



**BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021
AT PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL- MEDIA CENTER**

The Regular Board Meeting of February 17th was an open meeting with a maximum of fifty people. Present in the Media Center at Peotone High School were President Tara Robinson, Vice President Rick Uthe, Secretary Jennifer Moe, Trustee Roger Bettenhausen, Trustee Jodi Becker and Trustee Paul Douglas. Also present: Mr. Steve Stein, Dr. Charles Vitton, Mrs. Cathy Cuculich and the Administrators. Trustee Jody Thatcher was absent for the February 17th 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 February 17, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA:

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the January 20, 2021 regular board meeting. Mrs. Moe made a motion and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the follow 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 February 17, 2021.

OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:

No visitor speakers tonight.

GOOD NEWS:

PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNITION OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE JANUARY 2021 PEOTONE BOWLING CENTER EXCELLENCE AWARD

President Robinson recognized the January 2021 recipients of the PBC Excellence Award, the ***Nursing Staff of the District, Dawn Barber, Monica Cowger, Sarah Bolin and Dawn Mahalik.*** Monica Cowger, was present at the meeting to receive the Award on behalf of the Nursing Staff from Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School. Mrs. Terry Wuske and her cafeteria staff nominated the Nursing Staff of the District and wrote on their behalf:

In the past year, we have heard a lot about being a Hero. With that being said, I would like to nominate our team of school nurses for the January PBC Excellence Award. Dawn Barber and the school nursing staff have all stepped up and gone above and beyond their normal duties! We all appreciate their flexibility, compassion and concern for the students, families, and staff in our District. They are always willing to answer questions, phone calls or drop everything to take care of a student or staff member at a moment's notice no matter how big or small the problem. Their list of normal duties including registration, exams, medical and allergy concerns along with nutrition and all of the paperwork involved, are just a few that I can see happening daily. And when we add all the EXTRA that Covid 19 has brought us, they are some of our District's Heroes in my eyes!

Thank you very much for always keeping the health and wellness first, for our Peotone District staff, students, and families.

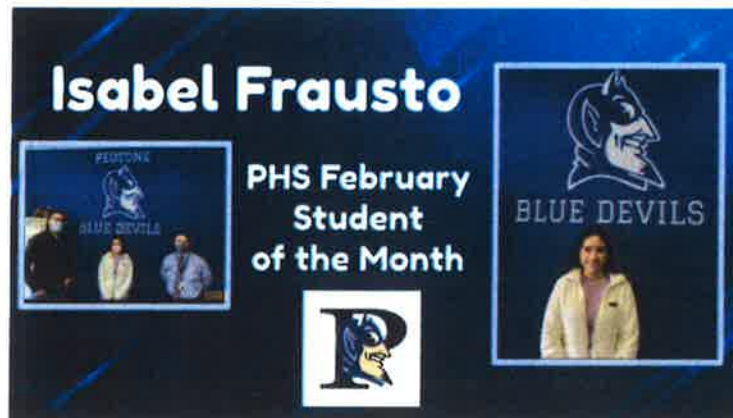


***Congratulations Dawn Barber, Monica Cowger, Sarah Bolin
and Dawn Mahalik!***

PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2021 ACADEMIC STUDENT OF THE MONTH

President Robinson recognized **Isabel Frausto**, as the February 2021 Board of Education Academic Student of Peotone High School. Isabel is a senior, with a grade point average of 4.2 on a 4.0 grading scale. Isabel was not present at the board meeting to receive her certificate.



Congratulations Isabel!

PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

JANUARY 2021 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Superintendent Stein presented certificates to 7th Grade Student of the Month, Mallory Schroeder, and 8th Student of the Month, Kaylee Walker.

6th Grade Student of the Month, Jakob Voss was not present at the board meeting to receive his certificate. These students have demonstrated outstanding behavior, good work ethic, and have “gone above and beyond the call of duty” at Peotone Junior High School.



Congratulations Kaylee, Mallory and Jakob!

FOR ACTION:

REPORT NO. 42:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF SECOND READING AND ADOPTION
OF PRESS 106 BOARD POLICIES.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Second Reading and Adoption of PRESS 106 Board Policies.** 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 February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 43:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE ITC MEMORANDUM
OF AGREEMENT.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **ITC Memorandum of Agreement.** 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 February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 44:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
JOB DESCRIPTION UPDATES.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Technology Department Job Description Updates.** 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 February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 45:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF A DIPLOMA (PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL).

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Request for the Release of a Diploma (Peotone High School) for Jaden Clark**. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a voice 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 February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 46:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE RENEWAL OF THE CLOVERLEAF MILK CONTRACT FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Renewal of the Cloverleaf Milk Contract**. 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 February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 47:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE LANDSCAPING BID OF VITAL LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPE FOR THE DISTRICT.

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Landscaping Bid of Vital Lawn Care and Landscape for the District**. 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 February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 48:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN THE TRS SUPPLEMENTAL SAVINGS PLAN (SSP)

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Adoption of the Resolution Authorizing the Participation in the TRS Supplemental Savings Plan (SSP)**. 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 February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 49:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT OF INTENT TO
ABATE PROPERTY TAXES FOR
SILVESTRI PAVING COMPANY.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Agreement of Intent to Abate Property Taxes for Silvestri Paving Company**. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (5): Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe and (1) nay: Mr. Douglas. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 50:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE ADOPTION OF THE
RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Adoption of the Risk Management Plan for the District**. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion and Mr. Uthe 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, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 51:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 DISTRICT
SCHOOL CALENDAR.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **2021-2022 District School Calendar**. Mr. Uthe made a motion 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, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of February 17, 2021.

REPORT NO. 52:

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**. 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, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Thatcher was absent for the regular board meeting of February 17, 2021.

CERTIFIED STAFF

EMPLOYMENT:

- Joy Whalen - PHS - Family & Consumer Science Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year - (effective date of 08/16/2021).
- Shawn Price - PHS - English Teacher for the 2021- 2022 school year- (effective date of 08/16/2021).
- Ryan Murray - PHS Art Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year- (effective date of 08/16/2021).
- Nate Matthias - PJHS - 6th Grade Boys Basketball Coach (effective date of 02/02/2021).

CLASSIFIED STAFF

EMPLOYMENT:

- Jasmine Manitowabi - Transportation - Bus Aide (effective date of 02/03/2021).
- Diann Wilbur - PES - SI Room Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year (effective date 08/19/2021).

CLASSIFIED STAFF

CHANGE IN STATUS:

- Jennifer Hall - PES Crossing Guard - adding Sanitation Position (3 hours per day - effective date of 01/25/2021).
- Dawn Mahalik - PHS -1:1 Paraprofessional to District - Nurse Clerk (effective date of 02/16/2021).

RESIGNATION:

- Julie Van - PHS - Cafeteria - (effective date of 01/29/2021).

RETIREMENT:

- Bruce Johnson - PJHS - Custodian - (effective date of 06/30/2021).

FOR DISCUSSION:

- **Summer School 2021:**

Dr. Vitton reported to the Board, that this is the time of the year when we plan for our ESY (extended school year) for eligible IEP students. The Administration is also proposing having summer school for all students because of the current circumstances (COVID19) and the learning loss of students during this time. Grades K-8 student eligibility will be based on testing, grades and teacher recommendations. Grades 9-12 student eligibility will be based on failure to earn a passing grade in a core academic area, with priority to seniors in need to meet graduation requirements. ESY and summer school is on a voluntary basis for students. This proposal outlines that summer school and ESY will take place at one school (Peotone High School). Having summer school at one school will be easier for parents to drop off and pick up, especially if they have one or more students in summer school. Dr. Vitton reported that we need to start planning for summer school now, so we can make sure that we have interest from certified staff and students, and to make sure that we can get the invites out to students after our return from Spring break. The Board agreed with Dr. Vitton and the Administration to go ahead and start the initial planning for ESY and summer school.

- **Increasing Instructional Time:**

The Board and the Administration discussed in length increasing the instructional time for the students. Mr. Stein reported that looking at extending the school day to a true full day (3:20 p.m. dismissal) would be very cumbersome to the system. And we still have around twenty percent of students that are fully remote learning. Mr. Stein reported that unless the state mandate changes, we are legally responsible to have support for these fully remote learning students. Right now, the system we have in place is working for the teachers, students and staff. Even extending the school to 1:30 p.m. to include lunch, would not give much more instructional time to the students. Mr. Stein reported that we should put all of our energy and time on focusing and planning for the next school year when students will be returning to a full day of school.

Sports Update:

Mr. Stein reported to the Board that sports are on at the buildings and it going very smoothly. And we are now allowed two spectators (parents/guardians) per player but this applies only to home games, and not away games.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Dr. Charles Vitton, Assistant Superintendent, reported to the Board that the State Superintendent has outlined her intentions to request a federal waiver of State mandated testing this spring, if the Department of Education allows for a waiver this school year. The testing window for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness and the Illinois Science Assessment is scheduled to open on March 1st. It is likely that a waiver from the US Department of Education will not occur until after the Senate confirmation hearings of the new Secretary of Education.

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board that I would like to first thank Dave Osborne and his maintenance crew for a fantastic job on keeping the building parking lots clear of all of the snow, especially on how much we have received in the last couple of weeks. There is a lot of preparation and time that is put into preparing for the snow, salt and removal of the snow. Thank you, Dave!!

Also, a small majority of our staff will be receiving their first dose of the vaccine, this Friday, February 19th, at Silver Cross Hospital.

I have also received five FOIAs this month, one from the Retired Teachers Association - requesting our teachers who retiring this year. ABC News 7 asking for our student enrollment, Chicagoland Construction, inquiring about our landscaping bids. Mr. John Maxedon, requesting the O & M expenses for the Connor Shaw Center, and Mr. Tim Stoub, requesting utilities expenses for the Connor Shaw Center.

Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary, reported to the Board that:

- We restructured our afternoon supports at PES when we returned to in person in January. We have 38 first-third grade students that come back in the afternoon for "Reading Club". Reading Club is from 1:30-2:30 and we have four stations in the gym for our first graders that they rotate through during the hour and then our second and third graders are in the library and computer lab doing Read Naturally and Lexia for 30 minutes each. We also have 20 special education students that receive additional support before or after our in person day with their case managers. Classroom teachers are available daily from 2:00-3:00 for office hours for students that are in quarantine or need additional support.
- PES has celebrated Black History Month learning about important black Americans throughout American history through literature, Scholastic Readers, and Epic. We have also connected Black history to our lives and our world today and showing love and acceptance of all not just this month but all the time.
- Classrooms made Valentines for Vets through the State Representative Jackie Hass Valentines for Vets program.

- Our February Monthly Focus is “Love thaws a Frozen Heart.” We have had different activities throughout the month for showing love to others and we will end the month with a “Spread the LOVE” spirit week.
- We had a fun Valentine’s Day Celebration on Friday. Our holiday celebrations have looked different this year, but we have created special and memorable activities for our holiday celebrations.
- Spotlight on the Classrooms: Mrs. Sexton’s classroom did a STEM challenge with the 3 Little Pigs and built houses out of provided materials and tried to see if they could withstand the Big Bad Wolf Blow Dryer, Mrs. Weirich created a Virtual Black History Library for students and teachers to access different literature and biographies, and Miss Deutsche had her full time remote students put on a virtual Readers Theatre.
- We had 946 Popstars for Quarter 2, which was amazing and the highest total ever in a quarter! We wanted a special reward for both our in-person and remote. We booked an interactive virtual Magic Mystery Show through Camp. It was awesome to be together an entire school community at the same time to celebrate this record setting accomplishment of Quarter 2.

Upcoming Events at PES:

- February 22- 100th Day of School
- February 25- Spring Picture Day
- Our March Monthly Focus is “Listening Leprechauns” and we will focus on skills for listening.

Mrs. Joanne Obszanski, Principal of Peotone Intermediate Center, reported to the Board that our appreciation to maintenance for clearing away the snow and keeping our walkways, and parking lots safe. In addition, appreciation extended to our custodians for extra attention given to the high traffic areas of our school and maintaining the efforts put forth from maintenance.

PIC continues to reinforce the Character Trait of **DEPENDABILITY** in February.

We teach our students that:

Dependability is the quality that lets people know that you will do what you said you would do, when you said you would do it, and you will do it to the best of your ability - each time.

CONGRATULATIONS for demonstrating behavior aligned to DEPENDABILITY!

4th Grade Students -
Sophie Novoa
Mason Mamrak
Makala Kraft

5th Grade Students -
Lila Leighton
Kaleb Schirmer
Isaac Scrivens

Miss McIntyre, PIC's Social Worker has paid a visit to each classroom in February presenting the triggers of anxiety/stress, what causes stress, and how best to handle stress. Miss McIntyre incorporated the character trait dependability into her presentations as well.

Perseverance is PIC's March Character Trait
Quarter three mid-term on 2/24/2021.
PIC's Spring Picture day is on 2/24/2021

We would like to encourage all remote students to come and take a picture beginning at 1pm to insure that their picture is included in our 2020-2021 yearbook. Our Yearbook Sponsors, Mrs. Septoski and Mrs. Kauchak have developed many unique ideas for our 2020-2021 yearbook. We are excited that our yearbook will include so many of the things that made this school year not only different, but also unique.

February is a very busy month for PIC teachers and students. Under the guidance of PIC's art teacher, Mrs. Harmon, all PIC students made a Valentine Card for the Veterans residing at the Manteno Veterans' Home. Cards were delivered on 2/11/2021 to Michelle, my contact at the Veterans' Home. Michelle shared pictures of Veterans receiving cards and pictures with me, and I posted them on PIC's FB page. It is a very rewarding feeling knowing that our students are able to bring happiness with our cards to the hearts of our Veterans.

PIC's Art, ELA, Social Studies & Science teachers are incorporating the contributions and accomplishments of past and current presidents into their activities & lessons. Teachers are engaging students with lessons pertaining to black history in the areas of elections, government, science, art, literature, and music.

Appreciation for Mr. Phillips 5th grade Social Studies teacher as he continues to bring history alive to his 5th grade students by portraying historical figures such as Marco Polo, William Bradford, Mr. Balderdash, Chief Blue Cloud, Erg the Caveman, and this week he is Sherlock Holmes. His desire to encourage a love of history among his students and incorporates technology is commendable and appreciated by his students and makes for interesting Yearbook pictures.

Fortunately, for us...Mrs. Schubbe has confirmed a virtual author visit from Keri Graff on 4/8/21. She is the author of "The Tiny Mansion" and details will be worked out as the day approaches.

Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone Junior High School, reported to the Board that:

- Our students enjoyed a school-wide virtual author visit from Alan Gratz on February 8th. Thanks to Mrs. Schubbe for making that happen.
- Patty Heron had play auditions starting earlier today for our spring play, Alice in Wonderland. This will be in a much modified format with small groups and will be presented on March 20th and 21st with a limited audience. Our students are very excited for this opportunity.
- We continue to meet in grade level teams to talk about individual students and what we can do to help them. Our 8th grade registration process went very smoothly despite some extra challenges this year. Thanks to PHS Guidance for all your work with that.
- Our girls' volleyball teams and boys' basketball teams are excited to be back in the gym. We're happy to have added a limited number of spectators back in the gym tonight as well. Thank you to our athletes and their parents for their flexibility and patience as we navigate the extra challenges this year.

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

Extra-Curricular Activities:

At this time, we have multiple extra-curricular activities taking place. We are in the second weeks of girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and bowling. Each team will compete over the course of the next three completing their seasons by March 9th. Cheer and Dance have upcoming virtual competitions as well and plan to compete virtually in the IHSA Tournament. As we approach March, we will be moving into our spring sports with boys' soccer (March 1st), football (March 3rd), and volleyball (March 8th).

Spectators:

Last Thursday (March 4th), we began allowing spectators to our sporting events. At this time, numbers are limited to 2 attendees (parents/guardians) per player. Spectators are allowed to be present for their child's games but must exit the gym at the end of the game so that we can clean and prepare for the next group.

Senior Nights:

Tonight (February 17th) is senior night for our girls' basketball team as they host Grace Christian Academy. Next Tuesday (February 23rd), our boys' basketball team will host Lisle for their senior night. In addition to our senior boys, we will look to recognize our cheer and dance seniors as well.

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

- **PHS Peer Tutoring Program**

- I want to take this opportunity to share information on a Peer Tutoring Program we have begun to offer here at PHS. Our PHS Student Council sponsor, Mrs. Juma reached out to me due to her student council students coming to her with the idea of being a Peer tutor for any students who might be in need of academic assistance. Currently PHS is conducting a Learning Lab on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 12:05-1:30 p.m. If you feel your child is struggling and could benefit from this peer tutoring program then parents should contact the high school office and let us know how many days your child is interested in attending and fill out a permission form for the peer tutoring. Students in need may attend the Learning Lab without receiving peer tutoring assistance also. You will have to provide transportation home for your student. If you have any questions please reach out to the PHS Administration and we will get back to you at our earliest opportunity.
- PHS is also working with principals of other buildings to be able to provide the same opportunity to any younger students in need in other buildings during their Learning Labs. That information will be coming soon.

- **PJHS/PHS Student Handbook**

- Scott Wenzel, Wendy Bean, Brandon Owens, and myself have now met with district parents and are collaborating to provide you all in the very near future with a proposed draft of the 2021-2022 PHS/PJHS Student Handbook. We will be sure to highlight new or adjusted policies. We are in the process of cleaning up and clarifying information as we do annually to put the best product together for our families.

- **Cambridge Educational Services**

- Junior SAT Prep through Cambridge will be on March 2nd in the auditorium. We offer this annually for our junior students and is the culmination of practice that includes the PSAT 8/9, the PSAT10, and the PSAT/NMSQT. This education will include strategies to help the students understand what exactly the test is asking of the students and how to navigate those questions. The SAT is currently scheduled for April 13, while the PSAT 8/9 and the PSAT 10 are scheduled for April 20th.

- **American Govt. Service Learning Project**

- PHS Government students created a service learning project this year called Soldier Care Packages. Care Packages for US Soldiers Community Service Project Mrs. Schirmer and Mr. Butz worked with students to collect items to be sent to soldiers. Items included personal items, toiletries, food items, and miscellaneous other items like books,

magazines, puzzle books, decks of cards, and games among other things. Great job Blue Devils!

- **NHS and Student Council Service Recognition**

- NHS has volunteered a few times now at Jackson Creek Church in Green Garden. Our students volunteer their time from 8 am until 12 pm on Saturdays for a food drive as well as Student Council volunteering their time for Helping Hands Food Pantry here in Peotone. Due to COVID restrictions opening back up we plan to start back at Helping Hands ASAP. We are very proud of both organizations for their contributions.

- **Huge Thank You to CSL Behring and Stacie Wenzel**

- CSL Behring was gracious enough to donate 6 boxes and each box holds about 10 packages of media petri dishes that will last a long time. This media will allow our students to watch how things grow once the temperatures warm up a bit.

- **February Black History Month**

- Our English, Social Studies, and PE Departments took the lead on Black History Month as they do most years.
 - Our PE Staff is incorporating Social Emotional Units this year weekly into our PE lessons. During the month of February they are discussing the unit of "Appreciating Diversity" with all our High School PE Students.
 - The English Department is using Everfi.com in incorporating education for Black History Month called "Project 306". It is titled this because it was the hotel room number that Dr. King would stay in whenever he visited Memphis, TN. The website has a ton of free curriculum for teacher of most age groups to use.
 - The Underground Railroad. Frederick Douglass. The Harlem Renaissance. Brown vs. Board of Education. African American influence can be found at the core of American life, from science and academia, to music, arts and social movements. When you explore the journey of African American history, you find stories of strength, resilience, and achievement. In every community, these stories are foundational to building shared values, which inspire today's youth to become tomorrow's leaders. EVERFI offers two digital programs, *306: African American History* and [*306: Continuing the Story*](#), that bring to life a number of the influential leaders and events whose impact changed the fabric of American life. These courses can be used alone or paired for a more comprehensive student experience.

- **ICE Student Leadership Conference**

- Congratulations to Molly Peters, Colin Emsweller, Madyson Kibelkis, Tyler Love, Brooklynn Cavitt, Tyler Hendricker, Isabel Frausto, and Ben Balmer who were selected to attend our ICE Leadership

Conference! This event is virtual this year, but the students nonetheless thoroughly enjoyed the event! Congratulations students on being nominated by the faculty at PHS for this honor!

- **January 2021 PBC Excellence Award.**
 - Dawn Barber and the nursing staff of the District have all stepped up and gone above and beyond their normal duties! We all appreciate their flexibility, compassion and concern for the students, families, and staff in our District. They are always willing to answer questions, phone calls or drop everything to take care of a student or staff member at a moment's notice no matter how big or small the problem. Their list of normal duties including registration, exams, medical and allergy concerns along with nutrition and all of the paperwork involved, are just a few that I can see happening daily. And when we add all the **EXTRA** that Covid has brought us, they are some of our District's Heroes in my eyes! Thank you very much for always keeping the health and wellness first, for our Peotone District staff, students, and families. Congratulations to the District Nursing Staff of Dawn Barber, Monica Cowger, Sarah Bolin, and Dawn Mahalik.

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Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services, reported to the Board that I have reviewed some of the impacts of an increased day for the Special Services Department, and if the district moved that direction for fourth quarter and our ability to conduct play based assessments while simultaneously conducting school would be difficult due to substitute teaching shortage at the preschool level. The nurses have also expressed concern regarding their ability to conduct confidential contact tracing while students are present in the building/classrooms. Mrs. Loy reported that the IEP meetings have been prioritized and targeted for the afternoon time slots due to substitute staffing shortage. This way a teacher can provide instruction during the day, and still be a meaningful participant in IEP meetings for students. Mrs. Loy also reported to the Board that as a district we have prioritized our most involved students for highly individualized afternoon sessions, and Learning Labs that would likely not be held, and as a district we have balanced a robust and individualized remote learning plan that involves 1:1 synchronous instruction for our fully remote students with special needs, while also providing special services to our in-person friends. Many students with IEP's that opted for remote learning have done this due to health precautions, not necessarily choice. If the school day was extended, the special educator's only option would be to live stream with the remote learners attending class, and decrease or eliminate the 1:1 sessions with teachers and staff.

Mrs. Loy reported to the Board that I have reviewed the Mental Health Tip Sheet shared with district parents focused on Building Self Esteem and Self Concept in our students for the month of February. Mid-month, the department released February's edition of the 'Mental Health Minute' video. The concepts for the video for February focused on identifying burnout and stress, also how to prevent and improve with self-care measures.

Mr. Dave Osborne, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported to the Board that our first home soccer game is March 2nd and the first football game is March 19. I have been in contact with area schools to see how they are handling snow removal. There is 18-24" of snow on both fields. Snow plowing is an ongoing effort, we're running out of places to put it. On the days we're not plowing new snow we're stacking old snow. It looks like a warming trend may be heading our way.

Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation, reported to the Board that SOWIC held a driver training meeting for all of our transportation staff. Tiffany Frey hosted the meeting and gave us some very useful information to help our staff provide a safe ride to and from school for our students. I also received a lot of good feedback from the drivers on this meeting. I also want to thank Amy Loy for attending the meeting with us.

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.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:50 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 February 17, 2021.



Tara Robinson, President



Cathy Cuculich, Reporter