



Peters Township School District

MINUTES
PETERS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 7:30 PM
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McMurray, President, called the regular meeting of the Peters Township Board of School Directors to order at 7:40 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Allison, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Bowman, Mr. Briegel, Mr. Dunleavy, Mrs. Grossman, Mr. McMurray and Mr. Taylor were present. Dr. Hardy attended over the phone.

Also present were: Dr. Jeannine French - Superintendent, Dr. Jennifer Murphy - Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Brad Rau - Business Manager, Mrs. Patty Kelly – Director of Pupil Services, Mr. Brandon Womer – Director of Buildings and Grounds, Mrs. Lori Pavlik – High School Principal, and Ms. Jocelyn Kramer – Solicitor

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

- Celebration of Excellence
- Excellence in Academics
- PTHS Mock Trial Honors – Under the direction of teacher Adam Brado, the High School Mock Trial team competed in the annual Pitt Mock Trial tournament in January, finishing second out of 48 teams from schools across Pennsylvania. This was the first time that Peters Township placed in the finals and was the best finish for a school in Washington county in the 16-year history of the tournament. A special congratulations to witness Allison O’Neil who was awarded two best witness awards on both the defense and plaintiff side of the case.
- Virtual Field Trip at Pleasant Valley – Third grade students at Pleasant Valley attended a virtual field trip with a meteorologist in November. Students learned about meteorology and weather safety during the presentations that included both in-person and remote students.
- Remote Students Technology Project - Third grade students in Mrs. William’s class wrapped up the novel on George Washington and used the Chatter Pix app to have George tell their classmates some facts that they learned - combining their knowledge of history with great technology skills.
- 6th Graders Have a Dream - In a lead up to the 6th grade novel, *The Watson's Go to Birmingham*, Mrs. Weber's and Mrs. Engstrom's 6th grade ELA classes studied many important events from the Civil Rights Movement. As a culminating activity following the study of Martin Luther King Jr.'s I Have a Dream speech, the students created peace projects and discussed ways to make the world a more peaceful place.
- High School English Students Zoom with Holocaust Survivors – Prior to the winter break, Honors 10 English students heard presentations from two Holocaust survivors: Suzanne Weiss and Edith Bell. This event was the culmination of weeks of collaboration between the 10th grade team and

the educators at JFilms Society in Pittsburgh. Students have been watching a short Holocaust film series and discussing topics such as human rights & survivor's guilt from multiple perspectives and debating the roles of collaborators, bystanders, and up standers during the war years.

➤ PTHS Welcomes New Students

Today marked a significant milestone in the High School Building project as we welcomed students to school for the first time in their new classrooms. While construction continues on areas in the Fine Arts and Athletic Wings, students were excited to see all that their new school had to offer when they arrived this morning!

➤ Excellence in Athletics

➤ In December, the Athletic Department celebrated a virtual Signing Day with several of our seniors. Please join us in congratulating these student athletes who made commitments to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

➤ Girls Soccer:

Madison Bush – Penn State Behrend
Emma Cantwell – Robert Morris University
Emma Sawich – Saint Francis University

➤ Football:

Corban Hondru – Miami University (Ohio)
Donovan McMillon – University of Florida
Girls Golf
Ella McRoberts – Denison University

➤ Excellence in Character

➤ Character Counts Virtual Awards - This fall, Peters Township Character Counts held a virtual awards ceremony to honor members of our community who were being recognized for their commitment to the ideals of honesty, respect and responsibility. The full presentation may be watched via the link on the Character Counts website.

➤ The Fall 2020 Awardees are:

Dr. Michael Fisher
Wendi, David, Derek and Kara Liguori
Doug Wilkinson
Penelope Butler
Jackie Kreider
Emerson Andrews
Jocelyn Vincent
Lisa Harrison
David Caputo
Petrina DeNillo
Nancy Weiss
Jen Reitz
Shelly Belcher

- PT Giving Back - Following the Thanksgiving Holiday a small group of residents organized a social media fundraiser and food drive to support families in our community through the Finleyville Food Pantry. In a brief - but amazing - effort, they raised more than \$15,000 and provided a school bus full of food to the food pantry for the holidays. The funds will be a tremendous help to the struggling Food Pantry who has not been able to hold their normal fundraisers this year due to the pandemic.
- PT Racial Equity Challenge
Earlier this month, Peters Township Year of Kindness launched the PT Racial Equity Challenge. The 21-day program runs from January 7th to January 28th. Conventional wisdom says it takes about three weeks to form a new habit, so the goal of the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge is to help our community cultivate self-awareness and intentionality to affect social change.
- PTHS Senior Donates Blankets
PTHS Senior Rachael Gavlik has kept busy during this pandemic by making more than 600 fleece blankets for those in need. They were donated to Meals on Wheels for distribution to those in need and tagged with a special personal message of hope from Rachael.
- Excellence in Leadership
- School Board Recognition Month - January is school board recognition month and we end our highlights by recognizing and honoring our Board for the dedication to our community and the time and talents they lend to our students and staff. This evening our schools have provided small tokens of their appreciation to our board members.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: None
(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. All speakers are reminder to state their name and address for the minutes.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Executive Sessions were held on January 11, 2021 and immediately prior to this meeting to discuss personnel, security, litigation, and other items.

Appointment of Board Committees and Delegates:

Mr. McMurray informed everyone present that the Committee appointments and representatives for 2021:

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Finance	Mr. McMurray	Mr. Taylor
Personnel	Mr. Taylor	Mrs. Grossman
Education	Mrs. Allison	Mrs. Anderson
Policy	Mrs. Anderson	Mrs. Grossman
Buildings and Grounds	Mr. Dunleavy	Mrs. Bowman
Fundraising	Mrs. Allison	Mrs. Grossman
SHASDA Representative	Mr. Briegel	Mr. Dunleavy
WACTC Representative	Mrs. Bowman	Mr. Dunleavy
PSBA Representative	Mrs. Anderson	
Intermediate Unit 1 Representative	Mr. McMurray	

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

I. BUSINESS OFFICE

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

1. Approval of the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting dated November 16, 2020, the Reorganization Meeting dated December 7, 2020, and the Special Board Meeting dated December 7, 2020.
2. Approval of the Treasurer’s Report for November 2020 and December 2020 with a balance of \$22,679,847.69.
3. Approval of the General Fund bills for November 13, 2020 through January 14, 2021.
4. Approval of the Capital Facilities Fund bills for November 13, 2020 through January 14, 2021.
5. Approval of the Food Service Fund bills for November 13, 2020 through January 14, 2021.
6. Approval of the McMurray Elementary School Activity Fund reports for November 2020 and December 2020.
7. Approval of the Middle School Activity Fund reports for November 2020 and December 2020.
8. Approval of the High School Athletic Fund reports for November 2020 and December 2020.
9. Approval of the High School Activity Fund reports for November 2020 and December 2020.

MOTION:

Mrs. Bowman moved for approval of the Business Office recommendation items 1 through 9, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

Comment: Mrs. Grossman questioned the payment of Athletic Officials in December. Mr. Rau responded, stating the officials were for Middle School Basketball.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

II. BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel

Daniel Taylor

1. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the following job description: (attachment)

Confidential Secretary – Buildings & Grounds, and Transportation

MOTION:

Mr. Taylor moved for approval of recommendation 1, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

Comment: Mrs. Anderson asked if this was a new position. Dr. French and Dr. Murphy explained that the job description was a revised to better reflect the duties of the position.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

Buildings and Grounds

Ron Dunleavy

New High School Project Update – SitelogIQ – Rochelle Fennell

The building is open with students in school with the temporary occupancy in the Academic and Fine Arts area. Minor cleanup will be done in the Phys. Ed. area on January 28th to coincide with the elevator inspection. Auditorium and Natatorium are in progress and will need a game plan to get the areas to completion.

2. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the relocation of the existing High School compressor to Bower Hill Elementary including phase protection by Combustion Services and Equipment at a cost of \$7,450.00.

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of recommendation 2, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

Comment: Mrs. Bowman asked if it was a repurpose. Mr. Dunleavy stated that it is a repurpose to update the existing compressor at Bower Hill.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve GEMM cleaning company to provide cleaning services at the New High School at a not to exceed cost of \$13,000.00.

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of recommendation 3, seconded by Mr. Briegel.
Comment: none

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

Education

Minna Allison

No formal report tonight, there will need to be an Education Committee Meeting scheduled at the conclusion of this meeting.

Finance

Rolf Briegel

A Finance Committee Meeting was held on January 11, 2021.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve Resolution No. 2021-01-19A stipulating no increase in the rate of the real estate tax by more than the index of 3.0% for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.
(attachment)

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of recommendation 4, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.
Comment: Dr. Hardy explained that the upcoming years have been foreseen with an increase in budget commitments. The increase in debt service and unexpected expenses brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Next year will be a challenge, but the District will see a leveling over the next three to five years.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

Policy

Lisa Anderson

Mrs. Anderson will be requesting a Policy Committee Meeting due to legislative changes.

PSBA

Lisa Anderson

On February 3rd, PSBA has scheduled a webinar to follow the Governor's budget release.

Western Area Career and Technology Center

Rebecca Bowman

The next Joint Operating Committee Meeting will be held on January 27, 2021.

SHASDA

Rolf Briegel: None

Intermediate Unit

Thomas McMurray

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on January 21, 2021.

Ad Hoc Committee:

Fundraising

Minna Allison and Daniel Taylor: 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:**

January 2020-2021-01
January 2020-2021-02

- 2. Approve the following **resignation:**

Name: Michael Gitzen
Position: LTS Health and Physical Education
Assignment: High School and Pleasant Valley Elementary
Effective: January 18, 2021

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

Name: Patricia Trunzo
Position: English Teacher
Assignment: High School
Salary: Masters, Step 1 (pro-rated)
Effective: April 21, 2021 through end of the 2020-2021 School Year
Replaces: Ashley Camody

Name: Megan Kelly
Position: Reading Specialist
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Salary: Masters, Step 1 (pro-rated)

Effective: 2nd Semester 2020-2021 School Year
Replaces: Pamela Bohn-Guenther

- The following employee has completed three (3) years in Peters Township School District as a Temporary Professional Employees and has been rated in accordance with the provision of Section 1123 of the Public School Code of 1949 as amended. Having earned a final rating of “satisfactory” the employee is so certified and entitled to **Professional Employee Status** in accordance with the provision of Section 1108(b):

<u>Professional Employee</u>	<u>Building</u>
Logan Hyland	High School

- Approve the following as **day-to-day substitute certificated personnel** for the 2020–21 school year:

Spencer Kun - Music K-12
Catherine Lund - Grades PK-4 and Special Education PK-8
Julie Opferman - Health and Physical Education PK-12
Casey Teagarden - Biology 7-12

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Certificated Personnel recommendation items 1 through 5, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

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:

- Approve the following **leaves of absence:**

January 2020-2021-03
January 2020-2021-04
January 2020-2021-05
January 2020-2021-06
January 2020-2021-07
January 2020-2021-08
January 2020-2021-09
January 2020-2021-10
January 2020-2021-11
January 2020-2021-12

- Approve the following **resignation:**

Name: Courtney O'Connor

Position: Paraprofessional
Assignment: Bower Hill Elementary
Effective: January 1, 2021

3. Approve the following **new hire**:

Name: Stephanie McLaughlin
Position: Class III Clerical
Assignment: High School
Salary: \$18.12/hr.
Effective: TBD
Replacing: Petrina DeNillo

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Non-Certificated Personnel recommendation items 1 through 3, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

V. EXTRA-DUTY PERSONNEL/PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to conditionally appoint the following individuals to extra duty positions subject to pre-employment history reviews and clearance requirements; the appointments may be canceled for health and safety reasons:

1. Approve the following **extra-duty Athletic personnel resignation** for the 2020–21 school year:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Spring

Track and Field, Assistant Coach

Kristin Fazio

2. Approve the following **extra-duty Athletic personnel** for the 2020–21 school year: (attachments)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Spring

Swimming, Head Coach

James Stache

Swimming, Assistant Coach

Kyle Garase

Swimming, Volunteer Coach

Carolyn Novak

Swimming, Volunteer Coach

Jakub Skrzypczak

3. Approve the following **extra-duty Athletic changes of status** for the 2020–21 school year:

Kristofer Bergman **FROM:**
Faculty Manager 33%

TO:
Faculty Manager 50%

	(Split w/Carmassi & Christopher)	(Split w/Helbig)
Joseph Maize	Faculty Manager 50% (Split w/Helbig)	Faculty Manager 33% (Split w/Carmassi & Christopher)

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Extra-Duty Personnel/Programs recommendation items 1 through 3, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(9-0)

VI. PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES, TRAININGS AND TRIPS

NO ACTION ITEMS AT THIS TIME

VII. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve the Educational Programs and Student Activities subject to cancelation or change by the Superintendent for health and safety reasons as follows:

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

Organization: Boys Lacrosse Boosters – High School
 Purpose: Team expenses
 Dates: January 20 – March 6, 2021
 Activity: Snap Raise

Organization: Parent Teacher Association – Bower Hill Elementary
 Purpose: School expenses
 Dates: February 1 – 14, 2021
 Location: Bower Hill Elementary
 Activity: Read-A-Thon

Organization: Girls Lacrosse Boosters – High School
 Purpose: Team expenses
 Dates: March 1 – 31, 2021
 Activity: T-Shirt Sales

Organization: Girls Lacrosse Boosters – High School
 Purpose: Team expenses
 Dates: March 7 – April 7, 2021
 Activity: Snap Raise

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(9-0)

VIII. OTHER

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

1. Approve Resolution No. 2021-01-19B designating local holidays for the 2021–22 school year. (attachment)
2. Approve the 2021–22 School Calendar. We are requesting ACT 80 approval for August 18, 2021, August 19, 2021, November 1, 2021, November 24, 2021 and February 18, 2022. (attachment)
3. Approve donations from the PTA Area Council of \$100.00 for each school library for a total donation of \$500.00 to purchase books in honor of School Board Appreciation Month.
4. Approve a donation from Fast Signs to Peters Township School District to furnish and install a window decal at the New High School in the amount of \$164.36.
5. Accept a donation of \$100.00 from Artsonia to Peters Township School District on behalf of Art Teacher Pamela Harrison to purchase art supplies through Blick Art Materials.
6. Accept a donation of \$2,000.00 from the Peters Township Boys Basketball Boosters to Peters Township School District for the purchase of equipment for the New High School Weight Room.
7. Accept an Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) Fund grant from Washington County Community Foundation in the amount of \$6,430.00. This EIO grant was sponsored by Washington Financial Bank.
8. Accept the resolution of a student residency matter on terms and conditions recommended and approved by the Superintendent and Solicitor.
9. Authorize Administration to solicit bids for athletic supplies and equipment for the 2021–22 school year.
10. Approve the Engagement Letter between Jessica Quinn-Horgan Esquire and Peters Township School District for special construction counsel services. (attachment)
11. Approve the Service Agreement between The Children’s Institute and Peters Township School District, on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor. (attachment)
12. Approve the Travel Instruction Service Agreement between Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3 and Peters Township School District, on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor. (attachment)

13. Approve the Addendum to the June 2, 2016 Agreement between STAT Staffing Medical Services, Inc. and Peters Township School District, on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor, for supplemental licensed health care personnel to provide healthcare services. The District will be billed an hourly rate for services provided. (attachment)
14. Approve the Pest Control Service Agreement between Bugs-B-Gone and Peters Township School District in the amount of \$565/month for 36 months from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 for a total cost of \$20,340.00. (attachment)
15. Exonerate Jordan Tax Service Incorporated for liened 2020 real estate taxes in the amount of \$710,664.08 for the 2020–21 school year.
16. Approve a donation of \$444.48 from the Pleasant Valley PTA to Peters Township School District for the purchase of birthday books for Pleasant Valley Elementary School.

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Other recommendation items 1 through 16 seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(9-0)

BOARD INFORMATION: None

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: Mrs. Kramer stated the solicitor’s report contained all executive session items.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Dr. Hardy submitted his resignation effective immediately.

MOTION:

Mrs. Bowman moved to accept Dr. Hardy’s resignation, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(8-0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Board Meeting:

Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Education Committee Meeting
Policy Committee Meeting

February Board Meetings:

Monday, February 1, 2021	Board Applicant Interviews
Tuesday, February 2, 2021	Board Applicant Interviews
Monday, February 8, 2021	Board Applicant Interviews
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
<u>March Board Meeting:</u>	
Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Taylor moved for adjournment at 8:22 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Bowman.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(8-0)

Board Secretary

Board President