



**BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MONDAY JULY 20, 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. Trustee, Jody Thatcher was present via teleconference. Present in the Media Center at Peotone High School were Vice President, Mr. Richard Uthe, Secretary, Mrs. Jennifer Moe, Trustee, Mrs. Jodi Becker, Trustee Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Trustee Paul Douglas, Mr. Steve Stein, Dr. Charles Viton, Mr. Trevor Moore. Also, present were administrators, Jason Spang, Brandon Owens, Scott Wenzel, Wendy Bean, Joanne Obszanski, Carole Zurales and Amy Loy.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00 p.m. Vice President Richard Uthe 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 (5): Mr. Richard Uthe, Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Mrs. Jodi Becker, Mrs. Jennifer Moe, Mr. Paul Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Tara Robinson and Mrs. Jody Thatcher were absent for the regular board meeting of July 20, 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice President Uthe asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the July 20, 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 (5): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Tara Robinson and Mrs. Jody Thatcher were absent for the regular board meeting of July 20, 2020.

OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:

Mrs. Christie Miller of Peotone, called in and asked the Board if they will be approving the "Return to School Plan" tonight. Mr. Stein responded, Mrs. Miller we are not approving the plan tonight. The District's return to school plan is to have school open five (5) days a week with a common plan dismissal for all students. We are finalizing and fine tuning the return to school plan, and the Board will have a special board meeting to approve the plan on Monday, July 27th at 6:00 p.m. at Peotone High School. Mr. Stein thanked Mrs. Miller for calling in to the board meeting this evening.

REPORT NO. 1:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF KEEPING THE CLOSED EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES CLOSED FROM JULY 2019 THROUGH JUNE 2020.

Vice President Uthe asked for a motion to approve **Keeping the Closed Executive Meeting Minutes Closed from July 2019 through June 2020.** Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (5): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Thatcher were absent for the regular board meeting of July 20, 2020.

REPORT NO. 2:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 CLASSIFIED STAFF INCREASES.

Vice President Uthe asked for a motion to approve **2020-2021 Increases for the Classified Staff**, who are not under contract with as part of a collective bargaining agreement. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (5): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Thatcher were absent for the regular board meeting of July 20, 2020.

Trustee, Mrs. Jody Thatcher joined the regular board meeting via teleconference at 6:08 p.m.

REPORT NO. 3:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT'S TREASURER AND CHIEF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIAL TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT WITH THE ILLINOIS SCHOOL DISTRICT LIQUID ASSET FUND PLUS (ISDLAF+).

Vice President Uthe asked for a motion to approve the **District's Treasurer and Chief School Business Official to Open an Account with the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus**. 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. Uthe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent for the regular board meeting of July 20, 2020.

Trustee, Roger Bettenhausen asked Mr. Moore to give a brief explanation of this action item of opening an ISDLAF+ Account for the District.

Mr. Moore reported that the details of the program can be found in my Memorandum which is included in the board packet. Broadly speaking, creating this account will allow us to have an account to hold cash that is liquid and easily accessible that pays very competitive interest rates. There are other tools available that will allow us to enter into investments between (30) thirty days and three (3) years. After utilizing PMA's cash flow analysis tools and recommendations, it will allow for short term investing of district funds. The District will be able to get the best return possible while meeting our spending needs.

REPORT NO. 4:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE POSTING OF ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR (COVID-19)SUPPORT.

Vice President Uthe asked for a motion to approve the **Posting of Additional Staff for the 2020-2021 School Year (COVID-19) Support**. 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. Uthe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent for the regular board meeting of July 20, 2020.

Trustee, Roger Bettenhausen asked Mr. Moore to give a brief explanation of this action item for posting of additional staff for the 2020-2021 school year (COVID-19) support.

Mr. Moore reported that the District is planning to follow ISBE guidance and CDC recommendations which has posed several challenges. It seems nearly all of the challenges require an increased level of staffing to make sure our students and staff are as safe as possible when they return to our schools.

The list of additional staff started at around 29 and carried an additional expected expense of approximately \$925,000. This list has been narrowed considerably since these early discussions. The additional positions recommended for advertisement is now at 18 and the additional expected expense is about 56% of the original estimate. This reduction was not only achieved by determining how existing staff could be utilized in other roles, but also by adjusting hours so that their attendance maximizes student support at a minimal cost.

REPORT NO. 5:

**FOR ACTION: ADDENDUM TO THE APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL
(additions are in bold and underline):
**(*Contingent upon receipt and evaluation and
employment documentation required by the District
and the Illinois State Board of Education*)****

Vice President Uthe asked for a motion to approve the **Addendum to Personnel for Certified and Classified Staff**. 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. Uthe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent for the regular board meeting of July 20, 2020.

CERTIFIED STAFF EMPLOYMENT:

- Catherine Jasionowski - PHS - Math Teacher (effective date of 08/17/2020).
- Nicole Huizenga - PES - Social Worker (effective date of 08/10/2020).

RESIGNATION:

- Gerard McManus - PHS - Special Education Teacher (effective date of 07/31/2020).
- Molly Siniawski - PES - School Counselor (effective date of 07/08/2020).

RETIREMENT:

- Charles Vitton - District - Assistant Superintendent (effective date of 07/01/2021).
- **Karen Heisner - PJHS - Special Education Teacher (effective date of 07/20/2020).**

CLASSIFIED STAFF EMPLOYMENT:

- Kathleen Hasse - District Custodian - (effective date of 08/17/2020).
- David Bunte - District Custodian - (effective date of 08/17/2020).

RELEASE OF EMPLOYMENT:

- Steve Pearson - District - Maintenance - Lawn (effective date of 04/01/2020).
- Ron Callaway - District - Maintenance - Lawn (effective date of 04/01/2020).

RESIGNATION:

- Marcia Dalen - PES - Paraprofessional (effective date of 7/15/2020).
- **Melinda Klein - PES - 1:1 Nurse (effective date of 09/11/2020).**

FOR DISCUSSION:

First Reading of **PRESS 103** Board Policies.

Mr. Stein reported to the Board that this is the First Reading of PRESS Board Policies 103. I ask the Board to please take time and review the policies, and if any of the Board members have any questions regarding the policies, please email me or Mrs. Jodi Becker.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board that I received two new FOIAs this month, one from Kathleen Osborne, for Wilton Center regarding the EPA report and the real estate formula for the asking price of Wilton Center. And I received another FOIA from James Bowden regarding fire alarms, fire extinguishers for CSC and PIC. Mr. Stein also reported to the Board that the district's school calendar for the 2020-2021 School has been amended due to current situation of COVID-19. The first day for students is August 24, 2020, and Tuesday, November 3rd, Presidential Election Day has been declared a state holiday for this school year only.

Mr. Trevor Moore, Chief School Business Official, reported to the Board that he has received notice of two property tax appeals filed with the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board. The first is an appeal by Green Garden Country Club which could result in a refund of approximately \$13,000 if their appeal is successful. The second is an appeal by First Midwest Bank which could result in a refund of approximately \$49,000 if their appeal is successful. The District's attorney has been made aware of these and they are attempting to resolve these reasonably and fairly. Often times, a settlement is better for both parties.

Mr. Moore explained how once the appeal gets to this process, the appeal could result in a refund from the school district. This would be taken out of future tax distributions. The best way to avoid these is for the assessors to be fairly and accurately assessing the properties so there is no need for an appeal. The second best alternative is for it to be handled at the county board of review level because this can be completed before bills are finalized. What this would be is that any reduction would be paid by the rest of the taxpayers. The district would not lose money under this scenario. Mr. Moore said he has engaged the Green Garden assessor to see what can be done to prevent the country club's appeal to reoccur.

Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School, reported to the Board that PHS, just like the all the buildings in our district, are currently working with their leadership team at their buildings. Several factors we are considering are shared staff with PJHS, the Career Center, early release students, late arrival students, any changes ISBE will possibly make towards graduation requirements, and an already created master schedule that takes months to create. Areas of focus are before school supervision and lunch supervision and we have had a number of staff members step up and volunteer who are able to help with these supervisory duties. PHS was fortunate enough to provide behind the wheel driver education instruction between Mr. Borkenhagen and myself to help catch up from the extended school closure in the spring. Special thanks to Mr. Borkenhagen for setting up those groups and communicating to those parents on the schedule. Also a special thanks to the parents for being flexible with that schedule. We have had many meetings and schedules have changed numerous times and the parents have all been tremendously flexible. The driver education vehicle is being electrostatically sprayed every day and also sanded and wiped down after every driver changes their seat in the vehicle. Students and staff were required to wear masks and be tested for COVID symptoms as well as their temperature taken on a daily basis before entering the driver education vehicle. As always, safety is our #1 priority.

Scott Wenzel, Principal of Peotone Junior High School, reported to the Board that start of the school year we are meeting with the building leadership team to discuss our building set-up and best practices as they pertain to our building.

- Organization of the building
- Optimize Bell Schedule
- Schedules of shared staff
- Softball begins Monday, July 27th
- Baseball begins Monday, August 4th
- Cross Country begins Monday, August 10th

Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary, reported to the Board that I would like to give a big thank you to the custodians and maintenance staff for getting the buildings cleaned and ready for the start of the school year. I met with the PES Building Leadership Team two weeks ago to get feedback on the logistics and procedures for upcoming back to school. PES students are currently participating in a PES Summer Reading and Math Challenge. I have challenged the students to read 1,000 books and complete 1,000 math activities this summer as a building. Our current totals are 538 books and 323 math activities. Our new to the district Residency Night for new preschoolers and kindergartners is this Wednesday, July 22nd from 5:00 pm -8:00 pm at Peotone Elementary. PES teachers are participating in a Seesaw training on July 28th and August 3rd. Seesaw will be used in all K-3 classrooms and is a great technology platform to be utilized for in-person instruction and remote learning. Stay tuned next month for exciting things happening at PES this upcoming school year!

Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services, reported to the Board that I am working on how to plan for the upcoming school year, particularly with a focus currently on staffing open vacancies in the department, working to construct the yearly IEP calendar, and focusing on options for supporting our medically fragile/immunocompromised populations. I have set up a Professional Development opportunity to occur in August, for Peotone Special Services Team members through the Bureau of Education Research titled "Distance Learning: Strengthening Online Instruction for Students with Special Needs." Additionally, at the end of the month, I'm going to host a meet/greet luncheon for our new Special Services staff members.

Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation, reported to the Board that we have received the delivery of the two new vans on the 6th. We are also working on getting them ready for routes for the beginning of the year. We are also continuing working on bus routes. Mr. Moore and I will be meeting this week to work on the Transportation State Claim.

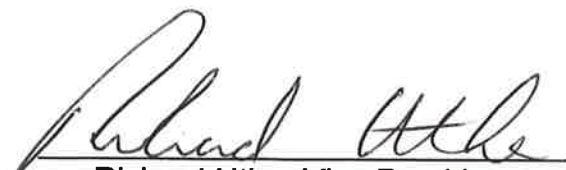
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

For the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel; collective negotiating matters; student disciplinary cases and other matters relating to individual students; pending, probable, or imminent litigation; security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonable potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public or public property.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:01 p.m. Vice President Uthe reported that there will be no closed executive session tonight and asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting. Mr. Bettenhausen 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 (6): Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. The regular board meeting of July 20, 2020 was adjourned. Mrs. Robinson was absent for the July 20, 2020 regular board meeting.



Richard Uthe, Vice President



Cathy Cuculich, Reporter