



**BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OF MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.  
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER**

*\*This Regular Board Meeting was conducted via a teleconference call with Board members, Administrators and the Public. Present in the Media Center at Peotone High School were President, Mrs. Tara Robinson, Vice President, Mr. Richard Uthe, Secretary, Mrs. Jennifer Moe, Trustee, Mrs. Jody Thatcher, Trustee, Mrs. Jodi Becker, Mr. Steve Stein, Dr. Charles Vitton, Mrs. Cathy Cuculich and Mr. Don Swanson.\* Trustee, Mr. Roger Bettenhausen was present via telephone conference. Trustee, Mr. Paul Douglas was not present for the May 18, 2020 regular board meeting.\**

**ROLL CALL:**

At 6:01 p.m. President Robinson called the regular board meeting to order and requested all who are present to please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Tara Robinson, Mr. Richard Uthe, Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Mrs. Jodi Becker, Mrs. Jennifer Moe and no nays. Mr. Paul Douglas was not present for the May 18, 2020 regular board meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the May 18, 2020 regular board meeting. Mr. Uthe made a motion, Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mr. Douglas was not present for the May 18, 2020 regular board meeting.

**VISITORS' LOG:**

No one signed the Visitors' Log.

**SPEAKERS' LOG:**

**Mrs. Julie Widinski, of Manhattan, IL, Co-President of PTO**, addressed the Board and Administration with a few questions. Mrs. Widinski wanted to know if parents can buy laptops through the District. Dr. Vitton responded that parents cannot purchase personal laptops through the District. Mrs. Widinski also asked for guidance from the Board and Administration regarding future PTO fundraising. Mr. Stein responded that we have no good answers for you right now about future fundraising. We will all have to wait and see what the Illinois State Board of Education and the Department of Health has to say about our current situation and the upcoming school year. Maybe consider options of either virtual or online fundraising for the PTO. Mrs. Widinski reported that she has seen some reports from the state with recommended cleaning guidelines for schools. She asked the Board and the Administration what guidelines are in place for the District regarding the cleaning of our school buildings.

Mr. Stein responded that he has not seen the reports, but I can tell you that the District was way ahead of the game, the Board agreed to purchase in January the appropriate disinfecting equipment to disinfect all of our schools and our custodial staff have been using the disinfecting equipment on a daily basis at all of our schools.

## **FOR ACTION:**

### **REPORT NO. 72:**

#### **FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE FY20 AMENDED BUDGET.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **FY20 Amended Budget for the District**. 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. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mr. Douglas was not present for the regular board meeting of May 18, 2020.

### **REPORT NO. 73:**

#### **FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ATTORNEYS.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Appointment of the School District's Attorneys, the Law Offices of Himes, Petrarca & Fester, Attorneys at Law**. 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. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mr. Douglas was not present for the regular board meeting of May 18, 2020.

### **REPORT NO. 74:**

#### **FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S TREASURER.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the appointment of **Mr. Scot A. Carder, as the School District's Treasurer**. 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): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mr. Douglas was not present for the regular board meeting of May 18, 2020.

## **REPORT NO. 75:**

### **FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S DEPOSITORIES.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the appointments of **First Midwest Bank and First Community Bank and Trust.** 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): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mr. Douglas was not present for the regular board meeting of May 18, 2020.

## **REPORT NO. 76:**

### **FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHING THE DAY, TIME, PLACE OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS OF THE PEOTONE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

President Robinson asked for a motion for approval of **Establishing the day, time and place of the regular meetings of the Peotone Board of Education.** 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): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson and no nays. Mr. Douglas was not present for the regular board meeting of May 18, 2020.

## **REPORT NO. 77:**

### **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 for approval of the **Certified and Classified Staff Personnel** 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): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson and no nays. Mr. Douglas was not present for the regular board meeting of May 18, 2020.

### **CERTIFIED STAFF EMPLOYMENT:**

- Colleen McIntyre - CSC Preschool/PIC - Social Worker (effective date of 08-10-2020).
- Stephanie Wilda - PIC - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher (effective date of 08-17-2020).

**CLASSIFIED STAFF  
REMOVAL FROM EMPLOYMENT  
2019-2020 SUMMER CREW:**

- Bradley Tennison-Summer Crew Custodian (effective date of 06-03-2020).
- McKenna Evans-Summer Crew Custodian(effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Cole Evans-Summer Crew Custodian(effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Mallory Ashline-Summer Crew Custodian (effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Jake Lexow - Summer Crew Custodian(effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Daphne Sheehan-Summer Crew Custodian(effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Marty Merigold - Summer Crew Custodian(effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Matt Zaida - Summer Crew Custodian (effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Matt Asbrand - Summer Crew Custodian(effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Tyler Rekau - Summer Crew Custodian (effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Patricia Martz-Summer Crew Custodian(effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Jennifer Guerrero-Summer Crew Custodian(effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Alyson Matthias - Summer Crew Custodian (effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Julia Beechy - Summer Crew Custodian(effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Billy Robinson - Summer Crew Custodian (effective date of 06-03-2020).
- Lee Merigold - Summer Crew Custodian (effective date of 06-03-2020).

**RESIGNATION:**

- Kacia Sepulveda -PHS-Overnight Custodian (effective date of 05-14-2020).

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

**Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent**, reported to the Board that he received new FOIAs from Mr. James Bowden. One for PIC's Survey, PIC Expenses and Maintenance, Vehicles Purchased and CSC Expenses.

**Dr. Charles Vitton, Assistant Superintendent**, reported to the Board that the Science curriculum committee is finalizing its work on determining the best instructional resources to meet State standards and to effectively provide Science instruction to our students for grades K-8 (I have vendor presentations this week and I will likely have a recommendation to the Board of Education at its June meeting).

At the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Peotone Educational Foundation, the Board of Directors awarded teacher grants in the amount of \$4,504.64.

ISBE released the FY2020 CARES Act Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Grant application today. The district is slated to receive \$89,407.00 through this grant (based on our current Title I allocation). The use of these funds is to provide districts with additional funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Districts are strongly encouraged to explore using these funds to strengthen infrastructure for remote learning. I will keep the Board apprised of the application process and ways in which these funds can be used for increasing our access to instructional technology.

**Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School,** reported to the Board that Peotone High School would like to recognize Sue Bartels, Kathy Derkacy, Marlene Murray, David Church, Nichole Schultz, Wendy Bean, Don Swanson and all our presenters who took part in helping us prepare our Senior Awards Virtual Ceremony. It was an honor to recognize all our seniors in a way that was new to everyone!

Peotone High School would also like to thank everyone that had a hand in the plans for our High School Graduation Ceremony. Board of Education members, Mr. Stein, All administrators, and BJ from the Image Group were all so helpful for making this special day happen for our graduates.

**Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone High School,** reported to the Board that we are wrapping up remote learning. The seniors last day was last Friday. They have until 5/20 to turn in work. The last day for underclassmen is this Friday and they will have until 5/27 to turn in work. Grades are due by June 2nd for teachers and we plan to mail home report cards about a week after that. We plan to take a careful look at grades to make sure they comply with the policy we have set in place for 2nd semester. We'd like to thank Sue and Kathy in the Main Office and our teachers for continued hard work. We would also like to thank the parents for their patience and understanding and especially the students for their commitment and hard work as we approach the finish line.

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

- PJHS Remote Learning:
  - Last week of school for all Junior High students.
  - Teachers continue to be diligent and creative as they provide our students with an education, lessons, and feedback that is meaningful.
  - Teachers are utilizing Google Classroom to push out instruction and assignments to students.
  - Teachers have been reaching out to many of their students as well as students to them with questions.
  - Communication is key. Students and teachers communicating with each other, teachers to parents, teachers to administration, and administration to parents.
  - The Junior High Administration has reached out to over 225 families in regards to Remote Learning. Mostly by phone, but also by email.
  - We have reached out to many families up to three times. We are continuing to meet weekly by grade level teams through Google Meet. We meet with paraprofessionals every two weeks through Google Meet.
- PJHS Positive News for Families and the Community:
  - 8th Grade Graduation scheduled and ready to go for Sunday, May 31 at PHS Gymnasium. Start time is 12:00 and hopes are to be completed by 4:00. All Board members are invited to attend.
  - We have created a step-up video for the incoming 6th graders that will be going out this week. The staff of the Junior High sent videos in



congratulating the 8th grade graduates. That will go out on Thursday, May 21.

- The staff is continuing with the April Student of the Month at PJHS. This month our Student of the Month are 8th grader Josh Leitelt, 7th grader Layla Johnson, and 6th grader Allie Werner. We are posting this on Facebook and our Website.
- We continue to put good news from the school year back on Facebook with pictures.

**Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary**, reported to the Board that I am so proud of the PES staff, students, and families for working together to make Remote Learning a success and keep the engagement high throughout the two months.

- We had a virtual spirit week the last week of April which included bring your pet to school day and other fun dress up days throughout the week.
- Thank you to the Peotone PTO for organizing a wonderful Teacher Appreciation Week the first week of May. In May, we have had a May Daily Activity each day- Mindful Monday, Try It Tuesday, Workout Wednesday, Thank You Thursday, and Fun Friday.
- We also have had teachers create Mystery State videos where they give clues about their state and students guess where they are in the USA which has been a great way to tie in social studies and Miss Deutsche took us on her journey as she hatched chicks at home to tie in science. Classrooms earned Dojo Points for engagement in daily fun activities and completing ELA and Math assignments- I awarded over 25,000 dojo points since April 6th. The weekly top classrooms were Mrs. Devore (2x), Ms. Hartsfield (2x), Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Sexton, Mrs. McDonald and the final winner will be announced tomorrow, in addition to our tournament of champions winner.
- Last Friday, I did a LIVE end of the year assembly on Facebook. We had about 100 students and staff view it live and then it was recorded and posted to Facebook and also on You Tube for those without Facebook.
- I also did a May Motivator for our students if they continued to reach our goal of 80% or more for completed work for ELA and Math. We met our goal the first week of May, so last week I rode a scooter through the school in my inflatable dino costume, and last week totals were submitted today... we are VERY close to our goal... it will be announced tomorrow if we met our 80% goal and if so, I will be slimed and silly stringed.
- We had a total of 52 Remote Learning POP stars... with several of these students earning it multiple times.
- Upcoming Events: Virtual Field Day on Wednesday, May 20 and our PES "Send Off to Summer" Parade on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00-2:30 p.m.

**Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services**, reported to the Board that the Special Services Department is working to finalize our Extended School Year (ESY). This year, our program will be held in a remote fashion with instruction and related services delivered via teletherapy. Dates of participation for the program will be June 8<sup>th</sup> - June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, we have provided weekly virtual professional development to our district wide paraprofessional team. We have received really positive feedback from many of these team members. Each day, our paraprofessionals are utilizing professional development choice boards we have designed to engage in webinars and then reflection activities to increase their professional knowledge base. We will continue with this style of professional development for our parapro team through June 2nd.

**Mrs. Joanne Obszanski, Principal of Peotone Intermediate Center**, reported to the Board that I would like to begin with compliments and thanks to PIC teachers and families for the attention and dedication devoted to our students during Remote Learning. The communication and collaboration has been very strong among teachers during Remote Learning. As Remote Learning concludes on May 22nd, myself along with PIC teachers are talking about remote learning, end-of-year planning which include 2020-2021 schedule, class placement for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, report cards, end-of year letters, and school supply lists to be included with report cards. PIC also has a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Transition video to go out in conjunction with PJHS. We also have videos going out in response to a "Courage" challenge put out by Officer Stankus. The videos are going to be posted on PIC's Facebook page. Currently I am planning to provide Information to PIC students and parents pertaining to the "drop off" and/or pick up of specific items the week of June 22. These items include items such as district library books, a pick-up of "Throwback" which students ordered in conjunction with an author visit at the start of 2020 the week of June 22nd. Finally, PIC teachers are looking forward to Friday, May 22nd for PIC's End-of-Year Farewell from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Mr. Dave Osborne, Director of Buildings and Grounds**, reported to the Board that the new fire alarm has been installed at CSC. Representatives from Phoenix Fire, Peotone Fire Department, Healy-Bender Architects, and the school district will learn how the new system works and zone maps will be placed by the panel for the fire departments use if they ever need to come in for an alarm. Goldy Locks locksmiths had the lowest bid of three contractors to install new doors in the gyms at PES and PJHS. The five sets of double interior doors, two at PES and three at PJHS, will be able to be locked down if there were ever a need to. Also, a new exterior door will be installed in the gym at PES. A new exterior door will be installed in PIC's gym tomorrow, May 19th, by Chicago Hollow Metal.

**Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation,** reported to the Board that Steve, our bus mechanic, has been doing general maintenance on the buses (oil changes, checking fluids). We have a shut off on the batteries enabled so they don't drain while not in use. I have started looking into what it might be like for transportation in the fall if we go to a hybrid start. With that being said it is challenging right now with no guidance from ISBE. I will do my best to keep you informed of anything that I think will be necessary in the event that we do have anything other than a normal return to school. Hope you are all doing well.

**Mrs. Terry Wuske, Director of Food Services,** reported to the Board that the food service is continuing to do the drive-thru feedings for our students two times a week. I would like to thank Jennifer Haag for her help transporting some of those lunches for the food service department. We are winding down the school year with three more feeding dates.

**Mr. Ruben Suarez, Director of Technology,** reported to the Board that the Technology Department is finishing up the support of remote learning for the present school year. We are in the process of collecting the technology (i.e. chromebooks) we loaned to students. We have started thinking about how best to provide support for the next school year based on upcoming guidelines. And we are transitioning into summer work. We have a list of tasks that we plan on completing during summer break.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 6:37 p.m., Mrs. Robinson asked for a motion to move to adjourn the regular Board meeting and move into Executive Session and stated that there will not be any action following the closed executive session tonight. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion to move the Board to meet in 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. On a roll call vote, the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson and no nays. Mr. Douglas was not present for the Closed Executive Session meeting.

#### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

At 7:13 p.m. Mr. Uthe made a motion for the Board to return to Open Session of the Regular Board meeting. Mrs. Moe seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (5): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mr. Bettenhausen was not present for the return to open session, and Mr. Douglas was not present for the May 18, 2020 Closed Executive Session.



**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:13 p.m. President Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting. Mr. Uthe made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (5) Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, and no nays. Mr. Douglas and Mr. Bettenhausen were not present for the adjournment of the regular board meeting of May 18, 2020.



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Tara Robinson, President



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Cathy Cuculich, Reporter