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Peters Township School District

**MINUTES
PETERS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018 AT 6:30 PM
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McMurray, President, called the special meeting of the Peters Township Board of School Directors to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Allison, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Bowman, Mr. Briegel, Mr. Dunleavy, Dr. Hardy, Mr. McMurray, Mr. Merrell and Mr. Taylor were present.

Also present were: Dr. Jeannine French - Superintendent, Dr. Jennifer Murphy - Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Michael Fisher - Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Mr. Brad Rau - Business Manager, Mrs. Shelly Belcher - Communications Coordinator, Mr. Adam Swinchock - Director of Instructional Technology, Mr. Brandon Womer - Director of Buildings and Grounds and Ms. Jocelyn Kramer - Solicitor.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

(Peters Township School District Policy 903)

Peters Township School District values parent and community engagement.
Speakers listed on the agenda will be allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes for public comment.
Speakers not listed on this agenda will be allotted a maximum of two (2) minutes for public comment.

Part of our communication effort involves taping and sharing videos of our Board meetings to help our community stay informed on matters before the Board. Any guest speakers or members of the public who are taking part in the meetings are reminded to come to the podium and use the microphone when making comments so that they may be heard by those of us in the room and those watching online.

Mark Opitz (Topic: Peters Township New High School Pool)
317 Snowberry Circle
Venetia, PA 15367

Mr. Opitz told the Board he doesn't envy their position. He said there is support in the District for a new high school with the tax impact, but only if it has the right amenities. He feels that without a pool, the support will not be there. In less than two weeks, over 1,600 signatures have been gathered in support of the pool. He hopes the Board is not underestimating the support in the community for the pool. This

support extends beyond the teams and club. Forcing the new school on the community without a pool would not be right.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

An Executive Session was held immediately prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and other items.

Mr. McMurray appointed new committee chairs as follows:

Buildings and Grounds	Mr. Dunleavy
Personnel	Mr. Taylor

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

I. BUSINESS OFFICE

NO ACTION ITEMS AT THIS TIME

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA

II. 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 **resignation:**

Name:	Julie Franczyk
Position:	Assistant Elementary Principal
Assignment:	Bower Hill Elementary
Effective:	June 22, 2018

2. Approve the following **substitute teacher** for the **2018 Extended School Year (ESY) Program** at the teacher contractual rate, from June 25, 2018 through July 26, 2018, 2 days in-service and 20 days instruction, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday:

Kathleen Melnyk

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Certificated Personnel recommendation items 1 and 2, seconded by Dr. Hardy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(9-0)

III. 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 **paraprofessional** for the **2018 Extended School Year (ESY) Program** at the paraprofessional contractual rate, from June 25, 2018 through July 26, 2018, 1 day in-service and 20 days instruction, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday:

Zackary Harrinan

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Non-Certificated Personnel recommendation item 1, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(9-0)

IV. EXTRA-DUTY PERSONNEL/PROGRAMS

NO ACTION ITEMS AT THIS TIME

V. PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES, TRAININGS AND TRIPS

NO ACTION ITEMS AT THIS TIME

VI. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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

1. Approve the following **fundraising** activity:

Organization: Girls Lacrosse Boosters – High School

Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: June 25 – 28, 2018
Location: Pleasant Valley Turf Field
Activity: Girls Lacrosse & Field Hockey Camp/Clinic

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Educational Programs and Student Activities recommendation item 1, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

VII. OTHER

NO ACTION ITEMS AT THIS TIME

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel

Mr. Dunleavy

1. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the disciplinary unpaid suspension of employee #03-17-18 and the issuance of a formal statement of charges.

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of recommendation 1, seconded by Mr. Briegel.
Public Comment: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

Finance

Dr. Hardy

Dr. Hardy presented borrowing options to finance the pool as part of the New High School project. He explained there has been no rushing with this project, including all the amenities. It has been a two year process with numerous meetings and hours involved. Borrowing options were received from PNC and the Board approved a limit. The District has normally held to a 15-year repayment schedule, but the option accepted extends the repayment schedule to 22 years. The District was fortunate to get better returns on the proceeds, which have helped to get us to this point today.

He presented a financial plan to borrow an additional \$5 million which would raise the millage impact from 1.5 mills to 1.57 mills. This plan was presented to the Board 18 months ago. It keeps the repayment schedule at 22 years.

Dr. Hardy noted that in negotiations, the employees of the District increased their contributions to health care costs. This contributed to our ability to be in this position and be discussing this option.

Mrs. Allison asked if we are using the fund balance. Dr. Hardy replied no and explained the importance of conserving those funds.

Mr. Rau explained that the additional amount would be borrowed near the end of the project and additional items could be rolled into the new amount borrowed.

Mrs. Anderson asked Dr. French, with respect to the tightness of the finances, if she is confident that academic and educational programming will not have to change.

Dr. French responded that while we will be tight, we have looked at everything. We are used to running lean but we will be fine.

Mr. Dunleavy inquired if it would be possible for the Board to take another look at the turf field option.

Dr. Hardy said that the numbers are run including the turf field and this does not affect the scheduled completion time for the project.

Mr. Briegel inquired about the current cost of pool operations. Mr. Rau reported that current costs are approximately \$10,000 per month. The new pool would eventually cost less due to using fewer chemicals.

Mr. Briegel also asked when the pool would be built if it was not included now.

Dr. Hardy replied it would happen approximately five years out.

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Dunleavy

Mr. Rau reviewed the options from last week. Option 1 included the Natatorium, but we didn't take the deduct for the steel pool, which puts this total cost at \$82.7 million or approximately \$3.9 million over budget. Option 2 excluded the Natatorium.

Adding the turf field into Option 1 brings that total to \$83.1 million or \$4.4 million over the budget. We were leaving the sprinklers in because if we put turf on one field we would try to sprinkle the grass field. Taking the pool out changes the cost of some options, which is why the deduct amounts vary a bit.

Mrs. Bowman understands the attractiveness of turf fields, but she has seen numerous studies showing an increase in injuries on turf fields in comparison to grass fields.

Dr. Hardy replied that having a turf field gives numerous options for scheduling activities and for longer periods of time as compared to a grass field. If we're going to include a pool, we need to be wise and give Mr. Geyer the ability to put sports on the field all year.

Mr. Briegel asked for more information from Mrs. Bowman about the studies she referenced. She said they were studies from emergency rooms about the severity of injuries.

Mr. Rau asked for a motion to approve the acceptance of the lowest responsible bidders, subject to approval by the solicitor, construction manager and the architect as follows:

- Acceptance of Alternate 8 Eliminate disposer/control panel
- Alternate 10 Eliminate 2 pannini presses
- Alternate 11 Eliminate Fast Bake
- Alternate 12 Eliminate hot/cold pan at International Counter
- Alternate 13 Eliminate the espresso machine
- Alternate 14 Eliminate the 2 display cases in Main Gym
- Alternate 15 Construction of southern access road (no lighting included)
- Alternate 16 Artificial turf of one (1) athletic field
- Alternate 17 Underground sprinkler system for 1 athletic field
- Alternate 18 Parquet wood flooring in Main Gym
- Alternate 22 Lightning protection system
- Alternate 24 Stainless steel pool
- Alternate 36 Renkus Heinz speaker alternate

For a total of \$83,175,452.00.

Mr. Dunleavy moved the motion, seconded by Mrs. Allison.

Mr. Briegel thanked all for their work over the weekend.

Dr. Hardy requested a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marc Simon, parent
170 Druid Drive
McMurray, PA 15317

Mr. Simon said he represents the voice of reason on this as we cannot afford \$5 million for a pool. It is a huge expense with unnecessary and unknown maintenance costs. He asked the Board to please look at receiving the greatest bang for our bucks. The pool is a luxury. He urges the Board to vote responsibly because we cannot afford the pool. He is not interested in revisiting the pool in any form in the future. He closed by thanking the Board for their work and service.

Alex Lepri, student/swim team/swim club
169 Fawn Valley Drive
McMurray, PA 15317

Mr. Lepri also thanked the Board for their time. He said we are Peters Township, one of the greatest schools in the state. We should have these extras because we can afford them. The pool is for more than just one group of people. This is for everyone and he hopes that many enjoy it.

Tammy Coleman, parent
106 Bradford Cove
Venetia, PA 15367

Ms. Coleman asked what exactly the difference is between 1.5 and 1.57 mills. Mr. Rau replied it is \$7 on a valuation of \$100,000. Based on the average value of a home in Peters being \$300,000, that would equal \$21 per year.

Anita Knaack, parent
341 East McMurray Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Ms. Knaack said with a monthly maintenance cost for the existing pool at \$10,000.00, then over a 22 year period \$2.2 million would be saved. She said it looks like it will be good for the community

Yun Zhao, parent
336 Buffalo Ridge Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Ms. Zhao said she's heard comparisons about what is needed. She doesn't feel the pool should be eliminated because of minimal use compared to other facilities. She said when they moved to Peters Township, they used to buy a yearly pass to be able to use the pool. Now, they have to pay to go somewhere else. The pool already exists, include what we already have, not less.

Denise Grant, parent
703 Chadwick Drive
Venetia, PA 15367

Ms. Grant asked that the health hazards of the current pool be considered when voting. She stated that swimming is a life-long skill and can be a part of academics. She has paid Upper St. Clair for swim lessons, why not keep it here?

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Merrell – NO	Mr. Briegel – YES
	Mr. Taylor – YES	Mr. Dunleavy – YES
	Mrs. Allison – YES	Dr. Hardy – NO
	Mrs. Anderson – YES	Mr. McMurray – YES
	Mrs. Bowman – NO	

MOTION PASSED

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BOARD INFORMATION: None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

June Board Meeting:

Monday, June 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting immediately followed by a Personnel Meeting
Monday, June 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.	Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting immediately followed by Policy Committee
Monday, June 25, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Dr. Hardy moved for adjournment at 7:27 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(9-0)

Board Secretary

Board President