

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY- NOVEMBER 19, 2018**

ROLL CALL:

At 6:00 p.m. Vice President Uthe 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 members answered aye (6): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board meeting.

At 6:01 p.m. Vice President Uthe asked the Board for a motion to go into Closed Executive Session. Mrs. Moe made a motion to go into Closed Executive Session and Mr. Douglas seconded the motion. A voice call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Uthe and no nays. The Board and Mr. Stein exited the regular board meeting.

At 6:25 p.m. the Board returned from Closed Executive Session and Vice President ask for a motion to return to Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Douglas made a motion and Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion to return to the regular board meeting. A voice call vote was taken and the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Uthe and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board meeting.

VISITOR'S LOG:

No one signed the Visitors' Log.

SPEAKER'S LOG:

Mrs. Virginia Hamann, of Peotone, IL

Mr. Tim Stoub, of Peotone, IL

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the Regular Board meeting of November 19, 2018. Mr. Uthe and Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion, and on a roll call vote, the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board meeting.

GOOD NEWS:

**Peotone High School
Academic Student of the Month
November 2018**

Mr. Stein presented a certificate of commendation **Nicole Harris**, daughter of Linda Harris, of Monee, and the late George Harris. Nicole is a sophomore at Peotone High School with a grade point average of 4.143 on a 4.0 grading scale and ranks 1st in her class of 103 students.

Peotone Junior High School
Academic Students of the Month
October 2018

Mr. Steve Stein presented certificates of commendation to 6th Grade student, **Justin Robison**, 7th Grade student, **Andrew Morales** and 8th Grade student, **Jack Stoltman**. These students have demonstrated outstanding behavior, good work ethic, and have “gone above and beyond the call of duty” at Peotone Junior High for the month of October.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD:

The Board and Superintendent Stein honored Mr. and Mrs. Brian Cann of Brian’s Place in Monee, Illinois with an ***Award for Recognition for their Ongoing Commitment and Dedicated Support of the Fine Arts Department at Peotone High School.*** Brian’s Place hosts the Fine Arts Department’s Chili Cook-Off every year! Mrs. Cann was unable to attend the presentation.

OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SPEAK:

Mrs. Terry Wuske, Director of Food Services, presented to the Board and Administration, a slide show for National School Lunch Week at all of the schools. The theme for this year’s National School Lunch Week is “**Lots 2 Love**”. They started with Apple Crunch Day, in which each student in all the schools receives an apple to crunch at their lunch time. The apples are supplied by local growers in Michigan. The rest of the week was filled with fun activities, raffles and prizes to promote healthy eating and choices. Kindergarten through 3rd Grade participated in a coloring contest and Mrs. Mueller hung all posters around the kitchen at PES. The students were so excited to have their posters hanging up. Mrs. Wuske also reported that the new smoothie machine is a hit with the students! They have sold 83 smoothies so far! Finally, a big thank you to Mike Arnold for all his help with National School Lunch Week.

Mr. Matthew Lexow, is a sophomore at Peotone High School and a Boy Scout with Frankfort Troop 270. Matthew is working on his Eagle Scout project for Boy Scouts. Matthew presented to the Board his request to build a shelving unit in the Band room at Peotone High School for the band’s percussion equipment. He has been working with Mr. Rusek on the design for the shelving unit. The project will take about a month or two to complete. The Board all agreed that this is a great idea and project!

Mrs. Virginia Hamann, of Peotone, IL, and the President of NO ILLIANA 4 US, shared an update with the Board and Administration regarding the Illiana Corridor. Mrs. Hamann stated that the ONTO 2050 Plan was recently passed and the Illiana Corridor was not on the Plan.

Mr. Tim Stoub, of Peotone, IL reported to the Board that he wanted clarification of the October 15, 2018 regular board meeting minutes. Mr. Stoub stated that the minutes were inaccurately transcribed regarding his statements during the regular board meeting. Mr. Stoub wanted the minutes to reflect that the statement of “how long he lived in the District was incorrect”. That anyone

attending the board meetings should not be referred to as “community members”, and also the statement “that Mr. Stoub and Mr. Maxadon’s statement “that they insisted that, if they were in charge of the referendum, they can guarantee the passing of the referendum”, was also transcribed incorrectly. These statements were transcribed incorrectly and should be noted in the minutes that they were transcribed incorrectly. Vice President, Mr. Uthe, responded, so noted.

FOR DISCUSSION:

Mr. Trevor Moore, Chief Business School Officer, presented to the Board and Administration, his presentation on the District’s Tax Levy. Mr. Moore highlighted in his presentation the key points for the 2018 Tax Levy which are listed below:

- The District’s operating levy, which includes all funds except Debt Service is being requested to be set at \$11,819, 418 (2.89% over last year’s request or 4.90% over last year’s actual extension).
- The Debt Service tax extension will increase by \$1,356 to \$5,020,016 or 0.03%.
- Total Levy Request for 2018 is \$16,839,343. We will not receive that much new revenue, but are requesting more due to our Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) and new property being unknown at this time.
- Our best guess as to what we will actually receive, due to being limited to a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 2.1% is \$11,523,418 or \$256,618 in new operating revenue, which equates to 2.28% increase in operating revenue.

FOR ACTION:

REPORT NO.35:

FOR ACTION:

**APPROVAL OF THE TENTATIVE TAX LEVY &
CERTIFICATE OF TAX LEVY ADOPTION DATE OF
MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018**

Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve the Tentative Tax Levy and Certificate of Tax Levy Adoption Date of Monday, December 17, 2018.

Mr. Douglas seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board meeting.

MOTION REQUIRED: ROLL CALL VOTE

REPORT NO. 36:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE SAFE ROUTES TO
SCHOOL GRANT (SRTS) APPLICATION THROUGH
THE VILLAGE OF PEOTONE.**

Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve and support the Village of Peotone's Grant Application for the Safe Routes to School through IDOT, for a new sidewalk along Wilmington-Peotone Road from Rathje Road to Gull View Drive or possibly Oriole Drive. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board meeting.

MOTION REQUIRED: ROLL CALL VOTE

REPORT NO. 37:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF A FULL-TIME PERMANENT
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER.**

Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve the hiring of a full-time permanent substitute teacher for the District. Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board meeting.

MOTION REQUIRED: ROLL CALL VOTE

REPORT NO. 38:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED JOB
DESCRIPTION (TECHNOLOGY).**

Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve the updated job descriptions for the Technology Department. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion and on a voice call vote, the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board meeting.

MOTION REQUIRED: VOICE CALL VOTE

REPORT NO. 39:

**FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF EARLY GRADUATES OF
PEOTONE HIGH SCHOOL.**

Mr. Bettenhausen made a motion to approve the early graduates of Peotone High School. The early graduates are **Madeline Cann** and **Kendra Schabacker**. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion and on a voice call vote, the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board.

MOTION REQUIRED: VOICE CALL VOTE

REPORT NO. 40:

FOR ACTION: APPROVAL OF FMLA REQUESTS.

Mrs. Thatcher made a motion to approve the FMLA Requests for Stephanie Blamble (maternity leave) Special Education teacher at PHS, Eric Peppmuller (paternity leave) 3rd Grade teacher at PES and Michelle Weirich (maternity leave) 3rd Grade teacher at PES. Mr. Bettenhausen and Mrs. Moe seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board meeting.

MOTION REQUIRED: ROLL CALL VOTE

REPORT NO. 41: ADDENDUM TO PERSONNEL (additions in bold and underline)

**FOR ACTION: PERSONNEL: (*Contingent upon receipt and evaluation of
Employment documentation required by
the District and the Illinois State Board of
Education*)**

The Board will need a motion to approve the following Certified and Classified Staff.

CERTIFIED STAFF

EMPLOYMENT:

- Tracy Mrozek - Long Term Substitute (Mallory Martin, maternity leave) (effective date of 11/08/2018)
- Emily Kuypers - PJHS - Cheer Coach - (effective date of 11/13/2018)
- Chelsea McKay - PJHS - Cheer Coach - (effective date of 11/13/2018)

CLASSIFIED STAFF

EMPLOYMENT:

- Janet Hutson - PHS - Custodian - (effective date of 11/09/2018)
- Wade Headrick - Maintenance Dept.- (effective date of 12/10/2018)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

- **Tori Coffman - District - MOTR/L (effective date of 01/26/2019)**

RESIGNATION:

- James Clausing - Transportation - Bus Driver (effective date of 10/22/2018)
- Katie Siebanoller -Fox- PJHS - Cheer Coach (effective date of 10/01/2018)

MOTION REQUIRED: ROLL CALL VOTE

Mrs. Moe made a motion to approve the Addendum to Personnel for the Certified and Classified Staff. Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the following members answered aye (6): Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Moe, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Uthe, Mr. Bettenhausen and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent from the November regular board meeting.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Dr. Charles Vitton, Assistant Superintendent, reported to the Board that On the evening of November 7th we hosted presentations by Tim Guerin, Principal of KACC and Dan McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Chicagoland Associated General Contractors to discuss opportunities for students during and after high school in regard to careers in trade fields and the construction industry.

The Peotone Educational Foundation recently awarded teacher grant requests in the amount of \$4,379.72. The PEF is pleased to be able to offer our teaching staff resources that support learning in the classroom.

Mr. Chris Gibson, Assistant Principal PJHS/Athletic Director PHS, reported to the Board that our fall seasons have ended. Our soccer team advanced to the Super-Sectional. We had one cross-country runner advance to the State Meet. Our Fall Sports Awards Night was held on November 5, 2018. We had mixed reviews for the format that was used. Our Winter Sports are underway. The girls' basketball team participated in the Beecher Lady cat Classic and the JV team took third at the Seneca JV Invitational. The boys' basketball teams are participating at the Manteno/Coal City Turkey Tournament the week of Thanksgiving. Our Wrestling program opened on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at home against Grant Park. Bowling is slated to begin on December 1st.

Mr. Scott Wenzel, Principal of Peotone Junior High School, was absent for the November Regular Board meeting.

Mr. Trevor Moore, Chief School Business Official, Mr. Moore started by providing an overview of the fiscal year 2018 audit results. The district's auditor will be at the meeting in December to provide a more detailed presentation to the board. There were very few audit adjustments that needed to be made, with the only notable one being one cash adjustment of approximately \$65,000. Total direct receipts were \$22,211,864. Total direct expenditures were \$22,552,974. These figures produce an operational deficit of (\$341,110), however, once the land sale is included, the overall fund balance increased by \$320,022. Mr. Moore and the auditors did find a few technical mistakes in the FY19 budget, so I do plan to amend it in the spring. The district has started using a third party administrator for the 403(b) plan named US OMNI. This gives employees a way to make changes electronically and have more current information about plan. It also allows payroll to make just one payment each pay period instead of multiple to each provider. There are other benefits provided like some legal counsel and prepared plan documents. The district sold the working cash bonds last Tuesday, November 13. Things went considerably better than PMA expected. The new working cash bonds were sold on the open market. The refunding bonds were sold to the Worth Township Treasurer. The reason for selling them directly was because the district got a lower interest rate than what was available on the open market. In total, the district was able to save about \$77,000 compared to what was being estimated leading up to the sale. This savings was in part due to a credit rating upgrade. The district went from A1 to Aa3 which is the fourth best possible. It is very unusual to see a government entity receive a rating upgrade right now according to PMA.

The business office is preparing an application for a Property Tax Relief Grant through the State of Illinois. While this would help offset local property taxes, it is unlikely Peotone will receive any relief from the State because they are prioritizing districts with high tax rates and very low property wealth.

Mr. Moore reported that he has been looking into some legal options surrounding our DSEB limit and being able to reduce it if there is a successful referendum to increase our operating limiting tax rate. Discussions have been preliminary, but the district is committed to exploring every opportunity to meet the needs of the district and the community.

Mr. Craig Fantin, Principal of Peotone High School, reported to the Board that on November 10th and 11th, Stephanie Blamble and Chelsea McKay took six students to the Special Olympics Youth Activation Summit in Normal, IL. The students were Molly Marchionda, Bethany Goss, Micheal Flanagan, Jared Love, Lexi Hillman and Maggie Kuypers. At the two day conference, the students all attended seminars to work on team building and advocacy. They came up with spirit weeks, assembly ideas, and fundraiser ideas to promote their clubs. The teachers attended seminars that worked on building their Unified programs, how to fundraise successfully for your school, how to throw a successful Respect week campaign, and so much more. As a school, they set goals for our school and are excited to work on achieving these goals as a Unified Sports Program. The teachers and students both gained a lot of information from this seminar and cannot wait to build up the Unified Sports Program at Peotone High School and hopefully work on spreading it to Peotone Junior High School.

For Veterans' Day we honored our veterans and our first responders with a ceremony in the gymnasium for the entire school. Veteran Alan Blogg, Police Chief Bill Mort, and Fire Chief Bill Schreiber, each had an opportunity to speak to our students. After the ceremony we had a nurse practitioner speak to our students about the dangers of vaping.

Mrs. Suarez entered Jessica Scropo, a Spanish IV student, into an annual poster contest for the local chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Jessica's poster was one of the two posters recognized as outstanding and she won \$50. I do not have the poster to display tonight because it is being used to create posters and postcards to provide to other schools to encourage the study of world languages.

Mr. Dave Weissbohn, Director of Technology, presented to the Board an outline of three different options for maintaining basic phone operations during a power outage.

- Option 1 is a Landline - are difficult to get and may not be available to all of the buildings; service providers prefer to offer internet-based phone service and the phone could not be taken or moved in case of emergency;
- Option 2 is Cell Phones - potential for phones to be misplaced or unplugged; could be taken or moved in case of emergency;
- Option 3 is Cellular, Analog Phone Devices - small cellular devices that connect to a standard phone; battery backup for a few hours; could be taken or moved in case of emergency; less likely to be moved or misplaced; durable and lowest overall cost.

Mr. Weissbohn recommends the best option for the District would be Option 3. Mr. Weissbohn also stated that the switch from Comcast to AT&T for our data and internet services will be a savings of \$18,000 for the District.

Mrs. Kathy Davis, Principal of Peotone Elementary, reported to the Board that we had our Veterans Day Assembly a week ago today. We had several veterans present and they did a flag presentation. Each of the classes sang as well as a couple of songs by the entire school. Along with the assembly we do a collection for a veteran's organization. This year we did another Coins to Change Lives Challenge. We raised money for an organization called Partners Canine Education out of southern Illinois. They train therapy service dogs for Veterans at no charge. They try to use shelter dogs if at all possible. They will also train the Veteran's dog if they have the markers that a therapy dog must possess. The children and staff raised almost \$2,500.00.

This year the school will be hosting our Santa's Secret Shop instead of the PTO for our students. It will take place the Tuesday and Thursday after we return from Thanksgiving Break. This is always a fun time for our students as they get to shop for their family members.

Mrs. Amy Loy, Director of Special Services, reported to the Board, an update on our transition activities that we are working on with Mrs. Judy Karas, Transition Coordinator for the District. We are working to schedule a Peotone tour date for students and families interested in learning more about earning employability certificates through Joliet Junior College. This would also include a tour of the facility and meeting with Chef Ferrara. Also, Mrs. Karas is working to host the annual Connect to Your Future presentation at Peotone High School for junior and senior students with an IEP and their parents in February. At the Jr. High, Ms. MacDougall and her SI students completed a class project in conjunction with Veterans Day. They held a donation drive for the Prince Home in Manteno, IL. The Prince Home is co-located with the Manteno Veterans Home. This program provides housing and supportive services for Illinois Veterans who are now homeless or disabled. Finally, Mrs. Loy is working on solidifying coverage for OT needs while Mrs. Coffman has her maternity leave. I will provide detailed information at our December meeting for your approval.

Mrs. Joanne Obszanski, Principal of Peotone Intermediate Center, was absent for the November Regular Board meeting.

Mrs. Wendy Bean, Assistant Principal, reported to the Board, that we just enjoyed a very successful play weekend of "The Hobbit." Big thanks and Congratulations to Ms. Tapak, Mr. Nealon, and all of the cast and crew for all of their hard work.

Our PHS Winter Concert will be on Tuesday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m. This is a time change from 7:00 p.m. because of a conflict with a basketball game.

As of this week, all winter sports have started competitions. We look forward to successful seasons from boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling, bowling, as well as cheer and dance.

Final exams will be here before we know it. Finals will be December 19th, 20th, and 21st. The full schedule with all the details is posted on our website.

Mrs. Terry Wuske, Director of Food Services, had nothing to report.

Mr. Dave Osborne, Maintenance Department reported to the Board that the boilers and air handlers are up and running with the usual bugs to work out. The sewer at the Junior High that was being repaired because of neglect and back-ups. Jennifer Haag at the bus barn has been very helpful helping us to get the snow trucks ready for winter. All of the plows and salt boxes are on and working. The skid steer would be delivered on the first of December.

Mrs. Jennifer Haag, Transportation Director, reported to the Board, that she just wanted to thank Chris Gibson and Nate Matthies for being so accommodating regarding the busses.

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent, reported to the Board that he has received one FOIA, from a Florida company, Smart Procure. Mr. Stein also reported that


the District will be getting a school resource officer, Mr. Dan Stankas. Mr. Stankas will begin in January 2019 as the District's school resource officer.

Mr. Stein reported that the Peotone High School Athletic Booster Club is requesting to become an independent 501(c) (3) charitable organization. The Booster Club feels that becoming a 501(c) (3) would help immensely in our fundraising as a charitable organization. Being independent and maintaining our own accounts, we will be able to accept credit cards and this will bolster our Booster Club sales.

Mr. Stein also reported that he has received a request from Roy Erickson to place a welcome to Peotone Junior High School carved stone at the junior high similar to the stone at the high school, but the stone will be place on the ground and not raised off the ground.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:15 p.m. Vice President Uthe asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting and stated that the Board will be going into executive session following the regular board meeting. Mrs. Thatcher seconded the motion and on a voice call vote the following members answered aye (6): Mr. Uthe, Mrs. Moe, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Bettenhausen, Mrs. Thatcher and no nays. Mrs. Robinson was absent.


Richard Uthe, Vice President
Cathy Cuculich, Reporter