



Peters Township School District

MINUTES
PETERS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022 AT 7:30 PM
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McMurray, President, called the regular meeting of the Peters Township Board of School Directors to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- Celebration of Excellence
- **Excellence in Academics**
- **Media Awards** - The High School Media Department recently competed in the 30th annual Digital Media Arts Consortium held at Robert Morris University. Join us in recognizing these students who earned awards for their work!
 - Best of Category - Opinion/Editorial Article: "Breakaway from Sexual Harassment" Anna Mauro and Julia Nypaver
 - Best of Category - Instructional: "Tres Leches Cake" Lauren Moore and Cassidy Vaccarello
 - Award of Excellence - Live Event: "Songs for a New World" Benny Grkman, Alexandra Kartsonas, and Lauren Moore
 - Award of Excellence - Digital Cinema: "The Pianist" Shelby Bonczek
- **Habitat Tour at Bower Hill** – Our Administration Team had the chance to tour the Habitat Museum at Bower Hill created by our second graders. The students displayed their animal dioramas that they created following their research on animal habitats. The Museum was organized according to the various habitats that can be found across the globe and our experienced tour guides answered many questions and showed off favorites among their classmates work.
- **Programming Robots at McMurray** - This month students at McMurray used the coding skills they learned this year to program robots! 4th graders used the Snap! block-coding platform to program Finch robots. 5th grade students coded both Finch robots and Ozobots, which use the Ozoblockly platform. Both robots were programmed to move, perform light effects, and even make sounds!
- **6th Grade Health Lesson on Stress** – Dr. Conkle's Health lesson in 6th grade this week focused on ways students can cope with stress in their daily lives. Following the lesson, they made their own stress balls using balloons, water and cornstarch.

- **McMurray Reading Challenge** – McMurray’s Team Capella crushed their March Madness reading challenge last month. Overall six students earned more than 30 Accelerated Reader (AR) points during the month with two students (Brayden Onuffer and Julia Teagarden) leading the way with more than 75 points worth of AR books. Way to go Team Capella and thank you Mrs. Hemmingson and Mrs. Tucker who organized the event.
- **Pleasant Valley Stem Night** – Pleasant Valley’s annual Family STEM Night was a huge success last month! Students and families filled the gymnasium taking part in stations of hands-on activities. The event was organized by 3rd grade teacher Mary Beth Barnes.
- **National Honor Society Induction** – This month, 49 students were inducted in the National Honors Society at Peters Township High School. These students not only excel in academics, but also in the areas of leadership, responsibility, and character. The complete list of inductees has been shared on the High School website.
- **National History Day Regional Honors** - Congratulations to the nine PTMS and PTHS students were among more than 200 contestants who participated in National History Day this month. History Day is an opportunity for students to present historical papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, and original website designs pertaining to an annual theme. Entries this year focused on the theme of “Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures and Consequences.” Five of the nine entries, placed in the event and will now move on to the state level in May.
 - First Place Awards
 - Yunjoe Chang, Grade 11
 - Senior Individual Documentary Entry Title: "The ‘Invisible Olympians’: How Cold War Diplomacy Fueled the Debate Over the 1980 Olympic Boycott”
 - Chelsie Clydesdale and Zacariah Meyers, Grade 8
 - Junior Group Exhibit Entry Title: “The History and Mystery of Pablo Picasso’s Guernica: The ongoing Debate Over Picasso’s Intended Message and Attempt at Wartime Diplomacy”
 - Gabriella Luisi, Grade 7
 - Junior Individual Performance Entry Title: Wally Funk in Space: At the Center of the Debate about Women in Space
 - Second Place Awards
 - Zachary Hymson, Grade 12
 - Senior Historical Paper Entry Title: Reversing the damage of the Yellow Book: Debating the social justice of urban interstates
 - Third Place Awards
 - Connor Seaman, Grade 8
 - Junior Individual Website Entry Title: Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921: The Start of Success in Separation
- **Excellence in Arts**
- **Library Arts Café** – This month, the High School celebrated the arts in the annual Library Arts café. Each day of the week was dedicated to the arts – visual arts, theater, choir, media, and rock bands. Always a popular destination during lunch periods and study halls, students could enjoy the performances and demonstrations throughout the day. While attending, snacks and drinks were available for purchase as a fundraiser for activities in the library media center.

- **PTA Reflections Art Awards** - Congratulations to our students who have been recognized at the State Level in the PTA Reflections Art Contest. Award of Excellence winners are the 1st place finishers in their category and will now advance to the National level. Award of Merit students are recognized for placing in the Top 5 at the state level in their category.
 - Award Of Excellence
 - Visual Arts - Sophia Landis, PTHS
 - Literature - Theodore Allison, PTHS
 - Music - Ashley Berner, PTHS
 - Award Of Merit
 - Visual Arts - Sophie Kratsas, PV; Mia Falbo, PTHS
 - Literature - Lily D'Antonio, PV
 - Dance - Annabelle Haines, BH; Mae Connolly, BH; Mia Fedzen, BH
 - Music - Kyle Watters, BH; Nina Lu, PTMS
 - Film - Karina Peck, PV; Ashley Hafenbrack, McM; Liam Podolinsky, PTMS
 - Reflections Art Awards – Pleasant Valley invited parents to a brief awards ceremony to recognize the students who took part in the PTA Reflections Art Program. Students created art around the theme of "I Can Change the World By..."
- **Excellence in Athletics**
- Hockey Team recognition
- **Excellence in Character**
- **High School Autism Awareness Carnival** – On April 3rd, the High School Interact Club and Best Buddies Clubs teamed up to host the Autism Awareness Carnival in the Gymnasium. Full of games and activities, all proceeds from the event benefitted the Autistic Self Advocacy Network.
- **Bower Hill Yoga Bees Spread Joy** - The Bower Hill Yoga Bees were at it again with spreading joy around the school to our BH Heroes (nurses, custodians, lunch monitors, recess monitors, secretaries, cafeteria workers, and principals)! Students wrote thank you notes and packed super hero bags to pass around.
- **Empty Bowls Project At McMurray** - McMurray students created and painted bowls for the Empty Bowls dinner sponsored by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Funds raised through the dinner directly support their amazing efforts throughout our city.
- **PTHS Presentation** - Peters Township alumna, Julia Broglie, visited PTHS today to talk with our students about mental health. Julia's presentation "From Inner Pieces to Inner Peace," emphasizes the importance of daily self-care and stress relief practices to build mental resilience. She reminded the students that "Not everyone will have mental illness, but everyone does have mental health and will face challenges and adversities in their lives."
- **Excellence in Leadership**
- **Move Up Day** – April 1st was MOVE UP Day when our current 8th graders visited PTHS for their first tour! They were welcomed by our High School Student Ambassadors, heard more about the school from the Counselors and got to tour the school before heading back to PTMS. There will be another Orientation in August when they are "officially" freshman at PTHS!
- **Middle School Family Night And Discover PTHS** – This month we held the first of our spring events to welcome parents and students into the buildings. The PTAs organized food trucks for the event and our staff members created interactive events throughout the schools to engage families as they explored the buildings. This turn on the traditional open house was extremely well attended and families enjoyed touring student art displays, talking with staff members, as well as activities in the gyms, library media centers, art and technology classrooms and more.

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.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Executive Sessions were held on April 11, 2022 and immediately prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

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 March 21, 2022.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for March 2022 with a balance of \$12,153,379.74.
3. Approval of the General Fund bills for March 18, 2022 through April 14, 2022.
4. Approval of the Capital Facilities Fund bills for March 18, 2022 through April 14, 2022.
5. Approval of the Food Service Fund bills for March 18, 2022 through April 14, 2022.
6. Approval of the McMurray Elementary School Activity Fund report for March 2022.
7. Approval of the Middle School Activity Fund report for March 2022.
8. Approval of the High School Athletic Fund report for March 2022.
9. Approval of the High School Activity Fund report for March 2022.

10. Approval of the High School Coffee Shop Activity Fund report for March 2022.

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of the Business Office recommendation items 1 through 10, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

II. BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel

Daniel Taylor: No report

Buildings and Grounds

Ron Dunleavy

Comment: Mr. Dunleavy stated that the District conducted routine water testing per Act 39 Compliance with no issues identified.

1. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve Bertram Painting for the Middle School library painting project at a cost of \$9,785.00.

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Buildings and Grounds recommendation 1, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

2. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve Franklin Interiors (Co-Stars Contract #008-453) to replace the carpet in the Middle School library and adjoining offices at a cost of \$39,949.00. This project will be funded by the Capital Budget.

MOTION:

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

Comment: Mr. Briegel asked what the adjoining offices were. Mr. Womer explained that this includes the suite that includes some offices and a classroom.

MOTION CARRIED

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April 2022

(8-0)

3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve Pittsburgh Stage (Co-Stars Contract #034) to replace the dimmer rack and house lights in the Middle School auditorium at a cost of \$89,971.00. This project will be funded by the Capital Budget.

Comment: Mr. Briegel asked what type of lighting would be used. Mr. Womer stated that both old fashion and LED technology were explored. This recommendation is for LED lighting technology.

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Education

Minna Allison

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the following new courses for the 2022–23 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

BCIT: Business Operations I, II, III

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Music: Chorus Ensemble 6

Music: Chorus Ensemble 7

Music: Chorus Ensemble 8

MOTION:

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

Comment: Mrs. Anderson asked for an explanation of the BCIT course. Mrs. Allison explained this course is a continuation for the students participating in the Coffee Tree Roasters business courses.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Finance

Thomas McMurray

A Finance Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2022.

Policy

Lisa Anderson: Mrs. Anderson stated that PSBA has issued a few policy updates but the changes are not intermit. We are waiting on a couple policy changes that are necessary because of a Supreme Court decision on whether School Districts can regulate off campus conduct. Once these are received a Policy Committee meeting will be needed.

PSBA

Lisa Anderson: No report

Western Area Career and Technology Center

Rebecca Bowman

The next Joint Operating Committee Meeting will be held on April 27, 2022.

SHASDA

Rolf Briegel

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 next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on April 28, 2022.

The Intermediate Unit 1 Student Showcase and “State of the Intermediate Unit 1” Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe.

Mr. McMurray stated that all Board Members should have received a mail in ballot for the Intermediate Unit I elections and if anyone had any questions to contact him.

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:**

April 2021-2022-01

2. Approve the following **resignation:**

Name: Audrey Wipperman
Position: Substitute Teacher
Effective: April 6, 2022

3. Approve the following **student teacher/observer/intern** for the 2021–22 school year. All compliance documents for the following individuals are on file.

Name: Stacia Baughman
Dates of Assignment: 4/19/22 - 6/3/22
College or University: Duquesne University
Curriculum Major: Special Education
PTSD Teachers & Bldg.: Amanda Baurle and Megan Kelly/Pleasant Valley Elementary
Assignment: Field Observation

4. Approve the following **student teacher/observer/intern** for the 2021–22 and 2022–23 school years. All compliance documents for the following individuals are on file.

Name: Stephanie Hoesly
Dates of Assignment: 4/19/22 - 8/5/22
College or University: California University of Pennsylvania
Curriculum Major: School Administration
PTSD Administrator/Bldg.: April Ragland/District Administration Office
Assignment: Internship

5. Approve the following **teachers** for the **2022 Extended School Year (ESY) Program** at the contractual rate, from June 27, 2022 through July 28, 2022, 2 in-service days and 19 instructional days, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday:

Laura Shehab
Megan Kelly
Amanda Baurle
Catlyn Preffer
Jessica Hanson

6. Approve the following **substitute teachers** for the **2022 Extended School Year (ESY) Program** at the contractual rate, from June 27, 2022 through July 28, 2022, 2 in-service days and 19 instructional days, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday:

Michelle Chenevert
Olivia Enders

7. Approve the following **nurses** for the **2022 Extended School Year (ESY) Program** at the contractual rate, from June 27, 2022 through July 28, 2022, 2 in-service day and 19 instructional days, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday:

Crystal Stiegel (shared w/Luppe)
Michele Luppe (shared w/Stiegel)

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Certificated Personnel recommendation items 1 through 7, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

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 **retirement:**

Name: Thomas Denk
Position: Custodian
Assignment: High School
Effective: May 31, 2022

2. Approve the following **transfer:**

Name: Lynn Thomas
From: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper, High School
To: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper, Pleasant Valley Elementary
Effective: March 29, 2022
Replacing: Newly Created Position

3. Approve the following **change of assignment:**

Name: Marlo Harrison
From: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper, Middle School (3 hours)
To: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper, Middle School (4 hours)

Effective: March 29, 2022
Replacing: Newly Created Position

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

Name: Jennifer Burns
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: Bower Hill Elementary
Salary: \$15.26/hr.
Effective: April 20, 2022
Replacing: Jennifer Mayburn

Name: David Campitella
Position: Maintenance
Assignment: Buildings and Grounds
Salary: \$20.89/hr.
Effective: April 20, 2022
Replacing: Hunter Curl

5. Approve the following **2022 Summer Secretaries** (not to exceed 200 hours per school):

Name: Mary Lou Fraticelli (shared w/McGrath)
Position: 2022 Summer Secretary
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Effective: June 15, 2022 through August 9, 2022

Name: Kirsten McGrath (shared w/Fraticelli)
Position: 2022 Summer Secretary
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Effective: June 15, 2022 through August 9, 2022

Name: Leann Good
Position: 2022 Summer Secretary
Assignment: Bower Hill Elementary
Effective: June 15, 2022 through August 9, 2022

Name: Julie Swiatek
Position: 2022 Summer Secretary (shared w/Gray)
Assignment: Pleasant Valley Elementary
Effective: June 15, 2022 through August 9, 2022

Name: Laura Gray
Position: 2022 Summer Secretary (shared w/Swiatek)
Assignment: Pleasant Valley Elementary
Effective: June 15, 2022 through August 9, 2022

6. Approve the following **paraprofessionals** for the **2022 Extended School Year (ESY) Program** at the contractual rate, from June 27, 2022 through July 28, 2022, 1 in-service day and 19 instructional days, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday:

Darcy Cheek
Michelle Chenevert
Catherine Deegan
Ryan DeFazio
Judith Donatelli
Christy Fitzgerald
Cheryl Graves
Zachary Harriman
Colleen Helbig
Shawnee Mason
Nicole McNally
Amy Obringer
Tyler Smida

7. Approve the following **substitute paraprofessional** for the **2022 Extended School Year (ESY) Program** at the contractual rate, from June 27, 2022 through July 28, 2022, 1 in-service day and 19 instructional days, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday:

Stephanie Villa

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

Lucy Robert - Paraprofessional

MOTION:

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

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 **renewal of extra-duty Athletic personnel** for the 2022–23 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

Fall

Tennis, Girls Assistant Coach

Virginia Barnicoat

Winter

Basketball, Boy Head Coach

Joseph Urmann

Swimming, Head Coach

James Stache

Track, Winter Indoor Head Coach

Justin Pinto

Wrestling, Head Coach

Derrick Evanovich

- 2. Approve the following **extra-duty Athletic personnel** for the 2022–23 school year: (attachment)

HIGH SCHOOL

Fall

Field Hockey, Assistant Coach

Tiana Swierski

- 3. Approve the following Personnel as **Support Personnel for Athletics** for the 2021–22 school year. (e.g., ticket takers, ticket sellers, crowd control, announcers, scorekeepers, judges, etc.)

Rachel Kim

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

VI. PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES, TRAININGS AND TRIPS

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

Name: Bettina Lemmon, Special Education Teacher – High School
Activity: Keystone Exams Ranging for Science
Dates: July 11 – 14, 2022
Location: Harrisburg, PA
Estimated Cost: \$0.00

MOTION:

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

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: Parent Teacher Association – Pleasant Valley Elementary
Purpose: PTA expenses
Dates: April 19 - 22, 2022
Location: Pleasant Valley Elementary
Activity: Earth Day Money Collection

Organization: Quarterback Football Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: April 30, 2022
Location: Peters Township Tennis Center
Activity: Tennis Bubble Removal

Organization: Dance Team Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: May 13, 2022
Location: Middle School
Activity: Spring Dance Clinic

Organization: Girls Basketball Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: June 20 - 23, 2022
Location: Middle School
Activity: Youth Camp

Organization: Boys Golf Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: July 11, 2022
Location: Valley Brook Country Club
Activity: Golf Outing

Organization: Cheer Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: July 1 - 31, 2022
Location: Community
Activity: Corporate Sponsorships

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

Organization: National History Day – High School and Middle School
Advisor: Joshua Elders
Event: National History Day State Competition
Dates: May 6 – 8, 2022
Location: University of Scranton, Scranton, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$1,888.03

Organization: Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) – Middle School
Advisor: Keith Compeggie
Event: PJAS State Competition
Dates: May 16, 2022
Location: Penn State University, University Park, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$827.50

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

VIII. OTHER

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

1. Approve the disciplinary recommendation for Student #21-22-06 on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor.
2. Approve a student settlement for Student #21-22-07 on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor.
3. Authorize Administration to solicit bids for the replacement of the bus garage doors and the door openers.
4. Approve the following **substitute driver** from Mlaker L.L.C. Student Transportation for the 2021–22 school year: Mark Hickey

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Other recommendation items 1 through 4, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

BOARD INFORMATION: Mr. Briegel gave a summary of the band trip to Florida.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None

CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF INFORMATION: None

April Board Meeting:

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

May Board Meeting:

Monday, May 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Education Committee Meeting

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

June Board Meeting:

Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Taylor moved for adjournment at 8:02 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Board Secretary

Board President