



**BOARD OF EDUCATION-REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OF MONDAY, JULY 19, 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. Richard Uthe, Mr. Tim Stoub and no nays. Mrs. Jennifer Moe and Mrs. Dawn Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda of the July 19, 2021 regular board meeting. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion to approve, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (4): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, and (1) nay Mr. Stoub. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:**

**Mike Arnold, Head Custodian for the District**, addressed the Board with a statement to the accusations made by Julie Busich, at the June 21<sup>st</sup> regular board meeting. Mr. Arnold stated that he has been supervising and managing staff for a forty years span. I have been with the District for nine years and eight of those years, I have been the head custodian. In all my years of managing staff, I have never given an individual, an increase in pay, a promotion or hired anyone out of favoritism. I always based my decisions on job performance, attendance, work ethic, attitude, being a hard worker, good personality and people friendly. I would like the Board to know that prior to making any recommendations or decisions on the daytime custodian opening, I did first consider all of my second shift employees. And you can be assured that all my decisions that I make is with the utmost respect for the Board, the District and the community in mind, and I will stand by all of my decisions that I make.

**Steve Stein, Superintendent**, responded that I heard from Mr. Arnold and that he was interested in making a statement tonight, and I felt it was important that I make one as well. After hearing the allegations made by Julie Busich at the June 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting, I promptly began an investigation. After talking to eleven full-time custodians and one teacher, and Mr. Arnold himself, it became clear that some staff heard and spread rumors that Mr. Arnold and a female co-worker were having an intimate relationship. It was also clear that none of those staff

were having an intimate relationship. It was also clear that none of those staff members could provide any firsthand knowledge regarding an alleged intimate relationship between them. It is true, that Mr. Arnold and a female co-worker had a friendship outside of work, in which they would go grocery shopping, do yardwork and watch tv together. And they now understand that this can no longer take place. Furthermore, I have reviewed the decisions that Mr. Arnold has made in regards to personnel and I have found no wrongdoing on Mr. Arnold's part.

**Christy Miller, of Peotone, IL**, addressed the Board, asking if the District is offering remote learning the same way as last year. Mr. Stein responded that we are not offering it in the same way as it happened last year. I thought, Mrs. Miller that Mrs. Loy had reached out to you about this. Mrs. Miller said that she had not received any paperwork from Mrs. Loy, so she was not clear about what to do. Mr. Stein suggested to Mrs. Miller, that we meet with Mrs. Loy to discuss this - either on a conference call or in person. Mrs. Miller also stated that students should be required to wear masks in school for the 2021-2021 school year.

Several parents signed in and addressed the Board regarding the Resolution To Make Masks Optional for 2021-2022 school year which is on the agenda for approval tonight. Parents want to have the right to choose to send their child or children to school with or without a mask. They asked the Board to please consider and approve the Resolution tonight. Another parent addressed the Board with her concerns of students that might be bullied because of looking different because some students will be wearing masks and other students will not be wearing masks. We need to teach kids that wearing a mask even if you choose to, but don't have to, is okay.

## **FOR ACTION:**

### **REPORT NO. 1:**

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF KEEPING THE CLOSED  
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES CLOSED FROM  
JANUARY 2021 to JUNE 2021.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve **Keeping the Closed Executive Session Meeting Minutes Closed from January 2021 to June 2021**. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve Report Action No. 1 and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (5): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, and Mr. Stoub. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

**REPORT NO. 2:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF A RENAISSANCE CLUB  
AT PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve a **Renaissance Club at Peotone High School**. Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve Report Action No. 2 and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (5): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stoub and no nays. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

**REPORT NO. 3:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF A FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN  
ATHLETES CLUB AT PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve a **Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club at Peotone High School**. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve Report Action No. 3 and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (5): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stoub and no nays. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

**REPORT NO. 4:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE  
TRANSITION COORDINATOR/SPECIAL EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT TEAM LEADER.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve **the Job Description of the Transition Coordinator/Special Education Department Team Leader**. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve Report Action No. 4 and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and the following board members answered aye (5): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Stoub. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

**REPORT NO. 5:**

**FOR ACTION:      APPROVAL OF THE SECOND READING AND  
ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY 7:20.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve the **Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 7:20**. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve Report No. 5 and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion and the following board members answered aye; (5) Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Stoub. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

**REPORT NO. 6:**

**FOR ACTION:**

**APPROVAL OF OPENING THREE  
NEW ACTIVITY FUND ACCOUNTS.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve **Opening Three New Activity Fund Accounts**, which are: the Class of 2025 - Treasurer is TBD, will be whomever becomes Freshman Class Sponsor; PJHS Girls Softball - Treasurer is Kim Pagliarulo, PJHS Softball Head Coach; Renaissance Club - Treasurer is TBD, will be whoever the Renaissance Club Sponsor becomes. Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve Report No. 6 and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion and the following board members answered aye; (5) Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stoub and no nays. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

President Robinson wanted the record to state that it is not alarming to me that we do not have a full board here tonight. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love are both on vacation as any of us who has been on the board for any length of time, can attest - as well, I am sure all of you can - sometimes vacations and things come up. You have to have a majority of the board still willing to carry on the business of the District. I do not want my two board members maligned because they are not here - it is a very normal thing to have happen - especially in the summer time. It will not impede our vote, it never does. The business of the Board continues every month.

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board, that it is my recommendation to approve and adopt the resolution of making masks optional for the 2021-2022 school year. But I just wanted to add a note that the CDC and IDPH are not giving us any wiggle room on wearing masks on busses. Masks will have to be worn on busses.

Mr. Stoub stated that the recommendation is coming and I respect that and I respect the number of hours involved in researching this - and I am listening to the recommendation and with all that being said - we are taking on the responsibility. President Robinson responded to Mr. Stoub, - I know you are new to the Board, but this Board takes on the responsibility for every single action. Every day we sit here, we take on responsibility. And I can't state it enough, just because a board member have a prescheduled vacation - does not mean that they are shucking their responsibilities, things happen.

## **REPORT NO. 7:**

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION  
TO MAKE MASKS OPTIONAL FOR THE  
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.**

President Robinson asked for a motion to approve and adopt the **Resolution to Make Masks Optional for the 2021-2022 School Year.**

Mr. Uthe made a motion to approve Report No. 7 and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion and the following board members answered aye; (4) Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, and (1) nay, Mr. Stoub. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

## **REPORT NO. 8:**

**FOR ACTION: ADDENDUM TO PERSONNEL  
(Additions are in red bold and underline:  
(\*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 No. 8 and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion and the following board members answered aye; (5) Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stoub and no nays. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.

## **CERTIFIED STAFF EMPLOYMENT:**

- Hannah Sloma - CSC Preschool Teacher (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Tim Nagra - PES - Long Term Substitute Teacher (effective date of 09.07.2021).

## **CHANGE IN STATUS:**

- Steve Strough - PHS/PJHS - Varsity Softball Assistant Coach to Varsity Softball Head Coach (effective date of 07.01.2021).
- Hannah Sloma - PJHS - Cheerleading Coach - (effective date of 10.01.2021).

## **RESIGNATION:**

- Nicole Majca - PHS Spanish Teacher (effective date of 06.27.2021)
- Nicole Majca - PHS Freshman Class Sponsor (effective date of 06.27.2021).
- Ariana Meewes - PHS - English Teacher (effective date of 06.24.2021).
- Mikinsey Prium - PHS - Special Education Teacher (effective date of 07.19.2021).
- Nathan Matthies - PJHS - Athletic Director (effective date of 07.14.2021).

### **TERMINATION:**

- Keith Cucio - PHS - Assistant Track Coach (effective date of 06.21.2021).

### **CLASSIFIED STAFF**

#### **EMPLOYMENT:**

- Kelly Wicker - PES/CSC Preschool - Paraprofessional (effective date of 08.17.2021).
- Monet Peterson - Transportation - 1:1 Bus Aide (effective date of 08.10.2021).
- Tara Ipema - PHS - Cafeteria (effective date of 08.16.2021).
- Diandre Owens - PJHS - Night Custodian (effective date of 07.28.2021).
- **Stacy Plastiak - Reading Intervention Paraprofessional (effective date of 08.17.2021).**

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

**Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent**, reported to the Board that I have received a couple of FOIAs this month. One from the Carpenters' Union regarding FY19 Suburban Lock work; Julie Busich regarding custodial hiring, and three from John Maxadon; Painting at PES, Superintendent Reviews, Booster Club and the Scoreboard.

**Mr. Brandon Owens, Director of Curriculum**, reported to the Board that the: **Critical Race Theory/Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading (CRTL)**. The CRTLs have been brought up in discussions at previous board meetings. Concerns and questions have continued to remain regarding what effect these learning standards will have on our students' education. The CRTL Standards were adopted to support closing the achievement gaps by implementing a culturally responsive approach; however, these standards are to be adopted and utilized by teacher preparation programs in Illinois by October of 2025. These standards are designed for higher-level learning of future teachers in college educational programs. The CRTL Standards are a not a curriculum and will not be implemented at the K-12 level.

### **SB 0818**

SB 0818, also known as the Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act, passed both Houses on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The goal of this bill is to create a personal health and safety standards for K-5 students and expand sexual health education standards for grades 6-12. This has been additionally discussed at previous board meetings; however, at this time, we do not have any new information regarding learning standards or lessons. Governor Pritzker received this bill on June 25<sup>th</sup> and has yet to sign it.

What we do know is that if Governor Pritzker signs the bill into law, ISBE will be expected to adopt these standards by August 1, 2022, with the expectation that public and charter schools beginning this health and safety/sexual health education at the start of the 2023-24 school year. It should also be noted that schools will have local control in the selection of the curriculum and materials. Additionally, parents/guardians would have the opportunity to opt out of the instruction.

### **Title Grants**

I am currently in the process of completing our grant applications to ISBE for Title I, Title II, and Title IV. Each grant application will be submitted prior to its due date of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **POET/New Teacher Orientation & Institute Days**

We are just a few weeks away from our POET/New Teacher Orientation, which is scheduled to take place on August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to welcoming our over 20 new staff members across the district on these days. Additionally, our Teacher Institute Days are scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We have a large number of trainings and opportunities for our staff as they prepare to begin the 2021-22 school year.

**Mrs. Carole Zurales, Principal of Peotone Elementary**, reported to the Board that it has been a busy summer as we prepare for this upcoming school year. I did a deep data dive into spring Aims web data:

- I did three different data comparisons
  - Winter '21 to Spring '21 in each grade level. All groups made growth.
  - Spring '19 Grade Level to Spring '21 Grade Level. Second and third grade had similar scores in both springs and first grade scores were lower than spring '19 kindergarten and first graders. These are the grade levels that we knew would be most impacted and have a plan to respond to learning gaps this school year.
  - Cohort Data for second and third graders scores compared to when they were kindergarten and first graders. Both groups made growth over the two years.
- Popsicles with the Principal was this afternoon and it was so wonderful getting to see students and families!
- The building opened today for staff to start setting up their classrooms.
- I have my Leadership Team meeting on Wednesday to get input and feedback on planning for this upcoming year.

- We have a math training with a consultant next Thursday that will be focusing on guided math routines and structures and the math workshop model.
- **Upcoming dates:**
  - August 16-17- Institute Days
  - August 16 from 2:00-4:00- Open House for Grades 1-3
  - August 18-19 - Meet and Greet appointments for Kindergarten
  - August 18- First Day for Grades 1-3
  - August 20- First Day for Kindergarten

**Mr. Trevor Moore, Business Manager, CSBO,** reported to the Board that the auditors would be in the district on Wednesday and Thursday of this week to complete their onsite work. Given the circumstances last year, they have become very adept to do a lot of work remotely, but they still need to do some on site checks of district files and paperwork. It is expected they will be back on their normal timeline of turning around the annual financial report and audit report this fall.

**Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services,** reported to the Board that I have reviewed the Extended School Year program concluded on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and was held for those students who qualified for services based upon their IEP. Mrs. Loy reviewed during these summer months, much attention has been spent interviewing and on boarding new staff members and that, we are working hard to fill the remaining positions. We are still looking to hire paraprofessionals for the upcoming school year so if there are interested parents or individuals to reach out to her directly. Mrs Loy also shared she had recently completed the latest round of the Medicaid Administrative Claim for the district.

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

**Summer School Update (Apex)**

- Our PHS summer school staff have provided feedback about how successful summer school has gone up to this point. Currently 22 students have successfully completed all their credit recovery courses after starting with an initial summer school enrollment of 46 students. This includes students who recovered multiple classes, or just one. We still have this week to finish up.

**PHS Leadership Team**

- We remain in collaborative discussions as we return to full days. Some of the areas of focus are proper lunch supervision, blue devil support rostering, digital hall passes for us to track students, and morning supervision.

### **SAT Scores**

- Class of 2020 (Tested as Juniors)
  - Average score of all test-takers was a cumulative 983 when
  - Average score of all test-takers was a cumulative 963 when combining ERW and Math.
- Class of 2022 (Tested as Juniors)
  - Average score of all test-takers was a cumulative 972 when combining ERW and Math.

**Mr. Paul Taueber, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director of Peotone High School**, reported to the Board that I have been transitioning on the job for just over two weeks meeting as many staff, coaches, and parents as I can. Mr. Spang and Mr. Owens have been a great help and everyone I've met has been incredibly welcoming and supportive.

### **Specific Events:**

- Code of Conduct on August 5, 2021 at 6:00 (p.m.). We are transitioning to two meetings during the year, one in the fall for fall and winter sports, and one in the spring at a date to be determined.
- (2) Scoreboard Fundraiser on August 13th run by boosters.
- (3) Planning and getting ready for our Freshman Orientation on August 12th.

**Mr. Ruben Suarez, Director of Technology**, reported to the Board that we have finished all the system configurations for the deployment of Multi-Factor Authentication using Cisco Duo. The next step is the assignment of physical tokens to the staff that requested them followed by the activation of the service.

**Mrs. Terry Wuske, Director of Food Services**, reported to the Board, that I will be attending the ISBE back to school conference this week. ISBE at this point is strongly encouraging all food departments in the state to select the Seamless Summer Option when applying for the next school year. This option would allow us to serve ALL STUDENTS Lunch at NO CHARGE regardless of their income status for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Mr. Dave Osborne, Director of Buildings and Grounds**, reported to the Board that the roofers should be wrapping up at CSC and the High School this week or early next week, there's been a lot of rain delays that put them behind. The CSC crew worked Saturday the 17th to try to get caught back up.

**Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Director of Transportation**, reported to the Board that we are finishing summer school routes. We are currently transporting three high school students and one out-of-district route is running and will finish by the end of July. Cleaning crew are busy getting the buses cleaned. Our Drivers' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 10th. We hope to have letters to parents sent out by August 10th as well.

## **OTHER:**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

President Robinson asked the Board if anyone had anything for Executive Session tonight. Mr. Stoub said yes, but it will only take a few minutes. At 7:38 p.m., President Robinson asked for motion to adjourn the regular board meeting to go into closed executive session and stated that there will not be any action after the closed executive session. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mr. Bettenhausen seconded the motion and on a voice call vote, the following board members answered aye, (5), Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Stoub and no nays.

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

At 7:41 p.m. Mrs. Robinson asked for a motion for the Board to return to open session of the regular board meeting. Mr. Uthe made a motion and Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and a voice call vote was taken, the following board members answered aye (5): Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Bettenhausen, and Mr. Stoub and no nays.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:42 p.m. President Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting. Mrs. Robinson made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Uthe seconded the motion and on a voice call vote, the following board members answered aye (5), Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stoub and no nays. Mrs. Moe and Mrs. Love were absent for the regular board meeting of July 19, 2021.



Tara Robinson, President



Cathy Cuculich, Reporter