



Peters Township School District

MINUTES
PETERS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 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 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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. Megan Turnbull – Solicitor.

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

- **Celebration of Excellence**
- **Excellence In Academics**
- **Second Grade Hero Story** - Bower Hill 2nd Graders in Mrs. Willkomm's class read the book Fireboat by Maira Kalman this week. It is the inspiring true story of John J. Harvey—a retired New York City fireboat reinstated on September 11, 2001. The story focuses on the everyday heroes of the events on 9/11. Following the story, the students made flags honoring what a hero means to them.
- **Third Grade Math Investigations** - PV 3rd graders in Mrs. Williams' class did some investigating to wrap up their review of place values! Students arrived in class to find that the Petrifying Place Value Gang was on the loose. The gang left number messes all over the classroom, but our hard working students followed the clues and solved the mystery!
- **9/11 Reflective Art Project** - Mrs. DeSalvo’s 5th grade students created reflective artwork this month to honor the heroes of 9/11. After learning about the events of September 11th, the students wrote about the effect of the day on the American people and then created artwork to honor the heroes of that day.
- **French Students Play Petanque** - Madame Nardello took advantage of the beautiful sunshine and took her classes outside this week to play pétanque- a traditional French game. French students in grades 6-8 had a chance to play this lawn game where points are scored by throwing closer to the target than your opponent.
- **Dot Day at Bower Hill** – Kindergarten students at Bower Hill celebrated Dot Day by reading the story, The Dot” by Peter H. Reynolds - a simple story with an important message to be brave, to

make your mark, and to encourage others on life's journey. The students were encouraged to wear dots to school, they made dot paintings and pictures with daubers.

- **Constitution Day** – This weekend we celebrated Constitution Day – and on Friday at PTHS students read the Constitution via the PA system in homeroom and during class changes. At PTMS students were given their own pocket copy of the Constitution to mark the day!
- **Peters Township High School Ranks #1 Pittsburgh Metro Region** - Peters Township High School has ranked first in the Pittsburgh Metro Area in the U.S. News and World Report 2023-24 high school rankings released this week. Schools are ranked based on their performance on state-required tests, graduation rates and how well they prepare students for college. PTHS is also ranked 7th in Pennsylvania and 312th in the Nation according to the report.
- **National Merit Semi-Finalists** - Five students from Peters Township High School have been named semifinalists in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The 16,000 semifinalists nationwide represent less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors and includes the highest-scoring students in each state. Seniors Damien Busche, Zachary Byers, Cassidy Griffith, Sydney Shock, and Margaret Stech will now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$30 million.
- **Excellence In The Arts**
- **Room 100 Honors** - Congratulations to PTHS's own Room 100! The talented acapella group has made the new Voices Only 2023 album with the song, You Might Think by The Cars. This release places PTHS on this “Best of A Cappella” album with the best high school, college, and pro a cappella groups of 2023. Congratulations to this talented group and to teacher Ryan Perrotte who arranged the song.
- **Excellence In Athletics**
- **Sports Round-Up** – we’re off to a great start for the fall season with 4 of our teams with undefeated seasons so far. Schedule and ticket information for all games may be found on the Athletics page of the District website:
 - Boys Golf (12-0)
 - Girls Golf (12-0)
 - Girls Soccer (6-0-1)
 - Football (4-0)
- **Excellence In Character**
- **Dare Lessons Begin** - Officer Hughes began DARE lessons this week for our 5th graders at McMurray. This week they talked about being responsible and began the discussion of drugs and making good choices. The lessons will continue through November for the students.
- **PTMS Welcome Back Breakfast** - Many thanks to the PTMS PTSA for the awesome Welcome Back breakfast Friday morning at the stadium! It was a chilly morning, but that didn't stop our students and staff from enjoying the time together and having some yummy treats to start their day and kickoff the school year PTA events.
- **Excellence In Leadership**
- **Special Events For Pt Cafeterias** – As the Nutrition Group settles into Peters Township, they have hosted several special events throughout the District. This month, High School students were treated to a Sushi Event with fresh made sushi prepared by TNG’s assistant corporate chef. Nutrition for Life also took place at the Elementary Schools. Free lunches for 1st grade students were offered on September 7 and 8 to welcome students to the getting lunch at school. Students were able to try a variety of foods and there was extra help to assist them through the process. The

Middle School also had Primanti-style sandwiches and there will be a cookout at the High School for lunch before the homecoming football game.

- **McMurray Team Building Day** – Friday, September 8th was Team Building Day at McMurray – a morning that is all about getting to know our classmates and staff, and learning how we can work together for a great school year. And well... having fun is always a part of learning at McMurray!
- **Honoring 40 Years Of Service** - The Pennsylvania School Boards Association recognizes long-term school directors for their dedicated years of volunteer service to our children, the community and public education. Tonight, Mrs. Lena Hannah is with us to recognize four members of our Board.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Briegel recognized the birthday of the Constitution and Air Force this week.

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 August 21, 2023.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for August 2023 with a balance of \$27,059,820.09.
3. Approval of the General Fund bills for August 18, 2023 through September 14, 2023.
4. Approval of the Capital Facilities Fund bills for August 18, 2023 through September 14, 2023.
5. Approval of the Food Service Fund bills for August 18, 2023 through September 14, 2023.
6. Approval of the McMurray Elementary School Activity Fund report for August 2023.
7. Approval of the Middle School Activity Fund report for August 2023.
8. Approval of the High School Athletic Fund report for August 2023.
9. Approval of the High School Activity Fund report for August 2023.
10. Approval of the High School Coffee Shop Activity Fund report for August 2023.

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

1. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve a 4-day suspension without pay for Employee #01-23-24.

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED
(8-0)

2. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve a Separation Agreement for Employee #02-23-24 on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor.

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0)

Buildings and Grounds

Ron Dunleavy

Education

Minna Allison

Mrs. Allison asked that an Education Committee Meeting be scheduled at the end of the meeting.

Finance

Thomas McMurray

Policy

Lisa Anderson

PSBA

Lisa Anderson

Comment: Mrs. Bowman commented that it is not a sign of a healthy organization when there are not multiple candidates for officer positions. Mrs. Bowman recommended that if anyone is interested they should consider running in the future.

3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to recommend the following candidates for Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) offices:

Positions

President Elect

Vice President

Treasurer

Western Zone Representative

Section W3 Advisor

PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees (2 seats open)

Candidates

Allison Mathis

Sabrina Backer

Karen Beck Pooley

Marsha Pleta

Erik Meredith

Marianne Neel/Michael Faccinetto

MOTION:

Mrs. Bowman moved for approval of PSBA recommendation 3, seconded by Dr. Payne.

MOTION CARRIED
(8-0)

Western Area Career and Technology Center
Rebecca Bowman

The next Joint Operating Committee Meeting will be held on September 27, 2023.

Intermediate Unit
Thomas McMurray

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on September 28, 2023.

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:**

September 2023-2024-01

2. Approve the following **student teachers/observers/interns** for the 2023–24 school year. All compliance documents for the following individuals are on file.

Name:	Angelo Rhad
Dates of Assignment:	9/19/23 - 12/7/23
College or University:	Duquesne University
Curriculum Major:	School Counseling
PTSD Teacher & Bldg.:	Mary Beth Kenny-Massarò/Middle School
Assignment:	Pre-Practicum/10 hours

Name:	Samantha Denner
Dates of Assignment:	9/19/23 - 12/7/23
College or University:	Duquesne University
Curriculum Major:	Mathematics 7-12
PTSD Teacher & Bldg.:	Angela Berger/High School
Assignment:	Field Experience

3. Approve the following as **day-to-day substitute certificated personnel** for the 2023–24 school year:

Kathleen Cowan - Nurse
Nicole Gasparovic - Grades PK-4, Special Education PK-8 and English as a Second Language (ESL)
Megan Hennessey - English 7-12, Grades PK-4 and Grades 4-8 (all subject 4-6, English Language Arts and Reading 7-8)
Alyssa Lazzaro - Grades PK-4
Leslie Medice - Grades PK-4
Alexandria Robert - Grades PK-4

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Certificated Personnel recommendation items 1 through 3, 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 **leaves of absence:**

September 2023-2024-02
September 2023-2024-03
September 2023-2024-04
September 2023-2024-05

2. Approve the following **retirement:**

Name: Carol Zaimis
Position: Confidential Secretary
Assignment: District Administrative Offices
Effective: October 31, 2023

3. Approve the following **resignation:**

Name: Tanya Maggs
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: Pleasant Valley Elementary
Effective: September 14, 2023

4. Approve the following **transfers:**

Name: Pamela Olszewski
From: Paraprofessional, High School
To: Paraprofessional, Bower Hill Elementary
Effective: TBD
Replacing: Ryan DeFazio

Name: Todd Millington
From: Custodian, High School
To: Maintenance, Buildings and Grounds
Effective: September 25, 2023
Replacing: Derek Habe

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

Name: Rachael Hall
Position: Paraprofessional
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Salary: \$19.52/hr.
Effective: September 20, 2023
Replacing: Claire Grove

Name: Jeffrey Smith
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: High School
Salary: \$16.11/hr.
Effective: August 28, 2023
Replacing: Kathleen Paul

Name: Jaime Vamosy
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: High School
Salary: \$16.11/hr.
Effective: August 28, 2023
Replacing: Jeffrey Smith

Name: Patrick Manning
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: Middle School
Salary: \$16.11/hr.
Effective: August 28, 2023
Replacing: Krista Gardner

Name: Liza Fisher
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: Middle School
Salary: \$16.11/hr.

Effective: September 20, 2023
Replacing: Kimberly Sanders

Name: Diane Toubou
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: McMurray Elementary
Salary: \$16.11/hr.
Effective: September 20, 2023
Replacing: Marjorie Tonecha

Name: Robin Eiszler
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: Pleasant Valley Elementary
Salary: \$16.11/hr.
Effective: September 20, 2023
Replacing: Tanya Maggs

Name: Rachel Spitzer
Position: Cafeteria Playground Monitor
Assignment: Middle School
Salary: \$16.88/hr.
Effective: August 28, 2023
Replacing: Leigh Sinz

Name: Richard McNally
Position: Custodian
Assignment: Middle School
Salary: \$19.48/hr.
Effective: September 20, 2023
Replacing: Roland Strawn

6. Approve the following **day-to-day non-teaching substitutes** for the 2023–24 school year:

Pamela Bergman - Bus Aide
Gina DiNardo - Cafeteria Playground Monitor and Paraprofessional
Tracey Koutsogiani - Paraprofessional
Kirsten McGrath - Clerical

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Non-Certificated Personnel recommendation items 1 through 6, 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 **Facilitators** for the 2023–24 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

Math Department
Science Content

Renee Wentzel
Brendan Albright

2. Approve the following **extra-duty Activities personnel change of status** for the 2023–24 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

Robert Throckmorton

FROM:

Marching Band
Volunteer

TO:

Marching Band
Assistant (Percussion)

3. Approve the following **extra-duty Athletic personnel changes of status** for the 2023–24 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

Winter

Joseph DeGregorio

FROM:

Basketball
Boys Assistant Coach
(Split 50% w/Fischer)

TO:

Basketball
Boys Volunteer Coach

Jake Monroe

Basketball
Boys Volunteer Coach

Basketball
Boys Assistant Coach
(Split 50% w/Fischer)

Joseph Scaglione

Basketball
Boys 9th Grade Head Coach

Basketball
Boys Volunteer Coach

4. Approve the following **extra-duty Athletic personnel** for the 2023–24 school year: (attachments)

HIGH SCHOOL

Fall

Cross Country, Volunteer Coach

Nicholas Altland

Spring

Lacrosse, Boys Assistant Coach

Ean Cafero

5. Approve the following Personnel as **Support Personnel for Athletics** for the 2023–24 school year. (e.g., ticket takers, ticket sellers, crowd control, announcers, scorekeepers, judges, etc.)

Dante Mamone

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Extra-Duty Personnel/Programs recommendation items 1 through 5, 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)**: (attachments)
(Employees/Representatives will not be reimbursed for meals included in the conference.)

Name: Dr. Jeannine French, Superintendent – District Administrative Office
Activity: IU1 Superintendents Retreat – Fall 2023
Date: October 18 – 20, 2023
Location: Gettysburg, PA
Estimated Cost: \$373.57

Name: Patricia Kelly, Director of Pupil Services – District Admin. Offices
Activity: 2023 Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Conference
Dates: November 8 – 10, 2023
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Estimated Cost: \$1,339.84

Name: April Ragland, Assist. Dir. of Pupil Services – District Admin. Offices
Activity: 2023 Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Conference
Dates: November 8 – 10, 2023
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Estimated Cost: \$605.00

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: Art Club – High School
Purpose: Club Expenses
Dates: September 25 – October 13, 2023
Location: High School
Activity: Sarris Candy Sale
- Organization: Dance Team Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team Expenses
Dates: October 1 – 14, 2023
Location: Community
Activity: Give Butter Online Donations
- Organization: Parent Teacher Association – McMurray Elementary
Purpose: Group Expenses
Dates: October 2 – 6, 2023
Location: McMurray Elementary
Activity: Book Fair
- Organization: Diamond Backers Booster Club – High School
Purpose: Team Expenses
Dates: October 4 – 18, 2023
Location: Community
Activity: Hoagie Sale
- Organization: Interact Club – High School
Purpose: Club Expenses
Dates: October 18, 2023
Location: High School
Activity: Blood Drive
- Organization: Big Red Wrestling Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team Expenses
Dates: October 25 – November 6, 2023
Location: Community
Activity: Gourmet Apple Sales
- Organization: Dance Team Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team Expenses
Dates: October 29, 2023
Location: High School
Activity: Fall Dance Clinic
- Organization: Sophomore Class – High School
Purpose: Class Expenses

Dates: October 30 – November 3, 2023
Location: Community
Activity: Popcorn Sales

Organization: Student Council – McMurray Elementary
Purpose: Club Expenses
Dates: October 30 – November 10, 2023
Location: McMurray Elementary
Activity: Sarris Candy Sales

Organization: Diamond Backers Booster Club – High School
Purpose: Team Expenses
Dates: January 1 – March 15, 2024
Location: Community
Activity: Media Guide

Organization: Student Council – McMurray Elementary
Purpose: Club Expenses
Dates: February 5 – 19, 2024
Location: McMurray Elementary
Activity: Sarris Candy Sale

Organization: Cheerleading Boosters – High School
Purpose: Team Expenses
Dates: February 10, 2024
Location: High School
Activity: Winter Dance

Organization: Diamond Backers Booster Club – High School
Purpose: Team Expenses
Dates: March 11 – 22, 2024
Location: Community
Activity: Sport Specific T-Shirt Sales

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

Organization: Innovation Grant Showcase – High School
Advisor: Keith Compeggie
Purpose: 2022-23 Innovation Grant Showcase - Recipient
Dates: October 4, 2023
Location: Morgantown, WV
Cost to Dist.: \$351.25

Organization: Boys Golf Team – High School
Advisor: David Kuhn
Purpose: PIAA State Boys Golf Individual Finals

Dates: October 15 – 17, 2023
Location: State College, PA
Cost to Dist.: \$2,710.00

Organization: Girls Golf Team – High School
Advisor: Michael Lacey
Purpose: PIAA State Girls Golf Individual Finals
Dates: October 15 – 17, 2023
Location: State College, PA
Cost to Dist.: \$2,710.00

Organization: Boys Golf Team – High School
Advisor: David Kuhn
Purpose: PIAA State Boys Golf Team Finals
Dates: October 17 – 18, 2023
Location: State College, PA
Cost to Dist.: \$2,778.20

Organization: Girls Golf Team – High School
Advisor: Michael Lacey
Purpose: PIAA State Girls Golf Team Finals
Dates: October 17 – 18, 2023
Location: State College, PA
Cost to Dist.: \$3,078.20

Organization: World Language Classes – High School
Advisor: Michelle Chenevert
Purpose: French Program Trip
Dates: October 21 – 23, 2023
Location: Washington, DC
Cost to Dist.: \$150.00

Organization: Music Department, Acapella Adrenaline (Room 100) – High School
Advisor: Ryan Perrotte
Event: Kettering National A Cappella Festival
Dates: November 10 – 12, 2023
Location: Kettering, OH
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$752.28

Organization: Thespian Troupe 185 – High School (Previously approved August 21, 2023)
Advisor: Jean Cygrymus
Event: Pennsylvania Thespian Conference
Dates: November 30 – December 3, 2023
Location: Landsdale, PA
Est. Cost to Dist.: \$0.00

Organization: Wrestling Team – High School
Advisor: Derrick Evanovich
Purpose: Ultimate Warrior Tournament
Dates: January 25 – 28, 2024
Location: Morrisdale, PA
Cost to Dist.: \$0.00

MOTION:

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

Comment: Mrs. Bowman asked what is Give Butter Online Donations. Dr. Murphy explained that this is similar to a Go Fund Me and would be online donations. Mrs. Bowman asked how a Blood Drive is a fundraiser. Mrs. Allison explained that Vitalant donates money based on amount of donors.

MOTION CARRIED
(8-0)

VIII. OTHER

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

1. Dedicate the Board Room located in the District Administrative Offices to Mr. Thomas W. McMurray in recognition of his 40 years of service on the Peters Township Board of School Directors.
2. Accept a donation of dictionaries from the Rotary Club of McMurray to Peters Township School District for the third graders at Bower Hill Elementary School and Pleasant Valley Elementary School. The approximate value of this donation is \$1,260.00.
3. Accept a donation of pocket-sized constitution books from The 917 Society to Peters Township School District for the eighth graders at the Middle School. The approximate value of this donation is \$100.00.
4. Authorize Resolution No. 2023-09-18A for Purple Star designation showing support for military-connected students and their parents or guardians. (attachment)
5. Approve the following **drivers** from Mlaker L.L.C. Student Transportation for the 2023-24 school year: Dameon Demery and Ellen Foresman

MOTION:

Mr. Dunleavy moved for approval of Other recommendation items 1 through 5, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

Comment: Mr. Briegel thanked the District for supporting the Purple Star designation.

MOTION CARRIED
(8-0)

BOARD INFORMATION: Mrs. Grossman updated the Board on the new menu offerings and all events that were held by the Food Service Department. She explained that the District is offering new healthier options for all students. Mrs. Bowman commented that it was wonderful that Keith Compeggie was a recipient of a 2022-23 Innovation Grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF INFORMATION

October Board Meeting:

Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Policy Committee Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

November Board Meeting:

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Education Committee Meeting

Monday, November 20, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. Bowman moved for adjournment at 7:58 p.m., seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED
(8-0)

Board Secretary

Board President