

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PALMERTON, PA.  
May 19, 2020

**BOARD MINUTES**

An executive session was held at 5:30 P.M. tonight regarding personnel and legal.

The regular meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held on May 19, 2020, at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom. President Fallow presided.

**ROLL CALL FLAG SALUTE**

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:**

- Summer feeding program may be possible – the SHINE program is involved.
- Principals assigning dates and times for individuals to pick up student supplies. Must follow CDC guidelines.
- CARES Act: Palmerton’s share should be around \$266k, with a portion going to the non-public school within the district. Could be used for various things such as technology and other educational services.
- Kerry Palumbo gave a brief FBLA overview: placed 7<sup>th</sup> in market share, largest group of freshman involved this year, participation in nationals
- Reopening guidelines expected from PDE this summer, safety is top priority
- New Title IX guidance coming out, more information to come
- Senior prom changed from May to June originally, June now cancelled
- Mitchell Hourt (Class of 2020) spoke regarding graduation plans. He stated that they surveyed the class and the most common suggestion was to host a socially distanced ceremony at the stadium, but since current guidelines don’t allow that, a graduation at the racetrack was decided on. Fireworks and trips to the winners circle will be a part of the ceremony. Blue Ridge Cable and George’s Busing helping, as well. Ricky Hurst from the Pocono Raceway spoke about how he’s thrilled to partner with the district and will honor restrictions set by the state.

**BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:**

- The district was officially awarded a \$35,000 safety grant from The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The official reward letter was received last week and will be used to further enhance the district’s safety and security measures.
- In light of the shutdown, we’re reaching out to vendors in an attempt to negotiate any discounts due to not physically having students and staff in the buildings. After speaking to our insurance carrier, we will be receiving a small discount on at least our auto policy. Talks continue with our insurance companies, copier company, as well as other vendors.
- We are already seeing revenue being impacted in our current fiscal year. April was the first full month since the shutdown to really gauge how our Earned

Income Tax Collections look. Collections for the month were 33% less than they were in April of last year. This confirms our projections, included in the budget presentation, that the district could lose out on around \$100,000 just in EIT revenue for our current fiscal year

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

IU Report – Director Haas

- Explained that the teacher increases at the IU are based on the 14 participating districts. Any freezes from those districts would not affect the IU until the following year.

PSBA Report – Director Zellers

- Spoke regarding the challenges in relation to remote learning

CCTI Report – Director Fallow

- Attended ceremony for CCTI students being inducted into national technical society, congrats to Palmerton students being inducted.

**REMOVAL OF  
CONSENT  
AGENDA ITEM**

Director Recker moved, seconded by Director Zellers, to remove item 3e from the consent agenda: Accept the resignation of Thomas McLaughlin, Director of Human Resources, effective June 30, 2020

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

**HR DIRECTOR  
RESIGNATION  
APPROVED**

Director Recker moved, seconded by Director Zellers to approve the resignation of Thomas McLaughlin, Director of Human Resources, effective June 30, 2020.

Director Fallow and Dr. Lonoconus thanked Mr. McLaughlin for his time at Palmerton.

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

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVED**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Baumgardt, to approve the attached consent agenda.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MINUTES** Approved Board Minutes from April 21, 2020 and May 6, 2020 meetings.

**FINANCIAL  
REPORTS** Approved the Accounts Payable and Treasurers Reports as submitted.

**SCHOOL PSYCH** Approved Art Feinberg, School Psychologist, effective for the 2020-21 school year, at a rate of \$420/day, not to exceed 120 days.

**TENURE** Approved tenure status for the following teachers: Bronwyn Cseh, Jennifer Denaro, Melissa Hoffman, Lauren Michalik.

**ASST.  
VOLLEYBALL  
COACH**

Approved John Cronk as a Volunteer Assistant Volleyball Coach.

**ESY STAFF**

Approved the following staff for our Extended School Year program (ESY): Amanda Cappella, Tammy Hoffman, Suzanne Lynn, Michael Brennan.

**TUITION** Approved the attached tuition reimbursement.

**DONATIONS** Approved the Aetna Foundation donation to the PAHS in the amount of \$105.60.

Approved Aetna Foundation donation to the PAJHS in the amount of \$105.60.

**PSBA  
DELEGATE**

Appointed Doris Zellers as the voting delegate to the PSBA Delegate Assembly on November 7, 2020.

**FOOD SERVICE  
RENEWAL**

Approved the food service contract renewal with Metz Culinary for the 2020-21 school year.

**WORKERS  
COMP**

Approved the 2020-2021 workers compensation coverage through CM Regent at an estimated cost of \$119,634.

**ATHLETIC  
INSURANCE**

Approved the athletic insurance coverage through Axis Insurance Company for the period of August 6, 2020 to August 6, 2021 at a cost of \$38,541.

**DRAMA  
LICENSE**

Approved the contract license for an amateur production of Elf-The Musical with Music Theatre International for the Drama Club. A \$400 security fee to process the license is due and will be paid by the Drama Club.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**PROPOSED  
FINAL BUDGET  
APPROVED**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the proposed final budget with a 1 mill increase and expenditures total of \$34,032,947. The 2020-21 Real Estate Tax mills will be set at 57.779. The final budget is set to be approved at the June 16, 2020 board meeting.

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

**REAL ESTATE  
TAX  
EXEMPTION  
APPROVED**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Zellers, to authorize the solicitor's office to execute the Stipulation of Counsel Agreement and file it with the Carbon County Court of Common Pleas in matter No. 17-2615, entitled Tyahla v. Carbon County Board of Assessment Appeals, Palmerton Area School District, et. al. This agreement will result in an exemption from real estate taxes for Tax Parcel No. 16-56-A71.06 under the Pennsylvania Disabled Veteran's Real Estate Tax Exemption Act.

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

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF  
POLICIES**

Director Baumgardt moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to approve the second reading and adoption of the following policies:

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

Policy #710 - Use of School Facilities by Employees

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF POLICIES** Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Baumgardt, to approve the first reading of the following policies:

Policy #001 - Name & Classification  
Policy #003 - Functions  
Policy #006.1 - Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications  
Policy #011 - Board Governance  
Policy #618 - Student Activity Funds  
Policy 622 - GASB Statement 34  
Policy 917- Parental/Family Involvement

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

**RETIREMENT OF POLICIES** Director Zeller moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the retirement of the following policies as per PSBA recommendation (these policies are now covered under other existing and active district policies):

Policy #904.1- Smoking  
Policy #918- Terroristic Threats/Acts

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

**LCCC DIRECTOR AT-LARGE** Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Baumgardt, for the Palmerton Area School District to cast their vote for Luiz Garcia as LCCC Trustee At-Large.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Lori Nemeth – Questioned if the Human Resources position will be filled? Dr. Lonoconus replied that there is no definitive answer, but the district is always looking to save money. Ms. Nemeth questioned the incident of students on the roof. Dr. Lonoconus responded that we are looking at ways to prevent something like that from happening again.

Mary Jo King – Questioned if the senior class does not want to use their own funds to put towards graduation, will we still move forward with the racetrack graduation, will the district still move forward with it? Director Fallow stated that it would be discussed after the completion of the senior survey. Ms. King asked if CCTI students would be included in the graduation ceremonies. Dr. Lonoconus responded that they would be allowed if they want, but we would not dispense diplomas.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Dr. Frankelli – Thanked the district and staff for being so accommodating in this challenging time with allowing her to visit classrooms and meet with staff.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Larvey, that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School District adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan P. Kish  
Business Manager/Board Secretary