



BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 - PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

This Regular Board Meeting was conducted via a teleconference call. Present in the Media Center at Peotone High School tonight, were President Tara Robinson, Vice President Rick Uthe, Secretary Jennifer Moe, Trustee Roger Bettenhausen, Trustee Jodi Becker and Trustee Paul Douglas. Also present were Mr. Steve Stein, Dr. Charles Vitton, Mrs. Cathy Cuculich and Mr. Don Swanson. Trustee Jody Thatcher was absent for the board meeting tonight.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00 p.m., President Tara 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): Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Mrs. Jennifer Moe, Mrs. Tara Robinson, Mr. Paul Douglas, Mrs. Jodi Becker and Mr. Richard Uthe. Mrs. Jody Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA:

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the December 21, 2020 regular board meeting. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. Mrs. Jody Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:

Mr. John Michalesko, CPA of Gassensmith & Michalesko, Ltd., presented to the Board via telephone the Audit for the District. Overall the records of the business office were in great shape and that the practices were in good working order, and we really just had compliments on that. One final report that I would like to mention, is the state AFR report, which is the excel version of the same audit. The District received on the total profile score from ISBE a 3.65, which is in their top recognition status.

Mr. Michalesko asked the Board if they had questions regarding tonight's audit presentation. Trustee Roger Bettenhausen, asked Mr. Michalesko - what is the highest rating that we can receive? Mr. Michalesko responded that the highest rating you can receive is 4.0. From 3.5 through 4.0 is the recognition range and your District is in that range. Like I was saying, the business office overall did a fantastic job during the year and as an audit as large as yours, to have only one finding, that is quite an accomplishment!

Board Secretary, Jennifer Moe asked Mr. Michalesko, the one finding was directly related to IMRF and that is outside of our controls that we under budgeted and we had to pay a little more, but it was out of our controls, not overspending on our account, correct?

Mr. Michalesko responded, yes, it was mandated amounts based on payroll costs. President Robinson thanked Mr. Michalesko for the presentation of the District's audit tonight.

Mr. John Maxedon, of Peotone, IL, addressed the Board with his concerns of the administrative performances of Mr. Steve Stein and Mr. Trevor Moore. The first concern was that Mr. Stein's parent communication that was sent out prior to the board meeting tonight. And his second concern was Mr. Moore's proposed budget presentation at the September board meeting which included a \$2.2 million deficit.

Board Trustee Paul Douglas asked Mr. Stein - Do you have any responses to the accusations? Mr. Stein responded "Accusations that I did not communicate with the Board?" Mr. Douglas responded - He cited a couple of date discrepancies that I am not aware of, and I would just like more information on these questions.

Mr. Stein responded that "Yes, I certainly did communicate with the Board, I communicate with the Board constantly. The Board is never in the dark about decisions that are made for the District. And part of the issue with making a decision to get that information out to the public prior to going on break - also comes from the fact that our teachers particularly at PES needed to have the information ready to go for parents prior to the break. And to get that information ready to go before we come back in January".

President Robinson asked Mr. Stein - "Was there any board members that you did not hear back from regarding the January 19th date?" Mr. Stein responded that I did contact the board members and asked them for any input they might have on this - and the only response I did not receive was from Mr. Douglas.

Mr. Stein reported that there was concern particularly from the teaching staff at PES regarding the fact that if this decision was made tonight, it does not give the teachers enough time to prepare.

Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal at PES, wanted to say I do appreciate that a decision was communicated out, because one of the reasons our remote learning plan at PES has been successful, is because for our little learners, we needed to provide them packets and materials. We just can't push things out on Google – like in 4th through 12th grade, and so for my teachers they really needed that time, so it was very important to have a decision made prior to tonight - because if the decision was made tonight - the teachers would be already be on break. And it is very important for the teachers to have their break to relax and recharge and enjoy time with their families.

Mr. Maxedon - asked for some input from someone on the Board, as whether or not there was a communication that occurred with the entire Board and Mr. Stein - and if that might be a violation of the open meeting act? The Board members responded to Mr. Maxedon - "No it is not."

Mrs. Dana Sippel, of Peotone, IL, asked Mr. Stein, "Why we are returning back to a three hour schedule, versus an all day schedule or a five hour schedule, like Manteno?" Is there anything percolating as far as getting our kids back in school full time? Mr. Stein responded to Mrs. Sippel – Yes, Dana, that is something that we are always looking towards getting there - but we want to see what happens after Christmas, and see if there is surge and where we are at closer to January 19th date. Obvious, our main objective is to get the kids back in school full-time or closer to that.

Mr. Jim Begley, of Wilmington, IL, asked the Board to please open the schools full-time for the students.

GOOD NEWS:

PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNITION OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE NOVEMBER 2020 PEOTONE BOWLING CENTER EXCELLENCE AWARD

Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School, reported to the Board that before I announce our recipients of the PBC Excellence Award for November, I am very excited and happy to announce that by an overwhelming vote, we are renaming "The PBC Excellence in Teaching Award" to the "The PBC Excellence Award". And with that our Special Education Department of Peotone High School has nominated the ***Custodian Staff of the District*** as the November recipients of the PBC Excellence Award and wrote:

The Special Ed department would like to nominate ALL CUSTODIANS DISTRICT-WIDE for the PBC Excellence Award. Although the custodial staff are not teachers in the traditional sense, they consistently demonstrate a positive attitude, dedication, and a strong work ethic. All of these characteristics are modeled on a daily basis which is, in our opinion, one of the best ways to teach students. Throughout these last nine months, Mike and his crew have worked tirelessly without complaint to keep both staff and students safe. This award is just a small way to say that we recognize their hard work and appreciate everything they do. Peotone High School and the District would not be the same without them.



Congratulations to the Custodial Staff of the District!

PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2020 ACADEMIC STUDENT OF THE MONTH

President Robinson recognized ***Grace Ward*** as the December 2020's Board of Education Academic Student of Peotone High School. Grace is a sophomore at Peotone High School with a grade point average of 4.07 on a 4.0 grading scale.



Congratulations Grace!

PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2020 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

President Robinson recognized ***6th Grade - Santino Petrizzi, 7th Grade - Peyton Bisping, and 8th Grade - Ronald Zoppa***, as the November 2020 students of the month for Peotone Junior High School. These students have demonstrated outstanding behavior, good work ethic, and have “gone above and beyond the call of duty”.

Congratulations Santino, Peyton and Ronald!

2020 TAX LEVY HEARING:

At 6:30 p.m., President Robinson asked for a motion to open the 2020 Tax Levy Hearing tonight. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion on a voice call vote, the following members answered aye, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. The 2020 Tax Levy Hearing is now open. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

President Robinson asked for comments from Superintendent, Mr. Steve Stein. Mr. Stein reported that he has no comments, Mr. Moore did a very good job with the Tax Levy presentation last month at our board meeting.

President Robinson asked the Board if they have any comments, and there was no comments from the Board. President Robinson tasked if the public had any comments, and there no comments from the public.

At 6:33 p.m. Mrs. Robinson asked for a motion to close the 2020 Tax Levy Hearing. Mrs. Moe made a motion and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion and on a voice call vote, the following members answered aye, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. The 2020 Tax Levy Hearing is now closed. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

FOR ACTION:

REPORT NO. 31:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE 2020 TAX LEVY.

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **2020 Tax Levy**. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

REPORT NO. 32:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION
CONSORTIUM.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Intergovernmental Agreement for the Transportation Consortium**. Mrs. Moe made a motion and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

REPORT NO. 33:

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

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of Peotone Community Unit School District 207U, Will County, Illinois**. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

REPORT NO. 34:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE EARLY GRADUATES
(JANUARY 2021) OF PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Early Graduates (January 2021) of Peotone High School, Ernesto Alvarado, Alexis Marie Morris, Rachel Paw, Alyssa Schultz and Lexus Marie Wokurka-Klene**. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

REPORT NO. 35:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL'S COURSE GUIDE CHANGES FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve **Peotone High School's Course Guide Changes for the 2020-2021 School Year**. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

REPORT NO. 36:

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

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Certified and Classified Staff Personnel**. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.

CERTIFIED STAFF CHANGE OF STATUS:

- Tracy Mrozek - PJHS - Long Term Teacher Substitute (Covid-19 Absences) to PJHS - 6th Grade Math Teacher (effective date of 01/04/2021).

CERTIFIED STAFF (continued)

RESIGNATION:

- Michelle Dandurand - PJHS - 6th Grade Math Teacher (effective date of 12/18/2020).

CLASSIFIED STAFF CHANGE OF LOCATION:

- Cheryl Delorto - PES-SI Program Aide to PIC - SI Program Aide (effective date of 01/04/2021).

RELEASE OF EMPLOYMENT:

- David Myers - PES - Custodian (effective date of 12/21/2020).

RETIREMENT:

- Vicki Yaeger - PES - Paraprofessional (end of the 2020-2021 school year).

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary, reported to the Board that the PES teachers and students did a phenomenal job with remote learning in December. The format mirrored their usual schedule for in person and teachers were able to provide continuous student engagement, small group responsiveness, and learning throughout the instructional day. Attendance Rate was about 97% daily. I want to thank all of the teachers, staff, parents, caregivers, and students for working together during Remote Learning to make it as successful as possible during the closure. Our December monthly Focus was "HOME for the Holidays!" We knew this holiday season may not look the same. Our monthly focus revolved around activities to do at home as a family, staying connected with friends and family they may not be able to see in person, and celebrating past traditions and even making new traditions of their own! We continued weekly POP stars remotely and had two record setting weeks with over 130 POPstars each week. We had a school wide Annual Christmas Sing Along on Friday to kick off our last day before break. Obviously this year had to look different and we used the live stream feature on Google Meet. There were approximately 300 that joined the livestream. The event included singing favorite Christmas songs with Mr. Deweese, The Night before Christmas was read by Mrs. Schubbe, PES Family Tradition video, and a visit at the end with Santa. Room parties and holiday activities followed the sing along.

Upcoming Dates:

- January 4th - January Remote Learning Packet Pick Up Day
- January 15th - (tentative) - Remote Learning Material and Device Return.

Trustee Jodi Becker wanted to thank Mrs. Zurales for all her hard work she has done at PES. Much appreciated! Also, I love you as the Elf on the Shelf at PES!

Mrs. Joanne Obszanski, Principal of Peotone Intermediate Center, reported to the Board that PIC's November Character Trait was Kindness. At the end of November, the following students were acknowledged for their acts of kindness, and helpful behavior toward others. These students were observed showing care, compassion, and friendship. Our Character Ed program includes lessons with an emphasis on treating others as you would like to be treated and showing concern for the feelings of others.

Congratulations to November Student/s of the Month for demonstrating Kindness:

4th graders - Giana Pagliarulo, Hunter Pycz, Daniel Rembert
5th graders - Karina Porcelli, Jayden Lewis, Bella Mosqueda

Dependability is PIC's January Character Trait! Dependability is the quality that lets people know that you will do what you said you would do, when you said you will do it, and you will do it to the best of your ability – each and every time. We look forward to celebrating students demonstrating this character trait in January.

We currently have 11 students signed up for Session 2 of PIC's Virtual Book Club. The book club is reading "Hello Universe" by Erin Extrada Kelly. The club currently has 8 meetings dates on the calendar and will make adjustments if additional meetings dates are necessary. Session 1 was successful and very well received by students and parents? We are planning for a third session in the spring. Thank you to Mrs. Schubbe, for providing recordings on the book, "The One & Only Bob" for all PIC students to continue to appreciate reading and the library.

In addition, we appreciate Mrs. Schubbe setting up an Axis 360 tutorial video for PIC families on E-book and video books for our students. Link is below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RbLGKeEpFRaaQa9v0iixcFaAYTdZDfQ/view?usp=sharing>

As our district shifted to 100% remote learning, we all strive to maintain high levels of communication to both students and families each day. Teachers & students continue to build on connections and relationships established since the start of the year, and lessons are developed that engage students while maintaining an established schedule/routine.

Teachers continue to collaborate and learn how to incorporate technology into their instruction at a remarkable rate. They have diversified their use of technology in so many ways with various platforms and deliver lessons to students using webcams, document cameras, smartboards, touch tablets w/stylis, Kami, class dojo, just to name a few. With the high levels of support from our Technology Department, teamwork has improved the overall remote quality for teachers and students. I am thankful for having the opportunity to visit each of our teacher's google classrooms as they provide digital instruction at very high levels.

In order to support teachers, we continue to schedule Staff, Department, and Building Leadership meetings to continuously plan and prepare for the days, weeks, and months ahead. These meetings provide me with valuable insight and ways to support teachers, increase school/family communication, and evaluate how to best prioritize the focus for our instruction throughout the school year.

On behalf of all of us at PIC, we are thankful for the strong efforts from our students and parents to work together with us at such high levels. The overwhelming positive feedback and gestures of thanks over the past couple of weeks has been very heartwarming. We will continue to exhaust all efforts to insure that we do our best to meet the needs of our students.

Upon transitioning to in-person learning in the near future, we look forward to resume PIC's after school Learning Lab. Prior to transitioning to remote learning, we were meeting with approximately 30 students.

Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone Junior High School, reported to the Board that I want to give a special thanks to Sheri Schubbe for organizing a virtual author visit with Joelle Charbonneau on December 2nd. Mrs. DeGraaf's honors ELA classroom was able to join a PHS class in order to hear from this Young Adult author during their class time.

On December 17th, we had great participation for a Choose to Include Scavenger Hunt which was organized by our social worker, Ms. Schlickman. Students hunted for and shared items from their homes and we're able to relax and have fun with each other for a little while. Over 60 students and teachers participated in this.

Scott Wenzel, Principal of Peotone Junior High School, reported to the Board that:

- **Full Remote Learning** - Teachers have been working diligently to stay creative with lessons as well as providing assignments that are meaningful.
- **Communication** - Staff has been reaching out in a variety of ways to parents and students. Many emails have been sent, phone calls, remote office hours, and some individual times have been requested by teachers for Google Meet. Teachers are continually reaching out to students who seem to be struggling. The SST Team (Mr. Wenzel, Mrs. Bean, and Ms. Schlickman) meet biweekly with grade level teams to receive feedback from teachers on students. We will continue to reach out and make contact from the school to each student. We are keeping track of this through PowerSchool Log Entries.
- **Yearbook** - Mrs. Wojtanowski and the yearbook staff are looking at new and creative ways to provide memories of this school year in the yearbook.
- **Extracurricular Activities** - Per the IESA we are on hold for all sports. When we return from break it is planned for Boys Basketball, Volleyball, and Wrestling to begin. Our conference, the Kan-Will Conference, has discussed the idea of holding our academic clubs; Spelling, Math, and Scholastic Bowl virtually. We are moving forward with Spelling while Math and Scholastic Bowl are still being discussed.

Mr. Brandon Owens, Athletic Director/ Assistant Principal at Peotone High School, reported to the Board that:

IHSA Winter Sports Update:

Currently, at this time, we are still awaiting further word regarding winter sports. During this past month, the IHSA met twice to discuss moving forward; however, due the Mitigation Tier that Illinois is currently under, we are unable to participate in any practices at this time. IHSA has stated that they are hopeful to still have the opportunity to hold seasons for all sports but has not specified any further ideas or plans for that to happen. At this time, students are able to participate in the Speech Team and Scholastic Bowl, which is planned to be held virtually this season.

Remote Learning:

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our teachers and students since we began implementing a new round of remote learning since mid-November. Mr. Spang and I have had the opportunity to attend classes on a daily basis and have continued to see growth from both our teachers and students. The adjustments and supports that teachers have been able to provide over this past month have been exemplary. Our Student Support Team (SST) has continued to reach out to students and families to find ways to support the needs of struggling students. We meet on a weekly basis to identify students in needs based on recommendations by teachers and other sources and work to ensure that these families are contacted on a weekly basis.

12 Days of Christmas:

Although most on a virtual basis, we have been in the process of celebrating our 12 Days of Christmas event. On Wednesday, December 9th, teachers were provided with bags of goodies and other items to open or enjoy for each of the 12 week days of Christmas. Staff members residing in the district were visited by Santa Claus (Spang) and Buddy the Elf (Owens) and given these bags. Staff members were invited to attend a movie event on the afternoon of Thursday, December 17th. I just wanted to throw out a special thanks to Mr. Spang who let me talk him into dressing up like Santa!

Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School, reported to the Board that

- PHS began its annual “12 Days of Christmas” countdown with the staff again this year. It will take on a new twist as we are not in session, but involves some contests, treats, and Mr. Owens and I were happy to deliver all gift bags.
- **New Name: November Peotone Bowling Center Excellence Award:** **District Custodians** Nominated by PHS Special Education department of Moira Burke, Colleen Crabbe, Keith Cucio, Joselyn Daher, Kara Lindsay, and Belinda Schirmer. The Special Ed department would like to nominate Mike Arnold and his district custodial staff for the PBC Excellence Award. Although the custodial staff are not teachers in the traditional sense, they consistently demonstrate a positive attitude, dedication, and a

strong work ethic. All of these characteristics are modeled on a daily basis which is, in our opinion, one of the best ways to teach students. Throughout these last nine months, Mike and his crew have worked tirelessly without complaint to keep both staff and students safe. This award is just a small way to say that we recognize their hard work and appreciate everything they do. Peotone High School would not be the same without them.

- PHS has been contacting families each day just to check in on how they are doing with Remote Learning. These have primarily been struggling students, but we have begun to make contact with other students as well who are not struggling and increase communication and feedback with parents, as our goal is to reach as many families as possible. These have been very positive and helpful on both ends.
- **SAT and PSAT UPDATE:**
Cambridge Educational Services SAT Prep
 - March 2nd (Three Hour Sessions)
 - This will be the only classroom obligations that day for juniors and they will be instructed to gather any work missed beforehand.
 - 2 AM Groups
 - One Group of 25 in Media Center
 - One Group of 50 in Auditorium
 - 1 PM Group
 - 1 Group of 50 in Auditorium
- **JUNIOR SAT (STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT):**
 - April 13th in downstairs classrooms. Grades 9, 10, and 12 Remote
- **PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10:**
 - Administer this on April 20th in downstairs classrooms for PSAT 10 and Gym/Auditorium/Aux Gym if needed for PSAT 8/9 with Grades 11 and 12 Remote.
- **SENIOR SAT**
 - Our seniors took the SAT this fall and I want to commend our students and teachers on how the students performed. We far exceeded the state average in growth of our ERW, Math, and Total scores and for that I say Thank You and Congratulations to the students and teachers at PHS. This shows that we are continuing to go above and beyond for our students despite the incredible challenges of this pandemic and virtual learning.

Peotone High School - 96 Test Taker(s)

PSAT/NMSQT Fall 2019, 11th grade - Scores & Benchmarks

Total Score/Section Scores

Group	Number of Test Takers	Total Score 220-1520	ERW Score 100-700	Math Score 100-700
School	96	916	470	446
District	96	916	470	446
State	64,762	1002	506	496
Total Group	1,708,420	1004	509	494

Peotone High School - 93 Test Taker(s)

SAT School Day September 2020 - October 2020, All grades - Scores & Benchmarks

Total Score/Section Scores

Group	Number of Test Takers	Total Score 400-1600	ERW Score 200-800	Math Score 200-800
School	93	968	493	475
District	93	968	493	475
State	110,757	1005	508	497
Total Group	522,050	1032	524	508

- Total Average Growth = +52 points... State was +3
- ERW Average Growth = +23 points... State was +2
- Math Average Growth = +29 points... State was +1

Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services, reported to the Board that the Special Services Related Service Staff members have been working hard to create a new resource for students and families. In addition to our monthly Mental Health tips sheet this month, we debuted the Mental Health Minute and this new video resource was sent via email and Facebook at each of the buildings. For December, Dr. Steven Malm, school psychologist and PHS school counselor Ashley Siemen did a fantastic job providing information and resources regarding Zoom fatigue as well as a Corona virus anxiety workbook resource for all to learn about and access. It takes less than five minutes to review the information shared, and I encourage everyone to check it out. Recent Professional Development opportunities for Special Services staff include a great workshop for staff on using Google Suite for IEP goal and objective data tracking with Tiffany Frey from SOWIC our special education cooperative. We also recently held a refresher training for de-escalation techniques according to the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI). This refresher training was conducted by our newly certified district trainer, Josh Hoskins, special educator at PJHS.

An upcoming Professional Development opportunity will include collaborating with Hospice of Joliet for a Grief Training for our school based mental health providers and school nurses for a virtual workshop we have scheduled for January 4th.

Mrs. Terry Wuske, Director of Food Services, reported to the Board that the Food Service department continues to prepare and distribute meal packs weekly on Mondays. We had some fun this week passing out cafeteria trays for the students to eat their lunches on. We have enjoyed receiving all the great pictures from the students and glad we could connect with them while being remote.

Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation, reported to the Board that Not much going on, cleaning and organizing. We did our yearly trip to Walmart for the Legion. Bud Ivanoff and Jolene Fritz are the drivers that took everyone to Walmart. As we said last year they donate their time to take the families down there to shop for Christmas. The drivers really enjoy doing this for the community. Shawn Picker and I are delivering our Christmas gifts to the transportation employees on Tuesday since we were not able to get together as usual. We are making sure that the buses are started on a weekly basis and running for the expected return to school on January 19th. We can't wait to see the students again and get back behind the wheel of the buses!!

Mr. Dave Osborne, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported to the Board that I would like to thank Terry Wuske and her lunch crew for taking the initiative to paint at the kitchens at PHS and PJHS. I'd also like to thank Jennifer Haag for sending over Dave Cann and Kevin Nelson to help paint at PJHS.

Dr. Charles Vitton, Assistant Superintendent, reported to the Board that:
TEACHER INSTITUTE: JANUARY 4, 2021

We are planning to offer several on-demand (virtual) professional development opportunities on the Teacher Institute Day scheduled for January 4, 2021 including:

- Instructional Technology Training (Google Workspace, Pear Deck, Jamboard)
- Mental Health and Resilience Training (partnership between ISBE and Lurie Children's Hospital)
- Grief Support Training (Joliet Area Community Hospice)
- Professional Development Needs Assessment (SOWIC)
- Department Curriculum Articulation Meetings

DATA ANALYSIS:

As we end the first semester, I will be providing the Board with an analysis of benchmark data from the Fall 2019 to the Fall 2020 (NWEA/MAP data for grades 4-8).

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board that I want to echo what a great job all of the staff members are doing as we have switched to remote learning and it is so much different than it was in the spring. I think teachers and students have become much more at ease of using technology. And it is clearly showing through in the instruction that is taking place. I have received three FOIAs since our last board meeting in November. One was from a company called Local Labs, requested information on board members' emails and their terms of service. Also, I received two FOIAs from John Maxedon, one, I did respond back to him, asking him to narrow his request, which was regarding coaches' salaries, and a second FOIA request from Mr. Maxedon was for increases and decreases generally of expenses due from COVID-19. I have provided Mr. Maxedon the information that we had.

Mr. Trevor Moore, Chief Financial School Official, reported to the Board that he plans to file the tax levy in both Will and Kankakee Counties tomorrow since it was approved at this meeting. Additionally, he provided an update on the 2019 tax levy. It is expected that the final payment from Will County will be made later this week and that it doesn't appear there will be much, if any, unpaid property taxes. Early in the spring of 2020, Mr. Moore was concerned about the timing of property tax payments since Will County provided a no penalty extension to property tax payments this year. Some payments were smaller than the same time the previous year, but it looks like the fears of more uncollected taxes did not come true.

At the January meeting, Mr. Moore plans to present some Five Year Financial Projections. He has decided that January is a good month to do this moving forward because it is usually a bit of a slower board meeting in terms of business and the fall season of budgets and tax levies are completed. He encouraged members of the board to email him suggestions of scenarios they would like to see projected. These can either be changes to revenue projections with associated disinvestments or they can be additional investments in programs they would consider adding or improvements they would consider making.

Mrs. Debbie Caza, Union President, wanted to take a moment to thank Steve Stein for starting the process little earlier than tonight, to give us what January is going to look like. As far from the teachers' point of view, the more time we can have of course is better for us to be prepared for the students. And I would also want to give a **HUGE** thank you to the tech department, Don, Dave and Brian who have been absolutely wonderful! You know for us old teachers who don't know tech very well - they are always there to step up and help us whenever we need it.

Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Board Trustee, wanted to say that Mr. Stein has the legal authority to make these decisions that he making as far as our learning environment is concerned without Board approval. Mr. Stein does a very good job of keeping the Board members informed and advised on a continued basis and we appreciate that. But I think that he needs to have that flexibility as a Superintendent to make those decisions, because this is very fluid situation.

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Mrs. Jennifer Moe, Board Secretary, wanted to say that we do have one of the best administration teams I have seen in my tenure in this District. I think District-wide our administration team is doing a wonderful job! They put in far more hours than anyone of us can imagine. Thank you all so much!

Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Board Trustee, reported that I also want to extend my support to Mr. Trevor Moore for his fine job he continually does for the District, from a financial standpoint. I would hate to think the position that we would be in without his leadership in that area.

Mrs. Jennifer Moe, Board Secretary, responded that I appreciate the fact that Trevor helps us all understand it, because school finances are very complicated if you are not an expert at it. I always think that Trevor does a great job whether he is giving us diet Pepsi analogies to help us understand the process and also decisions that need to be made. He is an expert!

Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Board Trustee responded - I agree, he is an expert. Thank you, Trevor!

Mrs. Tara Robinson, Board President, wanted to say thank you to our teachers and our administrators alike, I know this has been a trying year, but we are looking to have a happy and healthy holiday season with our families and friends. We will see you all back here in January at our board meeting on the 20th. Goodnight everyone!

OTHER:

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 or May Not Be Action Following the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:26 p.m. President Robinson asked if anyone had anything for executive session tonight and the board responded no. President Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion and on a voice call vote, the following members answered aye (6), Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of December 21, 2020.



Tara Robinson, President



Cathy Cuculich, Reporter