

**Minutes of the  
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA  
Board of Education  
November 21, 2022  
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, T. Schafer, K. Thelen, P. Weber, K. Wood,

**Board Members Absent:** N/A

**Approval of Agenda:** *Motion made by K. Wood seconded by T. Schafer, to approve the agenda, consent agenda and the October 17, 2022 and November 9, 2022, board meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.*

Jennifer Goodman presented Gary Hendee with the Pirate Pride Recognition award for his service to P-W Schools

Meg Warner, Yeo & Yeo, provided a presentation of the audit conducted by Yeo & Yeo of the 2021-22 budget. P-W received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level of insurance.

**Administrator's Reports:**

**Instructional Technology Specialist:** Stacey Johnston stated the tech department is going well. At the request of the Board, she has conducted some cyber security training options. P-W has contracted with "KnowBe4" and plans to roll out cyber security training with Administrators in early 2023 and all staff during the 2023-24 school year.

**Assistant Principal/Athletic Director:** Troy Forton reported the volleyball team just completed an incredible season as State Champions. A new athletic website is now available and currently working on an Athletic Department budgeting plan and hopes to present to the Board in early 2023.

**Middle/High School Principal:** Ryan Portenga stated that in recent years P-W has had the privilege of possessing a 100% graduation rate. Our current student/parent handbook does not address the process to follow when a senior does not have the required credits to graduate. Plans are ongoing to revise the handbook to include that process and guidelines to follow.

**Elementary School Principal:** Julie Farmer reported the school is running well and thanked the Board members, in particular Kathy Wood and Kim Thelen, for their support over the years. Julie Farmer expressed appreciation for the addition of the School Social Worker and Math Interventionist positions.

**Student Representatives:** Sarah Smith stated there was a Student Voice meeting earlier today where discussions included Challenge Day, the Student Section at athletic events and the potential millage renewal.

**Superintendent:**

**Challenge Day:** Jennifer Goodman stated that Challenge Day, which will be held on December 14th. The goal is to treat others with kindness and encourage students to not follow the crowd, build confidence, and to help others in need. Jennifer Goodman encouraged parents, coaches and board members to volunteer to attend. A lot of team bonding will take place. There are currently two open positions: JV Baseball and JV Softball coaches.

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

Beth Thelen - a book will be discussed later this evening called The House on Mango Street. Beth expressed her concern with the book and feels there is nothing in the book as to why the abuse took place and there is no information provided as to how to handle this or who students should go to for assistance. There are a lot of books out there and feel our students deserve better.

Nathan Thelen - voices concerns on last month's vote on the millage and asked the Board to support our Superintendent and our principals. Nathan feels our school has been neglected and needs a lot of work.

Elizabeth Weber - asked the Board to keep the parents' views in mind when deciding on the book, The House on Mango Street.

**President's Comments:** Jason Hafner stated that he judges schools on their student sections at athletic events and expressed his appreciation of P-W's student section. Jason stated that at last month's meeting, he had a laptop at his seat, but was not communicating with anyone, but was using the computer to view spreadsheets during the meeting.

**Old Business:**

A Second Reading of Neola Policies 6108, 6460, 6700, 7440.03, 8805, 9150 took place.

**New Business:**

Approve the adoption of Neola Policies 6108, 6460, 6700, 7440.03, 8805, 9150 - *Motion made by K. Thelen, seconded by T. Schafer, to approve Neola Policies 6108, 6460, 6700, 7440.03, 8805, 9150. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve the audit presentation from Yeo & Yeo on the 2021-22 Budget - *Motion made by K Wood, seconded by K. Thelen, to approve the audit presentation from Yeo & Yeo on the 2021-22 Financial statements, including the single audit. Motion carried 7-0.*

Book Discussion - Discussion was held on the book, The House on Mango Street. Jennifer Goodman provided an overview of the process of an appeal of a book. The Board has thirty days to make a decision by December 15, 2022. *Motion made by K. Wood, seconded by K. Thelen, to keep the book The House on Mango Street, as part of the curriculum. Motion carried 6-1.*

PQ application discussion - Discussion was held on the PQ application to be submitted to the Thrun Law by Monday, November 28, 2022, and the Department of Treasury by Monday, December 5, 2022. Jennifer provided an overview of what the PQ includes and it is recommended that we include many contingency items in the application.

Bowling Team home game location discussion - Jason Hafner stated that Thrun Law gave us legal opinion to discuss this topic in closed session. *Motion made by K. Wood seconded by J. Pohl, to move into closed session for the bowling team home game discussion at 8:37 pm. Motion carried 7-0.*

*At 8:54, motion made by K. Wood, seconded by T. Schafer, to end the closed session. Motion carried 7-0.*

*Motion made by Kathy Wood, seconded by K. Thelen, to set the home location for the bowling team to be located at the Knights of Columbus in Westphalia. Motion carried 7-0.*

**New Business:**

**Financial:**

*Financial Summary Report October 31, 2022, including Special Revenue Account Payable Listing, October 31, 2022*

**Future Meeting Dates/Events:**

Wednesday-Friday, November 23-25, 2022 - No School

Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 7 pm - Middle/High School Band Holiday Concert


Friday, December 9, 2022 - Middle-High School Holiday Meal

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 - Elementary School Begindergarten-1st Grade Holiday Concert at 6 pm

Monday, December 19, 2022 - Elementary School Holiday Meal

Monday, December 19, 2022 - December Board Meeting at the Middle-High School

**Adjourn:** At 8:56 pm, meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary