Responsibility for Student Welfare. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
9. Policy 705 – Facilities and Workplace Safety. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
10. Policy 803 – School Calendar. (Recommended by PSBA.)
11. Policy 904 – Public Attendance at School Events. (Recommended for legal liability purposes.)
12. Policy 07 – School Visitors. (Recommended by PSBA.)

The Slate of Candidates for 2020 PSBA election of officers was presented for review. The Board will need to make their selections and Mr. Moate will cast the votes online.

The Board convened to an executive session at 8:15 p.m. for negotiations. The meeting reconvened at 8:18 p.m. for adjournment.

Adjournment

Motion: D. Tanner; Second: B. Johns. The motion carried unanimously. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE
Secretary to the Board of School Directors