



**BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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 (5): Mrs. Tara Robinson, Mr. Roger Bettenhausen, Mrs. Jodi Becker, Mr. Tim Stoub, Mrs. Jennifer Moe. Mr. Rick Uthe and Mrs. Dawn Love were absent for the regular board meeting of October 18, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA:

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Consent Agenda, A through G** of the regular board meeting of October 18, 2021. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve the **Consent Agenda A through G** and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion to approve, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (5): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Moe. Mr. Uthe and Mrs. Love were absent for the October 18, 2021 regular board meeting.

GOOD NEWS:

PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL

**RECOGNITION OF THE OCTOBER 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE
PEOTONE BOWLING CENTER'S EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD.**

Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School, spoke on behalf of the October recipient of the PBC Excellence in Teaching Award, Mrs. Jody Andriano, English Language Arts Teacher at Peotone High School. Mrs. Andriano could not attend the board meeting.

Mrs. Elizabeth Upton wrote:

It is very hard, sometimes, to see the difference we are making on a day to day basis in this profession. Moments when we are reminded are sometimes few and far between, and we fixate on the day to day work of grading, planning, and presenting. But there is so much more for the children of this community that is provided in the consistency of the teaching done by a devoted educator. It all comes down to love. The teacher I am passing the Excellence in Teaching Award to gives that love selflessly in everything she does for the children of our district. No child has a doubt, upon entering her classroom, that she loves them. She loves the material, and she loves to share with all her students. She has shown me how to be a better teacher by her enthusiasm, and even her wry wit when meting out discipline, as a mother would to her child. From my first day at Peotone High School she was a mentor to me, offering support, encouragement, and the occasional "slap" to keep me focused.

I have learned about my craft from her, she has been a sounding board for ideas and problems, and she has helped me understand the connections between the small picture in everyday work, and the larger picture of a life lived in the service of children. I hope I can carry on her legacy, and most of all, I hope that my love of teaching is as obvious to others as is hers to all of us. It is with great pleasure that I pass the PBC Excellence in teaching award, to Jody Andriano!



Congratulations Jody!

**PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL
OCTOBER 2021 ACADEMIC STUDENT OF THE MONTH.**

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent presented a certificate of commendation to ***Madyson Kibelkis***, as the October 2021 Board of Education Academic Student of the Month. ***Madyson*** is the daughter of Melissa and Dave Kibelkis, of Peotone. Madyson is a junior at Peotone High School with a grade point of 4.14 on a 4.0 grading scale.



Congratulations Madyson!

PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2021 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH.

Superintendent Stein presented certificates of commendation to the **6th Grade - Justin Schubbe**, and **8th Grade Olivia Pena**. **7th Grade - Kelsi Bade** was not present at the board meeting to receive her certificate. These students have demonstrated outstanding behavior, good work ethic, and have "gone above and beyond the call of duty" at Peotone Junior High School!



Congratulations Justin, Kelsi (not present) and Olivia!

OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:

Virginia Hamann, of Peotone, IL, addressed the Board that she feels that the bus drivers of the District are being discriminated against and being treated unfairly regarding the weekly Covid testing. Mrs. Hamann went on to say that herself and a couple of bus drivers travel to get the saliva test for Covid, and will not submit to the Covid nasal swab test offered by the District. President Robinson responded to Virginia and stated that the District does provide testing for the transportation staff at the bus barn free of charge. Mrs. Hamann responded she will not submit to the nasal swab test provided by the District. President Robinson again, responded, we are providing weekly Covid testing for the transportation staff at the bus barn free of charge.

DISTRICT AUDIT PRESENTATION:

Mr. John Michalesko, CPA of Gassensmith & Michalesko, Ltd, presented to the board, the superintendent and the public the audit results for the District. Mr. Michalesko reported that the audit itself was presented accurately and all required disclosures were included. In addition, we issue a report on the internal controls - that is where we make sure that all transactions whether they are revenues or expenditures follow the proper chain of command and are all approved, and we did not find any material problems or deficiencies so the District received a clean report. All fund accounts had positive balances at year end, which means the District had good fiscal responsibilities. In all, the records were in great shape and very consistent. Mr. Michalesko also wanted to point out that the District did receive received a 3.65 on a 4.0 which is the highest of recognition status.

President Robinson and the Board thanked Mr. Moore for doing such a fantastic job! President Robinson also added that Trevor is always diligent in his duties so it is nice to have a report to the Board that reflects your hard work. Thank you, Trevor.

FOR ACTION:

REPORT NO. 26:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF OPENING A NEW
ACTIVITY FUND ACCOUNT.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve ***Opening a New Activity Fund Account for PHS Cross Country***. The sponsor and treasurer of the PHS Cross Country is Moira Burke. Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve ***Report Action No. 26*** and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (5): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Stoub and no nays. Mr. Uthe and Mrs. Love were absent for the October 18, 2021 regular board meeting.

REPORT NO. 27:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE SRO MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the ***SRO Memorandum of Understanding Agreement*** between Peotone Community Unit School District 207U and the Peotone Police Department. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve ***Report Action No. 27*** and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (4): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, and one nay (1) Mr. Stoub. Mr. Uthe and Mrs. Love were absent for the October 18, 2021 regular board meeting.

REPORT NO. 28:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE PHS BOOK CLUB
SPONSOR STIPEND PROPOSAL.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the ***Peotone High School Book Club Sponsor Stipend Proposal of \$1,992.30***. The Peotone High School Book Club Sponsor is Sheri Schubbe. Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve ***Report Action No. 28*** and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (5): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Stoub and no nays. Mr. Uthe and Mrs. Love were absent for the October 18, 2021 regular board meeting.

REPORT NO. 29:

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 to approve ***Certified and Classified Personnel***. Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve ***Report Action No. 29*** and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (5): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Stoub and no nays. Mr. Uthe and Mrs. Love were absent for the October 18, 2021 regular board meeting.

CERTIFIED STAFF

EMPLOYMENT:

- Mary Royce - PHS - Special Education Teacher (effective date of 10.18.2021).

CHANGE IN STATUS:

- Moira Burke - Student Council Sponsor to Co-Student Council Sponsor (effective date of 09.27.2021).
- Andrew Butz - PJHS - 6th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach (effective date of 10.18.2021).
- Kelly Leonard - PHS - Assistant Scholastic Bowl Coach (effective date of 11.02.2021).
- Meri Rietman - PHS - Student Council, Co-Sponsor (effective date of 09.27.2021).
- Joy Whalen - PJHS - Soccer Coach (splitting Soccer stipend) (effective date of 02.28.2022).
- Madison Mikalauski - PJHS - Soccer Coach (splitting Soccer stipend) (effective date of 02.28.2022).

CLASSIFIED STAFF

EMPLOYMENT:

- Julie Beltran - PES - Special Education Paraprofessional (effective date of 09.27.2021).
- Logan Heflin - PJHS - 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach (effective date of 10.18.2021).
- Jennifer Soyer - PES - Second Grade Inclusion Paraprofessional (effective date of 10.18.2021).
- Michelle Gerritsen - PHS - Cafeteria (effective date of 10.18.2021).
- Greg Goberville - PJHS - Wrestling Coach (effective date of 11.29.2021).

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board that he has received two FOIAs this month. One FOIA was from NBC News, who wanted to look at any unclaimed properties the District might have through the State of Illinois. Another FOIA was from Mr. John Maxedon regarding the asbestos abatement and flooring process that we will be going through this summer at the junior high. Mr. Stein also reported to the Board that he wanted the Board to know that he has signed off on a lighting change at the high school football field at the junior high- changing out all of the halogen lights to LEDs for \$500.00, which seems to good to be true - but the Company receives multi rebates through ComEd to make the change to LED lighting. He also received a quote for the high school parking lot which would be approximately around \$7,000. The savings of electricity for the District in the long run will be huge! Mr. Stein also reported that he will get the high school parking lot quote to the Board for review and maybe have it be up for approval at the November board meeting.

Mr. Ruben Suarez, Director of Technology, reported to the Board that due to the increase in cyberattacks, our insurance underwriters are requesting that we perform a security assessment of our systems. Ruben is working with Sentinel on a plan to do a penetration test of our network, recommend changes if necessary, and implement those changes.

Mr. Trevor Moore, Business Manager, CSBO, thanked the Board for their kind feedback on the results of the audit. He made sure that everyone knows he has a great team that he works with in the Business Office and that we wouldn't be at this point without their hard work and support of the changes they have implemented. It has been a process to get to this point, but he is happy that there are positive results showing from the past three years of diligent work and improvements.

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

State Assessments

On Friday, October 8th, the testing window for the Illinois Science Assessment and Illinois Assessment of Readiness closed for the fall 2021 session. All schools were able to complete testing within the allotted window. It was an odd time to do testing this year and get back into the swing of things for testing. Thank you to Mr. Spang, Mr. Taeuber, Mr. Wenzel, Mrs. Bean, Mrs. Obszanski and the teachers/staff at PHS, PJHS, and PIC for making sure testing ran smoothly.

Curriculum Cycle

Currently this year, we are on cycle to evaluate, review, and adopt new curricular materials for high school English (9-12) and K-12 Social Studies. Materials have continued to come in this month and have been provided to staff members that expressed interest in reviewing the materials. Due to backorders, we have not received all the samples at this time but expect to receive the remainder shortly. I have had the opportunity to hold an initial meeting with each group and am in the process of looking to setup meetings in the coming months to further discuss these materials.

Curriculum Meetings

Beginning next week, we will be conducting our yearly curriculum meetings with our various departments at Peotone High School. This is our opportunity to examine our current offerings/needs and discuss if any changes need to be made moving forward. This further allows us to have the course descriptions updated and ready for the next school year, as well. These meetings will continue through the first week of November. Special thanks to Mrs. Murray, Mr. Church, Miss Michalak, and Mr. Spang for working to setup these times to meet.

Prek Halloween Class Parties

The Peotone Early Education Program is excited to have its first party of the school year, which will take place during the AM & PM sessions on Tuesday, October 26th.

Mrs. Joanne Obszanski, Principal of Peotone Intermediate Center, reported to the Board that Congratulations to PIC's September ROK Star Students of the Month. The following students were chosen by their teachers for demonstrating characteristics throughout their day related to Citizenship.

4th grade - Shea O'Connor & Joshua Fritz

5th grade - Bailey Schultz & Logan Cowger

We are very proud of all of our 4th and 5th grade role models!

PIC's October Character Trait is Motivation. We teach our students that motivation is the desire to persist to accomplish goals.

Get your smile ready for Fall picture retakes day on October 20th!

Quarter 2 began today. We encourage parents to sign up for P/T conferences held on 10/28/21. Please contact PIC's office if you need assistance.

Thank you to Colleen McIntyre, PIC's Social Worker for scheduling a visit from Will County Bloodhound & K9 Detection Dogs. Will County K9 Officers Kelly & Gabrielson brought with them two K9 dogs; Locki & Malice. Their message for our students focused on how useful K9's can be in keeping our community and school safe, which also was a fun way to connect our September Character Trait of Citizenship.

PIC's "after school" Book Club forms went home today and begins 11/9/21 just after Intramural Volleyball wraps up on 11/5/21.

PIC's first Friends Making Friends session was held today. Mrs. Kauchak & Miss McIntyre are looking forward to providing structured activities and opportunities to introduce and encourage students to branch out and make new friends.

Report cards go home on 10/22/21.

A "virtual" PTO meeting is scheduled for November 1st

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

- PJHS is conducting our Red Ribbon Week in the fight against drugs this week October 18-22. Student and staff activities include dress up days and poster competition amongst homerooms. The winning homeroom receives a trophy.
- Preparations for Parent Teacher Conferences are currently taking place. They will be held Thursday, October 28 10:00 - 6:00 with dinner from 2:00 - 3:00.
- The Choose to Include group is having an after school activity on Thursday, October 21 at 3:30. The event will be a Kickball game with any of our students available to participate.
- PJHS had 17 students participate in the Kan-Will Music Festival held on Thursday, October 17 at Grant Park. Each conference school sends their best band and choir students to form a conference band and choir. There was a concert held that night for families.
- Report Cards will be going home with students on Friday, October 22nd.

PJHS will be conduct the ISA Assessment next week as well and will begin the IAR the week of October 4th.

Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services, reported to the Board details on the recent outing to Navarro Farm from members from the Specialized Instruction program at PHS and their Best Buddies attended recently. Students learned a bit about the farm, and were able to help with a few chores and harvesting of tomatoes. The PHS SI program will partner with Navarro farm on a regular basis in the spring to explore vocational opportunities and tasks for the students. Mrs. Loy reviewed that the upcoming Special Olympics Youth Activation Summit will take place in November for PJHS and PHS students that are involved with this. Mrs. Loy also shared the Vocational program is excited to have formed a new partnership with Archy's in downtown Peotone. This will soon become a community based vocational site for students to work on their pre-vocational skills. Additionally, Mrs. Loy reviewed` updates to the Fee for Service Medicaid reimbursement procedure. Reimbursement will soon include special education and general education students that are Medicaid eligible and she will work with staff members involved to make the district is capturing all reimbursement dollars possible.

Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School, reported to the Board that:

- PHS hosted the College Board PSAT/NMSQT for juniors on October 13th. The testing day was a success, and we plan to assess 32 students who were not present on 10/13 on the alternative testing date of October 26th.
- Parent/Teacher Conference Signups have begun for PHS. We shared a link directly with parents through school messenger and also shared on our PHS Facebook page. Parents, please sign up on Signup Genius prior to Thursday October 28th.
- PHS will be hosting a Veterans Day assembly on November 11. PHS will be meeting to discuss the details of the assembly. The assembly will include our updated military banners, a PHS Band performance, a PHS Chorus performance, and a recognition of PHS alumni who have served our country in uniform. We are also reaching out to our first responders in town and plan to include them as well.

Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal of Peotone Junior High School, reported to the Board that we had two runners participate in Cross Country State this past Saturday. We will honor those athletes next month. 6th grade girls' basketball is wrapping up tomorrow night with their last game. 7th and 8th grade girls have about a month left in their regular season before their postseason in November. Cheerleading started with tryouts last week. Boys' basketball is getting started this week with tryouts.

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

- **Parent Teacher-Conferences - Oct. 28**
 - Sign-ups for Parents will be posted tomorrow for parents to sign up for conferences.
- **Sports Updates**
 - Cross Country:
 - Independents Classic (Conference Meet) was held this Saturday with Roman Jelinek finishing 18th and Madyson Kibelkis finishing 20th. Cross Country Regionals will be this Saturday.
 - Football:
 - From Coach Tsiamas:
 - Current Record is 5-3 (3-3), qualified for playoffs last Friday in their victory over Herscher. Play their last regular season and conference game this Friday @ Lisle.
 - Golf:
 - Golf finished their season with an impressive performance at Regionals, placing 2nd to advance to Sectionals, where they were not able to advance as a team or as an individual. They finished the season at 10-4.

- Soccer:
 - From Coach Meyers:
 - Record: 8-13 overall, Conference: 3-4
 - Soccer was hit hard by contact tracing and lost their last game in the regional quarterfinals in a OT shootout loss to Grace Christian. They played admirably with only 10 players and without 8 starters.
 - All Conference Honors were given to Niko Balaskas, Kyle Coners, and Wil Graffeo.
- Volleyball:
 - From Coach Barger:
 - Record: 17-12 overall, 8-5 in conference
 - Placed 3rd at Watseka Tournament with Malya Sayre and Amanda Hasse making all-tournament team. Last home game is tomorrow night vs Wilmington where they will honor Dylan McConkey. Play Saturday at Mahomet-Seymour Tournament before Regionals next week, where they are the #3 seed in their sub-sectional and play at Catalyst Maria Charter School.
 - Raise Money:
 - Panici Night \$633 to American Lung Association.
 - \$1781.03 for McConkey family.

Mr. Dave Osborne, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported to the Board that we are winding down summer activities and gearing up for winter. Anticipating a salt shortage, as everything else is, we got 15 pallets of salt in, that's what we used last year. We are hoping that two of our plow trucks make it through the winter. We have two new ones on order but they probably won't be delivered until late December or after the 1st of the year. Dave Osborne is getting quotes having PIC plowed and salted for us, that way we can concentrate on getting the in-town schools done - should we lose one or both trucks.

Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation, reported to the Board that she has an update on the DEF sensors. They are programming a bypass for the sensors so we are able to keep driving them until the parts come in. This week is School Bus Safety week. Look for safety tips on our Facebook page!

Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary, reported to the Board that we can't believe it is the start of second quarter already!

- We loved having the PHS Football Players come play games with our students during recess during Homecoming Week.
- We have almost finished one intervention cycle and the Student Support Team meets next week to review data and determine next rounds of interventions.
- October is Positive Attitude Month so lots of positivity at PES including our PES Positive Pumpkin Patch.
- We had 462 students get Popstar status in quarter 1! Popstar reward will be next week.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Report Cards go home on Friday 10/22/2021.
 - Halloween parade and room parties are next Wednesday 10/27.
 - Parent Teacher Conferences will be virtual and in person on 10/28.
 - Veterans Day Celebration on 11/11/21.

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 OR MAY NOT BE ANY ACTION FOLLOWING THE CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:55 p.m. President Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting. Mrs. Moe made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion and on a voice call vote, the following board members answered aye (5), Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Moe and no nays. Mr. Uthe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of October 18, 2021.


Tara Robinson, President


Cathy Cuculich, Reporter