

Minutes of the
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA
Board of Education
November 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 and Roll Call:

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

Board Members Absent: n/a

Motion made by T. Schafer, seconded by L. Pung, to approve the minutes, agenda and consent agenda items. Motion carried 7-0.

Bond/Facilities Subcommittee Report -Administrator's Reports:

The subcommittee would like to collect bids for everything and not separate them. Assessing needs that could be addressed with the interest money earned. T. Schafer recommended adding soccer lines to the turf so that in the future, it may be used for soccer teams and used for P.E. classes. Discussion was held on the public bathrooms in the locker room. Discussion took place regarding payments made to PSI from the food service fund. Scott Brown reported those charges were discussed at the June BOE meeting. We had accessed funds in food service to pay for the stove hood, due to the State of Michigan strongly encouraging us to spend down the food services account. Discussion was held on auditorium improvements. Scott Brown provided an overview of the bond purchases to date and funds yet available for Phase III. Discussed the delays in the cafeteria construction. A heater was purchased for the lack of heat in the cafeteria due to the temporary walls.

Facilities and Safety Director: Jeff Dygert stated we are back to a fully staffed custodial crew. Preparing for winter weather, and we are in need of a new plow; our back-up plow is in rough condition. A brand new truck without a plow is \$53,000 through Mideal. The cost for a new Chevy truck is \$63,000. Scott Brown is working on the budget amendment prior to his departure; believes will have a very clear picture by the end of the week. In June we anticipated a surplus. J. Hafner asked Jennifer Goodman to keep the Board apprised of the detailed budget. **Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by T. Schafer, to add IX B 5 to discuss the backup plow truck and financial implications. Motion carried 7-0.**

Technology and Student Specialist: Jeremy Miller provided an overview of the cameras; hopes to have at least two quotes for the December agenda. A team of staff met to update the new and improved website layout.

Elementary School Principal: Evan Fedewa reported Halloween was a great success; moved the Halloween parade to the walking trail and received positive feedback. Thanked the 3-5th graders who visited the residents of Good Vibes in their Halloween costumes. Proud of the upper elementary students who raked the leaves of local residents. The portable classroom has been moved to its permanent location; staff may now park in the parking lot. Thanked Scott Brown for his leadership and sharing of his knowledge.

Athletic Director/MHS Assistant Principal: Troy Forton reported attendance letters sent to families requesting students have no less than nine days of absence per year. The football team are district champions and lost to Millington in Regionals on Saturday. The volleyball team are Regional champions and will compete in the quarter-finals tomorrow evening. The Queen of Hearts raffle prize is now over \$1,000 and growing. Concrete pads were poured at the baseball and softball fields. Thanked Scott for his time at P-W and expressed his appreciation for his efforts.

Middle-High School Principal: Ryan Portenga stated that many schools have set attendance requirements in order to walk at graduation; we plan to incorporate something similar in next year's handbook. Parent/Teacher conference attendance has declined since 2019; this year we were at 51% attendance. Highlighted 18 of the 25 faculty members who are sending out bi-weekly emails to parents. Highlighted our special education department, Mrs. Mowatt, along with Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Schmitt, Mr. Simpson, Mrs. Thelen and Ms. Sillman who have been stretched and have risen to the challenge this fall. Thanked Scott Brown for his expertise and working relationships with everyone.

Student Reps: Student Trey Nurenberg attended the Student Voice meeting and discussion was held about changes - lockers, phone policy, and backpack policy. Students viewed the changes in the library.

Superintendent: Jennifer Goodman stated that after over 800 respondents took part in the survey; our new mascot is being ordered. We will honor Randy Zenk when the new mascot is unveiled. We are hoping to have students serve in this role. We may survey students to see if anyone is interested in serving in this role.

The Pirate Log will be sent out Friday. Scott Brown created the new athletic event for gate receipts; auditors recommend we retain the ticket just prior to the first and last ticket sold for each event. This new ticket process has begun for the winter season. Thanked Scott Brown for his partnership over the past few years and his dedicated efforts.

Communications: (3 minutes per person)

Alanna George stated her children wished there was a flat surface above the new lockers. Suggested making the absence policies for students aged 18+ more clear to parents.

John Arens, a contractor for the athletic fields, suggested we use a growth regulator, used on golf courses, to thicken the turf. Conducted an assessment of what he has noticed on the field and the drainage issue and will share his findings with the board members.

Dawn Keilen stated people feel they are not aware of accomplishments and pending work with the bond projects. Teachers state it is not pleasant to work in a portable classroom; wonders if we are doing a disservice to our elementary students and believes this is more important than a turf field.

Personnel:

Accept the resignation of Scott Brown, Business Manager, effective December 1, 2024.

Accept the resignation of Brittany Morgan, Elementary School Counselor, effective December 6, 2024.

President's Comments: President Hafner thanked Jennifer and the team for their efforts in determining school cancellations/snow days.

Old Business:)

New Business:

Approve the First Reading of Revised Wellness Policy 8510 - Reviewed proposed changes to the wellness policy which includes: encouraging the use of outdoor facilities. Discussion was held on the unintended consequences. No action was taken.

Approve the Bond Authorizing Resolution, as prepared by Thrun Law, for the 2024 School Building and Site Bonds, Series III -J. Hafner stated the year for this agenda item is for the 2025 School Building and Site Bonds, Series III. **Motion made by L. Pung, seconded by T. Anderson, to approve the bond authorizing resolution, as prepared by Thrun Law, for the 2025 school building and site bonds, series III. Motion carried 7-0.**

Discussion on the Counselor Position at the Elementary School - Our counselor accepted a position in her resident school district and will be leaving P-W in early December. There is still a need for this position for our elementary school students. Scott Brown is conducting a cost analysis. If we refill this position, this will come out of the general fund and there are no longer grant funds available beginning this year. The current counselor has met with students 229 times this school year so far. She has weekly meetings with several students, runs lunch groups focusing on the Second Step is a weekly course taught to each classroom. Seeing a lot of needs in the lower elementary schools throughout the state. The Board members expressed their support for this position.

Discussion on the Business Manager position and transition - Scott Brown is willing to come in on the weekends to assist with payroll and other financial transactions. Jayne Wieber has offered to support in his absence. Ovid-Elsie is also losing their Business Manager position. Jennifer expressed her concern with this vacancy and welcomed suggestions for this position. Scott Brown informed the Board that there are more and more requirements needed for business managers and human resources managers. Recommended we reach out to Yeo & Yeo for their services, or other CPA firms.

New Plow Truck Purchase - Discussion was held. **Motion made by T. Schafer, seconded by L. Pung, to approve \$60,000 toward the purchase of a new truck with plow. Motion carried 7-0.**

Superintendent Evaluation - Move to Closed Session - **At 8:54, motion made by J. Pohl, seconded by T. Anderson, to move to closed session. Motion carried 7-0.**

At 9:52 the closed session ended.

Motion made by L. Pung, seconded by B. Weber, to approve the superintendent evaluation as effective. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion and approval of Superintendent Merit Pay - This is a requirement that is in the contract. **Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by P. Weber, to approve the merit pay of 3%. Motion carried 7-0.**

Financial:

**Financial Summary Report October 31, 2024, including Special Revenue
Account Payable Listing, October 31, 2024**

Future Meeting Dates/Events:

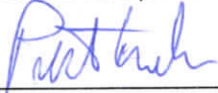
November 27, 2024 - Half Day of School

November 28 - December 1, 2024 - Thanksgiving Break

December 12, 2024 at 7 pm - Holiday Band Concert in MHS Auditorium

December 16, 2024 - December Board Meeting in Auditorium

Adjourn: At 9:56 pm meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary