



Peters Township School District

**MINUTES
PETERS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024 AT 7:30 PM
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Bowman, 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. Anderson, Mrs. Binsse, Mrs. Bowman, Mr. Briegel, Mr. Camilletti, Mrs. Chaudhari, Mr. O'Neill, 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. Patricia Kelly - Director of Pupil Services, and Ms. Jocelyn Kramer – Solicitor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- **Celebration of Excellence**
- **EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS**
- **JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AT PLEASANT VALLEY** – Several of our community partners visited Pleasant Valley for Junior Achievement Day. JA volunteers introduced our students to the "Our City" curriculum and taught students about financial literacy and entrepreneurship, including personal economics, the importance of economic exchange in a city, and an understanding that entrepreneurs promote a healthy economy within a city.
- **THIRD GRADE CELEBRATES 50TH DAY OF SCHOOL** - Third graders at Bower Hill celebrated the 50th day of school this month with some fun games and activities around the number 50 and the 1950's. Students dressed in their 1950's clothes, played classic games, learned some dance moves from that era, and even enjoyed a root beer float.
- **TRADE AND TECHNICAL FAIR** – Peters Township High School hosted the 5th Annual Trade and Technical Fair this month at the school. PT students, as well as students from around the area, were invited to talk with professionals about the high demand opportunities available in the trades.
- **BOWER HILL READ-A-THON** – Bower Hill students did an outstanding job on their Read-a-Thon this month. Thank you to the PTA, families, teachers and staff for their efforts, encouragement and generosity. Bower Hill students read for a total of 245,328 minutes and raised \$28,604 for our PTA. This is the school's only fundraiser for the school year.
- **Top Fundraising Classroom per grade** - Kindergarten AM: Brogna, Kindergarten PM: Brogna, First Grade: Zeffiro, Second Grade: Willkomm, and Third Grade: Sacco

- **Most Minutes Read per grade** - Kindergarten AM: Brogna with 8,933 minutes, Kindergarten PM: Brogna with 8,110 minutes, First Grade: Basista with 8,500 minutes, Second Grade: Hareza with 15,351 minutes and Third Grade: Dunn with 15,113 minutes
- **PHELAN-MCDERMID SYNDROME AWARENESS** – October 22nd was Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Awareness Day. Middle School student Luke Erickson battles with this rare genetic disorder and shared some information with his class today to raise awareness of the disorder. Luke and his family also treated the class to ice cream with all the fixings, including green sprinkles to show we are "Phelan Lucky!"
- **TURNING TUMBLES AT PLEASANT VALLEY** - Students in Mrs. Barnes' 3rd grade class worked with Mrs. Callaghan on Turing Tumbles - a revolutionary STEM game that teaches kids how computers work at a fundamental level. Students build marble-powered, mechanical computers to solve a series of structured logic puzzles, using their own hands instead of a screen.
- **ROTARY DICTIONARIES** - Each year the McMurray Rotary donates dictionaries to all 3rd graders in our schools. The books are donated in memory of former Superintendent Dr. Howard Jack. The Rotary will be back this spring to host Spelling Bees for these students as well. We love our community partners and Dr. Jack's legacy of learning in Peters Township.
- **CHS Anatomy Muscle Lab** – Students in the High School's new CHS Anatomy class began a muscle lab recently where they are using clay to shape and place the various muscles of the body on their models. The Anatomy Class is one of the new College in the High School courses at PTHS that provides students the opportunity to earn college credit in high school at a fraction of the college costs.
- **Pleasant Valley Ranking** - Pleasant Valley Elementary has been named the #1 School in Pennsylvania by U.S. News & World Report in their 2025 Best Elementary Schools Ranking! Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation, and how well they prepare their students for high school. Bower Hill Elementary also ranked #7 in PA and Peters Township Middle School was #10 among middle schools across the state! Congratulations to our staff, students and families!
- **EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS**
- **A Cappella Showcase** - Peters Township hosted the Region 1 Contemporary A Cappella Showcase in early November with special guest Deke Sharon who directed and produced the Pitch Perfect Movies. Students from across the area came to the showcase to attend workshops and rehearse for a special concert at the conclusion of the event.
- **EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS**
- Our PTHS Football Team heads to Acrisure Stadium this weekend for the WPIAL Championship following the win over Upper St. Clair this weekend. The team will defend their 2023 title at 8 p.m. on November 23rd in a rematch against Pine-Richland.
- Congratulations to our PTHS Girls Soccer team - 2024 Class 4A WPIAL Champions. The girls defeated Seneca Valley in a scoreless game where the Indians won with a penalty kick. This is their first title since 2012 and third team title overall.
- That same weekend, the PTHS Field Hockey team defeated Fox Chapel to earn the WPIAL Class 2A title. This was the third WPIAL title in school history, and first since 2018.

- Tonight we honor our Girls Golf Team who earned the title of state champions for the second year in a row. To begin, please congratulate their Coach Mike Lacey for being named the 2023-2024 NFHS/Pennsylvania Girls Golf Coach of the Year! He was selected for this honor based on his coaching impact, as well as the success of the PTHS Golf program during the 2023-2024 school year. Lacey and assistant Coach Scott Sussman led their team to 2024 PIAA AAA Golf Team Champions for the second straight year! The talented team earned the state title in a four-hole overtime playoff. Tonight we welcome Coach Lacey and the team.
- **EXCELLENCE IN CHARACTER**
- **VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES** – Our staff and students marked the celebration of Veterans Day with many events this month. The PTMS Works crew welcomed Jason Camilletti to share his background in the U.S. Air Force as a fighter pilot, our Marching Band proudly took part in the Veterans Day Parade, and students and Pleasant Valley had a zoom call with a classmate's dad who is currently deployed. Over the past few weeks, our students also made cards and letters for veterans that were delivered to our service men and women in the Middle East in time for Veterans Day.
- **RED RIBBON SPEAKER AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL** – This month marked Red Ribbon week and PTMS students learned about making good decisions. The school hosted an assembly for students featuring a state trooper who talked about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, and students heard from a parent who shared about the death of her son due to drugs and the impact on her family. What an important lesson for our students! Red Ribbon week stresses the importance of making good decisions to stay healthy and drug-free.
- **HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS** – Staff members throughout the District took part in the Halloween fun this month. From Willy Wonka and friends to a school of jellyfish or an entire school full of Where's Waldo, there was no lack of creativity from our teachers. Elementary parties and Halloween parades were also in high gear thanks to our dedicated PTA volunteers as well. The High Schools efforts allowed the students to vote for best costume with donations and raised nearly \$500 for the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh.
- **PLEASANT VALLEY BEST BUDDIES** - Pleasant Valley Best Buddies had their first meeting of the year on October 23rd. More than 70 students signed up this year for this special club and they had a great time getting to know each other through a fall craft and some fun with the parachute. Many thanks to the Nutrition Group who donated some milk and donuts for the students as well!
- **World Kindness Day at PV** - Check out all this kindness at Pleasant Valley today! Our school day may be almost done, but there is still a whole evening ahead to share kindness.... and then tomorrow... and the next day... and the next day... well, you get it. Keep it going, PT!
- **EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP**
- **EDUCATION FOUNDATION STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS** – This month, the PT Education Foundation officially welcomed our student members for the 2024-25 school year - Jack Reiser and Natalie Chapas. Each year students apply for board positions and two are selected to assist in all Foundation efforts - including the Educational Grants that are awarded each January.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND OTHER ITEMS

(Peters Township School District Policy 903)

Peters Township School District values parent and community engagement. Speakers who signed up in advance per Policy 903 will be allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes for public comment. All other speakers 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.

The public comment period of the meeting is not a question and answer format between the public and the Board. The purpose of public comment at Board meetings is to allow the Board to learn the thoughts of the public prior to Board deliberation and action.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Executive Sessions were held on November 11, 2024 and immediately prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and contract negotiations.

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 October 21, 2024.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for October 2024 with a balance of \$33,740,380.90.
3. Approval of the General Fund bills for October 18, 2024 through November 14, 2024.
4. Approval of the Capital Facilities Fund bills for October 18, 2024 through November 14, 2024.
5. Approval of the Food Service Fund bills for October 18, 2024 through November 14, 2024.
6. Approval of the McMurray Elementary School Activity Fund report for October 2024.
7. Approval of the Middle School Activity Fund report for October 2024.
8. Approval of the High School Athletic Fund report for October 2024.

9. Approval of the High School Activity Fund report for October 2024.
10. Approval of the High School Coffee Shop Activity Fund report for October 2024.

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

II. BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel

Daniel Taylor

1. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Peters Township Federation of Teachers – Clerical Unit and Bus Drivers, and Peters Township School District effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028, on terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor.

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0-1)

Mr. Briegel abstained from the motion.

2. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the Confidential Secretary Benefit Package. (attachment)

MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED

(8-0-1)

Mr. Briegel abstained from the motion.

COMMENT: Mr. Taylor thanked the Peters Township Federation of Teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers and clerical staff for their work. Mrs. Bowman commented that she appreciated the dedication of all parties to accomplish the ratified agreement.

Buildings and Grounds

Rebecca Bowman

A Building and Grounds Committee Meeting has been scheduled for November 25, 2024.

3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve Caliber Contracting Services Change Order No. 001 at a cost not to exceed \$19,550.00 for time and materials to install additional insulation in the natatorium exterior wall. This Change Order is funded by the New High School Project Construction Contingency Fund.

MOTION:

Mrs. Bowman moved for approval of Buildings and Grounds recommendation item 3, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

COMMENT: Mr. Briegel asked when the issue was identified. Dr. French explained that the issue was found last winter.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve the responsive bus bid submitted by Wolfington Body Company, Inc. meeting specifications for one (1) 72 passenger school bus with chains and one (1) 18+2 special needs w/lift wheelchair school bus at a total cost of \$245,199.00, one other bid was received. This project is funded by Capital Projects.

MOTION:

Mrs. Bowman moved for approval of Buildings and Grounds recommendation item 4, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

COMMENT: Mr. O'Neill asked for a bid breakdown. Mr. Rau provided the details regarding the bids received. Mr. Rau also explained that the price of buses has slightly decreased from the previous year. Mr. Briegel asked when the buses would arrive. Mr. Rau responded that the buses would arrive by the next school year.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

Education

Shari Payne

Finance

Rolf Briegel

5. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to approve Resolution No. 2024-11-18A stipulating no increase in the rate of the real estate tax by more than the index of 4.0% for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. (attachment)

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Finance recommendation item 5, seconded by Mr. O'Neill.

COMMENT: Mr. Camilletti asked for the reason for the resolution. Mr. Rau explained the timeline and requirements of Act 32.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

6. **RECOMMENDATION:** Move to authorize the administration to pay required invoices between November 19, 2024 and January 20, 2025 due to the length of time between meetings.

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Finance recommendation item 6, seconded by Mr. O'Neill.

COMMENT: Dr. Payne noted that there is no voting meeting, but there are other meetings during that period.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

Policy

Lisa Anderson

Mrs. Anderson reported a new PNN regarding a few policies was received, but would be reviewed at a later date.

PSBA

Lisa Anderson

COMMENT: Mrs. Bowman reported on the PSBA delegate meeting.

Western Area Career and Technology Center

Rebecca Bowman

The next Joint Operating Committee Meetings will be held on November 20, 2024 and December 18, 2024. Mrs. Bowman shared that she plans on inviting a Middle School student for a tour during the November 20 meeting.

Peters Township currently has seventy-seven students enrolled at WACTC. All instructor positions are filled. HHSDR has been asked to provide a timeline and estimated cost for the proposed shop expansion in auto repair and diesel tech. The JOC approved a dual enrollment agreement with Penn College of Technology (affiliated with Penn State University). This initiates a course-alignment evaluation process, the most rigorous alignment I have observed. Director Milanovich will investigate the transferability of credits from Penn College to PSU. There was discussion of transportation costs as a barrier for some students to participate in Co-ops. Director Milanovich will be investigating funding options with the Washington County Community Foundation.

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 **long term substitute:** (attachment)

Name: Kayla Bandik
Position: English Teacher
Assignment: High School
Salary: Masters, Step 1 (pro-rated)
Effective: January 18, 2025 through end of the 2024-2025 School Year
Replaces: Denise Hitchens

- 2. Approve the following **student teacher/observer/intern** for the 2024–25 school year. All compliance documents for the following individuals are on file:

Name: Charlee Dawson
Dates of Assignment: 1/13/25 - 4/22/25
College or University: Duquesne University
Curriculum Major: Speech Pathology
PTSD Teacher & Bldg.: Tammi Hanak/Bower Hill Elementary
Assignment: Externship

- 3. Approve the following as **day-to-day substitute certificated personnel** for the 2024–25 school year:

Alexis Cain - Grades PK-4
Elizabeth Clark - Elementary K-6
Patricia Kaczmarek - English 7-12
Savannah Smith - Grades PK-4 and Special Education PK-8

MOTION:

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

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 **leave of absence:**

November 2024-2025-01

2. Accept the following **resignations:**

Name: Heather Carter
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: Middle School
Effective: October 28, 2024

Name: Judy Calcutta
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: High School
Effective: October 29, 2024

Name: Marlo Harrison
Position: Cafeteria Food Service Kitchen Leader
Assignment: Middle School
Effective: October 29, 2024

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

Name: Harold Mittenzwey, Jr.
Position: Custodian
Assignment: Middle School
Salary: \$19.99/hr.
Effective: December 2, 2024
Replacing: Mitchell Kobrys

Name: Debra DeMarco
Position: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper
Assignment: High School
Salary: \$16.61/hr.
Effective: TBD
Replacing: Lori Rhoades

4. Approve the following **transfer:**

Name: Kathleen Paul
From: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper, High School
To: Cafeteria Food Service Kitchen Leader, Middle School
Effective: November 19, 2024
Replacing: Marlo Harrison

5. Approve the following **changes of assignment**:

Name: Natalie DiGorio
From: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper, Middle School (3 hours)
To: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper, Middle School (4 hours)
Effective: November 19, 2024
Replacing: Heather Carter

Name: Teresa Shuman
From: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper, High School (5.5 hours)
To: Cafeteria Food Service General Helper, High School (6 hours)
Effective: November 19, 2024
Replacing: Judy Calcutta

6. Approve the following **day-to-day non-teaching substitutes** for the 2024–25 school year:

Janet Dougherty - Paraprofessional
Donna Hill - Driver
David Lacey - Driver
Michael Seelhorst - Custodian
Erin Woodhouse - Cafeteria Food Service and Custodian

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Non-Certificated Personnel recommendation items 1 through 6, seconded by Mr. O’Neill.

MOTION CARRIED
(9-0)

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 Activities personnel** for the 2024–25 school year: (attachments)

HIGH SCHOOL

Drama, Instrumental Director

David Young

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Musical, Assistant Director

Jakob Brannen

2. Accept the following **extra-duty Athletic personnel resignation** for the 2024–25 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

Spring

Lacrosse, Girls Assistant Coach

Allison Hurley

3. Approve the following **extra-duty Athletic changes of status** for the 2024–25 school year:

HIGH SCHOOL

Winter

Megan Grzybek

FROM:

Basketball, Girls Assistant Coach
(Split 80% w/Podgorski)
Brendan Podgorski
Basketball, Girls Assistant Coach
(Split 60% w/Grzybek)

TO:

Basketball, Girls Assistant Coach
(Split 60% w/Podgorski)
Basketball, Girls Assistant Coach
(Split 80% w/Grzybek)

4. Approve the following **extra-duty Athletic personnel** for the 2024–25 school year: (attachment)

HIGH SCHOOL

Winter

Swimming and Diving, Volunteer Coach

Constantine Kallaur

5. Approve the following individual as a **Weight Room Supervisor** for the 2024–25 school year:

Gary McCullough

MOTION:

Mr. Briegel moved for approval of Extra-Duty Personnel/Programs recommendation items 1 through 5, seconded by Mr. O'Neill.

COMMENT: Mr. Camilletti asked for an explanation of the percentages in item 3. Dr. French explained item 3 and the reason for the percentages.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

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: Dr. Greg Marquis, Principal – Pleasant Valley Elementary
Activity: 2025 SXSW EDU Conference
Dates: March 2 – 5, 2025
Location: Austin, TX
Estimated Cost: \$0.00 (Covered by The Hillman Foundation)

MOTION:

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

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: Music Boosters – High School
Purpose: Group Expenses
Dates: December 11, 2024 – January 25, 2025
Location: High School, Bower Hill Elementary,
and Pleasant Valley Elementary
Activity: Winter Guard Clinic

Organization: Thespian Backers – High School
Purpose: Group Expenses
Dates: December 15, 2024
Location: High School
Activity: Gift Wrapping/Parent Night Out

Organization: Student Council – McMurray Elementary
Purpose: Group Expenses
Dates: February 18 – March 5, 2025
Location: McMurray Elementary School
Activity: Sarris Candy Sale

2. Approve the following **student trip:** (attachment)

Organization: Football Team – High School
Advisor: Thomas Plack
Purpose: PIAA State Football Team Finals
Dates: December 5 – 7, 2024
Location: Mechanicsburg, PA
Cost to Dist.: \$21,894.36

MOTION:

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

COMMENT: Dr. Payne asked if item 2 is predicated on the team's performance. Dr. French responded in the affirmative.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

VIII. OTHER

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

1. Approve the following **substitute drivers** from Mlaker L.L.C. Student Transportation for the 2024–25 school year:

Christine Barton
Shirley Burns
Donna Hill
Marie Hyatt
Lori Lohr
Raymond Oshinski
Kimberly Rabbitt
Cheri Reed
Alyssa Stouden
Deborah Ziemba

2. Approve Resolution No. 2024-11-18B authorizing the retention of counsel for the purpose of a multi-district class action litigation at no cost to the District. (attachment)

MOTION:

Mr. O'Neill moved for approval of Other recommendation items 1 through 2, seconded by Mr. Briegel.

COMMENT: Mrs. Bowman asked for additional details regarding item 2. Ms. Kramer explained that item 2 was regarding a class action lawsuit against manufacturers for price fixing insulin. Mrs. Kramer also explained that there was no cost to the District and the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium would recover any overpayments.

MOTION CARRIED

(9-0)

BOARD INFORMATION

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

#1 – Walter Michalski – Thanked the Board, Administration, and negotiating team for the contract and positive experience during negotiations.

#2 – Kim Wolfe – Thanked the Board and everyone involved for the pleasant experience during contract negotiations and for their time and effort.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF INFORMATION

<u>November Board Meeting:</u> Monday, November 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.	Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
<u>December Board Meeting:</u> Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.	Reorganization Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.	Special Board Meeting
<u>January Meeting:</u> Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. O’Neill moved for adjournment at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Mr. Taylor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(9-0)

Board Secretary

Board President