

BOARD MINUTES

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD AT 5:30 P.M. TODAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017 CONCERNING PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS AND ON FEBRUARY 7, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M. CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS.

The regular scheduled meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 6:38 p.m. in the Auditorium of the High School. Vice President Recker presided.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors Recker, Haas, Debski, Gildner, Harry, Smale, Scherer and Yeakel
Absent: Director Myers

**OTHER
ATTENDANCE**

Scot Engler - Superintendent, Deb Scheckler – Board Secretary, Attorney John Audi – Solicitor, Ryan Kish – Business Manager

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- Revised the 2016-2017 calendar
- ACE Team won their first match this morning
- Jr. High Video competition, voting opens tomorrow

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Governor’s 2017-2018 budget proposed a \$125 million dollar increase for public school operations, instruction and special education
- However this budget also calls for a 50 million dollar decrease in school transportation
- Preliminary numbers show a net increase of \$90k more in state revenue with the transportation cut
- Only a proposed budget from the Governor, but huge numbers are not anticipated in funding from the state with the revenue problems they’ve been having
- PSERS and Special Education costs continue to rise
- We are continuing work on our 2017-2018 budget

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Anne Cronk

- Calendar concerns, asking for a no vote

Alyssa Olewine

- Calendar concerns with the senior class

Brandon Mazepa

- Agreement between the District and the union should be without the attorney
- Addressed the Board about the negative effects of extending the school year

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVED**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Debski that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School District approve the following consent agenda.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

MINUTES

Approve the minutes from the January 17, 2017 meeting. (attachment on file)

**FINANCIAL
REPORTS**

Approve the financial reports listed below: (attachments on file)

- TREASURER’S REPORTS
- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
- BUDGET TRANSFERS
- GRANTS

February 21, 2017

- TRANS-PORTATION PLAN** Approve the Transportation Plan between Palmerton Area School District and Carbon County Children and Youth Agency. (attachment on file)
- CCTI BUDGET** Approve the 2017-2018 Proposed Operating Budget for the Carbon Career & Technical Institute, calling for Receipts and Expenditures in the amount of \$8,210,852 for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. (attachment on file)
- CLIU BUDGET** Approve the 2017-2018 General Operating Budget of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. (attachment on file)
- Approve the following extracurricular positions for the 2016-2017 school year:
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| EXTRA CURRICULAR POSITIONS | Kate Hanchick | Volunteer Softball Coach | Volunteer |
| | Bryan Recker | Volunteer Softball Coach | Volunteer |
| | Charlie Kistler | Volunteer Softball Coach | Volunteer |
| | Fran Gough | Assistant Track Coach | Stipend pending contract negotiations |
| | Jessica Heffelfinger | Volunteer Track Coach | Volunteer |
| | Austin Cseh | Volunteer Track Coach | Volunteer |
| | Rich Roselli | Volunteer Tennis Coach | Volunteer |
- SUBSTITUTES** Approve the following substitutes:
- Christine King Substitute Instructional Aide & Substitute Secretary
- RETIREMENT** Accept the retirement of Jose Amorim, custodian at SS Palmer effective June 30, 2017
- REMOVE SUBSTITUTE** Remove Karen Thomas from the substitute teacher list as per her request
- TUITION RE-IMBURSEMENT** Approve the attached tuition reimbursement
- REVISED 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR** Approve the revised 2016-2017 school calendar.
- EXONERATE CURRENT TAX COLLECTORS** Exonerate the current tax collectors listed below from the collection of the 2016-2017 school year delinquent per capita taxes effective January 1, 2017:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Bowmanstown Borough: | Maria Smith | \$2,030.00 |
| Palmerton Borough: | Lisa Nemeth | \$9,890.00 |
| Towamensing Township: | R. Bruce Reiner | \$5,830.00 |
- PER CAPITA EXONERATION LISTS** Palmerton Area School District to approve the attached per capita tax exoneration lists. (attachment on file)
- BERKHEIMER COLLECT DELQ PC TAX** Palmerton Area School District to appoint Berkheimer Associates, Bangor, PA as the delinquent tax collector of the 2016-2017 school year per capita taxes effective January 1, 2017. (There is no fee assessed to the District for this service; the fees are assessed to the taxpayer.)
- CONTRACT** Contract Agreement – Clear Motion, Audio & Design LLC (Joshua Solarczyk) DJ services for Homecoming dance sponsored by Class of 2017 retroactive to September 24, 2016 at a cost of \$350.00.
- HS PROGRAM OF STUDIES** Approve the Palmerton Area Senior High School’s Program of Studies for the 2017-2018 school year, as submitted.

End of Consent Agenda

**FULL DAY
KINDERGARTEN
APPROVED**

Director Gildner moved, seconded by Director Harry that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School approve the change in the kindergarten program from a half day program to a full day program in Parkside Education Center and Towamensing Elementary School, starting the 2017-2018 school year.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried

INFORMATION ITEMS: (attachments on file)

- Enrollment, January 31, 2017
- LCCC Board Meeting Minutes , January 5, 2017
- LCCC President's Desk Newsletter, February, 2017
- 2016 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes
- Avenger, February 16, 2017 edition
- Board Summary

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Kenneth Sutton

- Questioned why Attorney Audi wasn't here at the last meeting
- Why Audi left PSEA and now is against the teachers
- Attorney Audi felt the union was against public education
- Wanted the teachers to distribute the money
- Attorney Audi defended his stand

Tammy Recker

- She is the new fourth member on the negotiation team
- Feels that we can come together without the disrespect
- Solicitor position was put out for bid

Ryan Connell

- Teacher from another District
- In support of the steps on the salary scale
- Wants what is best for the community and kids

Lori Nemeth

- Asked who is up for election, (Yeakel, Myers, Debski, Scherer)

Kathy Fallow

- Retired and a resident
- Talked about negotiations excluding lawyers
- Asked the Board members about the failure of negotiations
- Josann said she had brought up this matter
- Sue Debski is on the negotiation team. There are two sides on the team. She doesn't feel that this is what caused a failure of the negotiation process. Board members needed to learn this language of law. Lawyer gives the advice.
- We wanted fairness as well

Tammy Recker

- Communication is the key
- Bashing should not be taking place

Matt George

- Talked against arguing back and forth
- Needs to be productive negotiating
- Pro for a fair teachers' contract and the taxpayers
- Need to work together

Earl Paules

- Running for the Board in 2017
- Wants to make a difference
- Look for a different view

Lisa Shellhammer

- Encouraged both sides to get together frequently

February 21, 2017

Michelle Muffley

- Thanked participants in the video program. Kids involved are Brock Bollinger, Chris Walkowiak, Emily Baumgardt, and Brianna Muffley.
- Mr. Landis and Mr. Carroll took the students to the business
- All the programs the district offers

Sherry Haas

- Resident, daughter went to school here
- Board donates many hours to our District
- Supports the events in our school District
- Visits the schools every year
- Community members also call and email Board members with their support to the Board

Anne Cronk

- Questions why the negotiations never went any further; Attorney Audi – both sides didn't agree and union left the meeting

Michelle Muffley

- Two different meetings

Mercy Melo

- Why were field trips denied

Jeff Henry

- Thanked the Board.
- Open PA Gov. for information

Lori Nemeth

- Wanted to hear from Tom Smelas

Nick Loback

- June 19th Graduation
- Wants fairness

ADJOURNMENT

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Yeakel that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School District adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Scheckler
Board Secretary