



**PEOTONE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER**

ROLL CALL:

At 6:01 p.m. President Robinson called the regular board meeting to order and requested all who are present to please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.

VISITOR'S LOG:

No one signed the Speaker's Log.

SPEAKER'S LOG:

Mr. John Maxedon, of Peotone, IL, addressed the Board regarding the Referendum 2020 Inbox's feedback and FOIA requests.

Mrs. Melody Gass, of Monee, IL, addressed the Board asking to have a nurse in every building for the medical concerns of the students of the District.

Mr. Russell Stoltman, of Frankfort, IL, addressed the Board regarding the dismissal of the Cheer Coach. And also addressed the Board whether or not his son can participate in bowling at PHS.

CONSENT AGENDA:

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of Monday, October 21, 2019. Mr. Uthe made a motion, and Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Douglas, and Mrs. Moe. Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:

Mr. John Michalesko, CPA from Gassensmith & Michalesko, Ltd., presented to the Board, the Administration and the Community, the District's completed Audit as of June 30, 2019. Mr. Michalesko reported to the Board that the District as a whole did not go over Budget, and the Business Office has the proper controls in place and is doing a good job.

GOOD NEWS:
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL
OCTOBER 2019 ACADEMIC STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Mr. Stein presented a certificate of commendation to **Benjamin Balmer**, October's academic student of the month. **Benjamin** is the son of Erin Balmer of Peotone, and is a junior at Peotone High School with a grade point average of 4.14 on a 4.0 grading scale.

PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL
RECOGNITION OF AWARDS AND ACHEIVEMENTS

Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal for PHS, introduced to the Board and the Administration, Abby Jacobs, PHS Ag teacher, who is the recipient the Illinois Agricultural Education Teacher Grant Award through the IAA Foundation and also Eric Englert, PHS English/Language Arts teacher, who is the recipient of the September 2019 PBC Excellence in Teaching Award.
Congratulations to Abby and Eric!

The Board and the Administration gave a big thank you to Mr. James Nealon, PHS Industrial Arts Teacher, and his students for their construction of the ticket booths for the Blue Devil Football games. They are a great addition to the football field and ticket takers are excited to have a place to stay warm!

PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2019 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Mr. Stein presented certificates of commendation to the following Peotone Junior High school students for the month of September 2019. 6th Grade student, Olivia Smaga, 7th Grade student, Julia Verble and 8th Grade student, Mark Jones.

FOR ACTION:

REPORT NO. 28:

FOR ACTION:

**APPROVAL OF THE SECOND READING AND
ADOPTION OF PRESS JUNE 2019 BOARD POLICIES.**

Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of PRESS June 2019 Board Policies. Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a voice call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.

REPORT NO. 29:

FOR ACTION:

**APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED BOARD POLICIES OF
PRESS FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019.**

Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve the Amended Board Policies of PRESS February/March 2019. Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a voice call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.

REPORT NO. 30:

FOR ACTION:

**APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF (2) TWO FORD
TRANSIT CONNECT VANS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT.**

Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve the purchase of (2) two Ford Transit Connect Vans for the Transportation Department. Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.

REPORT NO. 31:

FOR ACTION:

APPROVAL OF A RELEASE OF A PHS DIPLOMA.

Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve a release of a PHS diploma for Mathilda J. Biggers. Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a voice call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.

REPORT NO. 32:

FOR ACTION:

**APPROVAL OF THE ASBESTOS ABATEMENT PROJECT
OF THE MAIN OFFICE FLOORING OF PEOTONE
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.**

Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve the Asbestos Abatement Project of the Main office flooring of Peotone Intermediate School. Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.

REPORT NO. 33:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF A CHANGE ORDER WITH TENCO EXCAVATING, INC.

Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve a Change Order with Tenco Excavating, Inc. Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.

REPORT NO. 34:

FOR ACTION: PERSONNEL: (*Contingent upon receipt and evaluation of Employment documentation required by the District and the Illinois State Board of Education*)

Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve the Certified and Classified Staff. Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.

**CERTIFIED STAFF
EMPLOYMENT:**

- Carly Bittner- PJHS - Math Coach (effective date of 01/20/2020).
- Larry Deweese - PES - Bell Choir Sponsor (effective date of 9/30/2019).
- Nicole Majca - PHS- Spanish Club Sponsor (effective date of 08/21/2019).
- Alexandra Martin - PHS- Football/Basketball Sideline Cheer Head Coach (effective date of 09/26/2019).
- Mallory Martin - PJHS - Math Coach (effective date of 01/20/2020).
- Chelsea McKay - PHS - Fall Play Director (effective date of 08/21/2019).
- Austin Rueth - PHS - Baseball Assistant Coach (effective date of 10/21/2019).
- Ashley Siemion - PHS - School Counselor (effective date of 10/09/2019).
- Rosie Knezz - CSC/PJHS - Contractual SLP for Melissa Grahonya's leave of absence - (effective date of 10/07/2019).

ANNUAL CONTRACT PERFORMANCE BASED GOALS CRITERIA

UPDATE: Pursuant to School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8):

- Trevor Moore, Chief Business School Official.

RESIGNATION:

- Michelle Dandurand - PJHS - Math Coach - (effective date of 09/04/2019). Rachel Fassel-Downing - PHS - School Counselor (effective date of 10/09/2019).
- Alexandra Martin - PHS - Head Coach -Basketball Sideline Cheer (effective date of 11/15/2019).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

- Melissa Grahonya - CSC/PJHS -SLP - (effective date of 10/15/2019 and with a return date of 01/06/2020).

CLASSIFIED STAFF

EMPLOYMENT:

- Marissa Backlin - PES - 1:1 Paraprofessional (effective date of 10/02/2019).
- Lori D'Anna – Transportation – from Bus Driver in Training to Bus Driver (effective date of 09/25/2019).
- Heather Boer - Transportation - School Bus Driver in Training (effective date of 09/23/2019).
- Jamie Dittman - Transportation - School Bus Aide (effective date of 09/26/2019).
- Joseph Lentz - PHS - Custodian - (effective date of 10/07/2019).
- Ruben Suarez - District Office - Director of Technology (effective date of 10/22/2019).
- Jennifer Swanson - District Office - Registrar/Assistant Bookkeeper (effective 10/08/2019).

CHANGE IN STATUS:

- Amber Croxen - PES - Custodian (effective date of 10/22/2019).
- Amanda Croxen - PHS - Custodian (effective date of 10/22/2019).

TERMINATION:

- Taylor Zalinski - PHS - Head Coach -Sideline & Competitive Cheer (effective date of 09/26/2019).

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Dr. Charles Vitton, Assistant Superintendent, reported to the Board that the current enrollment in Preschool is currently at 66 and we have eight (8) in the pipeline (from early intervention, moving into the district, or going to turn three in the next few months).

The new Director of Technology starts tomorrow morning. Mr. Ruben Suarez will start his day at CSC taking care of employment procedures, and I will take him to all of the schools for introductions, and he will begin his work day at the high school by late morning.

We will start curriculum meetings at PHS in early November, planning for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Bean is finalizing that schedule – we meet with all departments to discuss current programming and recommendations for improvements. Principal Appreciation Day is Friday, October 25th - feel free to say **THANKS** to your favorite administrator!!

Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone High School, reported to the Board that we had a wonderful Homecoming week full of lots of fun and school spirit. We had a smooth and successful PSAT testing day on October 16th. That's a practice test to prepare our juniors for the big one which is April 14th. Many of our sports teams are in or near post-season. Karli Borsch qualified for state in Girls golf. Our soccer team plays in the sectional game tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. vs. Herscher at Reed-Custer. The football team has qualified for the play-offs. We are planning our annual Veteran's Day program for Monday, November 11th at 8:30 a.m. The event will include performances by our high school band and chorus as well as unveiling new military banners that will hang in the Commons. Each branch of the military will have a banner listing Peotone alumni that have served in our US military. This event will be open to the public for the first time this year.

September Peotone Bowling Center Excellence in Teaching Award recipient is Mr. Eric Englert, English Language Arts at PHS.

Statement from a PHS Parent:

Our daughter applied for early enrollment into JJC this past spring and took English 101 over the summer to get ahead for college. Mr. Englert was her sophomore year English teacher. I'm writing you to acknowledge how well he is preparing his students for college. My daughter stated to me that she passed the class because of Mr. Englert. It was an 8 week online class that was very difficult. The averages on assignments and essays were very low. On one of the essays, she scored the highest in the class at 97% with the mean at 50%. She finished the class with an A. Our compliments to Mr. Englert for helping to make a positive impact on the beginning of our daughter's college education.

Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary, reported to the Board that a lot has happened since the last board meeting! At our last board meeting, I shared we had 30 POP stars, which is our school wide system of recognizing positive behavior. I am excited to report that we ended first quarter with 349 POP stars! Any student that received POP star status in quarter one got to attend a Sock Hop this past Friday. It was a lot of fun and the students are really motivated to keep earning POP tickets and receiving POP star status. The last week of September, we participated in Start with hello week... we did simple things each day to practice these skills... like learning to say hello in different languages, wearing nametags with our names and something to describe us, having a free sit at lunch to make a new friend, and buddy reading with a different grade level. During Homecoming Week, we loved having the High School football players, cheerleaders, and dance team members come read to our students.

Our Monthly Focus for October is Change Starts with us. We chose this as our focus because we knew October had a lot awareness things like Bullying Prevention and Red Ribbon Week. We have been teaching students that there are little things they can do to be a big difference in our community. One of those things was our CHANGE starts with us competition... which was a twist on the classic Penny Wars. Students got to donate to vote for what I will be for Halloween. While I cannot announce what the winner is, I am beyond excited to announce we raised over \$1,100 in the one week that we collected. The

proceeds will be donated to Peotone Adopt a Soldier and Helping Hands Pantry of Peotone. We also had Grandparents Day on October 11th. We had about 400 grandparents and special guests that day and they really enjoyed their special morning or afternoon with our students. They got to go to the Book fair, Read in the Library, Have a snack and take pictures, and make a craft and do interviews in the classrooms.

I don't think this upcoming month will be as busy as this last, but we do have some things coming up at Peotone Elementary.

We are currently in Bullying Prevention Week and doing different lessons and activities each day to educate students around this topic. We will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week next week and focusing on healthy choices. Our Halloween Parade and Party will be the morning of Halloween starting at 9:45am for the parade followed by the parties at 10:00 a.m. Because it is a SIP day on Halloween, PES teachers will be participating in Trick or Treat professional development where they will get to choose different professional development sessions to attend that are being presented by myself and their colleagues.

Parent Teacher conferences are November 1st from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. We have almost every parent signed up for a conference. Our Veterans Day assembly will be November 11th at 2:20 p.m.

Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation, reported to the Board that is National School Bus Safety Week, October 21st through October 25th! And a big thank you to the Board for approving the purchase of the two new vans for the Transportation Department, much appreciated!

Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services, reported to the Board that the Peotone PHS Best Buddies attended the BBCHS Fall Games on October 10th and brought home the Sportsmanship Trophy. She identified students are already making plans for next year to defend our title at this wonderful event. It was a great day of inclusion and friendship for students and staff with other area schools. Mrs. Loy also provided an additional update on the WIDA Screener process as teachers are finishing up the assessment of all students that moved into the district and identified a language other than English is spoken.

Mr. Dave Osborne, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported to the Board that the Boilers are ready to go and will be turning them on soon. The Field North of PIC has started to get cleaned out of brush and trees. There is still some work to do. Looking to purchase a ride on floor scrubber for PHS. We had a demonstration of one and we feel it will be very productive. The walk behind at the HS will be moved over to PES. The cost of the unit we looked at is \$17,000

Ofc. Dan Stankus, School Resource Officer for the District, reported to the Board that the Lockdown, Fire & Weather drills have been completed at all campuses. Good job to all the building administrators as all went well during the drills. Members of the Will County Sheriff's SWAT Teams were present to observe the recent lockdown drill at PIC and complimented Principal Obszanski

and her staff on a job well done. Have been participating in classroom activities at the campuses and looking forward to more involvement. Behind the Wheel traffic stop practical's with Driver Education students will begin next week. Been monitoring traffic patterns at PHS & PJHS during student drop off & dismissals. The staggering of the last two busses at the end of the line during dismissals has so far shown to be an effective safety measure as it prevents vehicles from being able to travel through the line of busses when students are present. The re-location of football practice to PHS has relieved a large portion of the traffic congestion along Garfield and Blue Devil Drive during student dismissal at PJHS.

Mrs. Terry Wuske, Director of Food Services, reported to the Board that the food service department has been very busy since the last meeting. We have promoted Milk Chug Dairy Day at PJHS on September 27, 2019, in which we featured milk mustaches, chugs, and trivia games.

We then as a group staff participated in the Homecoming parade in the beginning of October. All schools participated in the "Apple Crunch Day" on October 10th, featuring locally grown apples from the Midwest.

At the high school we are featuring "Game Day" Raffle days. We are raffling off Spirit Wear with a lunch purchase each Friday donated by the Booster Club. Thank you to the Booster Club! And on October 16, 2019 we served breakfast to the testing juniors.

Mr. Chris Gibson, PJHS Assistant Principal PJHS/PHS Athletic Director, reported to the Board that at:

PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

We held our annual Field Days last week which is one of our reward days for our PBIS program.

Red Ribbon Week organized by Student Council has kicked off this week - we started with Pajama Day today.

Girls Basketball is in full swing for their season and doing quite well. 7th Grade is 7-3 and 8th Grade is 9-1. Boys Basketball tryouts are being conducted October 21st through the October 22nd. First dance is this Friday night.

One area of focus on the disciplinary side is student tardies. I will have more data by the end of the 2nd quarter but we were seeing a decline in tardies as the 1st quarter went on which is positive news.

PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL

Fall Sports Seasons are closing. Here is a quick summary of each sport:

Golf - The Boys Golf team was co-champions in the inaugural year of the Illinois Central-8 Conference. The boys also finished 2nd in their regional and advanced to the Sectional. On the Girls' side, Junior Karli Borsch, advanced to the State Golf Meet after great regional and sectional tournaments. She fell short of making the cut to advance to Day two of the meet but it was a great learning

experience for her. Regionals will begin October 26th. We had three female and one male All-Conference members.

Soccer - The Boys Soccer team will be playing in the Reed-Custer Sectional Semi-Final on Tuesday, October 22 at 4:00 p.m. vs. Herscher. A win will advance them to the Sectional Final on Friday, October 25th.

Volleyball - Our Volleyball team will be starting regionals next week and we will be one of the host schools. We have a six team regional with two matches on Monday, semi-finals on Tuesday and the Championship on Thursday.

Football - Varsity football is currently 6-2 and has qualified for the playoffs. The playoff pairings will come out this Saturday night. Our final regular season game is Friday, October 25th at Wilmington.

Athletic Booster Club has approved a purchase of two cameras, one for the high school gym and one for the football field, which will allow for live game streaming as well as any other events that we would host - such as graduation. Mr. Spang gave details at the last board meeting.

Our Winter sports seasons kick off next week, October 28th.

OTHER:

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board, that he has received several FOIAs this month - one from Mrs. Dana Sippel, one from Smart Procure, six from Mr. John Maxedon, three from Mr. James Bowden and one from Deb Swidergal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

For the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel; collective negotiating matters; student disciplinary cases and other matters relating to individual students; pending, probable, or imminent litigation; security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonable potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public or public property.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:58 p.m. President Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting. President Robinson stated that there will be no Closed Executive Session meeting tonight. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion and a voice call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6) Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the October 21, 2019 regular board meeting.



Tara Robinson, President



Cathy Cuculich, Reporter