



Peters Township School District

**MINUTES
PETERS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022 AT 7:30 PM
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL LGI**

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: Mrs. Allison, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Bowman, Mr. Dunleavy, Mrs. Grossman, Mr. McMurray, Dr. Payne, and Mr. Taylor were present. Mr. Briegel was absent.

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

- Celebration of Excellence
- **Excellence In Academics**
- **WACTC CO-OP Experience for PT Students** – Four Peters Township High School students are taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in Cooperative Education through Western Area Career and Technology Center to enhance their education with experience in the workplace. Below is a list of students and the sponsoring business.

Jacob Opfer	Ensinger Inc.	Automation/Robotics/Engineering
Jesse Roberts	Fletcher Industries	Electrical Occupations
Bryson Chan	Western Area CTC	Computer Networking
Colin O’Brien	Kozarian Construction LLC	Carpentry

- **Music In Our Schools Month** - McMurray celebrated Music in our Schools Month in March. The school had decade days for a week – the students learned all about music from the 1950s-1990s and had fun with dress up days that matched each decade. The musical celebration also included a special performance. Our music staff led the way as students played the ukulele while others sang This Land is Your Land.
- **Mathcounts Honors for PTMS** - Three of our students have advanced to the State level in for Mathcounts! Michael Zhykharsky placed 4th, Josh Zheng placed 1st, and Connor Seaman placed 2nd in the Washington County competition to qualify. The State Competition is later this month in Harrisburg!
- **Celebrating Dr. Seuss** – Kindergarten at Bower Hill celebrated Dr. Seuss this month for his birthday. This photo was from Wacky Wednesday and these students had fun sharing their wacky outfits with Mrs. Franchi and their classmates!

- **National Merit Finalists** - These talented students are now ALL National Merit Finalists! Congratulations to seniors Jackson Busche, Caleb Eynon, Wenhan Lu, Robyn Strazisar and James Wang! Finalists are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.
- **Excellence In The Arts**
- **Inspiration was the order of the day at McMurray** - Our High School musicians and vocalists visited to encourage students to try the performing arts classes at the Middle School and High School!
- **Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest Honors** - Students from McMurray Elementary and Peters Township Middle School recently took part in the Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. Of the more than 400 students who took part in the competition, the students listed above earned recognition in the contest. 5th grader Jude Glover was named a finalist for his monologue from Julius Caesar. In addition Honorable Mention was earned by 5th grader Tela Serenyi for her monologue from Romeo and Juliet and by 7th grader Declan Mibroda for his monologue from the Merchant of Venice. The Showcase of Finalists took place at the O'Reilly Theater in February.
- **Instrument Selection Assembly** - Music students from Peters Township High School visited our Elementary Schools and performed several songs and introduced students to a variety of instruments. Next year when they head to McMurray they have the option to learn an instrument and this assembly can help them choose.
- **All-State Music Honors** - Following her attendance at the PMEA Western Region Orchestra festival in February, junior Anne Chang (viola) had advanced as the 2nd ranked violist in the PMEA All-State Orchestra. She and teacher Stephen McGough will head to the PMEA All-State Conference in April to participate.
- **PMEA Honors Choir** - Three students from PTMS have been selected by audition for the PMEA Honors Choir. Chelsie Clydesdale (soprano), Andrew Craft (tenor) and Josh Zheng (baritone) will represent Peters Township at the five county event in late-April in Bethel Park.
- **PTMS Musical** - PTMS Musical was a success! Congratulations to the cast and crew of Ribbet Fest at PTMS! What an amazing weekend of performances!
- **Meet and Greet** – Our PTHS Thespians hosted a magical Meet and Greet this weekend at the High School welcoming children throughout our community for a special lunch and photo sessions with characters of Beauty and the Beast. The crowd was also treated to a few musical numbers from the upcoming show!
- **Excellence In Athletics**
- **PTSH Hockey** - Congratulations to our Peters Township Varsity Hockey Team who have advanced to Pens Cup following their win over Pine Richland. We wish them luck as their game against Seneca Valley is underway at this moment at the UPMC Sport Complex in Cranberry.
- **Athletics National Letter Of Intent Signing** - On February 24th, the students below signed National Letters of Intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. The students, their sports and colleges are listed below:
 - Anthony Brunette – Football - Grove City College
 - Jake Macosko – Football – Washington & Jefferson College
 - Nico Pate - Football - Miami University of Ohio
 - Camden Uchic - Men's Lacrosse - John Carroll University
 - Rachel Esselstyn - Women's Lacrosse - University of Findlay

- Emma Burrows - Women's Soccer - Dickinson College
- **Excellence In Character**
- **Alumni Visit at Pleasant Valley** - Peters Township graduate Donovan McMillon visited Mrs. Barry's class at Pleasant Valley to talk to students about the importance of hard work and making good decisions. Donovan is 2021 graduate of Peters Township High School and is currently a student at the University of Florida where he plays football.
- **Bower Hill Yoga Bees Support Pet Rescue** - The Bower Hill Yoga Bees are back in session and promoting kindness in our community! This month, the students made blankets for the South Hills Pet Rescue!
- **McMurray Supports Kentucky School** - Along with the \$1,811 raised from the McMurray Family Painting Party last month, McMurray students donated 8 boxes of hats, gloves, scarves, pants, shirts, and jackets to the victims of the December tornados in Mayfield, KY. These efforts were organized by the McMurray Student Council.
- **Excellence In Leadership**
- **Writing Center Conference** - Students who work in the Writing Labs at the Middle School and the High School had the opportunity to take part in an in-school field trip to participate in the virtual National Secondary Schools Writing Centers Association (SSWCA) Conference. Overall, more than 20 students took part in the day that featured speakers on a range of topic including how to promote their school writing lab and the importance of flexibility in tutoring. The event was organized by teacher Renee Brown who is also currently serving as president of the SSWCA.
- **Wellness Committee Talks Nutrition** - The Middle School Staff Wellness Committee welcomed parent and nutrition coach Suzie Bode to talk with interested staff members after school this month about keeping a balance in your diet to feel good and stay healthy.
- **College And Career Readiness Presentation** - Counselors from across the District came together to talk about College and Career Readiness in our schools. The information was shared with PTA representatives from all levels as well as members of the Peters Township Chamber of Commerce and the McMurray Rotary Club. Community members shared ideas for how they can support the District efforts and the event also featured several seniors who shared their path to college, careers (through WACTC) and the military.
- **Apple Award for Pleasant Valley Teacher** - Pleasant Valley First Grade teacher Kelly Zajicek is the recipient of an Apple Award from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National State Teachers of the Year. The award is presented to educators in our state for exceptional efforts in teaching to recognize members of our educational community who make a positive difference in the lives of students, school districts and communities.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND OTHER ITEMS

(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 reminded to state their name and resident status for the minutes.

- #1 Sean Serenyi (Topic: Mascot)
- #2 Michael Holtkamp

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

An Executive Session was held immediately prior to this meeting to discuss personnel, security, and litigation.

NEW BUSINESS

I. BUSINESS OFFICE

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

1. Approval of the minutes for the Special Board Meeting dated February 16, 2022 and the Regular Board Meeting dated February 22, 2022.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for February 2022 with a balance of \$16,830,214.55.
3. Approval of the General Fund bills for February 18, 2022 through March 17, 2022.
4. Approval of the Capital Facilities Fund bills for February 18, 2022 through March 17, 2022.
5. Approval of the Food Service Fund bills for February 18, 2022 through March 17, 2022.
6. Approval of the McMurray Elementary School Activity Fund report for February 2022.
7. Approval of the Middle School Activity Fund report for February 2022.
8. Approval of the High School Athletic Fund report for February 2022.
9. Approval of the High School Activity Fund report for February 2022.
10. Approval of the High School Coffee Shop Activity Fund report for February 2022.

MOTION:

Mrs. Bowman moved for approval of the Business Office recommendation items 1 through 10, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

II. BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel

Daniel Taylor

1. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to close the following positions:

Part time - Cafeteria Food Service General Helper (4.0 hrs.) - Pleasant Valley Elementary

Part time - Paraprofessional (2.5 hrs.) - Middle School

MOTION:

Mr. Taylor moved for approval of Personnel recommendation 1, seconded by Mrs. Bowman.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

2. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to create the following positions:

Part time - Cafeteria Food Service General Helper (5.0 hrs.) - Pleasant Valley Elementary

Part time - Cafeteria Food Service General Helper (4.0 hrs.) - Middle School

Part time - Paraprofessional (3.5 hrs.) - Middle School

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Buildings and Grounds

Ron Dunleavy

3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the responsive bus bid submitted by Wolfington Body Company, Inc. meeting specifications for one (1) 72 passenger gas bus with chains at a total cost of \$88,000.00. No other bids were received. This purchase is funded by Capital Projects.

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Buildings and Grounds recommendation 3, seconded by Mrs. Allison.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Education

Minna Allison

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the Peters Township School District's K-12 School Counseling Plan per Chapter 339. (attachment)

MOTION:

Mrs. Allison moved for approval of Education recommendation 4, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Finance

Thomas McMurray

Audit Presentation for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021 presented by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood, LLP.

5. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to accept the 2020–2021 School District Audit including the Single Audit Report prepared by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021 as presented.

MOTION:

Dr. Payne moved for approval of Finance recommendation 5, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Policy

Lisa Anderson: No report

PSBA

Lisa Anderson

6. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to adopt PSBA's Principles of Governance and Leadership as standards by which the Board will operate individually as Board Members and collectively as a Board. (attachment)

MOTION:

Mrs. Allison moved for approval of PSBA recommendation 6, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

Comment: Mrs. Bowman stated this is a commitment that is made every year.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Western Area Career and Technology Center

Rebecca Bowman

The next Joint Operating Committee Meeting will be held on March 23, 2022.

WACTC is in the process of adding a Rehab Aide/Sports Medicine program.

Comment: Mrs. Bowman reported that Western Area is in the process of adding a Rehab Aide and Sport Medicine Program but will have to close the carpentry program due to not having an instructor. Mr. Dunleavy reported that Western Area is also looking into partnering up with other trade schools for shared services and that Peters Township School District was going to host the South Hills Trades Technical Fair on Tuesday, April 26th. Mrs. Bowman added, more than 85% of students that participate in the co-opt program end up with full-time employment with benefits. Dr. Payne stated that Career and Technical Centers also have articulation agreements with many colleges and universities that they have the ability to earn credits similar to dual enrollment. Mrs. Allison pointed out that one of the students highlighted in the celebration of excellence was a Western Area Career and Technology Center student.

SHASDA

Rolf Briegel

The SHASDA Student Forum has been cancelled for this year.

The SHASDA Conference and Award Presentation will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe.

Intermediate Unit

Thomas McMurray

The Intermediate Unit 1 Annual Convention scheduled for March has been postponed.

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on March 22, 2022.

Comment: Mr. McMurray reported that Board Members should be receiving ballots for voting for Intermediate Unit Directors in the mail.

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 **leave of absence:**

March 2021-2022-01

2. Approve the following **retirements:**

Name: Kathleen Melnyk
Position: Special Education Teacher
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Effective: End of the 2021-2022 School Year

Name: Wendy Stark
Position: Elementary Teacher
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Effective: End of the 2021-2022 School Year

Name: Kathleen Zuccarini
Position: Elementary Teacher
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Effective: End of the 2021-2022 School Year

Name: Lori Motosicke
Position: School Nurse
Assignment: Bower Hill Elementary
Effective: End of the 2021-2022 School Year

3. Approve the following **student teachers/observers/interns** for the 2022–23 school year. All compliance documents for the following individuals are on file.

Name: Brooke Postler
Dates of Assignment: 8/22/22 - 12/9/22
College or University: Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Curriculum Major: Speech Pathology
PTSD Teacher & Bldgs.: Lauren Gagatko/McMurray Elementary and Middle School
Assignment: Internship

Name: Zachary George
Dates of Assignment: 2/27/23 - 4/21/23
College or University: Duquesne University
Curriculum Major: Music Education
PTSD Teacher & Bldg. Milton Barney/High School
Assignment: Student Teacher

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED
(8-0)

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 **leaves of absence:**

March 2021-2022-02
March 2021-2022-03
March 2021-2022-04

2. Approve the following **retirements:**

Name: Crystal Martin
Position: Custodian
Assignment: High School
Effective: August 5, 2022

Name: Carl Puglisi
Position: Driver
Assignment: Bus Garage
Effective: June 30, 2022

Name: Paul Pecina
Position: Driver
Assignment: Bus Garage

Effective: June 3, 2022

Name: Phyllis Pecina
Position: Driver
Assignment: Bus Garage
Effective: June 9, 2022

3. Approve the following **resignation** with early separation terms and conditions as approved by the Superintendent and the Solicitor:

Name: Chelsey Holloway
Position: Assistant Business Manager
Assignment: District Office
Effective: April 1, 2022

4. Approve the following **resignations**:

Name: Bradley Kerr
Position: Custodian
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Effective: February 25, 2022

Name: Chelsea Johnston
Position: Paraprofessional
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Effective: March 18, 2022

5. Approve the following **transfer**:

Name: Todd Millington
From: Custodian, High School
To: Custodian, McMurray Elementary
Effective: April 1, 2022
Replacing: Bradley Kerr

6. Approve the following **new hires**:

Name: Krista Gardner
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: Middle School
Salary: \$15.26/hr.
Effective: March 23, 2022
Replacing: Beth Trax

Name: Chelsea Liberatore
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper

Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Salary: \$15.26/hr.
Effective: March 23, 2022
Replacing: Lynn Thomas

Name: Patricia Messner
Position: Custodian
Assignment: High School
Salary: \$18.49/hr.
Effective: March 23, 2022
Replacing: Todd Millington

7. Approve the **2022 summer secretary hours** (175-200 approximate hours per school) from June 15, 2022 through August 9, 2022 for the following buildings:

Pleasant Valley Elementary
Bower Hill Elementary
McMurray Elementary

8. Approve the following **day-to-day non-teaching substitute** for the 2021–22 school year:

Phyllis Pecina – Driver

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Non-Certificated Personnel recommendation items 1 through 8, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

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 **extra-duty Athletic personnel** for the 2021–22 school year: (attachments)

HIGH SCHOOL

Spring

Baseball, 9th Grade Volunteer Coach

Timothy Joyce, Sr.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Spring

Softball, Assistant Coach

Softball, Volunteer Coach

Samantha Arthrell

Sarah Blinn

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Extra-Duty Personnel/Programs recommendation item 1 seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

VI. PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES, TRAININGS AND TRIPS

- 1. Approve the following **professional conference(s), training(s) and trip(s):** (attachments) (Employees/Representatives will not be reimbursed for meals included in the conference)

Name: Dr. Jeannine French, Superintendent – District Admin. Offices
 Activity: The Forum for Western Pennsylvania School Superintendents
 Dates: April 27 – 29, 2022
 Location: Bedford, PA
 Estimated Cost: \$135.72

Name: Susan Hlebinsky, AP Physics Teacher – High School
 Activity: College Board 2022 AP Reader for Physics
 Date: May 28 – June 8, 2022
 Location: Kansas City, MO
 Estimated Cost: \$420.00

Name: Scott Sussman, AP Statistics Teacher – High School
 Activity: College Board 2022 AP Reader for Statistics
 Date: June 6 – 17, 2022
 Location: Kansas City, MO
 Estimated Cost: \$0.00

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Professional Conferences, Trainings and Trips recommendation item 1 seconded by Mr. Taylor.

Comment: Mrs. Bowman commented that it is a huge honor to be selected as an AP Reader and the District should be proud that these teachers were selected.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

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: Senior Class – High School
Purpose: Class expenses
Dates: March 28 – April 8, 2022
Location: High School
Activity: Penny Wars

Organization: Senior Class – High School
Purpose: Class expenses
Dates: April 29, 2022
Location: High School
Activity: Trivia Night

Organization: Field Hockey Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: April 24, 2022
Location: Community
Activity: Flower Sale Delivery

Organization: Senior Class – High School
Purpose: Class expenses
Dates: May 25, 2022
Location: Stadium
Activity: Powder Puff Football Game

Organization: Cross Country Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: June 18, 2022
Location: Community
Activity: 5K Race

Organization: Senior Class – High School
Purpose: Class expenses
Dates: November 19, 2022
Location: High School
Activity: Craft Show

2. Approve the following **student trips:** (attachments)

Organization: Music Department – High School
Advisor: Stephen McGough

Event: Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA)
All State Orchestra Festival
Dates: April 7 – 9, 2022
Location: Pocono Manor, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$1,504.96

Organization: Science Olympiad – High School and Middle School
Advisor: Keith Compeggie
Event: Science Olympiad State Competition
Dates: April 29 – 30, 2022
Location: Altoona, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$2,562.61

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Educational Programs and Student Activities recommendation items 1 and 2, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

VIII. OTHER

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

1. Approve the DRAFT 2023–24 School Calendar. We are requesting ACT 80 approval for August 21, 2023, August 22, 2023, August 23, 2023, November 22, 2023, and February 16, 2024. (attachment)
2. Accept a donation of \$90.00 from the Hart Family to the Peters Township School District for McMurray Elementary students to participate in the annual Gnome House Design Challenge hosted by Fallingwater.
3. Accept a donation of \$2,000.00 from the Peters Township High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) to Peters Township School District for the Peters Township High School. The Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes will each receive \$500.00.
4. Approve the disciplinary recommendation for Student #21-22-04 on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor.
5. Authorize a student settlement agreement and release, Student #21-22-05, under terms and conditions recommended by the Solicitor, and authorize the execution of related terms of agreement.
6. Approve the following **substitute driver** from Mlaker L.L.C. Student Transportation for the 2021–22 school year: Timothy Ayres

7. Approve the following **substitute bus aide** from Mlaker L.L.C. Student Transportation for the 2021–22 school year: Timothy Ayres
8. Approve a Naming Rights Agreement with Budd Baer Auto, on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor, for naming rights to the Peters Township High School Natatorium at a rate of \$15,000.00 per year for a term of five (5) years commencing April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2027. (attachment)
9. Approve the 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)
10. Approve the renewal of the Food Service Contract with Aramark Educational Services, LLC for the 2022–23 school year.
11. Approve bids for District Athletic Supplies for the 2022–23 school year. (attachment)

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Other recommendation items 1 through 11, seconded by Mr. Taylor.

Comment: Mrs. Bowman expressed gratitude for all gifts and donations. Mr. Dunleavy also thanked Budd Baer Auto for donating money for the naming rights of the Peters Township High School Natatorium.

MOTION CARRIED
(8-0)

BOARD INFORMATION: Mrs. Bowman reported on the regional History Day competition at the Heinz History Center. Mrs. Grossman gave an update on Food Service staffing, supply change challenges and fresh fruit and vegetables are being offered. Mrs. Grossman also listed scratch cooking items that are being made by the High School with the hope to provide these items to other schools in the District.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- #1 Mary Ann Houser
- #2 Michael Holtkamp

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF INFORMATION

April Board Meeting:

Monday, April 18, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

May Board Meeting:

Monday, May 16, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Taylor moved for adjournment at 8:26 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Board Secretary

Board President