

April 21, 2020

The regular virtual meeting of the Board of School Trustees was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mr. Mullett. Mr. Mullett led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. All Board members were present except Mr. Wagner. Also present were Mr. Watkins, Mr. Durrwachter, Mrs. Conley, Mr. Morris, and multiple online viewers.

On motion by Mr. Comerford, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, the Board approved the public agenda, the memorandum of March 9 and 17, and the personnel report with one change (deletion of F.1) by a vote of 5-0-1, Dr. Quin abstained.

PERSONNEL

A. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS

1. Employee #16118 - resignation, effective July 30, 2020 with last day in office June 30, 2020.

B. LEAVES - no business

C. RECOMMENDATION FOR CERTIFIED POSITIONS - no business

D. RECOMMENDATION FOR CLASSIFIED POSITIONS - no business

E. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR POSITIONS - no business

F. REQUEST TO ATTEND CONFERENCE - no business

- ~~1. Sam Watkins - UWVSSC - summer retreat - Chicago, Illinois - June 17-19, 2020. deleted~~

G. DONATIONS

1. \$100.00 - To PHS girls' basketball for general use from ZB Maintenance, Inc.
2. \$200.00 - To PHS Speech Program for general use from Psi Iota Xi, Beta Gamma chapter.
3. \$440.62 - To PHS Library for general use from Psi Iota Xi, Beta Gamma chapter.
4. \$800.00 - To Blair Pointe Fine Arts Annual Program for general use from Psi Iota Xi, Beta Gamma chapter.
5. \$500.00 - To Blair Pointe Library for general use from Psi Iota Xi, Beta Gamma chapter.
6. \$500.00 - To Elmwood Camping Out with a Good Book Program for general use from Psi Iota Xi, Beta Gamma chapter.
7. \$500.00 - To Elmwood Library for general use from Psi Iota Xi, Beta Gamma chapter.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT - no comment

II. RETIREMENTS/RECOGNITIONS/BLACK & GOLD AWARDS - no business

III. PROGRAM

- A. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR PUBLIC AGENDA - no Business

- B. ELEARNING GRADING POLICY - Mr. Watkins stated that the state school superintendent gave schools the latitude to change grading systems if needed. There have been meetings held with teachers, principals, teacher leaders, and the PCEA on the recommended changes. The recommendation is as follows. K-6 will issue pass/fail grades for the 4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks grading term, 7-12 will continue as normal and issue letter grades with the following changes: no finals will be given unless it is associated with the student's dual credit/AP/college credit requirements; for Valedictorian / Salutatorian and class rank of the Senior Class, the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester will be used excluding their 8<sup>th</sup> semester grades for this purpose; Seniors will receive grades for the 4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks, but if they are enrolled in a class for this semester they will receive the assigned credit for this class no matter the grade earned.

Ms. Justice moved to approve the eLearning grading policy, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, unanimously approved.

- C. PERU RISE EVALUATION - Mr. Watkins stated that we have a RISE model that has to be sent to the state every year. Superintendent McCormick is allowing us to modify the evaluation due to the Covid-19 crisis. We have spoken with teachers, PCEA and have had held meetings. Mr. Watkins recommended option two. Using this option, finalized staff performance evaluations and summative evaluation ratings for the 2019-2020 school year shall be the same as those received for 2018-2019 school year. Principals will look at their scores for this year and if a teacher was in the direction of moving up, they will be moved up. New teachers will be evaluated. If a teacher was trending down, we will not move them down.

Mr. Ellis moved to approve the RISE evaluation modification, seconded by Mr. Comerford, approved by vote of 4-2, Dr. Quin and Ms. Justice opposed.

- D. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Mr. Watkins reviewed some of the Legislative changes due to the current crisis. Governor Holcomb extended the stay-at-home order until May 1. Changes are happening daily and being followed. Some changes will require Board approval and they will be brought to meetings as needed.
- E. NEOLA SPECIAL UPDATE COVID-19 FIRST AND SECOND READING - Mr. Watkins stated that he is asking the Board to do a first and second reading for po8450 Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases. This policy states what we can do if we have an outbreak. Dr. Quin had concerns passing a first and second reading while students are not attending school.

Dr. Quin motioned to change the reading to a first reading and informational item to be brought back to the May meeting as a second reading, seconded by Ms. Justice, unanimously approved.

- F. NEOLA SECOND READING - Mr. Watkins and Mr. Durrwachter reviewed the following six (6) NEOLA policies for a second reading:

po5610 Suspension and Expulsion of Students  
po6220 Budget Preparation  
po6230 Budget Hearing  
po7440.03 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems  
po8120 Volunteers  
po8400 School Safety

Mr. Comerford moved to approve the NEOLA policies, seconded by Mr. Ellis, unanimously approved.

- G. PERMISSION TO DONATE - Mr. Watkins stated that this is a resolution for if, in the event that we would be asked to donate masks, gloves, cleaning supplies for the pandemic, we would need to pass a resolution to do so. This would only be excess items that we don't need at that time. The Board would know what would be donated and when if there was a request. Mr. Watkins stated that he is asking for permission to donate PPE to local places upon their request. If a request comes through, then we will bring it back to the Board for approval. Dr. Quin requested to table the resolution until next month.

Dr. Quin motioned to table the resolution until May, seconded by Ms. Justice, unanimously approved.

- H. 7-12 PROGRAM - Mr. Watkins stated that he is hoping to get our next work session in on May 12. Updates will be provided from Barton Co and Jay Ryals. He stated that he also is hoping to get a timeline for movement set-up. Mr. Durrwachter stated that we are looking to continue the process and the sooner the better to get the paperwork filed in time. Mr. Watkins stated that we have significant needs in our junior high and high school.

- I. GRADUATION - Mr. Watkins stated that we have been in discussion with what to do with graduation and we have also completed a survey. Mr. Watkins recommended that the 2019-2020 graduation be moved from May 29, 2020 to Friday July 31, 2020. Parents and teachers want to hold an in-person graduation. This must be Board approved. Mr. Mullett stated that Logansport changed theirs to August 2, so this would be in-line with theirs. Mr. Wolfe asked if a Saturday morning could be considered due to the heat in the gymnasium. Mr. Ellis suggested having graduation outside.

Mr. Ellis motioned to approve the move, seconded by Ms. Justice. More discussion was had. Mr. Comerford asked about graduation being prepared and held for the regularly scheduled date. Mr. Mullett stated that there are two weeks before the currently scheduled date. Dr. Quin asked if we could go ahead and keep the current date and then decide on moving if there is an extension from the Governor at a later date.

The motion was not adopted by a vote of 3-2-1, Mr. Comerford and Mr. Wolfe opposed, Dr. Quin abstained. This motion will be brought back to the Board in May.

IV. BUDGET

A. CLAIMS - Mr. Durrwachter presented and reviewed the claims for Board approval. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Comerford moved to approve the claims, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, approved by a vote of 5-1 (Dr. Quin opposed), as follows:

EDUCATION FUND	357,341.02
OPERATING FUND	129,075.32
CONSTRUCTION 2016 GO BOND	64.99
SCHOOL LUNCH FUND	58,205.83
REMEDY LIVE REMC GRANT	229.21
KICKS FOR KIDS	26.98
REIMBURSEABLE FUND	719.80
SOURCES OF STRENGTH	33.21
DONATION/SPECIAL ED TEACHERS	161.66
KROGER REWARDS	155.00
IN LITERACY EARLY INTERVENTION	668.35
SPEC ED MKP	16,837.98
HIGH ABILITY GRANT	458.84
TITLE I 19/20	2,715.62
PARENT NURTURING PROGRAM	674.92
TITLE IV A	672.45
TITLE II-A	729.52
GROUP INSURANCE	4,079.75
RETIRES-TERM LIFE INSURANCE	501.15
FRINGE BENEFITES	369,041.11
BOOK RENT	313.09
TOTAL	942,705.80

B. FUND MONITORING REPORT - Mr. Durrwachter stated that we have more payroll than revenue but, we are not spending outside of our means. Debt service is a bit of a concern as taxes have been delayed. Mr. Durrwachter highlighted the school lunch program. It is excelling at this time. Terry Fuller and the kitchen have done a marvelous job feeding our community. I want to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Ellis moved to approve the fund monitoring report, seconded by Mr. Comerford, unanimously approved.

- C. COVID-19 FINANCIAL UPDATES - Mr. Durrwachter shared some changes and updates from SBOA. He stated that the corporation will continue to pay all staff up to the original last day of school. Last pay will be the June pay date. We are also allowing insurance changes. We are helping our staff in as many ways as possible. 12-month employees will now have until December 31, 2020 to use their vacation time instead of the original June expiration date. We have over \$500,000 of CARES Act additional monies that will go through the grant process. Current finances - we are keeping an eye on our taxes as that will drastically impact many things that we are able to do. We have currently paused all major purchases during this time and we are also tracking the Covid-19 expenses. Our kitchen staff is limited, we have one maintenance onsite and one person in the central office per day. Insurance coverage will not change due to lack of building usage.
- D. CLASSIFIED/CERTIFIED ELEARNING SALARY UPDATE - Mr. Watkins gave a brief update on salaries. He stated that we will continue to pay all staff until the normal end of the school year. This item was changed from Board action to informational as the resolution is not changing at this time.

V. OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

A. FACILITY USE REQUESTS

- 1. TNAC and concession stand - JA Car Show - August 29, 2020 - On site set-up to begin at 10:00 a.m. - car show at 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Requesting all fee waiver. Annual request.
- 2. South Peru - Miami County Amateur Radio Club Field Day June 27 - 28, 2020 - set-up at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and complete clean-up by 3:00 p.m. Sunday - event held outside of building unless there is inclement weather. Requesting all fee waiver. Annual request.
- ~~3. South Peru classroom - US Census Bureau - Training - April - 21 and 24, 2020 - time to be determined. Requesting all fee waiver. (Removed due to nonuse.)~~

Dr. Quin moved to approve the facility use requests, seconded by Ms. Justice, unanimously approved.

- B. PERMISSION TO BID - Mr. Durrwachter requested permission to begin receiving bids to paint the cinder block portion of the Tig Arena.

Mr. Comerford moved to approve permission to bid painting, seconded by Ms. Justice, unanimously approved.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

A. SUPERINTENDENT - Mr. Watkins expressed his gratitude and made the following comments:

- Teresa Fitzgerald passing - thoughts and prayers to the Fitzgerald family. Teresa was an outstanding staff member and will be missed greatly.
- Terry Fuller and food service - Tom Lennon - sheds, Dominos, Subway, Save A Lot, Kroger, YMCA transit, plus multiple donations and volunteers. I can't say thank you enough for all they have done. Outstanding!
- Head custodians and custodians - building to building sanitation and clean up. They have done a fabulous job.
- Chuck Hight and maintenance - thank you for all you do!
- George Morris and educational technicians - We are in great shape. Our eLearning, devices, and teacher training are in phenomenal shape because of you.
- Ron Potts and transportation - thank you for all you do and helping deliver meals.
- Andrea Barker - thank you for keeping us informed and safe.
- Administration - principals, assistant principals - we have great leaders and I'm appreciative of all you do!
- Teachers and aides - eLearning - our staff are top notch!
- ISBA Exemplary Governance Awards - Individual: Ron Mullett and Dr. Quin, PCS School Board: Commendable
- School Board - allowing PCS to compensate our staff during this crisis.
- Students and parents - students thank you for your hard work, you're all doing a great job and parents thank you for constant support of Peru Community Schools!

Mr. Morris showed different pictures and snippets of our teacher's hard work with eLearning. The Peru teachers are rocking it and are simply amazing!

B. BOARD MEMBER - Mr. Mullett stated that he hasn't heard any complaints about Peru Community Schools during our shutdowns from any administrators or teachers. They are definitely in it for the better of the kids and hopefully this won't last much longer.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Justice and Dr. Quin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m., unanimously approved.

Secretary,

Charles Wagner

/dc