

PENN CAMBRIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
201 6TH STREET
CRESSON, PENNSYLVANIA 16630

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2019

MEMBERS: Pat Albright, Karen Claar, Jenny Guzic, Terry Krug, Rudy McCarthy, George Pyo,
Patricia Pyo, Justin Roberts, Michael Sheehan

A Regular Meeting of the Penn Cambria School District Board of Education was called to order by George Pyo, President, at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 19, 2019 in the Library of the Penn Cambria High School.

ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Mr. Pat Albright
- Mrs. Karen Claar
- Mrs. Jenny Guzic
- Mr. Terry Krug
- Mr. Rudy McCarthy
- Mr. George Pyo
- Miss Patricia Pyo
- Mr. Justin Roberts
- Mr. Michael Sheehan
- TOTAL..... 9

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- TOTAL..... 0
- QUORUM PRESENT.

AMONG OTHERS PRESENT:

- | | |
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| <i>Mr. William Marshall</i> , Superintendent | <i>Mrs. Angela Focht</i> , Food Service Director |
| <i>Mrs. Jill Francisco</i> , Business Administrator | <i>Ms. Deb Baker</i> , PCEA President |
| <i>Mr. Ron Repak</i> , Solicitor – Beard Legal Group, PC | <i>Mrs. Robin Lappi</i> , PCESPA President |
| <i>Mr. James Abbott</i> , High School Principal | <i>Mrs. Jacquelyn Mento</i> , Recording Secretary |
| <i>Mr. Jeff Baird</i> , High School Principal | <i>Mrs. Kerry Nileski</i> , Teacher |
| <i>Mr. Dane Harrold</i> , Middle School Principal | <i>Mr. Ben Watt</i> , Swimming Coach |
| <i>Mr. Joseph Smorto</i> , Elementary Principal | <i>Mr. Andrew Smithmyer</i> , Mainliner Reporter |
| <i>Mrs. Jeanette Black</i> , Director of Curriculum | <i>Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Felus</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Carrie Conrad</i> , Special Education Director | <i>Ms. Courtney Kuncelman</i> |
| <i>Mr. Paul Haber</i> , School Psychologist | <i>Mr. Tim Dzurko</i> |
| <i>Mr. Lewis Hale</i> , Network Administrator | <i>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Felus</i> |
| <i>Mr. Dave Beck</i> , Facilities Manager | |

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the following were the items of business and discussion.

HEARING OF VISITORS – There were no questions, concerns, comments, related to agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Marshall announced that the District performed lead testing in compliance with the new legislative law and all buildings within Penn Cambria School District have passed, thus requiring no corrective action.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

A. *Mr. Ben Watt*, Swimming Coach, thanked the Board of Education and Mr. Marshall for participating in the swimming co-op with Cambria Heights and for giving Penn Cambria student athletes the opportunity to shine.

He reflected on some of the swimming accomplishments over the past year. In the three years that this co-op has been in existence, Penn Cambria students have broken records in eight different events in the Cambria Heights program. Sophomore, *McKenzie Watt*, placed in each of her individual events at the district competition and is currently part of all three of relay records for the Cambria Heights swim team. Junior, *Madison Dzurko*, placed 2nd and 3rd at District competition, completed the 2018-2019 dual meet season undefeated, placed 1st in every event that she competed in, currently holds the school record in 4 individual events for Cambria Heights, and is part of all 3 relay records. Senior, *Morgan Watt*, placed in the events she competed in at districts and currently holds the record in free style and the relay records for Cambria Heights.

- B. Wrestling accomplishments and state qualifiers: *Derek Brown* - 100th career pin, District Champion, placed 3rd at Regionals and States, *Chase Proudfit* - District runner-up, and *Joseph Smychynsky* – placed 5th at Districts

5th grade students who qualified for the PMEA District VI Songfest were *Eden Darity*, *Clare Lill*, *Jacob Bossler*, *Peyton Farabaugh*, and *Avery Glass*

Congratulations to the Varsity Girls Basketball Team who won District Championships on March 1, 2019. Individual players were *Lora Davis*, *Daijah Lilly*, *Bailey O'Donnell*, *Emmy Harvey*, *Ryanna Hockenos*, *Marah Saleme*, *Mia McCarthy*, *Laken Guzic*, *Hannah Saleme*, *Taylor Rabatin*, *Emily Clossin*, *Hannah Fitzsimmons*, *Bayle Kunsman*, *Makenzie Shuagis*, *Madison Grove*, *Cassandra Macchia*, *Devon Cornell*, *Chloe Guzic*, and *Makalyn Clapper*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was offered by Miss Pyo, seconded by Mrs. Claar, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the regular meeting held February 19, 2019, be approved as recorded in the copies mailed to the Board prior to this meeting.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was offered by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Krug, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the invoices as mailed to Board prior to the meeting, and as evaluated and reviewed, reconciled, and recommended for payment by the Business Office be hereby approved for payment. Copy to be made part of the minutes. (*See Addendum "A"*)

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was offered by Mrs. Claar, seconded by Mr. Albright, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Treasurer's Reports for February 2019, be accepted as mailed to the Board, and that a copy be filed with the official records of the School District. (*See Addendum "B"*)

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A motion was offered by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Guzic, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolutions:

FINANCIAL REPORTS

RESOLVED: That the reports of grants, projects and federal programs and financial reports for the general fund, capital reserve fund, and cafeteria fund be accepted as presented to the Board and that a copy be filed with the official records of the School District. (*See Addendum "C"*)

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ron Repak informed the Board of Directors that the House Judiciary Committee unanimously approved House Bill 97. This Bill closes the loophole on electronic cigarettes, vaping products, etc. and includes criminal charges for minors who attempt to buy vaping products or get caught with e-cigarettes at school. It has not been signed into law; Beard Legal Group will continue to update the District on the progression of the Bill.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A motion was offered by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mrs. Claar, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent's recommendations be approved as follows:

A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Accept Retirements

Ms. Christine McMullen, Middle School Aide, effective March 29, 2019 after 18+ years of service

Ms. Christine Madison, High School Science Teacher, effective at the close of the 2022-2023 school year, after 15+ years of service, per the PCEA Retirement MOU Agreement

Accept Resignations

Ms. Miranda Reed, Head Junior High Cheerleading Coach, effective immediately

Ms. April Lilly, Assistant Junior High Volleyball Coach, effective February 13, 2019

Approve Unpaid Leave

Employee #008591, High School Food Service Worker, retroactive to February 19, 2019 through March 21, 2019

Approve Appointments per the PCEA Contract

Ms. Kaitlyn Kalwanaski, Assistant Junior High Volleyball Coach, at a stipend of \$2,158, retroactive to March 4, 2019

Mr. Nicholas Felus, Head Varsity Football Coach, at a stipend of \$6,498, effective pending clearances

Mr. Pat McKinney, Assistant Varsity Football Coach, at a stipend of \$3,958, effective pending clearances

Mr. Brandon Nicodemus, Assistant Varsity Football Coach, at a stipend of \$3,958, effective pending clearances

Mr. William Zamboni, Assistant Varsity Football Coach, at a stipend of \$3,958, effective pending clearances

Approve Appointment per the Act 93 Agreement

Ms. Courtney Kuncelman, Ebensburg, School Psychologist, at a beginning annual salary of \$62,000, effective July 1, 2019

Approve Appointment per the PCESPA Contract

Mr. Joseph Kruczewski, Gallitzin, Pre-Primary/High School, 2nd Shift Custodian, retroactive to March 8, 2019

Approve Volunteer Coaches, effective immediately

Ms. Lauren Michina, Cresson, Track and Field

Mr. Gerald Piddington, Lilly, Track and Field

Approve Substitute

Ms. Sarah Stanley, Cresson, IU08 Substitute, effective immediately

Remove Substitute

Mr. John Franco, effective March 8, 2019

Remove Wilkinson Bus Lines, Inc. Driver

Ms. Sharon Pugh, effective March 5, 2019

B. APPROVE CURRICULUM MAP

PA History

C. APPROVE 2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR REVISION (*See Addendum "D"*)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. First Reading of 2019-2020 School Calendar (proposed) (*See Addendum "E"*)

B. First Reading of the following revised board policies:

Policy 103 - Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices

Policy 104 - Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices

Policy 247 - Hazing

Policy 249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying

(*See Addendum "F"*)

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Paul Haber, School Psychologist, informed the Board of Directors on Mental Health in the context of School Safety.

"School safety is a hot issue in this country these days. Last year in our state, the Pennsylvania School Safety Task Force was formed. In their report that was issued this past August, they had thirty-one recommendations with an emphasis for the need of more mental health resources in the schools. This past Fall the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) awarded grant monies to schools to address school safety. Penn Cambria applied for and received a grant of \$25,000. Funds could be used for specified purposes, including security technology, staff training, or student services. I am very pleased that our administrative team made a decision to use the funds increase school-based mental health services to our students.

We recently contracted with a local agency to provide mental health counseling. Counseling has been available since January and with parental consent, students can receive counseling during the school day. Students can be referred for counseling by school support teams, parents, teachers, and even students themselves. Our goal is to address mental health problems before they can develop into a threat or even dangerous behaviors. In addition to that, we also want to provide counseling to students that are experiencing emotional difficulties. A student can be physically present in school, but if they are not emotionally present, they will not learn effectively. During the school age years, one out of five students will experience a mental health disorder. Since services became available in January, more than thirty students have been referred for mental health counseling and the numbers are evenly distributed through our elementary, middle and high schools.

A few additional points that I would like to make are particularly about school safety and school violence. Everybody needs to keep in mind that one thing about school violence, that we should never lose sight of, is that while it is certainly possible for an act of violence to happen in any school anywhere, the probability of that occurring is very minimal. Statistically, schools remain among the safest places for children in our country, even more so than their home. Believe or not, students are actually two hundred times safer in a school building than their own home.

As for school security, I think that schools need to do more than just build barriers and surveillance, schools should take steps to prevent, not just prepare. Unfortunately, there is really no evidence in this country that security upgrades alone actually prevent school violence, but they do make us feel safe.

Psychological safety is important for teaching and learning to occur. Here at Penn Cambria, based on the results of a recent school climate survey, 92% of parents responding to the survey felt that their children are safe in our schools. About 95% of our middle and high students feel safe as well. Those numbers to me suggest that there is a pretty high level of psychological safety here.

With the many initiatives that we have implemented in recent years, I think that we have found much to make our school safer and I also feel that, especially over the last few years, we have done a good job at balancing physical and psychological safety. Not only by making our buildings more secure, but also by taking preventative steps like

increasing efforts to improve school climate, taking a strong stance against bullying, implementing an anonymous tip line to report concerns and increasing the availability of mental health counseling in our schools.”

Mr. Haber graciously reflected on his time at Penn Cambria, stating: “After thirty-five years of working as a school psychologist, as you know I made a decision to retire in June. I spent the past twenty-eight of those years serving the students here at Penn Cambria, initially through IU08, then the last eleven years as a member of the Penn Cambria family. My time here has span through four superintendents and many administrators. I have come to know countless teachers, counselors, and support staff, many who are like family to me and all I consider friends. Honestly, it is the interaction with the children of this community that I will cherish most. It has been a privilege to work with so many of them and their families. They have taught me quite a bit and they often brought a lot of joy in my life. I have been around long enough to see a lot of changes in the schools, families, and children. I know that there has never been a tougher time to teach and, in many ways, a tougher time for our kids to grow up. As I step aside in a few months, I want to thank you for your ongoing support for our students. I am also very appreciative for your support of our staff and teachers who work on the frontline of education. I particularly want to recognize and thank the many special education teachers that I have had the privilege of working with over the years. Special Education teachers are truly special people. So, it has been an honor, a privilege, in my career to work alongside of all of these dedicated people. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to you, the school board, for your support over the years, as well as for your trust and confidence in me. I have really been humbled by the opportunity to serve the many students, whose lives have been touched in some ways over the years. I sincerely hope that my work has been beneficial and meaningful. I wish nothing but the best for this school district.”

Mr. Pyo took the opportunity to thank Mr. Haber for his expertise and service, appreciating his efforts and what he has done for our community.

HEARING OF VISITORS – There were no questions, concerns, comments, on any topic related to school business.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Miss Pyo, seconded by Mr. Krug, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That there being no further business, this meeting is adjourned at 7:22 P.M.