



**BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00 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 of the board members present was taken and the following board members answered aye, (7) Mrs. Tara Robinson, Mrs. Jennifer Moe, Mrs. Jodi Becker, Mr. Tim Stoub, Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Mrs. Dawn Love, Mr. Rick Uthe.

CONSENT AGENDA:

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the ***Consent Agenda A through F*** of the regular board meeting of January 18, 2023.

Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda ***A through F***.

Mrs. Moe seconded the motion to approve, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7), Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Stoub, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Love, Mr. Uthe and no nays.

GOOD NEWS:

**PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION
ACADEMIC STUDENT OF THE MONTH:**

President Robinson recognized and introduced ***Mackenzie Strough***, as the January 2023 Board of Education Academic Student of the Month at Peotone High School! She is the daughter of Steve and KC Strough of Peotone and is currently a senior at Peotone High School with a grade point average of 4.2 on a 4.0 grading scale. Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent presented a certificate of commendation to ***Mackenzie Strough***.



Congratulations Mackenzie!

**PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL
RECOGNITION OF THE 2023 -2024 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS**

President Robinson recognized and introduced the 2023-2024 Illinois State Scholars of Peotone High School. In order for these Peotone high school students to be named as Illinois State Scholars, they must be: U.S. citizens, residents of Illinois, perform in the top one-half of their high school class at the end of the third semester prior to graduation and/or score in the top 95th percentile on the ACT or SAT, and graduate in the year they are named as Illinois State Scholars.



Congratulations 2023-2024 Illinois State Scholars!

Yosef Abdeh, Kyle Gaidamavice, Julia Giese, Aiden Hamm, Madyson Kibelkis, Connor McCleverty, Michael O'Connor, Bradley Oliver, Jack Stoltman, Mackenzie Strough, Olivia Wagner, Grace Ward, Lauren Werner, and Logan Woodcock.

**PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 2022 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH.**

President Robinson recognized the December 2022 Students of the Month for Peotone Junior High School. The students of the month are 6th Grade student, **Giana Pagliarulo**, 7th Grade student, **Yoslin Acosta** and 8th Grade student **Joshua Delany**. Giana and Yoslin were not present to receive their certificates of commendation from Mr. Steve Stein, Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent presented a certificate of commendation 8th grade student, Joshua Delany who was present for the January 18th regular board meeting.



Congratulations Giana, Yoslin and Joshua!

OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:

No one signed in to Speak.

FOR ACTION:

REPORT NO. 42:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL AND ADOPTION THE RESOLUTION
ABATING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF
PEOTONE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 207U, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve and adopt the ***Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of Peotone Community Unit School District No. 207U, Will County, Illinois.*** Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve ***Report No. 42*** and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7) Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Love, Mr. Uthe and no nays.

REPORT NO. 43:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF AMENDING REPORT NO. 66 OF THE
APPROVED MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2022
REGULAR BOARD MEETING.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve to ***Amend Report No. 66*** of the Approved Minutes of the March 21, 2022 Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Stoub made a motion to approve ***Report No. 43*** and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7) Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Love, Mr. Uthe and no nays.

REPORT NO. 44:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE SECOND
READING OF PRESS 110 BOARD POLICES.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve and adopt the ***Second Reading of PRESS 110 Board Policies.*** Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve ***Report No. 44*** and Mrs. Love seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7) Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Love, Mr. Uthe and no nays.

REPORT NO. 45:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF KEEPING THE CLOSED
EXECUTIVE SESSIONS MINUTES CLOSED FROM
(JULY 2021 - DECEMBER 2021).**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve to ***Keeping the Closed Executive Session Minutes Closed from (July 2021 - December 2021).*** Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve ***Report No. 45*** and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7) Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Love, Mr. Uthe and no nays.

REPORT NO. 46:

FOR ACTION: **ADDENDUM TO THE 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 ***Addendum to the Approval of Personnel of the Certified and Classified Staff.***

Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve **Report No. 46** and Mrs. Love seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (6) Mrs. Moe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Love, Mr. Uthe and (1) abstain, Mrs. Robinson and no nays.

CERTIFIED

EMPLOYMENT:

- Tyler Miller - PHS English Teacher (effective date of 08.14.2023).
- William Robinson - PHS Social Studies Teacher (effective date of 08.14.2023).
- Abigail Seyller - PES Long Term Substitute Teacher (effective date of 01.10.2023 - 01.27.2023).
- Abigal Seyller - PES Permanent Substitute Teacher (effective date of 01.30.2023).

RESIGNATION:

- Brian Cann - District- Instructional Technology Coach (effective date of 01.13.2023).
- Tyler Pavesich -PES Permanent Substitute Teacher (amended effective date from 03.24.2023 to 01.27.2023).

RETIREMENT (4 years) 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027):

- Scott McAllister -PIC 4th Grade Teacher (retirement letter of 01.03.2023, retirement will be at the end of the 2026-2027 school year).

RETIREMENT (4 years) 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027):

- Sheri Schubbe - District Library Media Specialist (retirement letter of 01.10.2023, retirement will be at the end of the 2026-2027 school year).

CLASSIFIED STAFF

EMPLOYMENT:

- Bruce Johnson - District Custodian, Part-time (effective date 01.10.2023).
- **Janine Podgorny - PES Long Term Substitute Teacher (effective date of 01.30.2023 through approximately 03.10.2023).**

CHANGE IN LOCATION ONLY:

- Diane Klootwyk - PES 1:1 Paraprofessional to CSC Preschool Paraprofessional (effective date of 01.10.2023).
- Jodi Podbielski - CSC Preschool Paraprofessional to PES 1:1 Paraprofessional (effective date of 01.10.2023).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

- Jeffrey Jeffers - CSC Custodian (effective date of 01.26.2023 and an approximate return date of 03.09.2023).

RESIGNATION:

- Kathleen Izzi - Transportation Bus Driver (effective date of 12.07.2022).
- Karen Scrementi - PHS Cafeteria (effective date of 01.09.2023).
- Don Swanson - District Senior Technical Support Specialist (effective date of 01.27.2023).
- Ann Comrie - PES 1:1 Paraprofessional (amended effective date from 02.17.2023 to 02.10.2023).

RETIREMENT:

- Pat Christiansen - CSC Preschool Paraprofessional (effective date of 05.30.2023).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board that he received a FOIA request from Mr. James Bowden in regards to the enrollment of the school district for this current fiscal year, and Mr. Stein reported that the information has been sent to Mr. Bowden.

Mr. Adrian Fulgencio, Business Manager, reported to the Board that the consumer price index for 2022 came in at 6.5%. For the 2023 levy, the district will have the ability to levy up to the 5% threshold given that we are a tax cap District.

Mr. Brandon Owens, Director of Curriculum and Instruction reported to the Board about the Terrence Talley Assembly. On Tuesday, January 10, we had the opportunity to have Terrence Talley visit Peotone High School and Peotone Junior High School. His overall message was to students and staff letting them know that whether you always see it or not, there are people who care about you and want you to be happy and successful. Additionally, he added the importance to understanding that we don't always know what others are going through, and we need to take time to let them know "we have their back" and will help them out. This was a mix of fun with staff members showing off some dance moves and a heartfelt message for all who attended.

Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School, and Amy Adamow, Assistant Principal of Peotone High School reported to the Board:

▪ **High School Orientation**

- PHS is hosting our annual High School Orientation on Wednesday, January 25th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. All 8th grade students and their parents are invited to attend as they will receive important information regarding their upcoming high school experience over their next four years.

▪ **Illinois State Scholars**

- PHS is happy to announce that we have 14 Illinois State Scholars this year. The State Scholar Program recognizes students attending approved high schools for outstanding academic achievement. Approximately the top ten percent of graduates from approved high schools are announced as State Scholars each year. The State Scholar Program recognizes Illinois high school students for outstanding academic achievement. In order for these Peotone High School students to be named Illinois State Scholars, they must: be a U.S. citizen; be a resident of Illinois; perform in the top one-half of their high school class at the end of the third semester prior to graduation, and/or score in the top 95th percentile on the ACT or SAT; graduate in the year they are named as State Scholars. We plan to celebrate with our annual Illinois State Scholar breakfast with all winners and their families on a date to be named later.
- We also plan to recognize these students at our Senior Awards in the spring.
 - *Yosef Abdeh, Kyle Gaidamavice, Julia Giese, Aiden Hamm, Madyson Kibelkis, Connor McCleverty, Michael O'Connor, Bradley Oliver, Jack Stoltman, Mackenzie Strough, Olivia Wagner, Grace Ward, Lauren Werner, and Logan Woodcock.*

▪ **Illinois 5Essentials Survey**

- The Illinois 5Essentials survey is open to students, parents, and staff. The survey window is from January 24th. As a reminder to the public, we conduct this survey annually that is sponsored by the University of Chicago and endorsed by the state of Illinois. We monitor input from students, staff, and parents of the community to improve the overall educational experience to all 3 of those parties.

▪ **PHS/PJHS Student Handbook Revisions**

- The high school and junior high school administration met over break and continue to meet to make recommended revisions to the student

handbook. Our goal is to meet with parents on February 8th and then provide a first review for the board at the February meeting.

- Congrats to the Boys Basketball team so far for their successful season and for placing second in the Kankakee Holiday Tournament.
- Congratulations to the Girls Basketball team for winning our Peotone High School Holiday Tournament. Currently our girls are ranked #5 in the Associated Press Girls Basketball Poll for Class 2A.
- Congrats to our Cheerleaders for competing for the first time in several years at our ICE Cheerleading Competition. Though our girls did not place, they learned a lot and had a very positive experience.
- Our PHS Unified Basketball Team has several scheduled games they are very excited about and information should be coming out regarding their upcoming competition dates. Their first practice is tonight at 7 p.m.
- Game-On Teacher of the month for January - *Kim Pagliarulo*.
 - This month's teacher of the month goes above and beyond. She teaches six different classes. She coaches two different sports teams. She works with students until they understand how to do the task given to them. She pushes students to be better. She continues to look for ways to improve her classes. PHS is fortunate to have Kim Pagliarulo as a teacher and coach.

Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal at Peotone Elementary School, reported to the Board that we had data days last week and there is a lot to celebrate at PES with our data! Here are just a few highlights:

- As a building for ELA, we went from 60% of our students meeting and exceeding in the fall to 75% of our students meeting and exceeding in the winter.
- 64% of our kindergarten students were below or well below when we got them in the fall and now only 26% of our students are below or well below.
- 15% of our second grade students above average or well above average in the fall and now 38% of our students above average or well above average.
- As a building for Math, we went from 73% of our students meeting and exceeding in the fall to 84% of our students meeting and exceeding in the winter.

- 16% of our second grade students above average or well above average in the fall and now 45% of our students above average or well above average.
- 14% of our second grade students above average or well above average in the fall and now 40% of our students above average or well above average.
- We have worked very hard at PES over the past several years to create a schedule and model to support all learners during math and reading WIN (What I Need) time. We are able to provide early intervention to our K/1 students because of our strong interventionists' team that includes our reading, math, and primary specialists. We can truly provide interventions and meet the needs of our Tier 2 and Tier 3 students in all grade levels. This model also allows the classroom teacher more time to meet the needs of average and above average to continue to move them forward in their growth. We also had professional development this summer and restructured our math block this year to teaching to the standards. I believe this data directly represents the hard work our grade level teams have put into restructuring their math block to provide a differentiated approach to teaching to the standards.

Upcoming Events:

- Our K/1 STEM Club starts tomorrow! Yearbook Club begins again next week!

Mrs. Jennifer Tekiela, Principal at Peotone Intermediate Center reported to the Board that nine students from Mr. Snowden's fifth grade class were chosen to have their poems published in the 2022 Creative Communication Poetry Contest. Mr. Snowden will receive the published poems in a hardcover book to be added to his class library.

Ooodle chairs were delivered last week to be added to the PIC Learning Lab. The interlocking stools are to be used for flexible seating and flexible teaching. Each Ooodle stool has stacking sections that can be divided. Additionally, each stool can rock or not for added movement. These stools are just one part of our Learning Lab redesign for engaged student learning and flexibility. Thanks again to Peotone Educational Foundation for funding this project.

Congratulations to Raegan Smit who won the PTO Pancake Breakfast auction bid for Pizza with Principal. Raegan and a couple of friends enjoyed a pizza lunch with Mrs. Tekiela.

Volleyball, Book, and Yearbook clubs are all up and running with Yoga to begin next month.

Mr. Scott Wenzel, Principal and Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone Junior High School reported to the Board that the students and staff were treated to a great presentation by Terrence Talley on Tuesday, January 10. His message was "I've got your back." The assembly was inspirational and emotional on a positive level.

- The 8th grade Book Reception that was postponed before Christmas Break due to poor weather is rescheduled for Friday, January 20. All 8th grade students through ELA class wrote stories that have been compiled into a book. They will present them to their parents/guardians on this day.
- PJHS is wrapping up their Winter MAP Testing this week and will hold Data Days on Tuesday, January 24th and Wednesday, January 25.
- The Illinois 5Essentials Survey will open January 24:
 - PJHS students will be given the student survey for the Illinois 5Essentials through their Social Studies class. Their teacher will be setting the date for the survey.
 - Teachers will be taking the survey for the Illinois 5Essentials.
 - Parents will be receiving information with the link for the Illinois 5Essentials Parent Survey.
- 7th and 8th Grade Boys Basketball as well as cheerleading is getting close to finishing their seasons. They just completed their final regular season game last night. The 7th grade boys will be competing in the IESA Regional at Manteno beginning January 21. The 8th grade boys will be competing in the IESA Regional at Peotone beginning January 28th.
- Volleyball is in their second week of games.
- Wrestling just hosted their second home event of the season last night.

Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services, reported to the Board that she is excited about the upcoming session that the Peotone staff will experience at the February School Improvement Day. The District has secured motivational speaker Monica Genta to provide an in service to the staff to inspire and uplift our spirits during these winter months. Mrs. Loy shared she has personally attended a previous key note address by Monica, and is extremely excited to introduce her engaging personality and positive message to our staff.

Mrs. Loy reported that the Will County ROE Homeless Liaison Kelly Gritzenbach visited Peotone for a compliance/orientation as she is new to the role for the ROE. She was pleased with our support of families in need and provided a few additional ideas for supporting local families that Mrs. Loy will share with team members at each of the buildings.

Mrs. Loy also reported that the state mandated ACCESS testing for English Language proficiency has begun in the district. We have approximately

63 students throughout the district and cooperative placements that will need to have this test administered by March 2, 2023.

Mr. Ruben Suarez, Director of Technology, reported to the Board that we took advantage of an opportunity from Pearson and migrated our library system, Destiny, to the cloud. The advantages are; Improved reliability because the system is being maintained and updated by Pearson and reduced workload on onsite tech staff.

Mr. Chris Crawford, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported to the Board that he reported 267 work orders for the month of December. Those include work orders created by the maintenance team, administration and automatic preventative maintenance work orders:

1. Work Orders by school :
 - a. PIC = 27
 - b. CSC = 45
 - c. PHS = 55
 - d. PES = 62
 - e. PJHS = 78
2. Work Orders by Category:
 - a. HVAC = 90
 - b. Electrical = 41
 - c. Grounds = 34
 - d. Carpentry = 18
 - e. Plumbing = 18
 - f. Preventive Maintenance = 17
 - g. Moves/Delivery = 17
 - h. General Maintenance = 13
 - i. Equipment Repair = 5
 - j. Administrative = 5
 - k. Lock & Key = 3
 - l. Pest Control= 3
 - m. Vandalism = 3

President Robinson asked if any of the Board members had any questions or concerns.

Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Board Trustee, asked if he could address a couple of housekeeping items. One item is the set-up of the railings of the bleachers before games. He has received several complaints that the railings are not facing the right way at games. The railings should run up and down the aisles of the bleachers. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School responded that he will make sure that the railings are set up correctly for every game, no problem. The other housekeeping item Mr. Bettenhausen wanted to discuss was if we can put up some kind of signage at games for visitors and home.

Mr. Bettenhausen reported that the stands got a little heated at last night's game against Coal City, between Coal City fans and Peotone fans. Mr. Bettenhausen added that having the signage up will give more stability and enjoyment to the games. Mr. Spang responded that he has already had a discussion with Steve Strough - just because of the heatedness of the game last night and Steve told Jason that in the past we did have signage up for games. Mr. Spang responded we will make sure that we have signage up for the games.

President Robinson stated that since we are talking about housekeeping items, she wanted to let the board know that she received a letter from Mrs. Jean Hespin, regarding the disrepair of the portion of Blue Devil Drive that is owned by the Park District. President Robinson reported that Mr. Stein and she has had meetings over the years and most recently in the last several months with the Park District about the disrepair of Blue Devil Drive. President Robinson said that this will be an ongoing conversation with the Park District, Mr. Stein and myself. We will keep everyone informed as things progress.

Mrs. Jodi Becker, Board Trustee, asked if the bowling team has started yet and if so, are they practicing in town. Mr. Spang responded that yes, they are practicing now in town and the team was allowed access to the bowling alley prior being opened to the public. Before that, the bowling team was practicing down in Kankakee.

CLOSED 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 6:39 p.m., President Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting of January 18, 2023. Mrs. Moe made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion, and on a voice call vote, the following board members answered aye (7) Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Stoub, Mr. Uthe and no nays.



Tara Robinson, President



Cathy Cuculich, Reporter