

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PALMERTON, PA.  
June 16, 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 June 16, 2020, at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom. 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:**

- PIAA Plan – Attempting to get students back to normal. Athletic Coordinator Kyle Poremba addressed the board giving an overview of the plan, which was approved by team doctors. Staff from St. Luke’s Health Network were also present and answered specific questions from the board regarding the PIAA’s resocialization plan. Director Fallow stated that she would like to see the PSBA plan being released in a few days before voting on the plan.
- Facilities Director Joseph Faenza addressed the board to let them know that he was placing the facility contracts for next school year on the next agenda.
- Dr. Lonoconus explained a possible MOU between the district and coaches which would allow the district to pay a prorated amount of salary in case the season doesn’t happen or is cut short.
- Leon George Busing contract will be placed on next agenda. This is as a result of negotiations between the bus company and the district due to the closure of schools.
- Administration meeting with St. Luke’s regarding contract
- Thank you to everyone for great graduation, Mrs. Husar and staff did great job.

**BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:**

- In anticipation of budget passing, the tax bills will be sent out to the printers, so bills arrive on time on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Local auditors will be visiting district in July for interim audit.
- Thanked Dr. Lonocouns and Mr. McLaughlin for their time at Palmerton.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

Director Fallow spoke about attending the PSBA weekly discussion for Board Presidents. The Task force report will be out tomorrow. Schools continue to examine their budgets to determine if they will open in fall. Transportation is an issue. CCTI looking at different options.

Director Larvey gave an overview of LCCC and mechatronics.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

MaryJo King – Commented on how great the graduation ceremony was. Asked if the resocialization plan is strictly for athletics or if it affects other clubs? Mr. Poremba responded that it was specific for sports.

Lori Nemeth – Questioned approving the PIAA plan but not yet hiring coaches. Ms. Nemeth also questioned how it would work if a kid has a normal temperature if it was okay to share the ball. Mr. Poremba stated that we want to limit as much exposure and risk as possible, but it’s impossible to limit it all. The board had a brief discussion regarding liability and whose authority should be the final authority in making health related decisions.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED** Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Baumgardt, to approve the attached consent agenda.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**BOARD MINUTES** Approved the Board Minutes from the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting

Approved the Board Minutes from the June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 meeting

**FINANCIAL REPORTS** Approved the Accounts Payable Reports and Treasurers Reports

**BONDING** Approved the following bonding amounts for the 2020-21 fiscal year: Board President \$100,000, Board Vice President \$100,000, Board Secretary \$100,000, Board Treasurer \$100,000, Superintendent \$100,000, Business Manager \$100,000, Employee Theft 5,000, Forgery or Alteration \$100,000.

**TRANSFERS** Approved all budget transfers for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 in order to comply with audit requirements. The Board will be provided with an itemized listing of all required budget transfers upon completion of the 2019-2020 audit.

**STUDENT ACCIDENT** Approved the voluntary student accident coverage through Axis Insurance Company for the period of August 7, 2020 to August 7, 2021.

**MEAL PRICES** Approved the breakfast and lunch prices for 2020-2021 as mandated by Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. - Elementary Breakfast \$1.25 - Secondary Breakfast \$1.35 - Adult Breakfast \$2.15 - Elementary Lunch \$2.75 - Secondary Lunch \$2.85 - Adult Lunch \$3.85 - Milk \$ .55

**DONATION** Approved donation from Terry and Natalie Eckhart in the amount of \$1,000 for S.S. Palmer eLearning opportunities

**TAX DUPLICATES** Granted permission to release the 2020 Tax Duplicates to the respective tax collectors for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

<b>SHOP SPECIALTIES CONTRACT</b>	Approved the 2020-21 contract with Shop Specialties Inc. for shop machinery maintenance at a cost of \$1,450 plus any repair parts required throughout the school year.
<b>BUS MGR AND SUPER. MAKE AND RELEASE PAYMENTS</b>	Approved the Interim Superintendent and Business Manager to make and release payments for the remaining June accounts payable.
<b>REAL ESTATE TAX RESOLUTION</b>	Approved resolution #6.16.20 per the Real Estate Tax Universal Installment Payment Plan Resolution, to use the following installment dates for the collection of the 2020 Real Estate Taxes (enclosure).
<b>HOMESTEAD FARMSTEAD</b>	Approved the 2020-2021 homestead/farmstead taxable assessment exclusion of \$3,585 and the homestead/farmstead tax exclusion of \$207.14.
<b>CSIU AGREEMENT</b>	Approved the 2020-2021 Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Computer Service Rates based on student enrollment at an estimated cost of \$23,000. This provides for the districts fund accounting software, payroll and personnel software, and inventory software.
<b>STOP LOSS</b>	Approved the 0.48% increase per member in Stop Loss Coverage for the 2020-21 school year through Resolute Underwriting Strategies. The per employee per month charge will be \$166.26 with a maximum per employee deductible set at \$125,000.
<b>CAFÉ REIMBURS- MENT</b>	Approved to waive the cafeteria payroll reimbursements for January through May at a cost of \$162,021.54
<b>CAFÉ ACCRUALS</b>	Approved to waive the Cafeteria June payroll and accruals at an estimated cost of \$90,000
<b>CAFÉ RESOLUTION</b>	Approved the Resolution for Approval of Retroactive Pay to Cafeteria Employees
<b>TECH TEACHER</b>	Approved Brandyn Miller as an Elementary Technology Teacher at bachelor's Step 1-\$46,500, effective August 18, 2020.
<b>GRADUATES</b>	Accepted the status that the members of the senior class of 2020 have completed the graduation requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Board of Education of the Palmerton Area School District

### **END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**2020-2021  
BUDGET  
APPROVED**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Baumgardt, to approve the Palmerton Area School District General Operating Budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year with a real estate tax levy of 57.779 mills (a 1 mill increase over 2019-2020) with budgetary expenditures of \$34,032,947. The board also authorizes, as a part of the General Operating Budget adoption, the Section 679 Per Capita Tax of \$5.00: Act 511 Earned Income Tax of 1.00%; Act 511 Per Capita Tax of \$10.00: Act 511 Realty Transfer Tax of 1.00%; Local Services Tax of \$5.00. The Board reaffirms and reenacts all collection procedures that are applicable to the local service tax, Section 679 and 511 Per Capita

tax and Act 511 Earned Income Tax, and Act 511 Realty transfer tax. For informational purposes: Sharing of certain taxes occurs as permitted by law: Per Capita -- \$10.00 school district, \$5.00 municipality; Earned Income Tax --.5% school district, .5% municipality; Realty Transfer Tax -- .5% school district, .5% municipality; Local Services Tax --\$5.00 school district, \$47.00 municipality.

Aye Votes: Directors Baumgardt, Fallow, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Paules, Scherer, and Zellers.

Nay Votes: Director Recker. Motion Carried.

**PLAYGROUND  
PURCHASE  
TABLED**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Scherer, to table the approval of the purchase of replacement playground equipment for the Towamensing Elementary School playground from MRC Recreation at a price of \$22,405.10 payable from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Tabled.

**TREASURER  
APPROVED**

Director Baumgardt moved, seconded by Director Larvey, to appoint Sherry Haas as Treasurer of the Palmerton Area School Board, effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, at the rate of \$400.00.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

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

Director Baumgardt moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the second reading of the following policies:

Policy #202- Eligibility of Nonresident Students

Policy # 204.1- Dual Enrollment

Policy #205- Postgraduate Students

Policy #206- Assignment Within District

Policy #207- Confidential Communication of Students

Policy 218.2- Terroristic Threats

Policy #223- Use of Motor Vehicles

Policy #225- Students and the Police

Policy #234- Married and/or Pregnant Students

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**RESOCIAL-  
IZATION PLAN  
TABLED**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to table the Palmerton Area School District PIAA Resocialization Plan.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Tabled.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Alex Whitney – Questioned what the district would do if there is a flu outbreak and significant students are out for a length of time. Dr. Lonoconus stated that certain districts have different thresholds on how many students are out before they close the school. With the ongoing pandemic, there has been no direction from the state. Might have to close classrooms or even entire wings of the school.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Director Paules – Questioned the legality of posting board meetings online. Attorney Lochinger stated this is all being done by a waiver from the state.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Haas, that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School District adjourn the meeting at 9:23 P.M.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan P. Kish  
Business Manager/Board Secretary