

**Minutes of the
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA
Board of Education
May 20, 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 and Roll Call:

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

Board Members Absent: P. Weber

Motion made by L. Pung seconded by B. Weber, to approve the minutes, agenda and consent agenda with the update to the agenda by moving VII.J to IX.B.9 and adding the topic of Special Education Director to IX.B.10. Motion carried 6-0.

Bond Subcommittee Report - At the meeting earlier today, discussed the bus garage and potential new land purchase, as parts of the facilities needs assessment. The foundation at both sites is progressing. There will be one day where the schools will be without the internet in both buildings. The day after Memorial Day the preschool classroom items will be removed from the current classroom to allow for interior bond work.

Administrator's Reports:

Instructional Technology Specialist: S. Johnston stated KnowB4 training is going well; administrators will be the only ones taking assessments over the summer. SETSEG offers a weekly scan to determine cyber security vulnerability. This weekly scan saves us \$85,000 in deductible costs.

We will be transitioning to a building security response system called Centigix, which was paid for with grant funds. Staff will wear cards on their lanyards that may be pushed to alert a team for medical emergencies, and staff and law enforcement will be notified in safety emergencies. For credit recovery, our vision is to offer credit recovery courses after school to assist the students in obtaining their credits right here at P-W, without the need to attend credit recovery classes off campus.

Elementary School Principal: J. Farmer stated there are 11 days of school left and many activities for the students, including Pirate Pete's Adventure Challenge, which takes place Friday, May 31, 2024. Watching the construction changes has been fun for both staff and students.

Assistant Middle-High School Principal/Athletic Director: T. Forton expressed his excitement for hosting baseball districts on May 28 and June 1. Congratulations to our girls and boys track teams, who both won regional tournaments. Boys Golf finished 2nd in the CMAC by one stroke. Considering having two JV football teams for the fall. We are one year out before we can host home cross country meets. Thanked J. Dygert and his staff's work on this new cross country course. Received notification P-W will host girls basketball districts in 2024-25.

Middle-High School Principal: R. Portenga expressed his appreciation for the credit recovery research J. Miller has done and looks forward to offering this outstanding service to our students. Will determine at 7 am tomorrow morning our plans for graduation ceremonies tomorrow evening. Expressed appreciation of the staff and students during the bond construction. NWEA testing takes place this week. Stated the Pirates on the Move experiences this spring have been outstanding and are a great opportunity for our students.

Student Representatives - Seniors are on their senior trip today .

Superintendent: J. Goodman asked the Board members to mark their calendars for the 2nd annual Community Cookout August 29, 2024 - more details to come.

All Board members must be trained on the new superintendent evaluation training by September 1. RESA plans to host one training for all county districts the first week of August; training will be offered virtually.

Thank you to our Student School Board Representatives Hayden Hengesbach and Ava Smith for their service. Will soon host interviews for our Student School Board Representatives 2024-25. We have three juniors who would like to be on the school board. Board members should let J. Goodman know if they would like to be on the interview panel.

We have had two part-time elementary teaching positions open and have yet to receive any applicants. Right now we are requesting to post a full-time teaching position to provide music at the elementary school and St. Mary's, and possibly at another parochial school or at the MHS. J. Goodman recommends keeping both postings open and waiting to see if anyone applies to either position.

Motion made by L. Pung, seconded by B. Weber, to add to the agenda, Item IX.B.11, for the recommendation to create a full time music teacher position for the elementary school. Motion carried 6-0.

J. Goodman expressed appreciation to Stacey Johnston and Julie Farmer, as today is their last board meeting.

Communications: (3 minutes per person)

Carol Sanborn - Stated she was at the May 8 track meet with petitions from the AxMiTax site and was asked to leave the property. Her attorney informed her prior authorization is needed to collect signatures on petitions on school property. Indicated she will press forward with fighting for our freedoms.

Staci Myers - stated the Board will vote this evening on canceling partial school days for athletic championship contests and requested the Board keep it fair across all sports teams. Believes there should be a policy in place, that it is a huge accomplishment, and school should be dismissed early.

Personnel:

Approve the recommendation to hire Jacob Babb, Middle-High School P.E. Teacher, effective August 12, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to hire Kara Griffith and Carisa Josselyn as Summer School Teachers for the summer of 2024.

Approve the recommendation to hire Larry Simpson and Amanda White as Summer School Paraprofessional Aides for the summer of 2024.

Approve the recommendation to hire Shawn Barrett for the Summer School Bus Driver for the summer of 2024.

Approve the recommendation to appoint Jodi Thelen as the Elementary School Reading Interventionist effective July 1, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to appoint Gary Studebaker as Part-time Evening MHS Custodian effective April 22, 2024

Approve the resignation of Gary Studebaker as Head Custodian effective April 22, 2024.

Accept the resignation of Julie Farmer, Elementary Principal/Special Education Director, effective June 30, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to appoint Cami Huhn as 1st Grade Teacher effective July 1, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to hire Joseph Schafer as Bus Driver effective August 1, 2024.

Accept the resignation for retirement from Al Piggott, Bus Driver, effective June 30, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to appoint Sandra Thelen as a MHS Paraprofessional Aide, effective August 14, 2024.

Accept the resignation of Ann Lehman, Elementary RTI Paraprofessional Aide, effective June 30, 2024.

President's Comments: J. Hafner wished Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Farmer the very best in the future, thanked the BOE and the community for a great school year.

Old Business: n/a

New Business:

Discussion on vacant land - J. Goodman stated the attorney advised we could go into closed session to discuss costs of the vacant land near the elementary school. T. Schafer stated we are landlocked at the elementary school and could benefit from additional parking at this site. J. Dygert provided an overview of the option to purchase land that is just north of the elementary school, on the other side of the trail. Water and sewer is accessible for lot E on the diagram; gas is already accessible on the property. Item was tabled for discussion later in the meeting.

Approve the request to renew the food services management contract with Chartwell for the July 1, 2024-2025 school year - Motion made by L. Pung, seconded by T. Schafer, to approve the request to renew the food services management contract with Chartwell for the July 1, 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried 6-0.

Approve the Clinton County RESA General Fund Operating Budget for the 2024-25 school year as presented by Clinton County RESA video - Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by J. Pohl, to approve the Clinton County RESA General Fund Operating Budget for the 2024-25 school year as presented by Clinton County RESA video. Motion carried 6-0.

Approve the Elementary Student-Parent Handbook for the 2024-25 school year - J.Pohl recommended we add an explanation that upper elementary includes grades 3-5. *Motion made by T. Schafer, seconded by B. Weber, to approve the Elementary Student-Parent Handbook for the 2024-25 school year with the movies being included in student and staff handbook, and changes the upper elementary classes to change grades three through five. Motion carried 6-0.*

Approve the MHS Student-Parent Handbook for the 2024-25 school year - During lunch time, students may use Chromebooks for fun on certain days a week - per administrative guidance. If needed for academic purposes, students are always welcome to do so. L. Pung suggested enlightening parents on how students and parents can still communicate via email during the school day without the need for a cell phone. Cheating is the number one reason we are recommending the change in our cell phone policy. *Motion made by J. Pohl, seconded by L. Pung to approve the MHS Student-Parent Handbook for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried 6-0.*

Approve the Athletic Handbook for the 2024-25 school year - The topic of school closures for athletic championship games is the greatest complaint received from parents. Discussion was held. *Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by J. Pohl, to approve the Athletic Handbook with the below revisions for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried 6-0.*

School Attendance During MHSAA Tournament Championships
PWCS will only dismiss early from a regularly scheduled school day when there is a varsity team (not individual) in an MHSAA semifinal or state championship when scheduled to be in the afternoon, or at a time later that day, to allow for travel.

School Vehicle Usage
Academics come first when scheduling for the use of our school vehicles; in-season athletics then take precedence. Everyone else may reserve on a first-come, first-serve basis. Ten total people are allowed in the van(s). Users need to clean the inside of the vehicles after each use. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of vehicle usage.

Approve the Student Technology Acceptable Use Policy, Staff Technology Acceptable Use Policy, All District Technology Policy, Staff Device Responsibility policy, and Parent, Student, and District Responsibility Policy for the 2024-25 school year - *Motion made by J. Pohl, seconded by L. Pung, to approve the Student Technology Acceptable Use Policy, Staff Technology Acceptable Use Policy, All District Technology Policy, Staff Device Responsibility policy, and Parent, Student, and District Responsibility Policy for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried 6-0.*

Approve the 2024-25 Board of Education meeting schedule - *Motion made by T. Schafer, seconded by B. Weber, to approve the 2024-25 Board of Education meeting schedule . Motion carried 6-0.*

Approve the recommendation to hire Joe Schafer as Bus Driver effective August 1, 2024 - *Motion made by J. Pohl, seconded by L. Pung, to approve the recommendation to hire Joseph Schafer as Bus Driver effective August 1, 2024. Motion carried 5-0 (T. Schafer abstained).*

Special Education position - T. Schafer expressed concern that if Clinton County RESA provides the Special Education Director position, we will have a Special Education Director who may not know our students nor be available to meet any day of the week for IEPs and other meetings. T. Schafer recommends we look at this more closely to provide the best for our students. J. Goodman reported that RESA would provide our Special Education Director services and supervise the RESA itinerant staff and another district's special education director and supervisor of itinerant staff. Stated that the Special Director position's role is to serve as the advocate for the student and make recommendations to teachers. Jennifer explained that P-W does not need a full time special education director and that RESA provides these services

Motion made by L. Pung, seconded by B. Weber, to approve the posting for a full-time elementary music teaching position. Motion carried 6-0.

At 9:01 pm, motion made by T Schafer, seconded by J. Pohl, to move into closed session to discuss collective bargaining and potential purchase of land. Motion carried 6-0.

At 9:38 pm, motion made by T. Schafer, seconded by L. Pung, to end the closed session. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by T. Anderson, seconded J. Pohl, to approve working with Thrun Law to negotiate the purchase of the available property and to designate the superintendent as a signee. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial:

Financial Summary Report April 30, 2024, including Special Revenue Account Payable Listing, April 30, 2024

Future Meeting Dates/Events:

May 21, 2024 - Commencement Ceremony in Pirate Stadium

Adjourn: At 9:41 pm meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary