

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PALMERTON, PA.
April 21, 2020

BOARD MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held on April 21, 2020, at 6:30 P.M. in the Conference Room of the Administration Office. President Fallow presided.

FLAG SALUTE

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

OTHER ATTENDANCE Al Lonoconus – Interim Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager/Board Secretary

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- June 3 will be the last day of school. After the shutdown, Palmerton was back on track online two weeks after the shutdown.
- Understands the difficulty with the quick transition to the online learning environment for the teachers and students, thanked all for their hard work.
- Looking for direction on construction projects, Board agreed to delay any construction projects with the exception of the tank project at Towamensing
- Introduced each administrator who gave a brief overview of what has been going on in their department.

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Thank you to the Cafeteria staff that is coming in and working to feed the community during these times.
- Business Office is working as remotely as possible during the shutdown.
- The 2020-21 budget is continued to be worked on, with a presentation to be given at the May workshop

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Larvey commented that the LCCC Meetings are being held via Zoom.

Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Haas, to table letter G on the consent agenda – the hiring of coaches.

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

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED Director Baumgardt moved, seconded by Director Scherer, to approve the attached consent agenda without letter G – the hiring of coaches.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

**BOARD
MINUTES**

Approved the Board Minutes from March 17, 2020 meeting.

**FINANCIAL
REPORTS**

Approved the Accounts Payable Reports and Treasurers Reports

TUITION

Approved attached tuition reimbursements

**SALARY
MOVEMENT**

Approved the salary movement for Miranda Allen from Masters plus 45 to Masters plus 60.

RETIREMENTS

Accepted the retirement of Cheryl Hummer, Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2020.

Accepted the retirement of Deborah Heydt, Health Room Technician, effective the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Accepted the retirement of Deborah Scheckler, Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent, effective June 30, 2020.

RESIGNATION

Accepted the resignation of John Cronk as JV/Assistant Volleyball coach

SUB IA

Approved Kyna Gibson as a substitute Instructional Assistant, effective April 22, 2020.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

**BUDGET
TRANSFERS
APPROVED**

Director Baumgardt moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the Budget transfers.

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

**FIRST READING
OF POLICIES
APPROVED**

Director Recker moved, seconded by Director Scherer, to approve the First Reading of the following policies:

- #701 Facilities Planning
- #703 Sanitary Management
- #704 Maintenance
- #706 Property Records
- #706.1 Capitalization of Assets
- #706.2 Disposal of Surplus Property and Obsolete Equipment
- #708 Lending of School Owned Equipment
- #710 Use of School Facilities by Employees

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

**DISTRICT
POLICIES
SUSPENDED**

Director Zellers moved, seconded by Director Recker, to suspend all Palmerton Area School District policies that govern retention and/or promotion requirements for the 2019/2020 school year until June 30, 2020.

Aye Votes: Directors Baumgardt, Fallow, Haas, Larvey, Paules, Recker, Scherer, and Zellers
Nay Votes: Director Mazepa. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Lisa Snell Kern – Asked the Board to consider not tabling the soccer coach hiring. All the other fall sports coaches have been approved.

Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Recker, to approve Antonio Orlando as Head Soccer Coach for the 2020-21 school year at a rate of \$4,095.

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

Mary Jo King – Commented on the tabling of the coaches. Winter and Spring Coaches work with kids over the summer if allowed. Director Larvey stated she wants to err on the side of caution and does not want to be responsible for paying coaches if seasons are cancelled. Attorney Lochinger added that from a legal standpoint, any coach hired now under the current way the law is written must be paid even if there are no activities. Director Fallow stated that a lot can change in the next few months.

Jess Mooney – Thanked whoever put the scoreboard up. Suggested including the students opinions on graduation. Dr. Lonoconus responded that a lot can happen between now and graduation, but district considering all options and realizes we won't make everyone happy.

Lori Nemeth – Questioned if the coaches are hired how will open gym work, would salaries be affected if coaches start later? Dr. Lonoconus responded that coaches are paid for the season.

Gretchen Laviolette – Questioned if the June 3rd end of school date needs board approval. Dr. Lonoconus stated that it is already board approved.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Director Recker – Recognized the employees who were retiring, thanked them for all they have done for the district. Also thanked the teachers, administrators, and everyone involved for their hard work during the shutdown.

Director Zellers - Asked what the expectation was as far as instruction goes for our students and what is required of our teachers. Mr. Heaney gave an overview and stated the continuity of education plan available on the website spells out the role of the teachers. Director Zellers asked if teachers can use YouTube in place of instruction. Mr. Heaney stated that if it is an instructional video that the teacher feels fits the need of the course it is allowed. Director Zellers expressed concern about the new role parents are facing as teachers.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Larvey, that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School District adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan P. Kish
Business Manager/Board Secretary

