



**BOARD OF EDUCATION- REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019  
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER**

**ROLL CALL:**

At 6:00 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. Moe, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Jodi Becker was absent for the December 16, 2019 regular board meeting.

**VISITOR'S LOG:**

No one signed the Visitor's Log.

**SPEAKER'S LOG:**

No one signed the Speaker's Log.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of Monday, December 16, 2019. Mr. Uthe made a motion, Mr. Bettenhausen 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. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Becker was absent for the December 16, 2019 regular board meeting.

**GOOD NEWS:**

**PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL**

**DECEMBER 2019 ACADEMIC STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

Mr. Stein presented a certificate to **Yosef Abdeh**, December Board of Education Academic Student of the Month for Peotone High School, son of Adnan and Mai Abdeh of Monee. Yosef is a freshman, and is taking seven classes, one of which is a weighted class, and has all A's in his first semester of high school.

Congratulations Yosef Abdeh!



**PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**NOVEMBER 2019 PBC EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

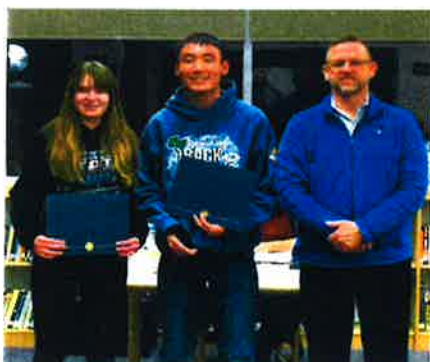
Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone High School, spoke to the Board and Administration on behalf of Mrs. Christina Juma, the recipient of the November 2019 PBC Excellence in Teaching Award. Mrs. Belinda Schirmer, nominated Mrs. Juma for this award and wrote:

*I have watched Christina Juma grow over the past few years. I first met Christina when she was a student teacher here at PHS. I was the co-teacher with her for a couple of periods of the day. She eagerly sought input on her lessons and acted on suggestions. Christina was lucky enough to have been hired for the following school year. I have watched Christina go through the growing pains as a new teacher. She made the usual rookie mistakes, but took all suggestions seriously. During her first couple of years, she had to split her time between PHS and PJHS, which made for a difficult schedule for her. She managed to do well in both buildings and took on the responsibility of Student Council. Once again, I am co-teaching with Christina this year. I have seen such tremendous growth in Christina! She teaches several levels of English and Christina has identified student's strengths and weaknesses and plans her lessons accordingly. She does whatever she can to make all students successful in the classroom. Christina continues to be the Student Council advisor as well as Freshman Class Sponsor. Even with these added responsibilities, she still manages to go all out for her students. I am delighted to bestow the Excellence in Teaching award to Christina Juma.*

Mrs. Juma was not present for the December 16<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting.  
Congratulations Mrs. Christina Juma!

**PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**DECEMBER 2019 - CROSS COUNTRY TEAM RESOLUTION**

Mr. Stein presented certificates to Grace Battiato and Joseph Uthe, who competed in the IHSA Class 1A State Cross-Country Meet coached by Bill Benner. Congratulations to the Cross Country Team and Mr. Bill Benner!



**PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**DECEMBER 2019 RESOLUTION - SPEECH TEAM**

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, presented certificates to the Peotone Junior High Speech Team. The Speech team competed in the **IESA Speech Contest**, coached by Tena Degraaf. The team were awarded a rating of **1<sup>st</sup> place** and given the **Judge's Choice Award**. Congratulations to the Speech Team and Mrs. Tena Degraaf!



**PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**NOVEMBER 2019 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, presented certificates to the November students of the month of Peotone Junior High School. These students have demonstrated outstanding behavior, good work ethic, and have "gone above and beyond the call of duty" at Peotone Junior High School. The November students of the month are:

***6th grade: Celeste Richards***

***7th grade: Kate Cuthbertson***

***8th grade: Will Forsythe (not present)***



Congratulations to the November students of the month!

**OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:**

No Visitors to Speak.

### **2019 TAX LEVY HEARING:**

At 6:10 p.m., Mrs. Robinson asked for a motion to open the 2019 Tax Hearing. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion, on a voice call vote, the following members answered aye, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Becker was absent for the December 16<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting. The 2019 Tax Levy Hearing is now open.

Mrs. Robinson asked for comments from the Superintendent. Mr. Stein stated that the 2019 Tax Levy is as it was presented at the November 18<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting. No changes. Mrs. Robinson asked the Board if they have any comments regarding the Tax Levy, and the Board responded no. Mrs. Robinson then asked if the public had any comments, and there no comments from the public.

At 6:12 p.m. Mrs. Robinson asked for a motion to close the 2019 Tax Levy Hearing. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion, and on a voice call vote, the following members answered aye, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Becker was absent for the December 16<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting. The 2019 Tax Levy Hearing is now closed.

### **FOR ACTION:**

#### **REPORT NO. 41:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF THE 2019 TAX LEVY.**

Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve the 2019 Tax Levy for the District. Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Becker was absent for the December 16<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting.

#### **REPORT NO. 42:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION ABATING THE  
WORKING CASH FUND OF PEOTONE COMMUNITY  
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 207U.**

Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve the Approval of the Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of Peotone Community Unit School District 207U. 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. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Becker was absent for the December 16<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting.

**REPORT NO. 43:**

**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 Classified Staff Personnel. Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Becker was absent for the December 16<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting.

**CLASSIFIED STAFF  
EMPLOYMENT:**

- Sarah Bolin - District - Nurse (effective date of 1/13/2020).
- Rhonda Carroll - PHS - SI Classroom Paraprofessional (effective date of 12/11/2019).
- Jennifer Heneghan - PHS - Competitive Cheer Head Coach splitting position/stipend (effective date of 12/09/2019).
- Brianne Wilson-Ruhbeck - PHS - Competitive Cheer Head Coach splitting position/stipend (effective date of 12/09/2019).

**RESIGNATION:**

- Nicole Nemeth -Transportation-School Bus Driver - (effective date of 11/18/2019).
- Bill Benner - PHS - Head Cross Country Coach - (effective date of 12/13/2019).

**TERMINATION:**

- Melanie Hoving - PES - Custodian - (effective date of 11/18/2019).

**MOTION REQUIRED:      ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**FOR DISCUSSION:**

First Reading of October 2019 PRESS 102 Board Policies. Mrs. Robinson asked the Board to review the board policies, and to please relay any questions or concerns to Mr. Stein.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

**Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent,** reported to the Board that he has received a couple of FOIAs. One is from Rachel Connor, and one from James Bowden. Mr. Stein also reported that the Christmas in the Village was very successful this year! Peotone High School was jammed pack - the event was very well attended.



**Dr. Charles Vitton, Assistant Superintendent,** reported to the Board that the holiday lunches at the schools, and breakfast at the transportation department, went very smoothly last week. Cookies with Santa for 70 preschoolers (and their parents) is this Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Connor Shaw Center. I have presented to the Board the tentative Agenda for the January 6<sup>th</sup> Teachers' Institute Day. I will be convening to the K-8 Science committee in January to continue our work on the selection of new instructional resources for the fall 2020 implementation.

**Mr. Trevor Moore, Chief School Business Official,** reported to the Board that he has published several videos on YouTube answering common questions that have come up about the referendum in March. He hopes that these will help clear up any confusion in the community and that voters will continue to educate themselves as much as possible.

He also let them know that a set of property tax calculators have been developed and published to the Peotone CUSD 207U website under the Referendum 2020 tab. Two of these calculators will show how much additional investment a property owner's taxes will make if the referendum passes, how much tax savings they will see under this plan, and how much of the most recent working cash bond issue cost them in interest and fees. The third calculator allows a property owner to input their property value and see how much they will pay in property taxes to the school at three different points in time under the financial plan and also compare that to other unit school districts in Will and Kankakee Counties. He stressed that it is important for everyone to share that these are available and ask voters to calculate the impact on their individual bill if they are interested.

**Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School,** reported to the Board that Jostens Renaissance Leadership Conference was on December 3rd at Lakes High School in Lake Villa, Illinois, on the Illinois-Wisconsin border. The bus left at 5:00 a.m. that morning, but the students had a blast and brought many ideas back to PHS that would enhance the Culture and Climate from a student perspective. Thank you to Mrs. Juma and Mrs. Majca for chaperoning the event. PHS started the 12 Days to Christmas Countdown this year. Each day had a different theme that encapsulated either dress days, food, or some kind of decorating. Participation in the building has been tremendous and we are all finishing strong with semester exams this week as we head into Christmas Break. PSAT/NMSQT scores for our juniors were released last week as College Board allowed the students access to their scores. The score templates were also mailed to the high school and they are being released to the students tomorrow. I am also emailing all junior parents tomorrow a guide to better help parents understand their child's scores. Comparably junior scores from their PSAT/NMSQT assessments from the fall of this year are up from the PSAT10 results during the second semester of their sophomore year. Math average

scores are up to 446 from 438, ERW average scores are up to 471 from 468, and total average scores are up to 917 from 907. Christmas in the Village was a huge hit at PHS this past Saturday. Events at PHS included the PTO Pancake Breakfast, the PTO Annual Craft and Vendor Fair, Kids activities for all ages, and performances by the Main Street Dance Academy as well as the PHS Band. PHS had over 20 student volunteers as students were working to fulfill NHS and American Government service hours.

**Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone High School**, reported to the Board that Cocoa Cram is a study session just for freshmen to prepare for final exams. This is tomorrow in the Media Center right after school until 5:00 p.m. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served and teachers will be available for questions. PHS Concert will be this Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. PHS Band and Choir are taking a trip to Disney World over the holiday break. They will be performing at Disney Springs as well as participating in a workshop. We wish them safe travels.

**Mrs. Joanne Obszanski, Principal of Peotone Intermediate Center**, reported to the Board Krysta Harmon & PIC Drama students proudly presented the play "Peter Pan" on November 22nd. It was a "SOLD OUT" crowd and the reviews are phenomenal. On November 26th, PIC enjoyed a "Drop Everything & Read" morning. PIC welcomed 42 readers to our classrooms to enjoy a read-aloud with our students. Our readers included School Board members, district administrators, building principal, PHS siblings to our PIC students, PIC teachers, and parents. Thank you very much to all of our guests who came and read to our students. THANK YOU to all of our shoppers of our Santa's Secret Shop. This fund raising event earned us just under \$800.00. PIC's Holiday Concert on December 13th, was very successful, and well attended.....most likely sold out! Students were excited and everyone was on perfect pitch! PIC is collecting Body Wash & Deodorant to donate to the Daybreak Center in Joliet. Our goal is to collect 200 of each item to earn a school wide Pajama Day. Our donations will be delivered to the Daybreak Center on December 19th. Our students will enjoy a school wide pajama day for reaching our goal. We have surpassed our goal of Deodorant by 46. We are short in reaching our goal of 200 containers of Body Wash by 84 containers. Please consider supporting our drive to help us reach our goal. THANK YOU for your contributions!

- December 16th - PIC begins NWEA testing for our winter universal screening.
- PTO kicks off the new year in January with a Little Ceasars Fund Raiser
- Floor Hockey sign-ups at PIC are out. Games begin on January 13th through February 14th.
- Band - approximately 70 / 5th grade - 23 / 4th grade - 47. Working on Jingle Bells

After break will begin concert music -Concert on April 23 @ 6:30 @ PHS.

**Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services**, reported to the Board shared that her team was busy finishing up the 2nd quarter progress reports for students with

IEP's which will be sent home in January. Additionally, the Specialized Instruction programs in the district took an outing to see Frozen 2 at the theatre last Friday. Mrs. Loy also shared she's currently working with SOWIC on our district needs assessment survey for staff in terms of professional development they would like to see next year, as well as working on class/size and caseload projections for each grade level.

**Mr. Scott Wenzel, Principal of Peotone Junior High School,** reported to the Board that we hosted the 8th Grade Girls Basketball IESA Regional and Sectional. We hosted the 6th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament. Play Auditions for the PJHS play Willy Wonka Jr. were held on Wednesday, December 11th. Wrestling held a Dual Meet with Manteno where the two schools worked together to promote sportsmanship and giving back within their school community. This year on December 12<sup>th</sup> Peotone hosted the dual meet during which time the wrestlers raised money and donated it to Choose to Include. In turn, Choose to Include hosted a Pack the Stand Night. A big thank you to the Board of Education for the Staff Luncheon. We hosted the 8th Grade Boys Basketball Kan-Will Conference Tournament. Championship night is tomorrow, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Student Council is currently collecting non-perishable foods. The food drive began on December 9<sup>th</sup> and finishes on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Student Council also has two wishing trees in the main area of the building. For \$0.50 anyone can purchase a ribbon to tie to the tree. All money collected will go to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. 8th Grade ELA classes will be hosting a Book Reception for parents and family on December 20<sup>th</sup> for the books they created.

- We will be conducting the Winter MAP Test January 10-17. Our Systems/Data Day will be January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- PJHS play performance will be on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- As we come back from Christmas break, we will begin our academic club portion of our schedule. Math, Spelling, SkillsUSA, Scholastic Bowl, and Geography Bee will all be starting soon.

#### Athletics

- 7th Grade Girls Basketball finished the season with a record of 15-9.
  - Kan-Will Conference Regular Season Champs
  - Kan-Will Conference Tournament Runner-ups
- 8th Grade Girls Basketball currently has a record of 25-2.
  - Kan-Will Conference Regular Season Champs
  - Kan-Will Conference Tournament Champs
  - IESA Regional Champs
  - IESA Sectional Champs
  - Playing for 3rd Place in the IESA Class 3A State Tourney on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 6th Grade Boys Basketball finished 3rd in the Peotone Tournament to finish their season. A thank you to Coach Austin Rueth for his time and commitment.
- Wrestling and Volleyball are beginning their seasons.



**Mr. Ruben Suarez, Director of Technology**, reported to the Board that we have

- Corrected the configuration for the Windows version of the TestNav app to fix error message when students logged in.
- Published property tax calculator created by Trevor to the district website.
- Installed battery backup for bell system and cellular phone system at PIC.
- Working with Sentinel on a maintenance update for our backup and antivirus systems.
- Installed Ethernet port and Setup VLAN and for Pixellot system at PHS.
- The technology staff is moving to room 100 next Monday or Tuesday.

**Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary**, thanked the Board for providing a yummy lunch to the staff last Monday! The staff was very appreciative.

- December Monthly Focus is “The Gift of Kindness” The entire building has been participating in a 12 days of Kindness challenge with different acts of kindness each day. Our entryway is also full of lights that students wrote a way they can light up our world with kindness.
- Last week, students completed our Winter Benchmark testing on AIMSweb plus in reading and math.
- Our Santa’s Secret Shop was last Wednesday and Thursday. Students enjoyed shopping for their family. We raised over \$1700.00 with this fundraiser.
- POPstar update... at last board meeting I said we wanted to beat our quarter one POPstar total of 349 and we are currently at 426 with still one more quarter two call down this Thursday. To continue to promote respectful, responsible, and safe behavior this week right before break, every day is a double POP ticket day!
- The PTO Pancake Breakfast with Santa was on Saturday. There was a great turn out! It was an awesome day to be a part of and a big thank you to our PTO for arranging this event.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Winter Parties on Friday
    - K/3 from 10:30-11:30
    - ½ from 12:00-1:00
  - Institute Day on January 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Data Days on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

**Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation**, wanted to thank the Board for the awesome Breakfast provided to the Transportation Department, much appreciated! Mrs. Haag also reported to the Board that the transportation department supplied three busses to drive families from our district (about 20 families) to Walmart for the annual American Legion Holiday Event. These bus drivers always donate their time for this annual holiday event. Mrs. Robinson stated that she would like to acknowledge these bus drivers at the January board meeting, so if you can please invite them to the board meeting. Mrs. Haag responded yes, I will let them know. Thank you.

**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.

**THERE MAY BE/MAY NOT BE ACTION FOLLOWING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**


**OTHER:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:37 p.m. President Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting and that there will be no Closed Executive Session meeting tonight. Mr. Uthe made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion and a voice call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6) Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Becker was not present at the December 16<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting.



Tara Robinson, President

  
Cathy Cuculich, Reporter