



Peters Township School District

**MINUTES
PETERS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015
7:30 P.M. – DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McMurray, President, called the regular meeting of the Peters Township Board of School Directors to order at 7:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dunleavy, Mr. McMurray, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Merrell, Mrs. Gregg and Dr. Hardy. Mrs. Erenberg and Mrs., Smith was absent. Mrs. Bowman, joined via phone.

Also present were Dr. Jeannine French, Superintendent, Dr. Jennifer Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Michael Fisher Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Patricia Kelly, Director of Pupil Personnel, Vincent M. Belczyk, Business Manager, Tracy Bidoli, Assistant Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Shelly Belcher, Communications Coordinator and Jocelyn Kramer, Solicitor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- Celebration of Excellence
 - The District celebrated the following
 - The team of McMurray 6th graders above took first place in the IU1 STEM K'Nex Design Challenge in March. The girls competed against 10 area teams and will now move on to the State Championship in Harrisburg.
 - Middle School teacher Renee Brown took 17 students from her writing lab to Duquesne University in March to visit their Writing Center. Our students worked one-on-one with a college writing tutor to review their writing.
 - On February 27, Bower Hill students celebrated their Pittsburgh pride in their annual Pittsburgh Day Celebration. The event is the culmination of their social studies unit on Western Pennsylvania and the students had a chance to take part in many local traditions – they learned to polka, made pierogies, created their own Andy Warhol style art and more!
 - Six students have been named Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These students are among an elite group of students from across the nation to earn this honor.
 - Peters Township's youngest history enthusiasts made their presence known at the regional competition of the National History Day contest this weekend. Seventeen middle school and high school students from Peters Township were among the more than 435 contestants who gathered at the Heinz History Center for this event.
 - Congratulations to students selected by audition to take part in PMEA District 1 and Region 1 Chorus. The students performed at area high schools in January and February.

- Six theater students from Peters Township High School took part in the Pittsburgh Public Theatre's Shakespeare Scene and Monologue Competition in February.
- Congratulations to our High School art students that competed over the weekend in the Junior Art Show at the Galleria. The student artists won the overall best high school art program and received \$800 for the art program at the high school, as well as the award best individual junior artist.
- PTMS students also took to the stage this month with their annual musical, Beauty and the Beast Jr. The production also featured a meet and greet with the characters following the matinee for our youngest guests.
- Congratulations to the Peters Township Middle School boys and girls basketball team for their undefeated season.
- Congratulations and best of luck to the PT Girls fencing team who has earned a second seed in the league championship competition
- McMurray students lent a helping hand to create some "Empty Bowls" for a charity dinner to support the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The students painted 60 bowls that they created for the final event.
- On March 11th Middle School students took part in a school assembly to launch the school's new "Cool to be Clean" campaign. Cool to be Clean is a partnership between the Middle School student council, the Peters Township Police Department, and local business owners. The goal of the program is to recognize students for making positive decisions in avoiding drugs and alcohol use while also becoming better informed of the risks and consequences of drugs and alcohol.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (15 minutes)

(Peters Township School District Policy 1312)

Peters Township School District values parent and community engagement.

Katherine Reitz, 103 Blackmore Drive, spoke about her concerns regarding the Common Core program and stated that she wants the best for our children and the impact it has on our children. She stated we need to do our own research and evaluate what will work for our students. She spoke about how the Common Core program was created and how state involvement was added at the last minute. Ms. Reitz spoke about where the money came from that funds Common Core and how the Federal government assumed the role of enforcer by offering massive amounts of stimulus money to states that would adopt these standards.

Kathleen Chaudhari, 307 Fox Run Drive spoke about her concerns regarding the new Common Core program. She stated there are high stakes in testing and how the testing is Common Core aligned and how teacher evaluation is scored based on student achievement. She wanted to know the cost to maintain the Common Core program. Ms. Chaudhari felt Common Core was a threat to student and family privacy. She also wanted to know the Board's view of sharing student data without parental consent.

Melissa Richardson, 126 Breezewood Drive spoke regarding the new Common Core standards and stated PDE did not research these standards. She stated we need to do our own research and start making changes to dispute this program. She stated that PDE signed onto Common Core program sight unseen and did not test any of the programs prior to implementation. She asked what we could do as a District such as consult with other Districts and consider drafting a resolution regarding Common Core.

Ms. Richardson asked the District to consider purchasing math books that are not aligned with Common Core, replace Envision textbooks, understand the issues with high stakes testing, appoint a committee of parents utilize the solicitor, and change the Common Core portion of our website. She asked the District to take a stance on Common Core.

Dr. French thanked the speakers for their advocacy and stated what we do in Peters Township is always with the best intention for our children. Dr. French spoke regarding standards and how Pennsylvania questioned some things that initially came with the package and were not good for Pennsylvania and explained how we are not part of the negative portion of Common Core. Common Core does not dictate what programs we use. The District refreshes curriculum on a regular cycle. Dr. French stated select research does support improved student scores. The District is using standards that are approved.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. McMurray stated Executive Sessions were held on February 23, 2015, March 2, 2015 and immediately prior to this meeting to discuss personnel items, negotiations and other legal issues.

OLD BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Merrell moved to consider a motion to remove the request for approval of the February 11-13 band trip from the Table (Item VII 2. i. from 2/17/15 Agenda).

Seconded by Mr. Dunleavy

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(7-0)

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve the following student trip:

Organization:	High School Band – High School
Advisor:	Milt Barney
Event:	PMEA Western Region Band Festival
Dates:	February 11 – 13, 2015
Location:	Hermitage, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.:	\$483.00

MOTION

Mr. Merrell moved to consider a motion to approve the above recommendation.

Seconded by Mrs. Bowman

Roll call vote

Mrs. Bowman voted yes
Mr. Dunleavy voted yes
Dr. Hardy voted no

Mrs. Gregg voted yes
Mr. Merrell voted yes

Mrs. Anderson voted yes
Mr. McMurray voted yes

MOTION CARRIED
(6-1)

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Bowman moved to consider a motion to suspend Peters Township School District Policy 9368 (Order of Business) for this meeting only. Seconded by Mr. Dunleavy

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)

Mrs. Gregg stated Mr. Geyer, Athletic Director is doing sports interviews asking parents for input on indentifying strengths and growth in sports programs.

Mrs. Gregg spoke about the importance of open communication and collaboration as a Board. She felt this Board is the most respectful of each other's opinions. She thanked them for their professionalism.

I. BUSINESS OFFICE

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve Business Office recommendations as follows (attachments 1 through 9):

1. Approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting dated February 17, 2015.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for February 2015 with a balance of \$13,943,404.09.
3. Approval of General Fund bills for February 13, 2015 through March 12, 2015.
4. Approval of the Capital Facilities Fund bills for February 13, 2015 through March 12, 2015.
5. Approval of Food Service Fund bills for February 13, 2015 through March 12, 2015.
6. Approval of the McMurray Elementary School Activity Fund report for February 2015.
7. Approval of the Middle School Activity Fund report for February 2015.
8. Approval of the High School Athletic Fund report for February 2015.
9. Approval of the High School Activity Fund report for February 2015.

MOTION:

Dr. Hardy moved for approval of the Business Office recommendations 1 through 9, seconded by Mr. Merrell

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

II. BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel

Ron Dunleavy: No Report
Public Comment: None

Buildings and Grounds

Bill Merrell

1. **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider a motion to authorize the following resolution for PlanCon Part “F”: (attachments)

BE IT RESOLVED, the Peters Township School District Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Administration and Architect, HHSDR Architects & Engineers, to submit PlanCon Part F, ‘Construction Documents’ for the McMurray Elementary School Project to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for review and approval.

MOTION:

Mr. Merrell move for the approval of recommendation 1, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy
Public Comment: None

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

2. **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider a motion to award the Lawn Care Service Contract to Bob’s Landscaping for \$40,500.00. Another proposal was received from Cramer Landscaping & Property Management for \$42,990.00.

MOTION:

Mr. Merrell move for the approval of recommendation 2, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy
Public Comment: None

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider a motion to hire M.B. Kohne, LLC, as the Clerk of the Works for the McMurray Project at a maximum cost of \$65.00/hr at a cost not to exceed \$180,000.00 for the contract period of May 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 pending the awarding of contracts for the McMurray Renovation Project on April 20, 2015.

MOTION:

Mr. Merrell move for the approval of recommendation 3, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy

Public Comment: None

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

Education

Sue Smith

Dr. Murphy reported the next Education Committee meeting will be March 23, 2015

Public Comment: None

Finance

Jamison Hardy

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider a motion to approve the acceptance of the Single Audit Report prepared by Hosack, Speck, Muetzel and Wood for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 as presented.

Mr. John Zivkovic from Hosack, Speck, Muetzel and Wood presented the Financial Report for the District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

MOTION:

Dr. Hardy move for the approval of recommendation 4, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy

Mrs. Anderson commented on the Governor’s Budget

Public Comment: None

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

Policy

Lisa Anderson

Policy Committee Meetings were held on Monday, February 23, 2015 and Monday, March 2, 2015.

5. **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider a motion to approved the 2nd reading and adoption of the following policies: (attachments)

- 200 PUPILS**
- 246 Student Wellness
- 300 EMPLOYEES**
- 304 Employment of District Staff
- 317 Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
- 317.1 Educator Misconduct
- 800 OPERATIONS**
- 806 Child Abuse
- 818 Contracted Services

900 COMMUNITY

916 Volunteers

This agenda also includes the first reading of the following policies: (attachments)

600 FINANCES

601 Fiscal Objectives
602 Budget Planning
603 Budget Preparation
604 Budget Adoption
605 Tax Levy
606 Tax Collection
608 Bank Accounts
609 Investment of District Funds
610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
611 Purchases Budgeted
612 Purchases Not Budgeted
613 Cooperative Purchasing
614 Payroll
616 Payment of Bills
618 Student Activity Funds
619 District Audit
620 Fund Balance
621 Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights
626 Federal Fiscal Compliance

800 OPERATIONS

800 Records Management
801 Public Records
803 School Calendar
804 School Day
805 Emergency Preparedness
805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
807 Opening Exercises/Flag Displays
808 Food Services
808.1 Free/Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk
810 Transportation
810.1 Controlled Substance/Alcohol Testing – Covered Drivers
811 Bonding
812 Property Insurance
813.1 Indemnification
814 Copyright Material
815 Acceptable Use of Technology Resources

- 822 Automated External Defibrillator (AED)/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- 828 Misappropriation of District Resources
- 828.1 Whistleblower
- 829 Electronic Records/Signatures
- 830 Breach of Computerized Personal Information

MOTION:

Mrs. Anderson move for the approval of recommendation 5, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy
 A discussion was held on the above recommendation

Public Comment: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(7-0)

PSBA

Lisa Anderson

Mrs. Anderson reported the Southwestern Region 3 meeting is on April 22, 2015 from 6-8pm at the Intermediate Unit 1.

Public Comment: None

Western Area Career and Technology Center

Sandy Gregg

Mrs. Gregg reported the next Joint Operating Committee Meeting will be held on March 25, 2015. She also reported there are 26 student enrolled at Western Area Career and Technology Center and 19 of these students are honor students

Public Comment: None

SHASDA

Ron Dunleavy

Mr. Dunleavy reported the SHASDA Conference is scheduled for April 24-25, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe. Sara Pyszka is the guest speaker. All Board Members and Administrators are invited to attend. Mrs. Anderson attended the meeting and reported it was very informative.

Public Comment: None

Intermediate Unit

Thomas McMurray

Mr. McMurray reported the Intermediate Unit 1 Annual Convention and Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe. The banquet for school directors will begin at 7:00 pm and the next Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 23, 2015.

Public Comment: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA

III. CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve Certificated Personnel recommendations subject to all required pre-employment history reviews and clearance requirements as follows:

1. Approve the following leaves of absence:

March 2014-2015-01

March 2014-2015-02

2. Approve the following retirements:

Name: Janice Cmar
Position: Family/Consumer Science Teacher
Assignment: Middle School
Effective: End of the 2014-2015 school year

Name: Robert Cunningham
Position: Health and Physical Education Teacher
Assignment: Bower Hill Elementary
Effective: End of the 2014-2015 school year

Name: Marguerite Kazalas
Position: Art Teacher
Assignment: High School
Effective: End of the 2014-2015 school year

3. Approve the following long term substitutes: (attachments)

Name: Heather Smith-Bent
Position: Honors English Long Term Substitute Teacher
Assignment: High School
Salary: Masters, Step 1 (pro-rated)
Effective: February 5, 2015
Replaces: Hope Wolfe

Name: Jessie Wehler
Position: 2nd Grade Long Term Substitute Teacher
Assignment: Bower Hill Elementary
Salary: Masters, Step 1 (pro-rated)
Effective: March 16, 2015
Replaces: Linda Sallee

4. Approve the following as day-to-day substitute certificated personnel for the 2014-15 school year:

Chenevert, Michelle – French PK-12
Heller, Jessica – Early Childhood
Weber, Kaitlyn – Grade PK-4

MOTION:

Dr. Hardy moved for approval of recommendations 1-4, seconded by Mr. Merrell

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

IV. NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve Non-Certificated Personnel recommendations subject to all required pre-employment history reviews and clearance requirements as follows:

1. Approve the following resignation:

Name: Roberta Curry
Position: Driver
Assignment: Bus Garage
Effective: March 10, 2015

2. Approve the following new hires:

Name: Joy Courie
Position: Part time Paraprofessional
Assignment: Bower Hill Elementary
Salary: \$15.22/hr
Effective: March 23, 2015
Replaces: Teresa Buzard

Name: Lauren Crossan
Position: Part time Paraprofessional
Assignment: Bower Hill Elementary
Salary: \$15.22/hr
Effective: April 6, 2015
Replaces: Kelly Capozzoli

Name: Dana Smith
Position: Cafeteria/Food Service
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Salary: \$12.56/hr
Effective: March 23, 2015
Replaces: William Appel

Name: Henry Hill
Position: Driver
Assignment: Bus Garage
Salary: \$19.35/hr
Effective: March 17, 2015
Replaces: Lorrie Tarby

Name: Anne Marie Shaw
Position: Cafeteria/Playground Monitor
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Salary: \$13.16/hr
Effective: March 17, 2015
Replaces: Bonnie Pavlik

3. Approve the following day-to-day non-teaching substitute(s) for the 2014-15 school year:

Mosco, Angelic – Cafeteria/Playground Monitor and Cafeteria/Food Service

4. Approve the 2015 summer secretary hours from June 17, 2015 through August 14, 2015 for the following schools: (175-200 approximate hours)

Pleasant Valley Elementary
Bower Hill Elementary
McMurray Elementary

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of recommendations 1-4, seconded by Mr. Merrell

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

V. EXTRA-DUTY PERSONNEL/PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve Extra-Duty Personnel/Program recommendations subject to all required pre-employment history reviews and clearance requirements as follows:

1. Approve the following resignation of Athletic personnel for the 2014-15 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

Lacrosse Assistant Coach Boys

Michael Pittas

2. Approve the following extra-duty Athletic personnel for the 2014-15 school year: (attachments)

HIGH SCHOOL

Baseball 9th Grade Coach
Baseball Volunteer Coach

Justin Bianco
Matthew Bianco

Baseball Volunteer Coach
Lacrosse Assistant Coach Boys

James Rider
Nicholas Aspiotes

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Track Co-ed Assistant Coach
Track Co-ed Assistant Coach

Abby Montgomery
Gary Bole

3. Approve the Peters Township Ultimate Frisbee Club as a Club Activity for Peters Township High School, contingent upon receipt of all compliance documents.

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of recommendations 1-3, seconded by Dr. Hardy
A discussion was held on the above recommendations

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

VI. PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

NONE AT THIS TIME

VII. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve the Educational Programs and Student Activities as follows:

1. Approve the following fundraising activities:

Organization: Volleyball Boosters – High School
Purpose: Cover booster expenses
Dates: March 17 – May 30, 2015
Location: PTHS home games and community
Activities: T-Shirt Sales

Organization: Thespian Boosters – High School
Purpose: Cover expenses
Dates: March 29, 2015
Location: High School Auditorium
Activities: Prom Fashion Show

Organization: Thespian Troupe 185 – High School
Purpose: Cover costs to complete technical scene shop
Dates: April 18, 2015
Location: High School Auditorium
Activities: Student Performances

Organization: Golf Association Boosters – High School
Purpose: Cover golf bag expense
Dates: May 9, 2015
Location: High School Gymnasium
Activities: GatorBall

Organization: Sophomore Class of 2017 – High School
Purpose: Cover class expenses
Dates: May 15, 2015
Location: High School Stadium
Activities: Movie Night

Organization: Senior Class of 2015 – High School
Purpose: Cover class expenses
Dates: May 20, 2015
Location: High School Stadium
Activities: Powder Puff Football Game

2. Approve the following student trips: (attachments)

Organization: High School Orchestra – High School
Advisor: Marlina DeFelice
Event: PMEA All-State Annual Conference and All-State Music Festival including Band, Orchestra and Vocal Jazz
Dates: March 25 – 29, 2015
Location: Hershey, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$2,065.00

Organization: High School Choir – High School
Advisor: Ryan Perrotte
Event: PMEA All-State Annual Conference and All-State Music Festival
Dates: March 25 – 29, 2015
Location: Hershey, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$1,787.75

Organization: MathCounts – Middle School
Advisor: Kristin McCune
Event: State Competition
Dates: March 27 – 28, 2015
Location: Harrisburg, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$707.25

Organization: High School Forensics – High School
Advisor: Frank Kerber
Event: 2015 National Catholic Forensic League Nationals
Dates: May 21 – 24, 2015

Location: Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$1,774.90

3. Approve the following request for student trip solicitation:

Sponsor: Judith Alexander
Event: International Service Learning Trip to China
Date: Summer of 2016

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of recommendations 1-3, seconded by Dr. Hardy
A discussion was held on the above recommendations

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

VIII. OTHER

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve other recommendations as follows:

1. Approve the tax collector recommendation on tax appeals: (attachments)
No: 16-2014
No: 01-2015
2. Approve the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Community College of Allegheny County, on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor, to provide Summer School Physical Education Classes, Grades 9 through 12, for the 2015-2016 school year.
3. Approve the DRAFT 2016-17 School Calendar. We are requesting ACT 80 approval for August 24, 2016 and October 21, 2016. (attachment)
4. Approve an Agreement in Lieu of Expulsion regarding student 14-15-03.
5. Approve the donation of eight (8) Vista Attrax Tripods from SKC Purchasing, to the Media Department of Peters Township High School, valued at approximately \$800.00. The tripods will be used in the photography and video classes.

MOTION:

Mr. Merrell moved for approval of recommendations 1-5, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy
A discussion was held on the above recommendations

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

BOARD INFORMATION: None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor's report was delivered during the Executive Session.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD ON AGENDA ITEMS (15 minutes)

Cheryl Graves, 106 Creekside Court, asked if the last make up day has been scheduled.

Dr. French reported the makeup day will not be made up by students and the District had to wait for PDE approval to enact our Act 80 day.

Katherine Reitz, 103 Blackmore Drive, asked to save money for the budget by reviewing Common Core. She also stated she would like the Board to address issues with the Common Core math curriculum.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Education Committee	March 23, 2015	6:30 pm
Policy Committee	March 30, 2015	6:30 pm
Buildings and Grounds	April 6, 2015	6:30 pm
Finance Committee	April 13, 2015	6:30 pm
Regular Board Meeting	April 20, 2015	7:30 pm
Policy Committee	April 27, 2015	6:30 pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Merrell moved for adjournment at 9:50 pm, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(7-0)**

Board Secretary

Board President