

**Minutes of the  
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA  
Board of Education  
January 22, 2024  
7:00 P.M. Regular Board Meeting**

**President's Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Hafner at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present:** T. Anderson, J. Hafner, J. Pohl, L. Pung, T. Schafer, B. Weber, P. Weber

**Board Members Absent:** n/a

**Election of Officers for 2024:**

*Motion made by L. Pung seconded by T. Anderson to elect Jason Hafner as President of the Board of Education. Motion carried 7-0.*

*Motion made by J. Pohl, seconded by B. Weber to elect Tim Schafer as Vice President of the Board of Education. Motion carried 7-0.*

*Motion made by J. Pohl, seconded by L. Pung to elect Preston Weber as Secretary of the Board of Education. Motion carried 7-0.*

*Motion made by L. Pung seconded by T. Anderson to elect Jim Pohl as Treasurer of the Board of Education. Motion carried 7-0.*

**Approval of Agenda:** *Motion made by T. Schafer, seconded by J. Pohl, to approve the agenda, consent agenda items, the December 18, 2023, board meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.*

J. Pohl requested clarification on the general fund check registry with regard to checks written to Wightman for bond purchases.

**Bond Subcommittee Report** - The Bond Subcommittee reported the bid opening was held last week. T. Schafer reported the committee was pleased with the bids received from local vendors.

**Administrator's Reports:**

**Instructional Technology Specialist:** The New phone system will be installed over Spring Break, Knowb4 will be live on Feb 4th, working on tech requirements for the bond work and reviewing needs for next year.

**Elementary School Principal:** J. Farmer thanked Stacey Johnston for her many years of service to the entire district. Begindergarten/Kindergarten registration began last week. Preschool opens this week on a first come, first served basis.

**Assistant Middle-High School Principal/Athletic Director:** R. Portenga reported for Troy Forton. With a few snow days, we experienced a slow start to the second semester. Things are going well now. Thanked Stacey Johnston for her years of service; she has been a wonderful person to work with. Welcomed Celena Thelen as a long-term substitute with Vicki Williamson's retirement. Today is the 40th anniversary of the hiring of Cary Bashore. He commended Doug Klein for his leadership with the Robotics Team.

**Middle-High School Principal:** R. Portenga reported a family lost their home to a fire and was amazed at the support from the community. He placed a notice to the community and, within just a few hours, received feedback from twenty people offering to help. Provided an overview of the Michigan School Data Index Overview.

**Student Representatives** - A. Smith and H. Hengesbach provided an overview of the student survey. None of the questions received overall negative responses. J. Hafner commended the students for serving in this role.

**Superintendent:**

**Continuity of Learning Plan:** This plan must be reviewed every six months. Recommends continuing with our current plan, which is to monitor every six months. This requirement is needed while receiving ESSR funds. We anticipate exhausting our allotted ESSR funds within approximately six months. J. Hafner suggested continuing the Continuity of Learning Plan even after removing the requirement, to keep families involved.

**School Grade Reports:** This is the last year we will receive a grade. P-W received "Reward School" ratings for both the elementary and the middle-high school.

Jennifer Goodman acknowledged Stacey's commendable service and thanked her for all she has done for P-W since 2001, with a great deal of "behind the scenes" work.

**Staff Perception Survey Summary:** Twenty-six teachers, 17 school staff members, and five administrators completed the survey. Overall, we received very favorable staff survey results. Jason Hafner recommended using this survey as a baseline and these identical questions next year to compare how things are improving/changing.

**Board Appreciation:** Expressed appreciation to the Board members during Board Appreciation Month with a t-shirt and lanyard.

**Communications:** (3 minutes per person)

Dawn Keilen - Expressed disappointment that an R-rated movie was shown in the high school English class. Permission slips were distributed the night before the showing of the movie with little time to consider. Requests that a policy be issued indicating no R-rated movies will be shown in the future.

Elizabeth Thelen - Questioned if the R-rated movie was approved by the Board, prior to being taught. The teacher removed approximately seven scenes; E. Thelen wondered if the teacher fast forwards in front of students, because students will look up on their own time to see the scenes that weren't shown. Additionally, students shouldn't be punished with writing a two-page essay for opting out of watching the film. Expressed belief that there are better options for books/movies for the student curriculum. Thanked board members for serving on the Board of Education.

Alonna George - Her child was in the English class and felt there was an opportunity for learning from the movie. Felt that if we must stop the movie to remove portions of it, students shouldn't be placed in this position. Suggested the Board write guidelines to be followed for the future. Thanked whoever fixed the lights in the parking lot and thanked the Board for their service.

**Personnel:**

**Accept the resignation of the retirement of Stacey Johnston, Administrator, effective June 30, 2024.**

**President's Comments:**

J. Hafner encouraged everyone to be a ray of sunlight to others, as that is something we all so desperately need.

**Old Business:**

***Second reading of policies 0122, 1420, 3131, 3132, 3139, 3140, 3142, 3220 - Motion made by L. Pung seconded by J. Pohl, to approve the second reading of policies 0122, 1420, 3131, 3132, 3139, 3140, 3142, 3220. Motion carried 7-0.***

**New Business:**

***Approval of policies 0122, 1420, 3131, 3132, 3139, 3140, 3142, 3220 - Motion made by L. Pung, seconded by J. Pohl to approve policies 0122, 1420, 3131, 3132, 3139, 3140, 3142, 3220. Motion carried 7-0.***

***Approve the Continuation of Services through Thrun Law Firm - Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by T. Anderson, to approve the continuation of services through Thrun Law Firm. Motion carried 7-0.***

***Discussion on posting and hiring of Technology Director - Stacey Johnston's retirement was approved earlier this evening. There is a shortage of Technology Directors. J. Goodman asked the Board's approval to post the position as soon as possible. We were projecting a \$550,000 deficit for this fiscal year, prior to the grants that were later announced to be available. Now that the enrollment increased and P-W has obtained multiple grants, we are now anticipating a \$28,000 deficit. With those savings, we could afford to employ the new technology director, which would overlap when Stacey is still employed at P-W, prior to her retirement. Discussion held. The Board supports posting for a full-time position, informing RESA that we may cancel our contract with them for IT services.***

***Motion made by T. Anderson, seconded by B. Weber, to post for a full-time technology director position. Motion carried 7-0.***

Approval to award the following bids: Bid Package 1.0 General Trades: Moore Trospen- locker replacement and hallway painting, additional door replacement, and roof framing openings allowance, Bid Package 2.1 Site Work: Central Excavating- Elementary storage building demolition, Bid Package 2.2 Asphalt Mckearney Asphalt- Elementary and MS/HS base bids, Elementary parking lot repairs, seal coating and crack filling, and crack fill allowance Bid Package 2.3 Playground: Great Lakes Company-Elementary North playground surface replacement and Elementary south playground surface replacement and new slide, and new slide quote, Bid Package 7.0 Roofing: Superior Metal Roofing-Elementary base bid, Bid Package 8.0 Storefront Aaron Glass Co.Inc- Elementary Base Bid, Lansing Glass- MS/HS base bid, Bid Package 15.1 Mechanical: Precision Piping Elementary and MS/HS base bid, HS gym air conditioning and MS/HS kitchen hood replacement, Bid Package 15.3 Mechanical Insulation: Bondy Insulation- MS/HS base bid, HS gym air conditioning, Kasten Insulation- Elementary base bid, insulation allowance, and MS/HS kitchen hood replacement Bid Package 15.4 Test and Balance: Control Solutions MS/HS and Elementary base bids, and HS gym air conditioning, Bid Package 15.5 Temperature Controls: Ener Temp Inc. MS/HS and Elementary base bids, and HS gym air conditioning, Bid Package 16.1 Electrical: ESM Electric- MS/HS and Elementary base bids, and Electrical allowance, ESM performance and payment bond allowance, sound system allowance and HS gym sound system - Motion made by L. Pung, seconded by J. Pohl, to approve to award the following bids: Bid Package 1.0 General Trades: Moore Trospen- locker replacement and hallway painting, additional door replacement, and roof framing openings allowance, Bid Package 2.1 Site Work: Central Excavating- Elementary storage building demolition, Bid Package 2.2 Asphalt Mckearney Asphalt- Elementary and MS/HS base bids, Elementary parking lot repairs, seal coating and crack filling, and crack fill allowance Bid Package 2.3 Playground: Great Lakes Company-Elementary North playground surface replacement and Elementary south playground surface replacement and new slide, and new slide quote, Bid Package 7.0 Roofing: Superior Metal Roofing-Elementary base bid, Bid Package 8.0 Storefront Aaron Glass Co.Inc- Elementary Base Bid, Lansing Glass- MS/HS base bid, Bid Package 15.1 Mechanical: Precision Piping Elementary and MS/HS base bid, HS gym air conditioning and MS/HS kitchen hood replacement, Bid Package 15.3 Mechanical Insulation: Bondy Insulation- MS/HS base bid, HS gym air conditioning, Kasten Insulation- Elementary base bid, insulation allowance, and MS/HS kitchen hood replacement Bid Package 15.4 Test and Balance: Control Solutions MS/HS and Elementary base bids, and HS gym air conditioning, Bid Package 15.5 Temperature Controls: Ener Temp Inc. MS/HS and Elementary base bids, and HS gym air conditioning, Bid Package 16.1 Electrical: ESM Electric- MS/HS and Elementary base bids, and Electrical allowance, ESM performance and payment bond allowance, sound system allowance and HS gym sound system. Motion carried 7-0.

Approve purchase orders for the following: Boilers-Lochinvar, Hydronic Duct Heating Coils-Carrier Corp, Hydronic Dual Temp Water Coils-Carrier, Blower Coils-Carrier, Misc Hydr. Equipment-Hedric Associated-Armstrong, Cabinet/Prop Unit Heaters-Carrier - Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by T. Schafer, to Approve purchase orders for the following: Boilers-Lochinvar, Hydronic Duct Heating Coils-Carrier Corp, Hydronic Dual Temp Water Coils-Carrier, Blower Coils-Carrier, Misc Hydr. Equipment-Hedric Associated-Armstrong, Cabinet/Prop Unit Heaters-Carrier. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion on supplemental curriculum - T. Anderson expressed there are supplemental curriculum issues and recommends tightening up the process. Could set a standard that "no rated R-rated" movies could be shown, or R-rated movies would require Board approval. Curious how other schools have their handbooks written. Jennifer and the admin team will gather additional information and seek input from staff to bring back to the next meeting.

Tim Schafer expressed concern about single bids. Recommends creating a board policy where we do not open single bids, and instead require a two-bid minimum.

#### **Financial:**

**Financial Summary Report December 31, 2023, including Special Revenue Account Payable Listing, December 31, 2023**

#### **Future Meeting Dates/Events:**

February 16, 2024 - Half day of school

February 19, 2024 - No school unless more than five snow days by February 1, 2024

February 26, 2024 - February Board Meeting

**Adjourn:** At 8:43 pm, the meeting adjourned.

*Preston Weber*

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Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary