

PENN

# BOARD REPORT

Volume 43 No. 3

CAMBRIA

September 2021

This report summarizes the actions taken by the Penn Cambria Board of Education at its regular meeting, September 21, 2021. Routine business, such as approval of minutes, treasurer's report, payment of bills, and financial reports was accomplished. The Board also took the following actions:

**I. HEARING OF VISITORS** - There were no questions, concerns, comments, related to school business.

**II. STUDENT REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

Mrs. Kaitlyn Kalwanaski, High School Principal, introduced Elias Ball and Aaron Duke as the two student representatives reporting to the Board of Directors.

Elias Ball informed the Board of Directors that after talking with other students over the past four weeks on their likes and requested changes, he has concluded that most students enjoy supporting school sports. Students are excited to have pep rallies back; support stopping the spread of Covid-19; express concern regarding bathroom vandalisms; request more pep rallies and theme days; and recommend changing the portion size of school lunches or, if not possible, to have a lunch combo such as salad and sandwich option. In general, the students want the year to be as enjoyable as possible.

Aaron Duke reported to the Board of Directors that students enjoy school spirit activities such as tailgates, noting that the students want normalcy and to make this a memorable year. School breakfasts that have been integrated into first period have been very beneficial for all students and the use of cell phones during lunch periods gives students the ability to help each other and keeps them more connected. There have been requests for Trivia Fridays to return during lunch periods. Aaron also stated that there has been a positive response to pep rallies and that students have good school spirit; regardless of the pandemic, they want to come together and support school sports. Mask wearing in the school is going well. Overall, the atmosphere is friendly at the Penn Cambria High School.

Mr. William Marshall thanked the students for reporting school climate and added the following: the district will be having two theme days per month, mid-month theme will be individual building and the other will be districtwide; all school districts are currently battling food shortages, making the options for school meals limited; and mentioned the upcoming homecoming parade. Mr. Marshall also commended Mrs. Kalwanaski, Mr. Shingle, and Mr. Harrold for their hard work regarding the revision to cell phone usage during school hours.

**III.** Approved budget transfers under the 2020-2021 general fund budget and that a copy be filed with the official records of the school district.

**IV.** Approved the Superintendent's recommendations as follows:

**A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

**Approve Appointments**

Kimberly Thomas, Nanty Glo, Primary School Aide, retroactive to September 7, 2021

Katelyn Vinglish, Daily Substitute Teacher, effective August 26, 2021 through the close of the 2021-2022 school year

Patricia Tarwater, Special Education Substitute Teacher, effective on or about September 15, 2021 through January 3, 2022, pending PSERS approval

Brittany Barnes, Gallitzin, 4 hour per day, Middle School Food Service Worker, effective pending documentation

Ryan Niklaus, Gallitzin, Majorette/Color Guard Advisor, retroactive to September 4, 2021 through on or about October 14, 2021, stipend to be determined (dependent on length of time in position)

**Approve Athletic Appointments, retroactive to August 25, 2021**

Benjamin Pratt, Cresson, Assistant Golf Coach, at a stipend of \$1,689.80 (70% of stipend)

Michael Simone, Indiana, Volunteer Cross Country Coach

**Accept Resignations**

Dana Cooper, Ebensburg, Substitute Teacher, effective immediately

Melanie O'Farrell, Ebensburg, Substitute Teacher, effective immediately

Stephanie Broad, Cresson, High School Food Service Worker, effective August 17, 2021

**Award Tenure**

Amy Walters

**Approve Substitute Teachers, pending documentation**

Apryle Ernest, Portage

Kara Miller, Hastings

Sarah Moyer, Duncansville

**Approve IU08 Substitute Teachers, pending documentation**

Joyce Bailey, Mineral Point

Gloria Baker, Loretto

Leigh Casher, Cresson

Tyler Smith, Summerhill

Gregory Wirfel, Summerhill

**Approve McIlwain School Bus Lines, Inc. Drivers**

Shannon Lee, Gallitzin, pending documentation

Geane McDaniels, Ashville, retroactive to August 30, 2021

Richard Patterson, Gallitzin, retroactive to August 31, 2021

Jeremy Rouser, Ebensburg, pending documentation

- V. Approved the revised Penn Cambria School District Health and Safety Plan to include the acceptance of parental attestation/written notification forms as described therein.
- VI. Approved the Penn Cambria School District to offer the PA Department of Health's voluntary K-12 school COVID-19 testing program at no cost to families.
- VII. Approved the District and its Administration to allow members on unpaid leave during times of quarantine, isolation, or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to be covered under the District's medical insurance coverage without reimbursement of costs as required under District policy and respective of Collective Bargaining Agreements for the 21-22 school term ONLY. This shall be a non-precedent setting action taken by the board for the 21-22 school term ONLY.
- VIII. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**  
Lewis Hale, Director of Technology, provided updates to the Board of Directors regarding the technology department that occurred over the past year, such as: additional conference lines provided through the Conference Bridge for meetings; availability of T-Mobile's free mobile hotspots for students that meet the free/reduced lunch requirements; sixty-five of the six hundred seventy-two laptops loaned out to families in need of devices last year have not yet been returned; laptops returned have been moved back into the classrooms; Help Desk upgraded to include the Maintenance Department to improve tracking maintenance

issues as well as give a knowledgebase going forward; Transfinder selected as the new transportation software vendor; pending approval of the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program that will provide funding for the district to purchase laptops for families; current laptop loans for students enrolled in Penn Cambria Cyber or students on quarantine; and changes necessary to qualify for the eRate funding, including CIPA Filtering that will require two factors when faculty and staff log on to district owned devices.