

**BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OF MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021  
AT 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, Mrs. Jennifer Moe, Mrs. Dawn Love and Mr. Tim Stoub.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda of the June 21, 2021 regular board meeting. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion to approve, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Dawn Love and (1) present, Tim Stoub.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:**

***Mrs. Julie Busich, of Peotone, IL*** addressed the Board with her concerns regarding the custodian hiring practices of the District. Mrs. Busich also stated that she was treated unfairly while she was employed by the District in regards to seniority and the openings of daytime custodial positions.

***Dr. Peter March, Village President of Peotone, IL***, wanted to introduce himself to the Board members. Dr. March went on to say that the village is more than willing to work with the school board on any issues between the school board and the village - we have the same boss - the taxpayers. And if there is anything we can do more efficiently together, or if you think the village administration is not listening to you for any reason, please feel free to give me a call, email me, or stop by the office to talk. I want us to have a good relationship together.

## PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL

### RECOGNITION OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE MAY 2021 PEOTONE BOWLING CENTER'S EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD:

Mr. Jason Spang, Principal at Peotone High School, reported to the Board that it is my honor to recognize **Mrs. Mary Kay Honel**, as the recipient of the May 2021 Peotone Bowling Center Excellence In Teaching Award. Mary Kay Honel, art teacher at Peotone High School, who has just retired at the end of this school year, after thirty years of teaching art, could not attend the board meeting tonight. Jason went on to report that Ms. Kathy Barger, math teacher at the high school, nominated Mary Kay Honel for this award, and wrote these kind words on Mary Kay's behalf:

*"I consider the person that I have selected for this award as my mentor, although she was not officially named in that capacity. She has been a voice of reason in chaotic times through the years and a source of encouragement. She was always there for me to offer advice, listen to me vent on occasion, or lend a hand when I needed it. She graciously gave her support without ever asking for anything in return. She always put her students first and I know they love and appreciate her for that. I have heard numerous students talk about how much they love having her as their teacher. Her students will certainly miss her but so will those of us that had the honor and privilege to work alongside her. I think it is only fitting that the person that designed this award would finish her career by receiving it for her dedication to the students and staff at Peotone High School. My selection for the PBC Excellence in Teaching Award is Mary Kay Honel."*

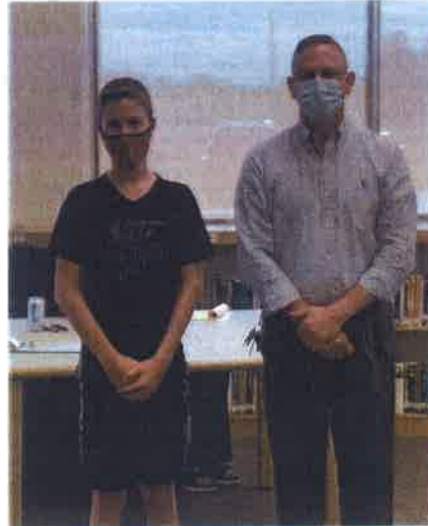


***Congratulations Mary Kay and Happy Retirement!***

## PEOTONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### MAY 2021 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Board and Mr. Stein recognized the May 2021 students of the month for Peotone Junior High School. Present at the board meeting, were **8<sup>th</sup> Grade student, Ella Scheffers**, and **7<sup>th</sup> Grade student, Michael Coffey**. Students not present at the board meeting were **8<sup>th</sup> Grade student, Noah Martin** (we had two students of the month for 8<sup>th</sup> grade!) and **6<sup>th</sup> Grade student, Taylor Fritz**. These junior high students have demonstrated outstanding behavior, good work ethic, and have “gone above and beyond the call of duty” at Peotone Junior High School!



***Congratulations to Taylor, Michael, Ella and Noah!***

### FOR ACTION:

#### REPORT NO. 85:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE REGISTRATION/LODGING FEES OF THE IASB/IASA/ILLINOIS ASBO JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE (NOVEMBER 2021).**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve **the Registration/Lodging Fees of the IASB/IASA/Illinois ASBO Joint Annual Conference (November 2021)**. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve 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, Mr. Stoub and Mrs. Love.

**REPORT NO. 86:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF THE FINAL 2020-2021  
DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Final 2020-2021 District School Calendar**. Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love and Mr. Stoub.

**REPORT NO. 87:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN ATHLETIC  
TRAINER BID FOR 2021-2024 (3 SCHOOL YEARS).**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Acceptance of an Athletic Trainer Bid for 2021-2024 (3 school years)**. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love and Mr. Stoub.

**REPORT NO. 88:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF A RELEASE OF A  
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve **the Release of a Peotone High School Diploma**. Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love and Mr. Stoub.

**REPORT NO. 89:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF THE ASPHALT REPAIRS AND  
SEALCOATING AT PES/PJHS/PHS.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Asphalt Repairs and Sealcoating at PES/PJHS/PHS**. Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love and Mr. Stoub.

**REPORT NO. 90:****FOR ACTION:****ADDENDUM to the APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL:****(Additions or Changes are In Bold and Underline)**

(\*Contingent upon receipt and evaluation and employment documentation required by the District and the Illinois State Board of Education\*).

**CERTIFIED STAFF****EMPLOYMENT:**

- Kelly Mead - PHS - Spanish Teacher (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- James Segatto - PHS - English Teacher (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Kelly Leonard - PHS - English Teacher (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- William Judge - PHS - Industrial Arts Teacher (effective date of 08.16.2021).

**APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS:**

- Carole Zurales - Principal (PES) (effective date of 07.01.2021).
- Wendy Bean - Assistant Principal (PJHS) (effective date of 07.01.2021).
- Jason Spang - Principal (PHS) (effective date of 07.01.2021).

**CHANGE IN STATUS:**

- Emma Ahrens - PES - Second Grade Remote Teacher to Second Grade Teacher (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Erin Blievernicht - PHS - Zero Hour Math Overload (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Amy Deutsche - PES - First Grade Remote Teacher to PES Math Interventionist (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Larry Deweese - PES - Remote Music Teacher to PES Music Teacher (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Kathy Ernst - PES - Third Grade Remote Teacher to PES Third Grade Teacher (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Katherine Herder - PJHS - Assistant Softball Coach (effective date of 07.26.2021).
- Chelsea McKay - PJHS - Assistant Softball Coach (effective date of 07.26.2021).
- Kerry O'Connell - PHS - Sophomore Head Volleyball Coach, PJHS - Assistant Volleyball Coach (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Kim Pagliarulo - PJHS - Head Softball Coach (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Tracy Redman - PES Third Grade Teacher to PES Reading Specialist (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Gregg Schreiber - PES PE Teacher/Permanent Sub to PES PE Teacher (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Lauren Zivat - PES - Kindergarten Remote Learning Teacher/Art Teacher to PES Art Teacher (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- **James Wedic - PIC - PE and Permanent Substitute to PE Teacher (effective date of 06.21.2021).**



- **Krysta Harmon - PIC - Art/Music Permanent Substitute to Art/Music/Band Teacher (effective date of 06.21.2021).**

#### **RESIGNATION:**

- Christine Juma - PHS - English Teacher (effective 06.16.2021).
- Christine Juma - PHS - Student Council Sponsor (effective date of 06.16.2021).

#### **CLASSIFIED STAFF EMPLOYMENT:**

- Nicole Grancizny - Transportation - 1:1 Bus Aide (effective date of 08.10.2021).

#### **APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR CONTRACTS:**

- Dave Osborne - Director of Buildings and Grounds (effective date of 07.01.2021).
- Jennifer Haag - Director of Transportation (effective date of 07.01.2021).

#### **CHANGE IN STATUS:**

- Jennifer Hall - PES-Crossing Guard/Sanitation to PES Lunch/Recess Supervisor (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Renordia Malone - PES - Mail Run/Transportation Sanitation to PES Lunch/Recess Supervisor (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Bonnie Schick - PES - Arrival/Dismissal, Support Library, Sanitation to PES Lunch/Recess Supervisor (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- Natalie Clay - PES - Nurse Clerk to PES Lunch/Recess Supervisor and Crossing Guard (effective date of 06.21.2021).
- **Rebecca Hoffman - PES - Cafeteria - from 3 hours to 4 hours (08.16.2021).**
- Sharon Alexander - PJHS - Cafeteria - from 3.50 hours to 4 hours (08.16.2021).
- **Renee Newquist - PHS - Cafeteria - 2 hours to 5 hours (08.16.2021).**
- **Katie Stoltz - PHS - Cafeteria - 2 hours to 4 hours (08.16.2021).**

#### **RESIGNATION:**

- Lexi Bryant - PHS - Varsity Softball Head Coach - (effective date of 06.14.2021).

President Robinson asked for a motion to table Report Action No. 90, Addendum to the Approval of Personnel until after the closed executive session meeting tonight. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion and on a voice call vote, the following board members answered aye (7); Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love and Mr. Stoub.

## **FOR DISCUSSION:**

President Robinson instructed the Board to please review the First Reading of Board Policy 7:20, and if any board member has questions, please email Mr. Stein.

## **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

**Dr. Charles Vitton, Assistant Superintendent**, reported to the Board that we currently have 66 students registered for preschool in the fall of 2021. This currently puts us at 16.5 students per class. Having this high of a number this early in the summer is concerning, as students can enroll in preschool any time after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Also, students who have Individualized Education Plans need to take priority over regular education students - hence, we need to leave spots open for those students to enroll as the 21-22 school year progresses.

Currently, we have a .5 FTE preschool teacher posted and have no applicants to date. Dr. Vitton will see if there is any more interest over the next week, continue to monitor new enrollments, and determine if a .5 FTE is sufficient or we need to increase this to a full time position for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary**, reported to the Board that we had the best end of the school year at PES:

- Giant Book Walk in our field and main drive
- End of the year assembly for in person and remote learners
- Last Popstar Reward for a playground recess for all our in person popstars and a special CAMP virtual event with our remote learners
- Field Days for both in person and remote students with parent volunteers
- Yearbook signing with grade levels.

Total number of Popstars for the 2020-2021 school year: 2,861

We have 67 K-3 students attending our Summer School. Mrs. Weirich, K-5 Summer School Principal, and our 8 PES teachers are doing a phenomenal job to but also make it a lot of fun! Busy summer at PES- 8 classrooms painted, about half the building moving to a new room, new Promethean smart boards, and then the usual summer cleaning. Thank you to the awesome summer crew for all their hard work!

**Mr. Trevor Moore, Business Manager, CSBO**, reported to the Board that I finished the paperwork last week to open a new bank account at First Community Bank for scoreboard donations. Anyone looking to donate there can talk to a teller and let them know they would like to donate to the Peotone CUSD 207U Scoreboard account. This might be a convenient option for some, but they will need to contact the Athletic Booster Club or Education Foundation if they would like to donate to the scoreboard fund and receive a tax exempt letter. While the school district is exempt from taxes, they are not a charitable organization and not classified as a 501(c) (3).

Will County made their second tax distribution last week and the revenues came in stronger than what was feared earlier this spring. Since the county mailed the bills with four coupons, Mr. Moore was worried that only 25% of the tax revenues would come in by the end of June. This is what was built into the amended budget. To date, the District has received 39.52% of tax revenues from Will County, which is slightly higher than last year and lower than the last year before the pandemic. Collections were at 32.5% last year and 45.3% in 2019. Mr. Moore expects this will mean the final audited financials will show a better picture than the amended budget, although it will still show quite a large deficit which will be made up for the following year when collections are higher. Mr. Moore is hopeful that a deficit reduction plan is not required with these higher receipts.

**Mr. Jason Spang, Principal of Peotone High School**, reported to the Board that Peotone High School would like to recognize several individuals who helped with the planning and preparation of Graduation 2021. Sue Bartels, Kathy Derkacy, Marlene Murray, David Church, Caley Michalak, Brandon Owens, Don Swanson, Mr. Stein, Meri Rietmen. The Image Group in Bradley, Werner's Landscaping and Vital Landscaping for making our campus beautiful on Graduation Day. Others include Chris Russel for covering the event for us for the Peotone Vedette, our Peotone 207U Buildings and Grounds for setting up and tearing down for the event, our PHS Custodians for making the inside of the building look absolutely magnificent, The Peotone Police Department (Nick Kovar and Dan Stankus) who helped with ticket-taking for the day, our Peotone 207-U Staff and BOE members, Mr. Rick Uthe for giving his Graduation speech on behalf of the BOE, and all our presenters including the Peotone American Legion, Tammy Hoffman, and Chris Bowden of the Peotone Community Scholarships. It was an honor to recognize all our seniors in a way that included 6 guests of every graduate.

- Peotone High School would also like to recognize our seniors and their post-secondary plans. Out of all our senior graduates, 35% plan to attend a 4-year University, 28% plan to attend a junior college of some sort, 0% plan to enter the United States Military, 1 student plans to enroll into the United States Naval Academy, 19% will begin their careers in the job force, and 18% are unsure. Congratulations to all seniors in all their future endeavors!
- The PBC Excellence in teaching award winner for the month of May is Mrs. Mary Kay Honel. Presenting this award to Mrs. Honel was the April winner, Ms. Kathy Barger. Ms. Barger had the following kind words when speaking of Mrs. Honel:
  - *I consider the person that I have selected for this award as my mentor, although she was not officially named in that capacity. She has been a voice of reason in chaotic times through the years and a source of encouragement. She was always there for me to offer advice, listen to me vent on occasion, or lend a hand when I needed it. She graciously gave her support without ever asking for anything in return. She always put her students first and I know they love and appreciate her for that. I have heard numerous students talk about how much they love having her as their teacher. Her students will certainly miss her but so will those of us that had the honor and privilege to work alongside her. I think it is only fitting that the person that designed this award would finish her career by receiving it for her dedication to the students and staff at Peotone High School. My selection for the PBC Excellence in Teaching Award is Mary Kay Honel.*



**Mrs. Terry Wuske, Director of Food Services**, reported to the Board, that the Food Service staff are off for the summer and the kitchens are closed. We are anticipating being all in for the fall. Kathy Novak and I attended the ILSNA conference last week for 2 days virtually. The communication from the Department of Nutrition at ISBE regarding the status of Universal Meals for all will hopefully be out by the first week of July. The USDA will also have updates mid-July.

**Mr. Dave Osborne, Director of Buildings and Grounds**, reported to the Board that the work is progressing on the Connor Shaw and High School roofs and the dust collector at the high school. Painting is done at PIC and PES and wrapping up at the junior high. Just one room to paint at the high school.

**Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation**, reported to the Board that we held our annual refresher course on May 27th at the High School Auditorium. Thanks to Jason for the use of the space. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, we had 7 of our drivers attend an active shooter class in St. Charles along with Officer Stankus. The presentation was about the bus driver who was killed in Alabama back in 2013. A former police officer from Missouri has been going all over the U.S. for years giving this presentation. He touched on some points of what drivers could do in the event of an active shooter on the bus. I talked with Officer Stankus about possibly doing a little training with our drivers in the future. It would be nice to possibly add students into this as well at some point.

Summer School started off a little rough. Buses ran a little late the first and second day. We sent a letter out with the students on Tuesday to adjust the times and by Wednesday it seemed to run smoother. We have a total of 5 big buses running for summer school and 2 small ones for the ESY Summer School. I have started the rollover process for the bus routes for next school year.

**Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent**, reported to the Board that I have received a few FOIAs this month. One from Kate Heisner, asking about our social studies curriculum, CRT and 1619 project, which I asked Dr. Vitton to put together a response for this FOIA, and one from Katie Stoub for emails between myself and Mrs. Caza, union president, from August 2019 to the present, which I did have to send to our attorney to look at it, and take care of the email redactions at a cost of just under \$1,300.00.

Mr. Stein also wanted to point out - and I did make sure that the board was aware of this - we do have some additional costs for the scoreboard. It seems that there was miscommunication between the installer and Nevco, manufacturer of the scoreboard. We were under the impression that the price to install all of the all of components was \$7,200.00, and that was not correct. The installer said that what we wanted and the additional components to the scoreboard, he did not feel comfortable using the current structural steel that we have out on the field and we would need to install new I-beams at a cost of \$26,000 plus the install of delay of game timers is \$5,800, which will be additional cost of \$24,600.

### **OTHER:**

Board Trustee, Mr. Bettenhausen voiced a concern about a project that has been talked about for over a decade or so, which is the widening of Manhattan-Monee road. Mr. Bettenhausen reported that he has heard that they are moving forward with phase one of this project. The town hall at the corner of Manhattan-Monee and Center, and the cemetery down the road are considered historical landmarks. My concern is that they are considering moving the road around these landmarks. And at the corner of Center road and Manhattan-Monee road, they want to move Center road further to the east and move Manhattan-Monee road further to the north which will have a negative effect on PIC. I think we need to keep an eye on the progress of this project and see what kind of impact it will have on PIC.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:04 p.m. President Robinson asked for a motion to move to adjourn the regular Board meeting and move into the Closed Executive Session and stated that there will be action following the closed executive session tonight. Mrs. Moe made a motion and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion and a voice call vote was taken, the following board members answered aye (7): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stoub, Mrs. Love and no nays. 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.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

At 7:19 p.m. President Robinson asked for a motion to return to open session of the regular board meeting. Mrs. Moe made a motion for the Board to return to open session. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and a voice call was taken and the following board members answered aye (7): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Stoub and Mrs. Love.

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve Report Action No. 90 - Addendum to Approval of Personnel. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve Report Action No.90 and Mrs. Robinson seconded it and on a voice call vote - the following members answered aye (7); Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Stoub and Mrs. Love.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:22 p.m. President Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting. Mrs. Moe made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion and on a voice call vote, the following members answered aye (7), Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Love, Mr. Stoub and no nays.



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Tara Robinson, President



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Cathy Cuculich, Reporter