

March 23, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mrs. Shuey. Mrs. Shuey led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. All Board members were present except Ms. Rice. Also present were Mr. Watkins, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Minard, Mr. Cary, Mr. Frye, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Miller, several patrons, students, and a local news media representative.

On motion by Mr. Stanton, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, the Board unanimously approved the agenda with the addition of salary and contract to item III. C., the memorandums of March 9, March 10, and March 18, and the personnel report.

PERSONNEL

A. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS - No business

B. LEAVES - No business

C. RECOMMENDATION FOR CERTIFIED POSITIONS

1. Julie Brower - 3rd grade temporary teacher, March 23 through end of the 2014-15 school year.
2. Permission to post two elementary counselor positions

D. RECOMMENDATION FOR CLASSIFIED POSITIONS - No business

E. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR POSITIONS

1. Chris Makowski - JHS volunteer track coach
2. Chris Cassel - PJHS volunteer softball coach
3. Kassidy Bush - PJHS volunteer softball coach
4. Kayla Meeks - PJHS volunteer softball coach
5. MaKinsey Honn - PJHS volunteer softball coach

F. REQUESTS TO ATTEND CONFERENCES - No business

G. DONATIONS

1. PHS band - \$125.00 for music department expenses - anonymous.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT - No comments.

II. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Watkins recognized Mike Applegate as a recipient of the Armstrong Teacher Educator Award for 2015-16. Mr. Watkins stated this is a prestigious award honoring exemplary teachers throughout Indiana. Mr. Watkins added he asked Ian Applegate to complete the application to nominate his father on behalf of PCS.

Mr. Watkins congratulated Seth Adelsperger and Logan Primerano for being named to Hoosier Basketball Magazine's top 100 senior boys in the state. Mr. Watkins added Josie Murphy was named to the top 100 senior girls. He stated from that list 60 seniors will be invited to the magazine's Top 60 Workout event.

III. PROGRAM

A. BLACK AND GOLD AWARDS - Mr. Watkins recognized the following for Black and Gold awards, which are awards bestowed on the students by the Superintendent Sam Watkins and the School Board.

Caitlyn Hopper was nominated by Mr. Applegate and Mr. Zwiebel for her Fine Arts Achievement for her Silver National Key award which was selected from hundreds of entries at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

Avery Jackson was also nominated by Mr. Applegate and Mr. Zwiebel for her Fine Arts Achievement for her Silver National Key award which was selected from hundreds of entries at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Mr. Watkins added that our art program is the finest in the county!

Josie Murphy was nominated by Mr. Weeks for her athletic achievement for accumulating 1,000 points during her basketball career. Coach Weeks stated it was an honor to coach Josie as a coach and as her uncle. He shared at a young age Josie set goals and has focused on achieving those goals. Mr. Watkins pointed out Josie has also won several other county and conference awards.

Michael Richardson was nominated by Mr. Cary and Coach Prescott for his athletic achievement of receiving a football scholarship to Marian University. Coach Prescott stated Michael is a four-year varsity letter winner. He set a state record last year at Eastern. Coach Prescott stated he will not be able to replace Michael and wished him the best in his future.

Mr. Watkins stated these students represent us at high levels and we are very fortunate to have them at Peru Schools.

- B. VIDEO SECURITY SURVEILLANCE PRESENTATION - Mr. Hanson and Mr. Moon shared a demonstration of the video security surveillance equipment. Mr. Hanson stated we are done at PJHS and Blair Pointe. We are close to being done at PHS. Additional cameras will be installed at Elmwood and KEYS Academy. Mr. Moon stated the administrators and SRO's can watch the buildings in the evenings from their phones. The cameras are recording 24/7 with the films being saved for 16 days. Mr. Moon shared some live camera views and stated he is very pleased with the clarity of the picture and distance the cameras can reach. Mr. Hanson stated he has purchased thousands of feet of cable. Mr. Moon has installed all the equipment saving us quite a bit of money. We currently have 250 cameras operating. We will have close to 300 cameras when the project is complete. The goal is to not have blind spots, especially at the entrances to the buildings. Mr. Moon said ultimately the State Police and local police will have access to our cameras. Mr. Frye, PHS assistant principal, stated the use of the cameras has helped them with incidents at the high school. He stated you can also save a clip of a video and share that clip by e-mail. Mr. Hanson added he has been very pleased with the progress of this project.
- C. PHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATION - Mr. Watkins stated it gives him great pleasure to recommend Mr. Charles (CJ) Miller as the new Peru High School Assistant Principal on behalf of the high school search committee. He stated there were more than 20 applications received for this position with eight applicants selected for interviews. Mr. Miller is currently a social studies teacher at Tri Jr. Sr. High School with South Henry School Corp. with seven years of teaching and coaching experience. He earned his Administrative license from Ball State University in 2014 and interned as an administrator at Tri. He has also completed certification from the DOE as a School Safety Specialist and Crisis Prevention and Intervention.
- Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Cary and the Board for this opportunity. He stated his growing family is looking forward to immersing themselves in the community. Mr. Watkins recommended a 2-year 205 day contract for \$72,000 a year. Mr. Stanton moved to approve Mr. Miller's employment as the new assistant principal at PHS, seconded by Mr. Wagner, unanimously approved.
- D. SUMMER SCHOOL PROPOSAL - Mr. Hanson shared his recommendation for the summer school classes. He stated commencement is June 5. Summer school will begin Monday, June 8. At Blair Pointe we will have iRead remediation for third graders. At Elmwood we will continue the summer reading program on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays for two hours (10:00 - noon). He stated there will be one teacher/aide for every four to five students. The summer reading program will run up to JumpStart which will be the two weeks prior to the start of

the 2015-16 school year for outgoing 2nd graders to outgoing 8th graders. Classroom instructional aides as well as technology aides would be hired for these classes. He stated his final recommendation was for a summer PE class at the high school. The students have to complete 72 hours of PE. He explained the reimbursement categories that will be received from the State. He added we will provide transportation for all classes except the high school PE class. He noted he has estimated \$61,000 for the summer school cost. The general fund appropriation is \$75,850 for all costs for the summer programs. He stated his recommendation is very similar to last year's classes. On motion by Mr. Comerford, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, the Board unanimously approved the summer school recommendation. Mr. Wolfe asked if there is not a need at the high school level for academic classes. Mr. Hanson stated we run a strong remediation program during the school year. He said he is always open to the idea if there is a need.

- E. STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY HANDBOOK REVISION - On behalf of the handbook committee Mr. Frye reviewed the clarification in the wording of the attendance policy. He stated there is not a need to break the policy down by school as this is part of Indiana Code. Mr. Frye stated the committee also met with the individuals who enter the information into Skyward so there is consistency in the reasons for the absences and method of entering the data. On motion by Dr. Quin, seconded by Mr. Stanton, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation. Mr. Wolfe stated we used to get attendance reports by grade level for the class with the highest attendance for each grading terms. Mr. Frye stated the schools and administrators need to do a better job in sharing that information with the Board and have that capability with the data program.
- F. 2014-15 SCHOOL CALENDAR REVISION - Mr. Watkins requested permission to move forward on two waiver options from the State to make up weather days missed during the 2014-15 school year. He explained the virtual learning option stating we have been approved to make up days using this option. He added last Thursday we received an e-mail from the State allowing schools to add instructional time to the school day to make up a day (5 hours for K-6 and 6 hours for 7-12). He reminded the Board this was an option offered last year and we made up three days by adding instructional time. He stated he would definitely like to make up two canceled days making the last student day Wednesday, June 3. If the virtual learning option goes well, he would like to make up three missed days which would make the last student day Tuesday, June 2. That would allow the high school more time to prepare for graduation. He informed the Board a meet and discuss was held on March 16. The teachers asked if instructional time could be added to the day like last year to make up missed days. Mr. Watkins stated he informed the teachers at the meeting that was not an approved option from the State. He said the virtual learning option was introduced and discussed. The teachers agreed to try one Saturday and if it went well they would like to schedule a second Saturday to make up two canceled days. Mr. Watkins stated since we have now been given permission to add instructional time to the day, he would like to schedule another meet and discuss with Scott Thompson and the teachers to use both options and possibly make up three days. He stressed the high school does not want to make-up the final day on the day of graduation which is where we are at this time. Mr. Wagner moved to allow Mr. Watkins discretion after meeting with Mr. Thompson to implement a make-up day plan utilizing both options. The decision will be corporation wide. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stanton and unanimously approved. Mr. Watkins will report to the Board at the April meeting with the details of the plan.
- G. PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM CONSIDERATION - Mr. Watkins stated he is extremely proud and happy to bring this program before the Board. The pre-school committee visited several programs and

met several times to discuss the initiation of a pre-school program at PCS beginning with the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Mullett stated this stems from many of our kindergarten students not knowing their numbers, alphabet, colors, left and right, etc. Mrs. Badry has been busy looking for curriculum and grants. She stated they were very impressed with the program at Leesburg. She said the program is very cost effective. Mr. Frye stated the expense portion is partly due to wanting a certified teacher teaching the curriculum. The teacher is a facilitator. He stated we would be the only program in the county with a certified teacher. He noted we would also be able to use Title I funds by having a certified teacher. We would like this to be a retention tool for our younger teachers and an incentive to possible new teachers to have a pre-school program. Mr. Hanson stated we are also looking at expanding our head start program which has a waiting list. The pre-school class would be located at Elmwood. Mr. Hanson pointed out North Miami and Maconaquah have pre-school programs. Priority would be placed on four and five-year old students but would be open to three-year olds as well. Mr. Frye stated we are actively seeking grants and scholarships for these students to attend. Mrs. Badry stated the Community Foundation offers scholarship money to families who cannot afford to attend pre-school. Mr. Frye stated by having the program at Elmwood they would have access to an administrator and nurse, as well as the art, music, and PE classes. On motion by Mr. Stanton, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation. Dr. Quin asked where the funding will come for this program. Mr. Watkins replied it will come from the general fund.

IV. BUDGET

A. CLAIMS - Mr. Hall presented and reviewed the claims for Board approval as well as a new AP invoice listing report. Mr. Hall addressed several questions. Mr. Comerford moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Stanton, unanimously approved as follows:

GENERAL FUND	34,948.82
CAPITAL PROJECTS	25,595.09
TRANSPORTATION OPERATING FUND	8,237.51
SCHOOL LUNCH FUND	21,901.39
TEXTBOOK RENTAL FUND	30.44
CULTURAL ARTS EDS#A154-3-AIE	2,100.00
TECHNOLOGY FUND	54.00
TITLE I 2014/15	160.66
PARENT NURTURING PROGRAM	101.50
ADULT EDUCATION SALARY	498.56
FRINGE BENEFITS	<u>67.61</u>
TOTAL	\$ 93,695.58

V. OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

A. REQUEST TO USE FACILITIES

1. Blair Pointe café - Four-County Counseling - Day Treatment camp - April 7-9 (Tuesday thru Thursday of spring break); 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, there will be four case managers with 30-40 students - Four-County is providing transportation.
2. PJHS school (café, kitchen and hallways), parking lot, practice football field, and track - annual YMCA Kids' Fair - Saturday, May 2 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - request to begin set up after school on May 1st until 7:00 PM. Use of the track is a new request. They would like to promote family walking.

On motion by Mr. Stanton, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board unanimously approved the requests.

B. RECOMMENDATION FOR 14-ACRE PROJECT BIDS - Mr. Hall reported we are back to the drawing board. Only one bid was received and it was roughly 50% higher than the engineer estimated. Mr. Hall stated his recommendation is to reject the bid and authorize rebidding the core of the project for the earth work and related work and then move forward with quotes for the fencing, irrigation, paving, etc. We are still working

towards the fall of 2016 to use the new softball, football, and varsity soccer fields. He stated the lone bid was rather disappointing since there were several at the pre-bid meeting. Dr. Quin asked about feedback as to why there was not more interest. Mr. Hall replied one potential bidder stated they were having problems getting the bid bond. He noted there was also concern over the soil and muck that will need to be moved in that area, especially for the parking area. The ground is poor quality for permanent structures. On motion by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Dr. Quin, the Board unanimously rejected the lone bid and approved Mr. Hall's recommendation to rebid the core of the project and request quotes for other portions of the project.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

- A. SUPERINTENDENT - Mr. Watkins thanked Mrs. Badry, Mr. Frye, Mr. Mullett, and Mr. Hanson for their work in researching and preparing for a pre-school program.

Mr. Watkins thanked the support staff and teachers for the way they handled the black out at the high school and jr. high school last week and weather issue at the end of today with dismissal and busses.

Mr. Watkins thanked the Board for their extra hours in meeting to discuss the strategic plan.

Mr. Watkins gave a shout out to Chuck Enyeart who is currently under the weather. He stated Chuck is irreplaceable and we want him to know we are praying for his health to improve.

Mr. Watkins also gave a shout out to Sheri Spiker and her efforts with Mrs. Amber Harris-Reed who portrayed Tina Turner in several performances for the K-12 students last week in recognition of Black History.

Mr. Watkins thanked Mr. Miller, new PHS assistant principal, for choosing PCS. Mr. Watkins stated he has worked for several corporations and Peru is by far the best corporation he has worked for during his educational career.

- B. BOARD - Mr. Wagner stated there was some iffy funding from the state legislature with Heartland Career Center.

Mr. Wagner also thanked Board for support of the pre-school program.

Mr. Wolfe stated visited Mr. Hileman's PLTW class and was very impressed.

Mr. Wolfe stated he had lunch with Mrs. Hughes' transition class at PHS. She and her two assistants do a fine job. He said they have two tables of kids and noted he was messier than the students! He noted she has a hard job and does it very well.

Mrs. Shuey reminded everyone of the strategic planning meeting Tuesday evening.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Quin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Secretary,

Tim Comerford

/mm