

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA
November 17, 2020

BOARD MINUTES

Executive sessions were held on November 4, 16, and 17, 2020 concerning legal/personnel issues. The regular board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held on November 17, 2020, called to order at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom. President Fallow presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

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

OTHER ATTENDANCE

Jodi Frankelli – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, Ellis Katz – Solicitor (6:40 P.M. arrival)

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- 59 out of 67 counties are now at “substantial” spread of Covid-19, showed transmission rates and instructional model determinations, Carbon County in substantial level last two weeks, full remote learning recommended
- PDE met with Carbon County superintendents virtually on November 16, 2020 and focused on the data and PA Secretary of Health held a press conference today outlining additional mitigation orders
- Health and safety plan proposed changes come directly from Dr. Frankelli recommending full virtual learning for all grade levels as of December 1, 2020. May transition back to hybrid learning when 3 out of 4 weeks are at moderate transmission level. Sports and extracurricular activities will be cancelled during full remote instruction plan. Clubs may occur remotely if health and safety plan is followed.
- Please direct your questions to: pasd@palmerton.org

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:

- October local revenue numbers no longer ahead, but running even with the previous year
- Concern regarding Palmerton being owed \$600k yet from state property tax reduction. Money comes from gambling revenue that was hit hard, state planned to use federal money to supplement but is now told it cannot. District hoping lawmakers can come to a solution quickly.

BOARD MEMBER’S REPORT:

- Director Fallow: CCTI – Covid precautions reminder found online and online field trips going smoothly, virtual parent/teacher conferences took place, community should reach out to Director of CCTI regarding building project interest
- Director Zellers: PSBA – published article from PASD in “Success Starts Here” entry for October on PSBA website; Act 84 requires districts to publish email addresses of school board directors; Act 98 broadband expansion posted, working to find resources for mental health help for students and student assault victims

- Director Haas: Palmerton Library – reminded that \$2 bag sale is running December 4 & 19 by appointment only; shop Amazon Smile to donate to the library
- Director Haas: IU – programs in sciences offered to students, hygiene classes, staying calm techniques, travelling home presentations

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Sam Cressman – how much homework will be given in full remote learning
- Ken Termini – leave the door open to have some type of athletic experience for students
- Michelle Kratzer – has the district analyzed the data by zip code, what is the risk to benefit analysis, owe it to the children to try
- Gary Reph – kids worked too hard to have sports taken away from them
- Lisa Snell Kern – sees change in public participation policy, has always appreciated answers at meeting, reconsider the sports option, kids need to be mentally healthy, let them play somehow
- Stacey Connell – needs son to be involved with friends in sports, don't give up on hybrid program
- Kristie Borger – coaches and athletes followed the rules with fall sports successfully, need to try winter sports
- Jenna McHugh – concerned for younger children who are struggling without in-person schooling

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVED**

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

**BOARD
MINUTES**

Approved the October 20, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

**FINANCIAL
REPORTS**

Approved the Accounts Payable Reports
Approved the Treasurer's Reports

**UNCOMPEN-
SATED LEAVE**

Approved the uncompensated leave request for employee #282 through the last day of the first semester 2020-21 school year (tentative January 29, 2021)

Approved the uncompensated leave request for employee #422 through the last day of the 2020-21 school year (tentative June 10, 2021)

**COACHES
APPROVED**

Approved Joseph Egan as volunteer boys' basketball coach for the 2020-21 season effective November 18, 2020

Approved Shawn Gardner as volunteer wrestling coach for the 2020-21 season effective November 18, 2020

IA HIRED

Approved Kendra Smiley as Instructional Assistant at the rate of \$15.81 per hour effective November 18, 2020

**CAFETERIA
SUBS HIRED** Approved Larissa Cameron as substitute cafeteria employee at the rate of \$10.00 per hour effective November 18, 2020

Approved BobbieJo Knott as substitute cafeteria employee at the rate of \$10.00 per hour effective November 18, 2020

**IA
RESIGNATION**

Accepted the resignation of Jamie Frockowiak as Instructional Assistant effective November 12, 2020

**CAFETERIA
RESIGNATION**

Accepted the resignation of Gina Porvaznik as cafeteria employee effective November 6, 2020

**CLUB
CANCELLATION**

Acknowledged the cancellation of the JHS ACE Club and the withdrawal of stipend for ACE Advisor, Patricia Boyd, effective November 9, 2020

**PENNANT
ACKNOWLED-
MENT**

Acknowledged the gift of PASD pennant from Class of 1952 cheerleader Mary Lue Cunningham from her daughter, Elizabeth Lane

DONATION

Accepted a donation in the amount of \$2,379.20 from the 8th grade end-of-year funds from the Palmerton Junior High Parent Organization to the Class of 2024 Activity Fund

**POLICY #339
2ND READING**

Approved the second reading of Policy #339 – Uncompensated Leave

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

**WINDOW
REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Larvey, to authorize McClure Engineering to restart the window replacement project.

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

**BUDGET
TRANSFERS**

Director Baumgardt moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to approve the attached budget transfers.

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

**UPDATED HSP
PLAN**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Baumgardt to approve the Palmerton Area School District updated Health and Safety Plan.

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

**WINTER
SPORTS
PARTICIPATION**

Director Baumgardt moved, seconded by Director Scherer to authorize participation in winter sports in accordance with PIAA, Colonial League, and the district's health and safety plan.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Mary Jo King – has concern with public participation policy, loved the interaction with Board. Director Fallow stated that the policy has always existed and the Board is simply adhering to it.

ADJOURNMENT Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Recker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 P.M.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless
Board Secretary