

**Minutes of the
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA
Board of Education
February 24, 2025
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: J. Farmer, J. Hafner, J. Pohl, L. Pung, J. Smith, B. Weber, P. Weber

Board Members Absent: n/a

Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by B. Weber, to approve the minutes, agenda and consent agenda items. Motion carried 7-0.

Bond/Facilities Subcommittee Report - The committee did not have anything new to report since the last meeting.

Robotics Presentation - Student representatives Eli Blyth and Jason Hanses provided an overview of the 30-member Robotics Team, displayed a sample of the robot they configured, and shared a video of one of their matches. Brian McAskill spoke on behalf of the program, expressing his appreciation of the club.

2024-25 Supplemental Budget Presentation by Business Manager Pamela Stump - P. Stump provided an overview of the 2024-25 supplemental budget.

Administrator's Reports:

Facilities and Safety Director: J Dygert stated a Field House hot water booster pump went down about ten days ago. Myers Plumbing and Heating has ordered the part; waiting for it to be installed. Dygert received access to the new heating and cooling controls. Painters are on site at the elementary school, and doors have been installed; flooring and ceilings are next. On the agenda is an item to approve the extension of the bus lease, along with a chassis and engine warranty. Dygert recommends extending the lease for one year to begin the process for a new lease this fall to begin on July 1, 2026.

Technology and Student Specialist: J. Miller reported the CRASH program began with five students. Four of the five students were successful in obtaining their credit and are back on track to graduate. This semester, we have seven students in the program; a few need the credit to graduate this spring. Counselors provide recommendations as to which students should participate; students are approached to ensure they are committed to the program. We can have up to ten students at one time.

Elementary School Principal: E. Fedewa reported the results of the student surveys. We have 11 students enrolled in the 3-day preschool program and ten students for the two-day preschool program for the fall. There are currently 28 students registered for BK and 39-40 students for Kindergarten. March is Reading Month activities are planned with a super hero theme. Preschool has moved into the new portable effective last week; hope to have 2nd grade in the portable next week. The elementary school will celebrate Grandparents Day on April 9. The elementary school will be launching a new fundraiser selling garbage bags, called Bags for Bucks. The new addition has recently seen some exciting progress.

Athletic Director/MHS Assistant Principal: T. Forton reported Bowling team did well in regionals last week; the boys team took third place. Cheer team took second place in Districts and then took first place in Regionals. Forton expressed how proud he is of the cheer team. There will be a half day of school this Friday as the team competes in the state finals Friday afternoon. Luke Paxton took third place in Wrestling Regionals and is now participating in the State finals this weekend at Ford Field. Thanked Potterville for their co-op program. Boys basketball team begins District competition on Wednesday; girls begin March 5. We are hosting the girls district basketball tournament on March 3, 5, and 7. Forton highlighted Brad Carry, P-W's Truancy Officer, and expressed his appreciation for his desire to help our students. A private donor who is supplying funds for the weight room which should be finished next fall.

Middle-High School Principal: R. Portenga stated the new auditorium tech booth should be completed tomorrow; carpet installed later this week; new lighting next week. Hope to order new seating in the near future. Feedback survey - proactive parent communication with our middle school parents has been well received. Student perception survey - students want more opportunities, which can be difficult with a small school. Seventy four students (almost 20%) are interested in taking a theater class. RESA lost their

Fire Services CTE course this school year and we are looking to hold a fire services program here at P-W for the county. Will present on this subject next month.

Student Reps: Students Trey Nurenberg and Makayla McRae reported Student Voice discussed classes students would like at P-W. Discussed the student section, getting stronger attendance and appropriate cheers. Last year 140 AP exams were taken by students; this year 180 AP tests will be taken. The AP Biology course added 17 more exams, along with increased AP course enrollment.

Superintendent:

Countywide Board Dinner and Presentation - tomorrow at RESA; Lori Pung and Jim Pohl scheduled to attend.

Survey Data - NWEA results -our goal is for increased proficiency and advanced growth throughout the year.

Progress Goal Sheet - Shared the results.

Strategic Planning Update - in our fourth year of the five year process. Areas of focus: student opportunities; facilities, and staff retention. Will spend next year reviewing the strategic planning process. Hafner suggested including parents and non-employees as a part of the process when we begin the new process.

Special Education Position Update - we received some applicants and encountered some roadblocks. Have decided to utilize a substitute teacher as the special education part-time special education teacher for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year and will utilize Cathy Gyurich, retired special education director from DeWitt, to work on a contract through RESA to serve as our Special Ed Director two days a week through the end of the year. Will repost the position for the 2025-26 school year. The sub has been working with students as a substitute throughout the year and knows the students well.

Survey data - J Goodman provided an overview of the survey results. Will share the results with the parents. Expressed appreciation for Ryan Portenga for all he has done to get the auditorium ready for the upcoming musical production.

Communications: (3 minutes per person)

Alonna George - sent an email to the board regarding her concerns on the generational costs for the turf and the health concerns. She hopes all coaches have a chance to provide input in the multi-use locker room.

Trey Bauer, Baseball Coach, spoke in favor of turf. The first month of the baseball and softball season, as well as the band during marching season, are in the parking lot. Believes it is a miracle nothing has happened yet to a student. Realizes there are concerns with the turf; but there are also concerns if we continue practicing in the parking lot.

Nathan Thelen - expressed his support for turf. The NFL spends \$350,000 - \$550,000 annually to maintain their natural grass turf, and they replace the grass turf three to nine times per season. Our current football field is unplayable. If we redo the field in grass, he hopes we maintain it and not cut corners. If turf is not in the budget, we need to get what is best for our student athletes.

Personnel:

Approve the recommendation to hire Kevin Fletcher, Middle School Social Studies Teacher, effective February 3, 2025.

Approve the recommendation to hire John Lewis, Junior Varsity Baseball Coach, through Edustaff, effective February 23, 2025.

Approve the recommendation to hire Ellen Spitzley, Assistant Theater Director, through Edustaff, effective January 24, 2025

Accept the resignation of John Nurenberg, JV Football Coach effective February 23, 2025.

Approve the resignation of Allison Shaar, Track coach, effective February 23, 2025.

Approve the recommendation to hire James Lehman as JV Football Coach effective February 23, 2025.

Approve the recommendation to hire Kali Feldpausch as the part-time Human Resource Specialist effective July 1, 2025.

President's Comments: J. Hafner expressed how pleased he is to be back in the Library.

Old Business:

Second Reading of policies New Business:

Approval of policies 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 7540.09, 8321- Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by L. Pung, to approve the second reading of policies 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 7540.09, 8321. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business:

Approval of Policies 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 7540.09, 8321 - Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Pohl, to approve policies 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 7540.09, 8321. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of the Budget Amendment for the 2024-25 school year, as presented by Pamela Stump, Business Manager - Motion made by L. Pung, supported by B. Weber, to approve the 2024-25 budget amendment as presented by Pamela Stump. Motion carried 7-0.

*Approval of the Board Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed Three Million Six Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars for the 2025 School Building and Site Bonds, Series III. Board members requested a document highlighting the wish list, the expenses made so far,, **Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by L. Pung, to approve the board resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed Three Million Six Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars for the 2025 School Building and Site Bonds, Series III. Motion carried 7-0.***

*Approve the Recommendation to Extend the Bus Lease with Midwest Transit by one year through June 30, 2026. Discussion was held. **Motion made by J. Farmer, seconded by B. Weber, to approve the recommendation to extend the bus lease with Midwest Transit by one year through June 30, 2026, including both warranty options. Motion carried 7-0.***

*Approve the Recommendation to Approve the Creation of the Following Positions for the 2025/26 School Year: Third Grade Teacher, Sixth Grade Teacher, Music Teacher - 41 students enrolled in 2nd grade; will need two classrooms next year. If we have less than 25 students in BK for the fall, we would not need an additional teacher. We tried to hire a music teacher last year but were not successful in obtaining a certified teacher and had to discontinue shared services music at St. Mary's. We would like to reinstate those shared services. Discussion held. **Motion made by J. Pohl, seconded by L. Pung, to approve the recommendation for the creation of the following positions for the 2025/26 school year: 3rd grade teacher, 6th grade teacher, and elementary music teacher.***

Discussion on Board Committees - J Goodman asked the board to make a decision on when a board member who was serving on a committee is no longer a board member, if they should remain on the committee. Discussion was held. Board members felt that since the Bond Subcommittee is considered an ad hoc committee, continuity on the committee is important. If the committee was a permanent committee, we would want to appoint a new board member. Since it is an ad-hoc committee, the board asked J Goodman to ask T Schafer if he would like to remain on the bond subcommittee. If formal committees are established, former board members would not remain on the committee after their term is complete.

Negotiations - *At 8:53 pm, motion made by J. Pohl, seconded by B. Weber, to move into closed session for collective bargaining. Motion carried 7-0.*

At 9:28 pm, motion made by J Pohl, seconded by J. Farmer to end the closed session. Motion carried 7-0.


Financial:

Financial Summary Report January 31, 2025, including Special Revenue Account Payable Listing, January 31, 2025

Future Meeting Dates/Events:

March Board Meeting - March 17, 2025

Adjourn: At 9:28 pm meeting adjourned.


Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary