

# **PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Palmerton, PA  
October 20, 2020

## **BOARD MINUTES**

An executive session was held on October 13, 2020 concerning legal/personnel issues. The regular board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held on October 20, 2020, called to order at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom. President Fallow presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Directors Fallow, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa (arrived 6:56 P.M.), Paules, Recker, and Zellers

Absent: Directors Baumgardt and Scherer

### **OTHER ATTENDANCE**

Jodi Frankelli – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, Sharon Montanye - Solicitor

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

- Dr. Frankelli reported on COVID-19 transmission level rates. Carbon County cases are trending upward into the moderate category.
- Future Ready PA Index Score – less data available due to COVID-19, we are scored in 3 categories: academic performance, student progress, and college and career readiness. Moves beyond a single score and looks at a more comprehensive approach although data reported is lagging behind
- Congratulated golf team for undefeated season and clinching Colonial League title
- Also congratulated girls’ soccer and field hockey teams in advancing to playoffs

### **BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:**

- SSO free lunch and breakfast program extended through end of school year. Encouraged parents to pay down delinquent lunch balances this year as it causes food service cash flow issues
- September general fund revenue numbers better than expected compared to August
- Adjusted Act 1 index released for 2021-22 school year, Palmerton 4.1% up from 3.5%
- Moody’s rating remains at A1, positives include strong financial management and budgeting, but small rural tax base seen as negative. Overall Moody’s very impressed with district
- Bond refinancing finalized with \$1.2 million dollars’ worth of savings over the life of bond. Original estimate was \$600,000. Looking into refinancing more next year

### **BOARD MEMBER’S REPORT:**

- Director Fallow: CCTI – states hybrid day-to-day learning going smoothly
- Director Haas: Palmerton Library – stated there will be a \$2 bag sale to fill with available items in November

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Lisa Snell Kern – asked what type of position the Assistant to the Superintendent is; advocated for Assistant Principal position at high school
- Lori Nemeth – inquired about duties of Assistant to the Superintendent
- Holly Sell – asked about reason location for pickup of free lunches changed

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**BOARD MINUTES** Approved the September 15, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Approved the October 6, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

**FINANCIAL REPORTS** Approved the Accounts Payable Reports

Approved the Treasurer's Reports

**COLUMN MOVEMENT** Approved the column movement of Brian Stevko from Master's to Master's +15

**CAC RESIGNATION** Accepted the resignation of Joyce Paulinho as curriculum coordinator (CAC) co-advisor for Kindergarten and First Grade at Towamensing Elementary for 2020-21 school year

**CAC REASSIGNMENT** Approved the reassignment of Brittany Zeky as curriculum coordinator (CAC) advisor for Kindergarten and First Grade at Towamensing Elementary for 2020-21 school year with a stipend of \$1,738

**CLUB ADVISOR** Approved Brandyn Miller as Stage Crew Advisor for the High School for first semester of 2020-21 school year with a stipend of \$1,020 pending a health and safety plan

**RETIREMENT** Accepted the retirement of Jose Elvir, High School Spanish Teacher, effective at the end of the first semester 2020-21

**UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE** Approved the uncompensated leave request for employee #489 through the last day of 2020-21 school year

**POLICY #339 FIRST READING** Approved the first reading of Policy #339 – Uncompensated Leave

**TUITION** Approved the attached tuition reimbursement

**DONATION** Accepted a donation from Drew Kohan, Class of 2013, for \$700 to be used at the discretion of the Superintendent for technology or pandemic-imposed needs

**BUS ROUTES** Approved bus routes for 2020-21 school year

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**BUDGET TRANSFERS** Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to approve the attached budget transfers.

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

**CHANGE ORDER  
TANK  
INSTALLATION**

Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve Change Order Number 001, Bluestone Environmental, Inc., Project #PSD-19-001, Towamensing Elementary Tank Installation. The change results in the following decrease of the contract price of \$5,925.00 (enclosure).

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

**INSURANCE  
RENEWALS**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Mazepa to approve the district's insurance renewals effective November 12, 2020.

Coverage	Carrier	Expiring Term Premium	Proposed Term Premium
Property	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$56,700	\$61,402
General Liability and Crime	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$30,488	\$31,353
Automobile	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$5,855	\$6,363
Equipment Breakdown	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$5,286	\$4,310
Umbrella	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$12,847	\$12,750
Cyber Liability	Lloyds of London	\$7,005.36	\$7,584.22
School Leaders' Liability	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$18,656	\$20,003
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$136,837.36</b>	<b>\$143,765.22</b>

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

**ASSISSTANT TO  
SUPER-  
INTENDENT  
HIRED**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Mazepa to approve the hiring of Jamie Schuler as Assistant to the Superintendent at a salary of \$95,000 prorated, effective upon release from her current employer.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Clare Papay – asked if Board read teacher/parents survey comments and what we can do to make virtual instruction better
- Lori Nemeth – questioned the money due to Lehigh Area School District
- Kim Nenscel – commented teachers doing an amazing job, asked if Board had observed any students in classrooms. Ms. Nenscel asked about timeline for any changes in asynchronous learning
- Ryan Connell – how is local Catholic school having 5 day in-person learning?
- Lisa Snell Kern – would like different Friday schedule at high school for clubs or accessibility of teachers
- Amber Sugarbaker – asked who to reach out to with issues of hybrid learning for younger child. Mr. Heaney said she should reach out to her child's teacher
- Carol Kepner – asked if there is contact with other districts and how they are having 5-day instruction and questioned attendance issues
- Sam Cressman – how many students have switched to cyber charter school and what will that cost district?
- AmyJo Bollinger – her child does not transfer to classes at high school and stated she emailed the administration without a reply, Ms. Husar told her she did not

receive any email regarding this and asked that Ms. Bollinger contact her

- Holly Sell – thanked all teachers and parents and sees all the struggles in all levels. Asked if there will be any loosening of instructional restrictions by the state
- Sara Styer – expressed frustration and stress of the children, looking for help from others in the same situation
- Jennie Lasso – child struggles with finding assignments and too much screen time and worries about child's mental health, appreciates all everyone does

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Director Recker – commended teachers, parents, students, and administration at this trying time. Also spoke regarding Mr. Jose Elvir and the positive impact he had on the students and thanked him for his service

Director Haas – stated Mr. Elvir will be greatly missed. Also commented that some parents were not aware that free lunches are available to those not in school

Director Paules – understands parents being overwhelmed, especially those with younger children

**ADJOURNMENT** Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 P.M.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless  
Board Secretary