

**PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Palmerton, PA  
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

**BOARD MINUTES**

<p><b>ROLL CALL</b></p> <p><b>OTHER ATTENDANCE</b></p>	<p>An executive session was held on March 2, 2021 after the workshop concerning personnel and legal matters.</p> <p>The regular board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 6:31 p.m. via Zoom. President Fallow presided.</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>Present: Directors Baumgardt, Fallow, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Paules, Recker, Scherer, and Zellers</p> <p>Jodi Frankelli – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Shawn Lochinger – Solicitor</p> <p><b>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Frankelli reported on the proposed change to the district’s Health and Safety Plan. Gave historical and updated Carbon County COVID transmission rate data; still in substantial spread rate but is decreasing overall. 57 cases reported in district since Sept. 2020; none of them traced to school, bus, or sports spread.</li><li>• Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccines have been earmarked by the governor for educators and staff, given through CLIU #21. 94 vaccines in Round 1 (teachers, IAs, day custodians, principals), then expect Round 2 to cover all PASD employees and contracted employees who request vaccine</li><li>• Dr. Frankelli proposed the new HSP to begin offering in-person instruction option at all grade levels beginning April 5, 2021 (5 days/week). Three options to choose from: 1) full in-person 5 days/week-replaces hybrid model 2) full remote/virtual learning; or 3) Blue Bombers Academy-currently enrolled students only</li><li>• A commitment form will be sent to and should be completed by parents/guardians to select which option they choose for reopening; due by Noon on March 22, 2021</li><li>• Social distancing of 6 feet only guaranteed for mask breaks, lunch; not guaranteed on buses and classrooms. Quarantine requirements do not change and will be enforced.</li><li>• Dr. Frankelli stated this is a good time for this proposal as employees will have vaccinations, there is a natural calendar break of new marking period and spring break, and allows a sense of normalcy for students with a continuity of education for those students who need it most. A phased roll-in would take too long to implement now.</li><li>• Once the commitment form is collected and analyzed, building-level pandemic teams will work on various items to be addressed such as lunch/cafeteria needs, and documents will need to be updated and posted.</li></ul>
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**BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:**

- With the passing of the American Rescue Plan Act, \$122 billion is available through the Dept. of Education Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, ESSER III, and will be shared nationally. Not sure of our allocation, but like past grants, can expect restrictions on how money can be spent.
- State budget and charter school reform still being discussed, will see how that affects budget sooner rather than later as we go into May with the proposed budget presentation and eventually the final vote in June. Health care projections from the self-insured trust will have impact on budget as well.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

- Director Zellers – PSBA:
  - Reviewed report from PSBA entitled, State of Education in PA, which is an indicator of public school performance which focused this year on impact of COVID on school system regarding instruction and finances. Biggest challenge has been varying COVID guidance from federal, state, and local agencies. Many instructional challenges for teachers and administration and technology resources needed.
  - Financing was challenging as well due to increased charter school tuition payments as biggest source of budget pressure
- Director Haas – wished to thank the CLIU #21 for their efforts in organizing the administering of the vaccine for public, non-public, and charter school employees as well as our district who got this done so quickly
  - Library – National Library Week April 4-10; Bookmark Contest open to students/daycares; “Food for Fines”-collecting non-perishables to benefit CACPAC; April is National Poetry Month; Blackout poetry take-and-make kits available; Zoom poetry reading April 21, 7-8:30 pm
- Director Larvey – LCCC:
  - On March 8, LCCC hosted the Acting Secretary of Labor & Industry and Executive Director of Workforce Board of Lehigh Valley to announce “Near Completers” job program which will invest \$7 million in grants for job training for those with some college course completion, will begin in Fall for job seekers who lost employment due to COVID
- Director Fallow – CCTI:
  - Following hybrid schedule currently; marketing students creating digital and social media content for local businesses; 3 students have nurses aid certification; Skills USA will compete virtually; teacher conferences in February, and June 18 is proposed graduation date

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Lisa Snell Kern – thank you for effort on HSP plan and agrees with it; questioned masking for spring sports
- Brooke Klotz – will there be a time for those students who transition to new buildings to get to know each other as there usually would be at the beginning of the school year
- Robert Kistler – what is being done to address student regression?
- Stacey Connell – applaud time and hard work to Dr. Frankelli and administration, vote in favor of return to school
- Erika Reinheimer – thank you to Dr. Frankelli, hope you will come up with plan to deal with regression

<p><b>CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kellie McGaughran – district was wonderful at working thru technology, applaud teachers, vote yes to return</li> <li>• Kelli Peppard – thank you to Dr. Frankelli for HSP plan which addresses our concerns as parents, vote yes</li> <li>• Michele Burkett – thank you for time and effort put into HSP and listening to our concerns, consider the proposed changes, consider PIAA recommendations regarding spring sports</li> <li>• Jenna McHugh – wants students to go back to 5 days a week</li> </ul> <p>Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Recker, to approve the attached consent agenda.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>
<p><b>BOARD MINUTES APPROVED</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONSENT AGENDA:</b></p> <p>Approved the Board Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2021</p>
<p><b>FINANCIAL REPORTS APPROVED</b></p>	<p>Approved the Accounts Payable Reports</p>
<p><b>NATURAL GAS SERVICES AGREEMENT</b></p>	<p>Approved the Treasurer’s Reports</p>
<p><b>NATURAL GAS SERVICES AGREEMENT</b></p>	<p>Approved the retroactive signing of the agreement with UGI Energy Service, LLC, for natural gas services for the term of January 2023 through December 2024 at a price of \$2.45/dth</p>
<p><b>COLUMN MOVEMENTS APPROVED</b></p>	<p>Approved the following column movements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Felicia Fischer from Master’s to Master’s +15, effective second semester of 2020-2021</li> <li>• David O’Brien from Bachelor’s +24 to Master’s, effective second semester of 2020-2021</li> <li>• Randi Freed from Master’s +15 to Master’s +30, effective first semester of 2021-2022</li> </ul>
<p><b>JHS TEACHER RETIREMENT</b></p>	<p>Accepted the retirement of Patricia Boyd as JHS English Teacher effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year</p>
<p><b>SOFTBALL COACH APPROVED</b></p>	<p>Approved Tori Gollie as volunteer assistant softball coach for the 2020-2021 season effective March 17, 2021</p>
<p><b>CAC REP APPROVED</b></p>	<p>Approved Susan Dellicker as HS World Language CAC Representative for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year with a stipend of \$869.00 effective March 17, 2021</p>
<p><b>BUS DRIVERS APPROVED</b></p>	<p>Approved the following school bus drivers for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rodney Cameron</li> <li>• Frank Goss</li> <li>• LeRoy Kemmerer</li> </ul>

<b>CAFETERIA SUB RESIGNATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cynthia Marx</li> <li>• Armitta Thomas</li> </ul> <p>Accepted the following resignation of substitute cafeteria employees effective March 17, 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth Manginelli</li> <li>• Cathy Laird</li> </ul>
<b>CAFETERIA EMPLOYEES HIRED</b>	<p>Approved the following cafeteria employees at a rate of \$13.45 per hour effective March 17, 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth Manginelli</li> <li>• Cathy Laird</li> </ul>
<b>HS TEACHER RESIGNATION</b>	<p>Accepted the resignation of Michael Brennan as HS Learning Support Teacher effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year</p>
<b>GOLF COACH RESIGNATION</b>	<p>Accepted the resignation of Michael Brennan as the co-head golf coach for the 2021-2022 school year</p>
<b>SOFTBALL COACH RESIGNATION</b>	<p>Accepted the resignation of Phil Acker as girls' varsity softball assistant coach effective March 8, 2021</p>
<b>TUITION REIMBURSEMENT</b>	<p>Approved tuition reimbursements</p>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> READING APPROVED 006.1</b>	<p>Approved the first reading of the Policy #006.1 Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications</p>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> READINGS ADOPTED 000-003-009-010</b>	<p>Approved the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy #000 Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations</li> <li>Policy #003 Functions</li> <li>Policy #009 Policy Process</li> <li>Policy #010 School Board Use of Electronic Mail</li> </ul>
<b>DIPLOMA GRANTED</b>	<p>Accepted the status that student #20027 has completed the graduation requirements for the Class of 2021 set forth by the PA Department of Education and the Board of Education of Palmerton Area School District</p>
<b>MEADOWS PSYCHIATRIC CENTER AGREEMENT</b>	<p>Approved the Letter of Agreement with The Meadows Psychiatric Center effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023</p>
<b>LCCC TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE</b>	<p>Approved Kathleen Fallow as the Palmerton Area School District LCCC Trustee-at-Large nominee</p>
<b>CCAVTS AUTHORITY BOARD APPOINTMENT</b>	<p>Approve Amanda Kromer for the Carbon County Area Vocational Technical School (CCAVTS) Authority Board through January 2024</p>
<b>END OF CONSENT AGENDA</b>	

**PAESPA 2021-22  
CONTRACT  
APPROVED**

Director Zellers moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to approve the one-year contract extension for the Palmerton Area Education Support Professionals Association effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

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

**UPDATED  
HEALTH &  
SAFETY PLAN  
APPROVED**

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

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Clare Papay – parent commitment form should have more details given to make a better decision
- Michelle Gordon – thanked all teachers and staff for their support to her children and family in the weeks following their house fire

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Recker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless  
Board Secretary