



**BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER**

This Regular Board Meeting was conducted via a teleconference call and also an open meeting for 50 people or less. Present in the Media Center at Peotone High School were President, Mrs. Tara Robinson, Vice President, Mr. Richard Uthe, Secretary Jennifer Moe, Trustee Roger Bettenhausen, Trustee Paul Douglas, Trustee Jodi Becker, Mrs. Jody Thatcher (via teleconference) Mr. Steve Stein, Dr. Charles Vitton, Administrators, Mr. Don Swanson and Mrs. Cathy Cuculich.

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 (7): Mr. Richard Uthe, Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Mrs. Jodi Becker, Mrs. Jennifer Moe, Mr. Paul Douglas, Mrs. Tara Robinson, Mrs. Jody Thatcher (via teleconference call) and no nays.

CONSENT AGENDA:

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the August 17, 2020 regular board meeting. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (7): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Robinson and no nays.

OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:

Mrs. Dana Sippel, of Peotone, IL, addressed the Board with her concerns of the changing of her child's IEP case manager, and the struggles with remote e-learning with a child who receives special services.

Mrs. Veronica Anaya, of Peotone, IL, called into the regular board meeting Board to inquire if students with IEPs will be allowed extra access to teachers and the buildings if the District decides to go to full remote e-learning.

FOR ACTION:

REPORT NO. 10:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE TENTATIVE FY21
BUDGET TO BE PUT ON DISPLAY.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Tentative FY21 Budget to be put on Display**. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (7): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Robinson and no nays.

REPORT NO. 11:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE DESTRUCTION OF CLOSED
EXECUTIVE SESSION TAPES FROM
JANUARY 2015 THROUGH JULY 2015.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Destruction of Closed Executive Session Tapes from January 2015 through July 2015**. Mrs. Moe made a motion and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (7): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Robinson and no nays.

REPORT NO. 12::

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE SECOND READING AND
ADOPTION OF PRESS 103 BOARD POLICIES.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Second Reading and Adoption of PRESS 103 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 (7): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Robinson and no nays.

REPORT NO. 13:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE ADMINISTRATORS' AND DIRECTORS' CONTRACTS FOR FY21.

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Administrators' and Directors' Contracts for FY21**. 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): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Robinson and the following member answered nay (1) Mrs. Becker.

REPORT NO. 14:

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 reported that we will be tabling some of the approval of the **Certified and Classified Staff Personnel** approval tonight. The following personnel will be tabled until further notice.

CERTIFIED STAFF

CHANGE IN STATUS:

2020-2021 School Year - Tabled

- Emma Ahrens-PES-Permanent Substitute to Second Grade Remote Learning Teacher (effective date of 08/10/2020).
- Michele Clayton-PIC- Reading Specialist to Remote Learning Teacher (effective date of 08/17/2020).
- Larry Deweese -PES-Music Teacher to Remote Music Teacher/Permanent Substitute (effective date of 08/10/2020).
- Kathy Ernst-PES- Third Grade Teacher to Third Grade Remote Learning Teacher (effective date of 08/10/2020).
- Eric Peppmuller- PES-Third Grade Teacher to PIC 4th/5th Remote Learning Teacher, Math/SS (effective date 08/10/2020).
- Tara Popovich-PES Permanent Substitute to Third Grade Teacher (effective date of 08/10/2020)
- Tracy Redman-PES-Reading Specialist to Third Grade Teacher (effective date of 08/10/2020).
- Gregg Schreiber-PES-Physical Education Teacher to Remote PE/Permanent Substitute (effective date of 08/10/2020).
- Laura Zivat-PES-Art Teacher to Kindergarten Remote Learning Teacher (effective date of 08/10/2020).
- April Workman-PES-SI Maternity Substitute (effective date of 09/01/2020).

CLASSIFIED STAFF**CHANGE IN STATUS :****2020-2021 School Year - Tabled**

- Renordia Malone - PES - Lunch/Recess Supervisor to PES-District Mail Run, Transportation and Sanitation (effective date of 09/02/2020).
- Natalie Clay-PES-Lunchroom Supervisor/Crossing Guard to PES Nurse Clerk (effective date of 09/02/2020).
- Bonnie Schick-PES-Lunch/Recess Supervisor to PES Arrival/Dismissal Support, Sanitation (effective date of 09/02/2020).
- Jennifer Hall-PES-Lunchroom /Recess Supervisor to PES Crossing Guard (effective date of 09/02/2020).

CHANGE OF LOCATION: - Tabled

- Dawn Mahalik - PJHS 1:1 Paraprofessional to PHS 1:1 Paraprofessional (effective date of 08/17/2020).

President Robinson then asked for a motion to approve the following **Certified and Classified Staff Personnel** listed below, Mrs. Moe made a motion and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (7): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Robinson and no nays.

CERTIFIED STAFF**EMPLOYMENT: - Approved**

- Catherine Jasionowski -PHS - Head Coach Competitive Dance (effective date of 09/07/2020).
- Catherine Jasionowski -PHS - Head Coach Pom Pom Dance Performance (effective date of 02/15/2020).
- Sarah Zarnowski -PHS-Science Teacher (effective date of 08/24/2020).

CHANGE IN STATUS: - Approved

- Josh Kreske, PJHS Head Wrestling Coach to PHS - Assistant Wrestling Coach (effective date of 09/07/2020).

RESIGNATION: - Approved

- Brian Cann-PIC-Yearbook Club Sponsor (effective date of 08/05/2020).
- Shelley Ryan-PHS - Guidance Counselor - COVID-19 Support Staff (effective date of 08/14/2020).

CLASSIFIED STAFF**RESIGNATION: - Approved**

- Carrie Crawford-PES-Paraprofessional (effective date of 08/10/2020).
- Marion Moore -Transportation-Bus Aide (effective date of 08/13/2020).

RETIREMENT: - Approved

- Dawn Schuzer-PIC-SI Paraprofessional (effective date of 08/10/2020).

FOR DISCUSSION:

First Reading of PRESS 104 Board Policies

President Robinson reported that this the first reading of **PRESS 104** board policies, and instructed the Board to review the policies and if anyone had any questions to please reach out to Mrs. Jodi Becker or Mr. Steve Stein.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board that he has received a couple of FOIAs this month. I received one from Smart Procure, for the District's purchases of the last six months. I also received two FOIAs from Mr. James Bowden, one regarding PIC/CSCs' fire alarms/extinguishers and another one for Buildings and Grounds equipment purchases or rentals receipts of \$500 or more from July 2016 to July 2020. Mr. Stein responded to Mr. Bowden's FOIA by stating that his FOIA is too broad and Mr. Bowden would need to sufficiently narrowed his FOIA request. Mr. Bowden again submitted a new FOIA request for all Buildings and Grounds equipment purchases or rentals of \$700.00 or more from July 2016 to July 2020. Mr. Stein denied Mr. Bowden's request.

Mr. Stein reported to the Board that I have received additional guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that I received on August 12th at 4:11 p.m. I would like to discuss some of the new guidelines that I have received with the Board:

- If a student is sent home sick with suspected COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., runny nose, fever, diarrhea, etc.), must all their siblings/household members be sent home as well and quarantined for 14 calendar days?
- Yes, if one of the household members is being evaluated for COVID-19, the rest of the household must be quarantined until an alternative diagnosis is made or negative COVID-19 test is received.
- Teachers, staff and students must only display one COVID like symptom to be sent home. Teachers, staff and students with allergies or other ailments will have some of the symptoms of COVID-19.
- All students and staff that are sent home with COVID-like symptoms should be diagnostically tested. Student and staff should remain home from school until they receive the test results.
- Students and staff who are confirmed or have probable cases of COVID-19 must complete ten (10) calendar days of isolation from the date of first symptom onset and be fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms have improved before returning to school.

- IDPH requires contact tracing to identify persons who have been within six feet of the infected person for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more throughout the day. Mr. Stein worried that teachers will be more involved in contact tracing more than teaching their students.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): All persons on school grounds including students, teachers, school nurses, administrative and secretarial staff, food service personnel, custodial staff, public safety personnel, etc., must wear a face covering at all times when in school or in transit to and from school via group conveyance (i.e., school buses), unless a specific exemption applies. To be effective, face coverings must be worn properly and must completely cover both the nose and mouth.
- What PPE is required by school nurses who are assessing a student or staff member reporting COVID-like symptoms?

Mr. Stein reported to the Board that when performing clinical evaluation of a sick individual, school nurses will use enhanced droplet and contact transmission-based precautions. Staff performing this evaluation should use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including the following:

- Fit-tested N95 respirator
- Eye protection with face shield or goggles
- Gown
- Gloves

Mrs. Dawn Barber, District Nurse, reported that she has reached out to Riverside to see if they are performing Fit-Testing for N95 respirators and was told that they are not doing the tests. Mrs. Barber has also contacted Silver Cross Hospital and was told that the cost for the Fit-Testing would be \$25.00 for the questionnaire, \$40.00 for the Fit Test itself and \$55.00 per hour as long as they are here in District performing the test. Mrs. Barber reported that I will be receiving sometime this week, a list of additional providers who will be doing the fit testing for the N95 masks. Custodians will also need to be fit-tested as well for the N95 masks.

Mr. Stein reported that in early July, schools districts were opening with in-person learning. Once again, the IDPH and ISBE sent out to the school districts additional guidelines that remote learning must be provided to parents as an option as well as in-person learning. With new guidelines issued every couple of weeks, it throws districts into a panic especially when it is so close to the start of school.

Mr. Stein, Dr. Vitton, nurses and the administration all agreed that going to full remote e-learning is the best option for the District at this time. With these guidelines in place, it makes it too difficult to have in-person learning.

President Robinson stated it will create a hardship for parents of the District, but everyone here tonight thinks the hardship is coming one way or another. And if the Board decides to go with full remote e-learning, the more time we can give the administration to prepare, the better the plan will be. It is a big commitment on our part as a Board.

Mr. Stein responded that whatever the Board decides to do, whether it is starting the school year with full remote e-learning or in-person learning, as a District, we will move ahead and give our teachers, staff and students the best school year ever!

President Robinson asked the Board for any input on the full remote (e-learning) after reviewing and discussing the guidelines from IDPH with the Mr. Stein and the Administration. Trustee, Mr. Douglas, I am not comfortable or willing to live with, if someone gets sick and dies from COVID-19 if we have in-person learning. Trustee, Mr. Bettenhausen responded, "Can we delay the start of school?" Trustee, Mrs. Becker, responded, remote learning is not an option, students need to be in school. Secretary, Mrs. Moe, responded, I agree with Mr. Stein and Dr. Vitton's decision as administrators, but I have mixed feelings, so I will have to pass on answering tonight. Trustee, Mrs. Thatcher responded that remote learning is horrible, but the IDPH is forcing guidelines on districts to make having in-person learning impossible! I think we need to plan for full remote e-learning.

President Robinson reported that we will meet again for a special board meeting to officially vote on going to full remote e-learning or go with the approved return to school plan. The Board will meet on Thursday, August 20th at 7:00 p.m., in the Media Center of Peotone High School.

President Robinson reported that we will now continue with our administrative reports for tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School, reported to the Board that PHS is ready for in-person instruction on our approved A/B schedule. We have had very productive meetings with our leadership team and we all feel very positive about our preparedness to start the school year. Our parent packets are finalized and we are printing to stuff and send to central office for an end of the week mailing to families. We are also working together administratively to plan very important professional development training that will help all families and staff be able to handle the challenges that could come our way.

- Important Dates include:
 - Freshmen Orientation 8/20/20
 - Mr. Brandon Owens
 - PHS Virtual Open House
 - Teachers were asked to create a 2-5 minute introductory video of their class. These videos will be organized into a google drive folder that will be shared publicly on 8/28 at 5:00 pm. This will be shared on Facebook, the school website, as well as be sent directly to students and parents via school messenger.

Scott Wenzel, Principal of Peotone Junior High School, reported to the Board that the Maintenance and Custodians are busy putting the final touches on the building.

- We are removing student desks out of each classroom to the maximum needed to create as much space as possible.
 - Teachers are removing items from their classrooms as well for more space.
 - The gym floor has been completed as well as the stage.
 - We are storing the extra desks and other items on the stage.
- Monday, August 24th - 6th Grade Building Tour - Scheduled beginning at 6:00 p.m.
 - Information has been sent out to the families.
 - They will be coming in as groups of 10 (10 students with one parent).
 - They will receive their schedule.
 - They may bring in supplies such as Kleenex, wipes, hand sanitizer.
 - Tuesday, August 25th - 7th/8th Grade Schedule Pick-up and Supplies drop-off.

Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone Junior High School, reported to the Board that we have been making preparations in order to assist teachers with the new technology they will be utilizing this year given the situation. We will be doing a virtual Open House and hope to send that out on Friday, August 28th to all students and families.

Athletics - Baseball, softball, and cross country all started last Monday. Coaches and athletes are adjusting very well to the new guidelines and our students are very happy to be out there. Baseball and softball had games on Saturday and tonight and the first cross country meet is Thursday at home at 4:15 p.m.

Mrs. Joanne Obszanski, Principal of Peotone Intermediate Center, reported to the Board that I would like to give a big thank you to Peotone PTO for working hard to generate virtual fundraising opportunities to continue to support our teachers, students and parents. Please visit PTO's Facebook page for information on how to access Market Day.

- Thanks again to PTO for providing teachers with startup money as we begin the school year.
- Thank you and much appreciation to PIC Custodians, Maintenance & Technology who have been hard at work getting the building ready to reopen our school.
- Teachers have been in at various times throughout the past week to work on their classrooms as they prepare for the upcoming start of school.

- Information for 4th Grade Orientation & Remote Learning Materials Pick-up is available on PIC's website as well as PIC's FB page.
- Back to school letters are getting mailed mid-week with information pertaining to the start of school.

Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary, reported to the Board that I would like to thank the custodians and maintenance staff for not only clearing and preparing the buildings over the summer but also with helping with the moving and storage of furniture at PES.

- PES teachers attended a two day workshop on July 28 and August 3 to learn about the technology platform Seesaw. Seesaw is a user friendly and engaging educational technology tool to share lessons and assignments to students. This will be utilized for both in person and remote instruction. They also learned about other professional development on Bitmoji classroom, Google app integration, Flipgrid, and Morning Meetings.
- My Leadership Team and Remote Learning Team met last week to provide feedback on routines, procedures, and schedules for both settings.
- We have a lot of Back to School events to provide both our in person and remote learners an opportunity to meet and connect with their teacher before the first day of school:
 - August 28: Supply Drop off and Meet the Teacher Drive Through for In Person Grades 1-3.
 - August 31: Virtual Meet the Teacher.
 - August 31-September 1: Kindergarten and Remote Learning Meet and Greet (one on one appointments with the student, parents, and teacher for anyone entering kindergarten or Grades 1-3 Remote Learners.
 - September 2: First Day of School for our Grades 1-3.

Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services, reported to the Board that last Friday, her parent letter was mailed to all families that have student(s) with Individualized Education Plans (IEP's). The parent letter outlined the framework of major changes in the department, as well as highlighted some of the specialized scheduling and programming considerations team members will use as we embark on a new school year. Individual tours are being scheduled for students joining new buildings when staff return to work next week. To date, we have had 15 students move into the district with IEP's. Seven (7) students had moved out of the district.

Mr. Dave Osborne, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported to the Board that the maintenance shed by the men's softball has been re-shingled last week. The shingles were in bad shape and the roof had started to leak. Some decking had to be replaced but not much. Illiana Roofing did the project for \$5,000. They also added some roof vents that were not present before. Ron Christiansen, who lives next door to PIC called the other day, has volunteered to level the dirt that was dug up for the drain line from the building

out to the West ditch. When he gets that leveled we'll plant grass seed and put a mulch mat on it. That is a very generous offer for him to do that for us.

Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation, reported to the Board that we have started some special education routes on Monday. Still going through routing and getting the finishing touches on that. Preparing the building for the return of all the drivers and making sure everything is in place for that. Hoping for a good return to school!

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

PHS Athletics:

The fall sports of Golf and Cross Country began their official practices on Monday, August 10th. We currently have 25 participants in our Golf program and seven participants in Cross Country. Under the guidelines of IHSA, we have had quite a few cancellations come our way for cross country and golf; however, the conference has made some strides to make up for the loss of those meets. Golf will begin its first match at Streator this Thursday, August 20th. The Cross Country will participate in their first invitational at Lisle on Monday, August, 24th. Additionally, athletics programs may begin their 20 non-contact days on September 7th.

Freshman Orientation:

Freshman Orientation is scheduled to take place on Thursday, August 20th; however, the format will be a little different than normal. Mr. Spang and our school counselors will be presenting a slideshow presentation that will be posted on our website and Facebook page. Those videos will be posted during the afternoon of August 20th. Our freshmen are then invited to attend a student-only building tour that night led by our Student Council Members. Thank you to Mrs. Juma for connecting with our students in the Student Council who were very willing to help. Our students have been placed into three groupings based on last names for the tour. The groups are split as followed:

- A-H - 6:00-6:30 PM
- I-O - 7:00-7:30 PM
- P-Z - 8:00-8:30 PM

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.

OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:56 p.m. President Robinson reported that there will be no closed executive session tonight and 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 voice call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (7): Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson and no nays. The regular board meeting of August 17, 2020 is adjourned.



Tara Robinson, President



Cathy Cuculich, Reporter