



Peters Township School District

**MINUTES
PETERS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Also present were: Dr. Jeannine French - Superintendent, Dr. Jennifer Murphy - Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Michael Fisher - Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Brad Rau - Business Manager, Mrs. Patty Kelly – Director of Pupil Services and Ms. Jocelyn Kramer – Solicitor

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

- Celebration of Excellence
- **Excellence in Academics**
- **Bower Hill Read-A-Thon** -Bower Hill had some special guests this month as parents visited the classrooms to kick off the annual Read-A-Thon. Parents read "The Smart Cookie" to jump start everyone's reading log for the big fundraiser. The annual event is a PTA fundraiser to support activities throughout the year.
- **McMurray in the Maker Space** - Students in Mrs. Mongillo’s 5th grade ELA classes were in the Maker Space this month creating diorama projects as part of their work on the novel Hatchet, the wilderness survival story by Gary Paulsen.
- **Fire Safety Week at Pleasant Valley** – It was Fire Safety Week at PV and our friends from the PT Fire Department visited with important lessons for our students. Classes visited the Fire Safety House to learn how we can stay safe at home!
- **National Merit Commended Students** - Eleven students from Peters Township High School have been named Commended Students in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. (These students are: Yunjoe Chang, Kathryn Ghobrial, Raegan Herdman, Alexandra Kartsonas, Jacob Langlois, Allan Liu, Lauren Miller, Ryan Myers, Vienna Nolan, Griffin Stroud and Grace Trax.) These students are among 34,000 of the highest scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT in the nation and will receive a Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.
- **Act Perfect Scores** – High School Senior Raegan Herdman and junior Sydney Shock have earned the highest possible composite score on the ACT Exam. Less than one-half of 1% of all test takers earn this top score. In the U.S. high school graduating class of 2021, only 4,055 out of 1.29 million students who took the ACT earned a top composite score of 36.

- **Excellence In Athletics -**
- **PTHS Golf Honors** - Congratulations to the PTHS Girls Golf Team and Coach Lacey on their WPIAL Championship. The girls bested North Allegheny by two strokes to take the title and the team will now head to the PIAA Championships.
- **Excellence in the Arts**
- **Fall Play at PTHS** – The High School thespians are proud to present their fall play “’Til Death Do Us Part” on October 19-23 in the Black Box theater at the High School. An additional performance has been added to the schedule for Saturday at 2 p.m. All other shows are sold out! Tickets for the Saturday matinee will be sold at the door!
- **Honors Orchestra** - Congratulations to the students above (senior Anne Chang and junior Maggie Stech) who successfully auditioned for the Pennsylvania Music Educator Association’s District 1 Honors Orchestra. These talented musicians will perform with students from the surrounding 5-county region at the Honors Orchestra Festival November 19th and 20th.
- **Excellence in Character**
- **PTMS Dance Party** – To add to the buildup to the PTMS THON, the Ms. Brown who is part of the school’s Wellness Committee is hosting a dance study lab period on Fridays. Students learn some basic choreography to a song and dance together – promoting wellness and getting ready for the big THON charity fundraiser later this year! This year’s Dance Marathon Supports the Caring Place.
- **Salute To Service** – The Boys Golf Team had a "Salute to Service" week this month. Players wore their camo uniforms to honor our nation's service members, veterans, and their families through military appreciation.
- **Wall of Honor** - Join us as we celebrate our PT Veterans! PTHS has created a Veterans Wall of Honor to recognize Peters Township alumni who have served in the U.S. Military. Please visit the online form on the District homepage to provide the necessary information to be included in this special display in the lobby of the new High School.
- **Excellence in Leadership**
- **PTMS Walk-A-Thon** - PTMS Walk-a-Thon was a huge success last month. Many thanks to the PTA for organizing, to our students and staff and to everyone who donated to support the many efforts of the Middle School PTA throughout the year. The day was full of fun, walking, races, prizes, a surprise costume race (won by Mr. Cheran!) and a principal race (lost by Mr. Sikorski) and just an all-around good time.
- **Rotary Dictionaries** - Many thanks to the McMurray Rotary who annually donates dictionaries to 3rd graders in our schools. The books are donated in memory of former Superintendent Dr. Howard Jack.
- **PTMS Open House** - PTMS was the place to be last week for our annual Open House! Students and their families visited with teachers and toured our classrooms - and even had time for a stop at the food trucks! High School Open House takes place this week and our elementary schools will hold Open House in the Spring.

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 Steve Renz

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

An Executive Session was held immediately prior to this meeting to discuss personnel 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 Regular Board Meeting dated September 19, 2022.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for September 2022 with a balance of \$32,173,526.09.
3. Approval of the General Fund bills for September 16, 2022 through October 13, 2022.
4. Approval of the Capital Facilities Fund bills for September 16, 2022 through October 13, 2022.
5. Approval of the Food Service Fund bills for September 16, 2022 through October 13, 2022.
6. Approval of the Budget Transfers for June 2022.
7. Approval of the McMurray Elementary School Activity Fund report for September 2022.
8. Approval of the Middle School Activity Fund report for September 2022.
9. Approval of the High School Athletic Fund report for September 2022.
10. Approval of the High School Activity Fund report for September 2022.
11. Approval of the High School Coffee Shop Activity Fund report for September 2022.

MOTION:

Mrs. Bowman moved for approval of the Business Office recommendation items 1 through 11, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

II. BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel

Daniel Taylor

Buildings and Grounds

Ron Dunleavy

1. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approved Dagostino Electronic Services (COSTARS Contract #4400005429) to upgrade the Bower Hill Elementary security camera system at a cost of \$141,305.58. The equipment installation services will be purchased through the PA Department of General Services Master IT Services Contract #040-062. This project will be funded by the Capital Budget. (attachment)

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

2. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approved Maffei Strayer Furnishings (COSTARS Contract #34-009) to replace the wall and door pads in the Middle School auxiliary gymnasium at a cost of \$24,400.00. This project will be funded by the Capital Budget. (attachment)

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the Storm Water Maintenance Agreement between Peters Township and Peters Township School District to construct and maintain Storm Water Management facilities at the site known as 121 Rolling Hills Drive, McMurray, PA 15317 under the terms and conditions approved by the solicitor and superintendent. (attachment)

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

Education

Minna Allison: None

Finance

Thomas McMurray: None

Policy

Lisa Anderson

A Policy Committee Meeting was held on Monday, October 10, 2022.

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

Section 200: Pupils

Policy No. 218	Student Discipline
Policy No. 220	Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials
Policy No. 227	Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
Policy No. 236.1	Threat Assessment

Section 300: Employees

Policy No. 317	Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
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Section 800: Operations

Policy No. 805	Emergency Preparedness and Response
Policy No. 805.2	School Security Personnel
Policy No. 808	Food Services

Section 900: Community

Policy No. 913	Use of Facilities for Dissemination of Materials
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Comment: Mrs. Anderson commented that all of the policies were discussed at the Policy Meeting on October 10, 2022. Mrs. Bowman stated that she ensured Policy 218 and Policy 808 followed statutes. Mrs. Bowman stated that she discussed the language of Policy 227 with the solicitor to ensure flexibility with possible future issues. Mrs. Bowman also commented that Policy 805 mirrored statutes. Mr. Briegel wanted to clarify that he didn't doubt that policies did not mirror statutes, but would like an expert review the policies to ensure consistency. Ms. Kramer stated that she will review the policies before the second reading. Mr. Briegel asked if employees are trained on Policy 317. Ms. Kramer stated that employees are trained on Policy 317 and she has done the trainings. Mr. Briegel, Mrs. Bowman and Ms. Kramer

discussed policy language concerning students use of anabolic steroids. Ms. Kramer stated that she will review the policy.

PSBA

Lisa Anderson

Comment: Mrs. Anderson commented that Mrs. Bowman will virtually attend the delegate assembly in November.

Western Area Career and Technology Center

Rebecca Bowman

The next Joint Operating Committee meeting will be held on October 26, 2022.

Comment: Mr. Dunleavy attended the previous Western Area meeting on behalf of Mrs. Bowman. Mr. Dunleavy was excited about the new leadership at the Western Area Career and Technology Center. Mr. Dunleavy reported that the South Hills Trade Show will be held at the High School on November 1st. Mrs Allison commented that all branches of military are also invited to the trade show. Mrs. Bowman followed up that there is a wonderful shift in the attitude and the atmosphere at Western Area from the new leadership.

SHASDA

Rolf Briegel

Intermediate Unit

Thomas McMurray

Mr. McMurray reported that the IU is planning on having an open house at the McMurray Campus.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on October 27, 2022.

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:**

October 2022-2023-01

October 2022-2023-02

October 2022-2023-03

2. Approve the following **long term substitute:** (attachment)

Name: Stephanie Kramer
Position: Health and Physical Education
Assignment: High School
Salary: Bachelors, Step 1 (pro-rated)
Effective: November 7, 2022 through March 29, 2023
Replaces: Kayla Lewarchik

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: Samantha Szewczyk
Dates of Assignment: 9/20/22 - 12/6/22
College or University: Duquesne University
Curriculum Major: Elementary Education
PTSD Teacher & Bldg.: Cari Williams/Pleasant Valley Elementary
Assignment: Field Experience

Name: Sydney Wargin
Dates of Assignment: 9/20/22 - 12/6/22
College or University: Duquesne University
Curriculum Major: Elementary Education
PTSD Teacher/Bldg.: Rebecca Fox-O’Kelly/McMurray Elementary
Assignment: Field Experience

Name: Kathryn Montgomery
Dates of Assignment: 1/16/23 - 5/5/23
College or University: Duquesne University
Curriculum Major: School Counseling
PTSD Teacher/Bldg.: Courtney Wolf/High School
Assignment: Internship

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED
(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:

1. Approve the following **leaves of absence:**

October 2022-2023-04
October 2022-2023-05
October 2022-2023-06
October 2022-2023-07

2. Approve the following **resignations:**

Name: James Ferguson
Position: Custodian
Assignment: High School
Effective: October 14, 2022

Name: Theresa Rhen
Position: Paraprofessional
Assignment: Middle School
Effective: October 14, 2022

Name: David Cousins
Position: Custodian
Assignment: High School
Effective: October 20, 2022

Name: Andrea Slebonick
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: High School
Effective: October 28, 2022

Name: Christina Barrett
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: Pleasant Valley Elementary
Effective: November 18, 2022

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

Name: Kevin Yarkosky
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: High School
Salary: \$15.61/hr.
Effective: October 19, 2022
Replacing: Adriana Solano

Name: Judith Freeman
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: Bower Hill Elementary
Salary: \$15.61/hr.
Effective: October 19, 2022
Replacing: Jill Sterling

Name: Carl Lowe
Position: Custodian
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Salary: \$18.98/hr.
Effective: October 5, 2022
Replacing: Samuel Grosso

Name: Clay Musser
Position: Maintenance
Assignment: Buildings and Grounds
Salary: \$21.44/hr.
Effective: November 2, 2022
Replacing: David Campitella

4. Approve the following **day-to-day non-teaching substitutes** for the 2022–23 school year:

Pamela Bergman - Bus Aide
Gaetano Frangione - Driver
Tracey Koutsogiani - Paraprofessional

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Non-Certificated Personnel recommendation items 1 through 4, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

Comment: Mrs Bowman asked if there were any insights on the cause of the resignations. Dr. French answered that each person has a different reason and that we are interviewing the same amount of people that are resigning. Dr. French noted the current national staffing shortage and that the District is fairing better than other organizations.

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 Activities personnel** for the 2022–23 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

Government/Law Club Volunteer

Andrew Gordon

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

HIGH SCHOOL

Spring

Softball, Assistant Coach

Emily Lafferty

Softball, Assistant Coach

Linda Rush

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

HIGH SCHOOL

Spring

Baseball, 9th Grade Head Coach

Bradley Poland (Split 60% w/Dzanaj)

Lacrosse, Boys Assistant Coach

Rocco Ruscitto

Lacrosse, Boys Assistant Coach

Joseph Tritschler

Softball, Assistant Coach

Celina Cantini

4. Approve the following **extra-duty Athletic change of status** for the 2022–23 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

John Wilcox

FROM:

Lacrosse, Girls Assistant Coach

TO:

Lacrosse, Girls Volunteer Coach

5. Approve the following Personnel as **Support Personnel for Athletics** for the 2022–23 school year. (e.g., ticket takers, ticket sellers, crowd control, announcers, scorekeepers, judges, etc.)

Taryn Sherry

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Extra-Duty Personnel/Programs recommendation item 1 through 5, seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

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: Caitlin Ulf, Spanish Teacher – High School
Activity: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
Date: November 17 – 20, 2022
Location: Boston, MA
Estimated Cost: \$495.00

Name: Dr. Jeannine French, Superintendent – District Administrative Office
Activity: The Forum for Western Pennsylvania School Superintendents
Date: November 30 – December 2, 2022
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Estimated Cost: \$178.88

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

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 – Bower Hill Elementary
Purpose: PTA expenses
Dates: October 18 – 21, 2022
Location: Bower Hill Elementary
Activity: Read-A-Thon

Organization: Boys Lacrosse Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: October 21, 2022
Location: Valley Brook Country Club
Activity: Fright Night

Organization: Dance Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: October 23, 2022
Location: High School
Activity: Monster Mash Dance Clinic

Organization: Thespian Boosters – High School
Purpose: Group expenses
Dates: November 5, 2022
Location: Community
Activity: Krispy Kreme Donut Sale

Organization: Swim and Dive Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team expenses
Dates: November 5 – 11, 2022
Location: Community
Activity: Poinsettia Sale

Organization: Parent Teacher Association – McMurray Elementary
Purpose: PTA expenses
Dates: January 27 – February 10, 2023
Location: McMurray Elementary
Activity: Read-A-Thon

Organization: Parent Teacher Association – Pleasant Valley Elementary
Purpose: PTA expenses
Dates: January 28 – February 10, 2023
Location: Pleasant Valley Elementary
Activity: Read-A-Thon

Organization: Thespian Boosters – High School
Purpose: Group expenses
Dates: February 25, 2023
Location: Community
Activity: Krispy Kreme Donut Sale

Organization: Thespian Boosters – High School
Purpose: Group expenses
Dates: April 22, 2023
Location: Community
Activity: Krispy Kreme Donut Sale

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

Organization: Girls Field Hockey Team – High School
Advisor: Melanie Hamilton
Event: PIAA State Girls Field Hockey Team Finals
Dates: November 18 – 20, 2022
Location: Mechanicsburg, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$6,567.20

Organization: Boys Soccer Team – High School
Advisor: Robert Dyer
Event: PIAA State Boys Soccer Team Finals
Dates: November 18 – 20, 2022
Location: Mechanicsburg, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$7,629.20

Organization: Girls Soccer Team – High School
Advisor: Patrick Vereb
Event: PIAA State Girls Soccer Team Finals
Dates: November 18 – 20, 2022
Location: Mechanicsburg, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$7,734.20

Organization: Girls Volleyball Team – High School
Advisor: Christopher Kelly
Event: PIAA State Girls Volleyball Team Finals
Dates: November 18 – 20, 2022
Location: Mechanicsburg, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$6,622.20

Organization: Wrestling Team – High School
Advisor: Derrick Evanovich
Event: Ultimate Warrior Wrestling Tournament
Dates: January 26 – 28, 2023
Location: Johnstown, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$0.00

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

VIII. OTHER

NO ACTION ITEMS AT THIS TIME

BOARD INFORMATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

#1 Roxanne Zeisloft

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Ms. Kramer provided her report in Executive Session

CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF INFORMATION

November Board Meeting:

Monday, November 21, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

December Board Meeting:

Monday, December 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Reorganization Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. Bowman moved for adjournment at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dunleavy.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

Board Secretary

Board President