

**Minutes of the
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA
Board of Education
March 18, 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, L Pung, T. Schafer, B. Weber, P. Weber

Board Members Absent: J. Pohl

Motion made by L. Pung, B. Weber to move the Student Representative report to item C of the agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by T. Schafer, seconded by L. Pung, approve the minutes, agenda and consent agenda, with the change to pull consent agenda item VIII-C and move it under New Business, X-B-5. Motion carried 6-0.

Student Representatives - A. Smith and H. Hengesbach - The theater program performed this weekend. There were not as many attendees as in years past, but still received a lot of support. Senior mock interviews are tomorrow, spring break is next week.

Presentation from Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht, CCRESA, the 2024 Special Education Millage Information - On August 6, 2024, there will be a ballot for a special education millage with two factors: First is a renewal of 0.2605 mills and a restoration of 0.0517. This millage is for twenty years. If passed, a home with a taxable value of \$100,000, which is then worth \$200,000, would pay an additional \$5.17 per year. Costs are increasing, as well as the need for services, especially speech and language services. If passed, the millage would generate approximately \$873,000 annually in funds. If the millage is passed, P-W Schools would receive an additional \$38,291 for our special education services per fiscal year, raising our annual funds received to be \$82,702. Over the span of the twenty years, P-W would receive a little more than \$750,000 additionally.

Bond Subcommittee Report - The Bond Subcommittee met last week; made modifications to the locker room, elementary school portable classrooms. Bond work begins Friday, March 22nd. The new locker room layout is much more cost-effective. A local electrician put in a bid for the work, then lost several employees and is no longer able to provide the services. We reopened the bid for electrical services. The current bid holder will provide services until a new bid is awarded. T. Anderson inquired how the Michigan school safety contract comes into play during this bond construction? Contractors have specified regulations they must follow while on campus, are not allowed to speak to students, have background checks made and in most cases, will not be near students or staff during school days. As bond construction begins, we will post photos and videos on our website to keep the community informed.

Administrator's Reports:

Instructional Technology Specialist: S. Johnston stated the phones will be installed over spring break. One of CCRESA's IT technicians resigned; S. Johnston will serve on the interview panel. Reviewing the annual cyber security from SET SEG. The Lu has been repaired and is working again. Beginning a new ID software system for employees/coaches.

Elementary School Principal: J. Farmer stated the elementary school is enjoying March is Reading Month. Publicly thanked Melissa Irrer for her outstanding service to P-W Schools. She accepted a new position at the State of Michigan and will be greatly missed.

Assistant Middle-High School Principal/Athletic Director: T. Forton reported attending the athletic director conference in Traverse City. He thanked the Board for their support and expressed excitement for the spring athletic programs to begin.

Middle-High School Principal: R. Portenga expressed his appreciation for the elementary school and their entire staff for their services and how much they've helped his students. The middle high school is focusing on literacy and writing across the subjects.

Superintendent:

COVID Guideline Update - We currently have COVID protocols indicating persons testing positive for COVID would stay home for ten days, and may return to school on the 11th day. The CDC has changed their protocol to indicate that if someone tests positive for COVID, they are asked to stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours.

Technology Administration CCRESA - We have a contract with CCRESA, which has been in place for many years, to oversee our technology services.

Pick up and drop off changes - Reviewed the new student pick up and drop off changes to begin after Spring Break on Tuesday, April 2. Students will enter the south field house entrance. We will try our current plans and may tweak as needed. At the elementary school, preschool students will enter/exit at the main entrance of the school.

Communications: (3 minutes per person) Alanna George shared her concerns about the hiring of the technologist specialist position. Asked the Board to vote for what is truly best for the community.

Personnel:

Accept the resignation of Brandy Schneider, Custodial Staff, effective February 29, 2024.

Accept the resignation of Josh Stalker, Custodial Staff, effective March 7, 2024.

Accept the deferred retirement of Melissa Irrer, Paraprofessional, effective March 31, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to hire Abby Grys-Gillengerten, JV Softball Coach, effective March 18, 2024

President's Comments:

J. Hafner stated that the Board is willing to have a special board meeting in early April if one is needed for the electrical bid approval.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

Approval of the Limited 105/105c Schools of Choice application period of April 24, 2024-May 30, 2024 - J. Goodman provided an overview of the proposed openings for each grade with the proposed schools of choice application period. Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by T. Schafer,, to approve the Limited 105/105c Schools of Choice application period from April 24 - May 30, 2024. Motion carried 6-0.

First Reading of Policies 1240, 2410, 2414, 2418, 3220, 6320, 6321, 6325, 6350, 6520, 8390, 8800 - Motion made by T. Anderson, seconded by L. Pung, to approve the first reading of policies 1240, 2410, 2414, 2418, 3220, 6320, 6321, 6325, 6350, 6520, 8390, 8800. Motion carried 6-0.

Approve the recommendation to award MOSS for the E-rate Technology equipment - J. Goodman provided an overview of the need to purchase new e-rate technology equipment including new switches and new access points. Motion made by T. Anderson, seconded by B. Weber, to approve the recommendation to award MOSS for the E-rate technology equipment. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion on elementary portable - J. Goodman updated the Board on the need for an additional portable classroom for the fall through January, due to the bond work taking place this fall. If our student enrollment continues as it has the last four years, we may need a portable classroom even after the bond work is completed. The cost to rent a portable classroom is \$2,510 a month for an old unit. We could purchase a brand new portable classroom for \$251,710 which would include plumbing and be in brand new condition. J. Goodman recommends borrowing the funds to purchase the portable classroom. If the new portable is no longer needed at the elementary school, it could be relocated to the middle high school and be used as a bus garage. Motion made by L. Pung, seconded by T. Schafer, to approve Nadler Modular for the construction of a two-room portable classroom, including bathroom, in an amount not to exceed \$251,710, to be financed by Noreast Capital Corporation, or a local financial institution, for a term not to exceed 60 months. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of the recommendation to hire Jeremy Miller Technology/Student Support Specialist, effective April 10, 2024 - J. Hafner stated that the candidate had requested we move into closed session.

At 8:14 pm, motion made by B. Weber, seconded by T. Anderson, to move into closed session to discuss the hiring of Jeremy Miller as the Technology/Student Support Specialist. Motion carried 6-0.

At 9:33 pm, motion made by T. Schafer, seconded by T. Anderson, to end the closed session. Motion carried 6-0.

T. Anderson indicated that when reviewing the position and knowing that we will maintain our technology contract, felt the Board understood the recommendation and found the job description very helpful.

Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by P. Weber, that we approve the recommendation to hire Jeremy Miller, based on further information and discussion. Motion carried 4-2.

Financial:

Financial Summary Report February 29, 2024, including Special Revenue Account Payable Listing, February 29, 2024

Future Meeting Dates/Events:

March 22-April 1 - Spring Break

April 10 - Half Day of School

April 15, 2024 - April Board Meeting

Adjourn: At 9:37 pm, the meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary