



AGENDA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER

ROLL CALL:

At 6:00 p.m. President Robinson called the Special board meeting to order and requested all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Love and no nays.

VISITOR'S LOG:

No one signed the visitors' log.

SPEAKER'S LOG:

Mr. John Maxedon, of Peotone, IL addressed the Board with his statement regarding the budget, spending, the duties of the new school board, and the football scoreboard.

FOR DISCUSSION:

President Robinson reported to the Board that I will now turn over the meeting to Mr. Stein regarding the topics of discussion tonight the additional proposed hiring, to address some needs for the next school year with regards to planning, coming off the pandemic, some things that teacher needs at each of the buildings. Mr. Stein read the following statement a brief to the Board, Administration and the public:

Over the past four weeks, the District Labor Management Committee, which is comprised of representatives of the teachers union, administrators, and a Board of Education member, has met to discuss issues around going back to full-time in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Though discussions happened at the building level, it was felt that this group should get together, as was done last summer, to prepare for the current school year.

During the four meetings, considerations surrounding issues of personnel, technology, programming and scheduling were discussed. Committee members went back with ideas to discuss with other members of their building staff, and reached out to colleagues in local districts to gauge what others were considering to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

Since March 17, 2020, school has been anything but normal for our students and staff. For example, some of our students will not have been inside a school building for 17 months, prior to going back to full in-person instruction in August 2021.

I believe, and I feel I can say the Labor-Management Committee agrees, that it is important to prepare for the unknown of coming back. We know we are in the midst of a teacher shortage and after many discussions, we believe it is prudent to have additional staff on hand to help transition back to a normal school setting.

The idea of learning loss is something that has been discussed quite a bit in the news, and in order to assist, the federal government has provided substantial funding to assist school districts throughout the country.

- In total, this proposal would use about \$904,267 of the approximately \$1.4 million we expect to receive between ESSER II and ESSER III.
- We would have approximately \$543,000 left in ESSER funds to employ these staff members with Federal funds for a third year, for additional student supports, or for other allowable COVID expenses like HVAC improvements to our buildings. This decision can be made as we get into next school year and are able to see how these supports are benefitting our students.
- These funds must be allocated and spent by the end of the 2023-2024 school year. At the end of the ESSER grant period or when the funds are exhausted, the administrative team and the Board of Education will have to evaluate the future need for these positions. The decision to keep them after ESSER funds are exhausted would require the use of local taxpayer funds to pay for these employees. If funds are not available, it is possible these positions will need to be eliminated.
- This proposal consists of five "parts" that could be written into the ESSER II or ESSER III funds.
- Year one new hire costs are estimated at \$404,829.
- Year two new hire costs, including the 3% salary increase in the CBA with the Teachers' Association, are estimated at \$416,973.
- 2021 Summer School costs are estimated at \$70,000.
- PJHS Zero Hour (additional pay to one staff member with associated pension and payroll tax obligations) costs are \$5,665
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Mr. Stein reported to the Board that he will now have the building principals come up and let the Board know their buildings needs for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. The following buildings principals gave a brief summary of their plans for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Carole Zurales, PES principal, stated that it is very important for the Board to know that before any positions were added, there was a very strategic plan in place. So I have a plan for responsive instruction and differentiation for PES for the upcoming school year. Our focus is responsive and differentiation instruction for all of our learners. We need to be responsive – I believe in early intervention for all students, I started with the master schedule, which I totally redid completely and moved it to a block schedule and we are also prioritizing WIN time. WIN time is usually at the end of the day but we are now having it first. We will now have ELA and Math WIN time, to address our learning gaps. We bought on and hired a primary specialist this year. Samantha Sexton – who will working all grades in math supporting Ms. Deutche. And she

will also focus on K-1 literacy. Because we know the early literacy skills will be impacted because of the pandemic.

Joanne Obszanski, Principal at PIC, reported to the Board that the plan at PIC is to reinstate our Math and Reading interventionists. We will also have an EL teacher, (Not ESSER funds), joining the Math and Reading Interventionists at PIC. At PIC, we have restructured our schedule to have both of our interventionists in all of our ELA and Math classes - so that they can understand the teaching style of the teacher, understand the learning needs of the students and have a better grasp on how to support the students during our WIN time. Also, we will now have a social worker full time at PIC, which will be so valuable to the staff and students. The interventionists will meet every four to six weeks so they can reassess the progress of the students. Having the extra support would be greatly appreciated.

Scott Wenzel Principal at Peotone Junior High School, reported to the Board that we are adding a Reading and Math interventionist to the junior high and also adding a 4th period specials teacher (study skills, social skills, understanding differences, money skills). In the past we would have staff monitor the lunch hour for students at the junior high. We are no longer having staff monitor lunchtime. So now the staff will be available for all of our students for support. We have study halls for Math and ELA, where I can place students if they are struggling in Math or Reading or any subject they may need help during the school year. We are also increasing the study hall times from 20 minutes to 35 minutes. Also, we will have a zero hour, particularly for math support, will now be available for any student needing that extra math support. At the junior high, we are also working on not pulling out students for extra help. I have found that students do not like to be pulled out of their classes, or specials. The study halls will be a key time for the interventionists to work with the students in smaller groups. The interventionists will meet every four to six weeks so they can reassess the progress of the students.

Jason Spang, Principal at PHS, reported to the Board that at the high school level we have made changes to the master schedule. In the past we have had an elective study hall, which is basically extra time for students to get things done. We have revamped the master schedule going in to the next year. My best interventionists, are my teachers. So what we did was to take five minutes off of each class period to create a blue devil support period. It will be 36 minutes long and it will be a forced support period for the entire building. So all my teachers become available for support for where students need help. It will be in addition to the Zero Hour for math support. We as a team - decided that the blue devil support period will be right after third period so the KACC students can also take advantage of the blue devil support. We are also to add another Algebra teacher to add support for our four Algebra 1 classes and track data and also to go into some of the Algebra 2 classes. We will also have a zero hour before school starts to have math support for all of our students.

Brandon Owens, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, reported to the Board that he would like to affirm what all the building principals have said tonight. Having that extra support to meet the needs of the students, and having someone that students can have someone to talk to - and also to have someone that the teachers can go to talk about the needs of a student will be helpful. Also, having the additional staff to track data and having a point person to talk to parents is very beneficial.

President Robinson reported that I will now ask the Board members their opinion regarding the posting of additional personnel for the District.

Roger Bettenhausen, Board Trustee, stated that the administration has my full support of what was presented tonight and we should move forward with this.

Jodie Becker, Board Trustee, stated that I am in agreement what has been presented tonight.

Rick Uthe, Vice President, stated I agree with Mr. Bettehausen and Mrs. Becker. I want to thank the Administrators for their presentations tonight, they were very informative and very well presented. I fully support our Administrators.

Jennifer Moe, Secretary, stated that I am in full agreement with the Plan that the administrators brought forward tonight.

Dawn Love, Board Trustee, stated that I am in full agreement and support of with the Plan and the administrators.

Tim Stoub, Board Trustee, reported that he wanted to make a motion to table this action.

President Robinson responded to Mr. Stoub – there is no action to take tonight. We are taking a consensus of the board to post for the positions, and not taking action on this tonight.

Tara Robinson, Board President, stated that I am in full support of the Administration and the Plan.

President Robinson reported that she has the consensus of the Board by majority to give the Administration the go ahead to post for the positions.

President Robinson asked Mr. Stein to please speak on the next discussion item – the football scoreboard. Mr. Stein discussed with the Board the options of the scoreboard. Example A is the most expensive scoreboard. On another note, I have an installer coming out on Thursday to review our current scoreboard and the postings to see whether or not they can use our existing supports to install a new scoreboard. Also, Mr. Stein reported that the prices of the scoreboard do not include installation of the scoreboard. The turnaround time to get the scoreboard is about six weeks.

Mr. Stein will send an email with an update to the Board once he meets with the installer on Thursday. We will probably have to take action on the football scoreboard at a special meeting.

Roger Bettenhausen, Board Trustee, asked if we can please let the parents know now that we are going to be in school full-time next year. The sooner the parents know that we are going full time, the better they can prepare for next school year.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:25 p.m. President Robinson entertained a motion to adjourn the special board meeting tonight. Mrs. Moe made a motion and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion and a voice call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stoub, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Love and no nays. The special board meeting was adjourned.



Tara Robinson, President



Cathy Cuculich, Reporter