

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PALMERTON, PA.  
February 18, 2020

**BOARD MINUTES**

An executive session was held at 6:00 P.M. concerning personnel and legal matters.

The regular meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held on February 18th, 2020, at 6:30 P.M. in the Conference Room of the Administration Office. President Fallow presided.

FLAG SALUTE

**ROLL CALL** Present: Directors Fallow, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Paules, Recker, Scherer, and Zellers  
Absent: Director Baumgardt

**OTHER ATTENDANCE** Al Lonoconus – Interim Superintendent, Ryan Kish - Business Manager/Board Secretary, Shawn Lochinger - Solicitor

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

- Presented PSBA certificates to the Directors who attended recent training.
- IronPigs request for a Palmerton Day and Blue Bomber cap giveaway sponsored by St. Luke’s.
- Superintendent search continues, the goal is to have a candidate for the March workshop or regular meeting. Currently doing background checks. Thanked all who have been involved in the process.

**PRESENTATION: CCTI BUDGET**

- Director Dave Reinbold and Business Administrator Jeffry Deutsch were present to review the CCTI budget for the 2020-21 school year.
- Mr. Deutsch stated that this is the seventh year in a row that there will be no overall increase to the sending schools. Palmerton’s share is up, but it is based on enrollment.
- Director Scherer questioned the fund balance and asked if it was possible to include actual expenditures in the budget. Mr. Deutsch responded that the district has received the CCTI audit and the budget represents the best estimates at the current time.

**STUDENT REPORT: CHRIS WALKOWIAK AND KYLE SEBELIN**

- Provided a summary of events and happenings in the district including: Hawk Mountain distance education, senior class voting on song, flower, color, and motto, international travelers club going to Europe, provided a winter sports wrap-up, sports right around the corner, Governors STEM competition team took home 3<sup>rd</sup> a regionals, several students meeting with Dr. Lonoconus and the superintendent candidates, spring pep rally and St. Paddy’s Dance, Mr. Palmerton, Student Council movie night.

**PAEA REPORT: AMANDA CAPELLA**

- Provided a summary of events and happenings in the district including: reading station online, 100<sup>th</sup> day of school celebrations, Superbowl themed activities, carnival for algebraic equations, business letters requesting to limit the use of plastics, spirit day, Raising the House Foundation, Da Vinci activities, and Towamensing environment club welcoming Wild Creek Bee Farm.

**BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:**

- Gave a brief overview of the Governor’s 2020-21 state budget. Depending on how budget plays out, Palmerton could see a basic subsidy increase of \$97,000, a special education subsidy increase of \$30,000, and if charter school reform happens a saving of \$91,000 to the district. Those numbers are not a part of the district’s current budget because it is unknown how they will play out.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

PSBA Report – Director Zellers

- Shared story regarding STEM machine – helped build percussion instrument
- Growing mental health crisis in schools – Phillips Law would require a certain number of mental health professionals in schools. Encouraged more counselors.
- Charter school reform being talked about. PA near the bottom of contributing state money to schools, local taxpayers bear much of the burden.

Library Report – Director Haas

- Shared several upcoming events at the library including preschool story time, block party, music time, STEAM projects, marker mugs, read across America, mandala making, national library week, bus trip, spring concert, photography show.
- Shared Library Directors report which included new cameras installed, new fire alarms, 302 new library cards, and 2,163 books checked out per month on average.

LCCC REPORT – Director Larvey

- Board of Trustees received a presentation “plan to bring more green to campus”, students surveyed campus trying to green it up. Honors program – 2 years free tuition, doing wonderful things.
- Board of Trustees has opening for at-large director. Need to apply and hand in application.

CCTI Report – Director Fallow

- DECA Chapter – 62 members participated from CCTI. Several students from Palmerton participated.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVED**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Zellers, to approve the attached consent agenda.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.

Nay Votes: None. Motion Passes.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MINUTES**

Approved the minutes from January 7, 2020, January 21, 2020 and February 4, 2020

meetings.

**FINANCIAL  
REPORTS**

Approved the Treasurer's Reports and Accounts Payable reports

**20-21 EXTRA  
CURRICULAR**

Approved the following extra-curricular positions for the 2020-2021 school year:

Alfredo Ortiz	Head MS Football Coach	\$2,689.00
Chris Frace	Asst. MS Football Coach	\$2,039.00
Matt Guedes	Asst. MS Football Coach	\$2,039.00
Tyler Svetik	Head MS Cross Country Coach	\$2,689.00

**19-20 EXTRA  
CURRICULAR**

Approved the following extra-curricular position for the 2019-2020 school year:

James Denaro Volunteer Softball Coach

**ASST. TRACK  
COACH**

Changed Kris Hoffner from Volunteer Track Coach to ½ Assistant Track Coach, with the stipend of \$ 1,331 for the 2019-2020 school year.

**SPECIAL ED  
RESIGNATION**

Accepted the resignation of Tiffany Bachart, Special Education Teacher. Letter received February 11, 2020.

**CAFÉ SUBS**

Approved Gina Porvaznik as a substitute cafeteria worker, effective February 19, 2020.

Approved Debra Ringer as a substitute cafeteria worker, effective February 19, 2020.

**TUITION REIMB-  
URSEMENT**

Approved the attached tuition reimbursement.

**PRESENTATION  
AGREEMENT**

Approved the agreement with Barn Nature Center for one 60-minute hands-on educational animal presentation at the high school on April 23, 2020 at a cost of \$300.00 to be paid from the General Fund (budgeted amount)

**AFTER SCHOOL  
GRANT**

Approved the \$200.00 After School Educational Grant for Towamensing Elementary School's Paramount Pollinators project from the Alpha Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa

**DONATION**

Accepted a \$750.00 anonymous donation through YourCause to be used for football and cheerleading

**PROGRAM OF  
STUDIES**

Approved the 2020-2021 Program of Studies for the Palmerton Area Senior High School.

**PROM  
CONTRACT**

Approved the contract with Stroudsmoor Country Inn for the Prom to be held on May 7, 2021, with a \$500 deposit.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**CCTI BUDGET  
APPROVED**

Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the 2020-2021 Proposed Operating Budget for the Carbon Career & Technical Institute, calling for Receipts and Expenditures in the amount of \$8,713,359 for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. It is noted for the record that Palmerton's projected share, based on five-year historical average enrollments, will be \$1,977,639, an increase of \$16,295 from the previous budget year.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**BUDGET**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to approve the enclosed budget

**TRANSFERS  
APPROVED** transfers.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**FOOD SERVICE  
TRANSFER  
APPROVED** Director Zellers moved, seconded by Director Haas, to alleviate \$76,000 due to the General Fund from the Food Service fund, per our local auditors.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**CLIU #21  
BUDGET  
APPROVED** Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Larvey, to approve the 2020-2021 General Operating Budget of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 in the amount of \$3,182,360 for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. It is noted for the record that Palmerton's estimated contribution will be \$21,900, an increase of \$434 from the previous budget year.

Aye Votes: Directors Fallow, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Paules, Recker, and Scherer  
Nay Votes: None.  
Abstentions: Director Zellers. Motion Carried.

**CHANGE ORDER  
APPROVED** Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Zellers, to approve Change Order #002 from Penn Builders in the amount of \$17,091.79. The change order is to change from a 10" DIP CL 52 pipe to a 16" DIP CL 52 C/L from the underground fire supply tank to the wet well.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**FUEL TANK BID  
APPROVED** Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Zellers, to approve the bid from Bluestone Environmental, Inc. for the Towamensing Fuel Tank Project at contract cost of \$187,804.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**AUTHORIZE  
KCE TO  
PROCEED** Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to authorize a notice to proceed on final design and bidding for Keystone Consulting Engineers for the S.S. Palmer steps/ramp.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**WITHDRAWL  
FROM PROJECT  
APPROVED** Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Haas, to accept the withdraw of Hershocks, Inc., from the High School window project.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**WINDOW  
CONTRACTOR  
APPROVED** Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Scherer to approve Penn Builders, Inc., under the potential energy savings agreement with McClure Company.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**NOTICE TO  
PROCEED WITH  
MCCLURE  
APPROVED**

Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Zellers, to approve the notice to proceed agreement with McClure Company at a not-to-exceed projection cancellation cost of \$40,000 as listed in the notice to proceed letter dated February 18, 2020.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**POLICY SECOND  
READINGS  
APPROVED**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Scherer, to Accept the second reading of and approve the following policies:

1. 004 Membership
2. 150 Title I
3. 201 Admission of Students
4. 208 Withdrawal from School
5. 224 Care of School Property
6. 352 Employee Use of Electronic Devices
7. 805.1 Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies
8. 805.2 School Security Personnel
9. 815 Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources
10. 815.1 Social Media
11. 815.2 Use of Livestream Video on School Property

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Anne Cronk – Questioned if the window project was to include windows that would open. Director Larvey stated that the experts have concluded that it would be in the best interest non-operable windows. Dr. Lonoconus stated that if windows opened, it could violate the agreement on the potential energy savings project. Ms. Cronk referenced the ALICE program and asked if non-operable windows would hinder an escape. Dr. Lonoconus responded that the windows are too small, and that escape would include smashing the windows. State police did an audit on the buildings and are offering recommendations.

Director Mazepa - Asked if there could be possible asthma issues if windows are not operable and the HVAC system goes down. Director of Facilities Joe Faenza stated that the system can bring in outside air through the vents. Dr. Lonoconus added that the district should explore policies on shutting down or dismissing early in the event of an extreme temperature situation.

Director Paules – Stated that the cost savings for non-operable vs. operable would be \$1,000 per window. Potentially saving \$152,000.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Director Fallow – The board will enter into an executive session after the board meeting tonight for personnel matters, the board also met to interview the superintendent candidates on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanked all the stakeholders who provided feedback in the process.

Dr. Lonoconus – Met with the Chamber of Commerce and members of the community. Looking into options where the Chamber can partner with the district on such things as FBLA.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Scherer, that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School District adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan P. Kish  
Business Manager/Board Secretary