



**BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER**

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 board members answered aye (7): Mrs. Tara Robinson, Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Mrs. Jodi Becker, Mr. Richard Uthe, Mr. Tim Stoub, Mrs. Jennifer Moe, and Mrs. Dawn Love.

CONSENT AGENDA:

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items, A through F of the regular board meeting of August 16, 2021. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda A through F and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion to approve, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love.

Board member, Mrs. Becker asked President Robinson if she could say a few words on an accusation that was posted on social media by board member, Mr. Stoub against me as a board member. Mrs. Becker went on to say that the Facebook post read - "that if you watched the last meeting, you will notice that I voted present for the first roll call vote. I did so for several reasons and including one that the board was approving an expense to the employer of a sitting board member." Mrs. Becker stated that she emailed Mr. Stoub in regards to the accusation suggested a face to face conversation or a response to my email concerning the accusation. Mr. Stoub never responded to my email. Mrs. Becker also stated that if there is an issue with a school board member that you feel it is a concern that needs to be addressed, I suggest bringing it to the appropriate parties and not social media.

Board member, Mrs. Love wanted to address the Board in response to Mr. Stoub's comments made at the last board meeting publicly questioning my commitment and integrity as a member of this Board. Mrs. Love reported that I was not in attendance for the meeting - because I had a prescheduled family vacation that Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Stein who were both aware of. While seated on the board, I have voted on each item with confidence. I take my work very seriously and my commitment to our schools will not waiver. I hope that the next four years are not filled with your disrespect of people who volunteer their time or your finger pointing. As board members we have serious work to do.

Board Secretary, Mrs. Moe also wanted to address the Board member, that implied that my absence from last month's meeting was due to the lack of my commitment to this community or my integrity. I also followed all of the proper protocols to inform Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Stein that I will not be at the meeting. Well, as I do apologize for missing the meeting, I however, do not apologize for putting my children first. I had a preplanned obligation with my kids. I have said before and I will say it again, my family will always come first. Don't, however, take that as my lack of commitment or to speak to my integrity. I have served on this Board for over ten years. My community and my school are only second to my family. The student success will always be my highest priority. I just had to make a statement tonight, as the comments that were made at the last board meeting were uncalled for and untruthful and to call out my integrity and not even give me a chance to defend myself is wrong.

Board member, Mr. Stoub, thanked the board members for sharing their perspectives with us, but he asked that both of the board members review the video of the last board meeting again. The only point that was made and spoke of was the lack of your presence. I implied nothing.

Board member, Jodi Becker just wanted to add - that the time I have been on the Board, if there has been an absence, I have never questioned it. And our votes, we have had a full quorum to make a decision. There is no reason absences need to be called out and there is no reason to be reminded about the weight of the votes that we make on every issue.

President Robinson reported that we have some Good News tonight! Mrs. Lori Lonard is here tonight, to speak on behalf of Peotone's Friday Night Frenzy Football event that took place on August 13th. Mrs. Lonard reported to the Board that I would like to thank everyone from the community along with the Booster Club and the Education Foundation for all their help and support to make this event such a huge success! We made over \$10,000 dollars from this event! And for people who do not know what Frenzy Football is or could not attend the event, it is a seven on seven flag football tournament consisting of six teams of former football players, teachers, principals, coaches and athletic directors. Everyone who participated and attended the event had a good time! I also want to give out a few more quick thank yous - to the Education Foundation, Athletic Booster Club, Music Department, Skills USA, Aqua, Green Valley Distributors, coaches, the football team, and so many parents who were involved in making this event so successful!

OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:

John Maxedon, addressed the Board with a question for Mr. Moore regarding an Amendment to the Budget. Also, he questioned whether or not some Board members violated the open meetings act. Mr. Maxedon ask President Robinson for a public apology from a statement that was made at the last board meeting. President Robinson declined Mr. Maxedon's offer.

Mrs. Christy Miller, addressed the Board with her concerns regarding the optional mask mandate, the percentage of staff vaccinated, COVID-19 percentages of the students and residents of Peotone and the students and staff who are not vaccinated.

Mrs. Jamie Bennett, addressed the Board to find out if the District has a plan in place if we go into another shutdown for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Stein responded that if we go into another shutdown, we will be going to back to what we did last school year.

Ms. Kirsha Pollak, addressed the board to see if the Board is looking into the legalities of the mask mandate issued by the Governor and whether or not he has the authority to do the mask mandate.

Mr. Stein introduced to the Board, Administration and the Community, **Mr. Adam Dauksas**, an attorney from the law firm that represents the school district. Mr. Stein reported that we asked Adam to be here tonight, because we thought questions might be brought up about the Governor's authority on the mask mandate. Mr. Dauksas explained concepts of why the Governor does has the authority for the mask mandate and how this mask mandate flows down through the State Superintendent and then to us as a school district. Mr. Dauksas also answered questions and concerns from the community regarding the mask mandate of the District.

FOR ACTION:

REPORT NO. 9:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE TENTATIVE FY22 BUDGET
 TO BE PUT ON DISPLAY.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Tentative FY22 Budget to be put on Display**. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve **Report Action No. 9** and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (6): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love and (1) nay: Mr. Stoub.

REPORT NO. 10:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE DESTRUCTION OF CLOSED
EXECUTIVE RECORDINGS FROM JANUARY 2016
THROUGH JUNE 2016.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Destruction of Closed Executive Recordings from January 2016 through June 2016**. Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve **Report Action No. 10** and Mrs. Love seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love, Mr. Stoub and no nays.

REPORT NO. 11:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF A COED SOCCER TEAM AT
PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve a **COED Soccer Team at Peotone Junior High and the coaching stipend of \$2,473.17**. Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve **Report Action No. 11** and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love, Mr. Stoub and no nays.

REPORT NO. 12:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF A CHOOSE TO INCLUDE PROGRAM
COORDINATOR AT PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL AND
PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Choose to Include Program Coordinator at Peotone High School and at Peotone Junior High School with a program coordinator stipend of \$2,473.17** for each school. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve **Report Action No. 12** and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love, Mr. Stoub and no nays.

REPORT NO. 13:

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 Personnel**. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve **Report Action No. 13** and Mrs. Love seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love, Mr. Stoub and no nays.

CERTIFIED STAFF

EMPLOYMENT:

- Shawn Sobotka - PJHS - Athletic Director (effective date of 08.01.2021).
- Shawn Sobotka - PJHS - Health Teacher (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Shawn Sobotka - PJHS - Assistant Baseball Coach (effective date of 08.01.2021).
- Shawn Sobotka - PHS Boys' Basketball Assistant Coach (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Jeannette Hennke - PES First Grade Teacher (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Kylie Rennels - PES First Grade Teacher (effective date of 08.10.2021).

CHANGE IN STATUS:

- Moira Burke - PHS - Student Council Sponsor - (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Madison Mikalauski - PHS Track and Field Assistant Coach (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Sarah Zarnowski - PHS Track and Field Assistant Coach (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Kathy Ernst - PES - Third Grade Teacher to PIC 5th Grade Special Education Teacher (effective date of 07.30.2021).
- Andrew Butz - PHS - Freshman Sponsor (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Kim Pagliarulo - PHS - Head Bowling Coach (effective date of 8.17.2021).
- Nicole Phelps - PHS - Renaissance Sponsor (effective date of 8.16.2021).
- Stacy Plastiak - PES - Reading/Math Paraprofessional to PES 3rd Grade Teacher (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Luisa Suarez - PHS - Fellowship of Christian Athletes Sponsor (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- **Carly Bittner - PJHS - Zero Math Overload (effective date of 08.16.2021).**

RESIGNATION:

- Todd Zasadil - PJHS Health Teacher (effective date of 07.26.2021)
- Todd Zasadil - PHS Head Boys' Basketball Coach (effective date of 07.26.2021).
- Todd Zasadil - PJHS Assistant Baseball Coach (effective date of 07.26.2021).
- Connie Mortell - PIC -5th Grade- Special Education Teacher (effective date of 07.28.2021).
- Michelle Weinirch - PES - First Grade Teacher (effective date of 07.30.2021).
- Michelle Weinrich - PES - 2nd Grade Airplanes and Drones Sponsor (effective date of 07.30.2021).
- Rachel Graniczny - PES - First Grade Teacher (effective date of 08.09.2021).
- Nicholas Munro - PHS - Math Teacher (effective date of 08.02.2021).

CLASSIFIED STAFF**EMPLOYMENT:**

- Edward Leitelt - PJHS - Assistant Baseball Coach (effective date 08.03.2021).

CHANGE IN STATUS:

- Juan Salgado - Transportation - Bus Driver to Substitute Bus Driver (effective date of 06.04.2021).

RESIGNATION:

- Nicole Simmons - PES - SI Paraprofessional (effective date of 08.12.2021).

TERMINATION:

- Diandre Owens - PJHS - Night Custodian - (effective date of 08.09.2021)

FOR DISCUSSION:

President Robinson introduced Mr. Trevor Moore to give his presentation of the FY22 budget of the District. The hearing and approval of the FY22 Budget will be at the September 20, 2021 regular board meeting.

President Robinson asked the Board to please review PRESS 107 Board Policies and also Board Policy 4:140. Any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mr. Stein or Mrs. Becker via email

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board that I have received one FOIA request from Ms. Deborah Swidergal, regarding my contract, the board's ethics policy and any mask communications that I had with staff from June 1st through July 23rd.

Mr. Brandon Owens, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reported to the Board that:

Institute Days/Start of School Year

Monday, August 16th was our first day of Teacher Institute Days for our Blue Devil teachers. Our admin teams held staff meetings to welcome teachers back to a new year of school. Members of our PIC and PJHS ELA and Math Departments attended a *Filling the Gaps in ELA and Math* workshop, which is designed to support teachers in focusing on the needs of our students in those subject areas this school year. On Tuesday, we will provide additional trainings and meetings as we also welcome back our classified staff members.

Upcoming Dates:

First Day of School - Grade 1-12 - Wednesday, August 18th

First Day of School – Kindergarten – Friday, August 20th

First Day of School – Preschool – Tuesday, August 24th

PreK Meet & Greets

PreK Meet & Greets are scheduled to take place throughout the day this Wednesday and Thursday (August 18th & 19th). We are extremely excited to have this time to get to know our families before the school year begins next week on Tuesday, August 24th. The window for signing up for a Meet & Greet session has been open since the beginning of the month and will remain until Wednesday morning.

IAR

Last year, the decision was made to move our State Testing window for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness and the Illinois Science Assessment from the normal spring testing session to a fall benchmarking period. We have tentatively set the testing dates for the week of September 27th. Since this is actually the 2020-21 assessment, students in grades 4th-9th will take the IAR test and grades 6th, 9th, and 12th will be administered the ISA.

Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary, reported to the Board that it was having all teachers back in the building for our Institute Day. We had an awesome turnout at our open house for Grades 1-3 from 2:00-4:00 teacher.

- We welcome our first through third graders back in the building on Wednesday.
- Kindergarten has individual Meet and Greet appointments on Wednesday and Thursday and Kindergarten students' first day of school is Friday.
- Our school wide theme for this school year is "The Game of Life."

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

- **Numbers -**
As of this date, PJHS currently has an enrollment of 301 students. Breakdown goes as follows; 8th Grade-109, 7th Grade-100, and 6th Grade-92.
- **Open Houses -**
 - 6th Grade Open House will be held on Tuesday, August 17 beginning at 6:00 PM for students.
 - 7th/8th Grade Open House will be held on Tuesday, August 24 beginning at 6:00 PM.
- **First Day of Student Attendance -**
 - Doors to PJHS will open at 7:45 AM each morning. All students will enter the main doors of the building. Students will wait in the foyer area by the main doors. 7th and 8th grade students will be seated in the gymnasium by grade level as the 6th graders will report to the cafeteria.
- **Student Handbooks/Assignment Planners -**
 - Mr. Wenzel and Mrs. Bean will be meeting with each grade level to distribute and discuss the student handbook on Thursday, August 19.
- **Fall MAP Testing -**
 - NWEA Fall MAP Testing will be taking place from Monday August 23 through September 3. Students will take their tests in the Math or ELA class.
- **Practice Drills -**
 - Thursday, August 26; students at PJHS will going through the drills with a practice of the tornado, fire, and active shooter drill.
 - Friday, August 27; students will run through the bus evacuation drill during their PE class.

Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone Junior High School, reported to the Board that:

- We have two softball and two baseball teams already in season. They've each had a few games and everything has gone very smoothly.
- Cross country has started practice and will have their first meet on Thursday of this week at home at 4:15 p.m.

Mrs. Joanne Obszanski, Principal of Peotone Intermediate Center, reported to the Board that: Thank you to the Custodians & Building/Grounds Department for the work done throughout the summer to prepare our schools for this week.

- Thank you to Transportation for the planning to get our students' day off to a great start and deliver them to us safely.
- Thank you to PIC staff for the hours put into preparing for the two Teacher Institute days along with the first day with students on August 18th.
- Thank you to Technology for managing the distribution of chrome books and summer work.
- PIC's current enrollment is at 193 = 97/4th & 96/5th.
- The PDA (Professional Development Alliance) Gail Bohnenstiehl & Cheryl Beasley provided professional development training to 4th & 5th grade ELA & Math teachers entitled "Filling the Gaps" the Road to Recovery. This presentation was aligned with the presentation I attended this summer with several other administrators. We will be utilizing the PDA / Gail & Cheryl throughout the school year to provide support to our ELA & Math teachers in areas identified today, data from NWEA MAP testing & past IAR assessments.
- NWEA Map Testing for 4th & 5th on August 19 & 20.
- Drill Practices; Lockdown Drill, Disaster/Tornado Drill, Fire Drill & Bus Evacuation Drill will be done August 24, 25 & 26.
- PIC Orientation for 4th & 5th grade is
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
4th - 5 to 6pm
5th - 5:30 to 6:30pm

Mr. Trevor Moore, Business Manager, CSBO, reported to the Board that Helping Hands has made a generous donation to the school district to pay off all student lunch debt. This amount was used to supplement the last of the American Legion money that was donated a few years back. The total amount was a little over \$800.00

As a follow up to Mrs. Moe's inquiry at a previous meeting, Mr. Moore reported that he and Mrs. Cuculich researched how impact fees are collected for the Five Oaks subdivision. Unbeknownst to the business office, this subdivision actually pays their impact fees directly to the Village of Frankfort and then the Village issues a check to the school district. This is different from homes built in the Village of Peotone and other Will County areas. Those builders/homeowners pay the fee directly to the school district. Overall, Mr. Moore reassured the board that they are collecting all school impact fees due because builders cannot get a permit without showing proof of payment.

Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services, reported to the Board that two special education teachers from Peotone Schools recently attended a special education professional's day at Navarro Farm. The district is working to form a partnership for regularly scheduled opportunities for our students with special needs to work at Navarro Farm. Mrs. Loy also shared an overview of Navarro Farm as it is a beautiful family farm that is devoted to providing hands on experiences for students with exceptional needs to participate in agriculture, vocational, and social experiences. Mrs. Loy thanked the Board for their continued investment in the Special Olympics and Inclusion activities for our District with the approval of the Choose To Include sponsor stipends this evening. Finally Mrs. Loy shared details welcoming the new students and staff to the district, as well as upcoming ACCESS testing for our English Language Learners.

Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School, reported to the Board that: PHS is ready for full days and excited to see students on Wednesday. We have had very productive meetings with our leadership team and we all feel very positive about our preparedness to start the school year. Mr. Taeuber, Mr. Blue Devil and I created a video last week through this past weekend and pushed that out to students through student email, parent email, and also on Facebook today detailing the following protocols.

- Zero-Hour Math Class -Begin 8/23
- Building Entry Procedures
- Blue Devil Support Procedures
- Begin once we return to full days after common plan heat dismissals
- Lunch Procedures
- KACC students had their first today as we handed out Remind App reminders for students and parents to sign up for to enhance communication of any changes between PHS and KACC
- Today we had our Initial Staff Meeting
- We had a lot of information to share and the day was very productive all around.

- Elective Schedule Changes
- First 3 days of School
- Level Down Requests
- Within the first 5 weeks of school

A Huge Thank You to our Student Services Department as they are working very hard to respect all schedule change requests in a timely manner.

Mr. Paul Taueber, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director of Peotone High School, reported to the Board that

- **Freshman Orientation: Last Thursday**
 - Great participation with over 80 students in attendance
 - Tour through the school
 - Ice Cream Social and Parent Meeting
- **Sports kicked off last week and games start next week:**
 - Golf started at Sandwich last Thursday
 - Volleyball is at home next Monday (IC)
 - Soccer starts at Bishop Mac next Monday
 - Football starts at home vs Peoria Manual on Friday
 - Cross Country @ BBCHS on Saturday
- **Senior Nights have been moved up for the Fall Season:**
 - Football/Cheer/Dance/Marching Band will be the 1st home game on 8/27
 - Volleyball will be on 9/13
 - Cross Country will be 9/21 (only home game)
 - Soccer and Golf should be set by the end of the week
- **Scoreboard Fundraiser:**
 - Awesome Community event that raised over \$10,000!!!!
 - Great to see members of the community and even some familiar faces.
- **Future Dates:**
 - Fall Sports pictures is this Wednesday, August 18 (Golf is 23rd at CC)
 - Open House is August 25
 - Senior Photos are on September 1-2
 - Picture Day is September 23
 - Homecoming Week begins September 27

Mr. Ruben Suarez, Director of Technology, reported to the Board that we are at the beginning of the year process. Helping students and staff login and get all their equipment working. Waiting to receive the Smartboards for PES so we can set them up.

Mrs. Terry Wuske, Director of Food Services, reported to the Board, that The food service has been busy getting ready for the first day. We will be receiving government commodity orders this week. The food service staff will start Monday. We will be cleaning and setting up kitchens. And we are ready for the Teacher Institute day to serve them lunch on August 20th.

Mr. Dave Osborne, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported to the Board that the metal roof coating is done at the high school. The Connor Shaw roof is running a little behind because of supply issues. And parts for the dust collector at the high school are scheduled to be delivered tomorrow.

Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation, reported to the Board that we are tying up the loose ends. Bus drivers are back running their routes getting ready for the first day. As you know the first week or so they will run late but it will work out in about a week or so. I want to thank all the office staff for all of their help with checking and double checking information so we have everything ready for the first day. We appreciate all of them.

OTHER:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

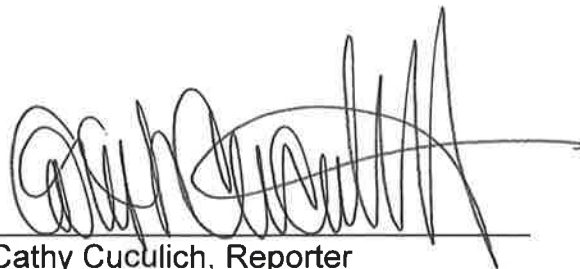
For the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel; collective negotiating matters; student disciplinary cases and other matters relating to individual students; pending, probable, or imminent litigation; 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 8:32 p.m. President Robinson asked any board members if they had anything for closed executive session tonight, and the Board answered no. President Robinson then asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting. Mr. Uthe made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and on a voice call vote, the following board members answered aye (7); Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love, Mr. Stoub, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays.



Tara Robinson, President



Cathy Cuculich, Reporter