

PENN

BOARD REPORT

CAMBRIA

Volume 43 No. 7

January 2022

This report summarizes the actions taken by the Penn Cambria Board of Education at its regular meeting, January 18, 2022. Routine business, such as approval of minutes, treasurer's reports, 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. ANNOUNCEMENT

Please join us in thanking our Penn Cambria school directors for their hard work and dedication during January which is School Director Recognition Month. They make our students' success their priority.

PA school directors are locally elected officials who voluntarily devote an average of 20 hours per month to school board business.

The Penn Cambria School Board advocates on behalf of our school, students, and community. We salute them for their volunteer investment of time and effort for the good of our children.

III. SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following Laurel Highlands All Conference selections: Volleyball - Marissa Conley; Golf - Kyle Reese and Isabella Spahr; Cross Country - Tara Crynock and Trey Talko; Football - Garrett Harrold, Zachary Grove, Zachary Eckenrode, and Nathan Little; and Soccer - Chase Sorichetti, Brandt Patterson, Devon Cornell, and Madison Farabaugh.

IV. Authorized the payment to local tax collectors of \$1.00 (one dollar) for each addition, deletion, or address change to the tax workbooks. The district will provide guidelines for this compensation to the local tax collectors at the time new tax workbooks are distributed. The district's Business Office will validate all changes prior to payment.

V. Authorized the Business Administrator to continue past practice of making donations to local fire companies and libraries.

VI. **APPROVED** the Superintendent's recommendations as follows:

A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Accept Retirements

James Smilnak, Hollidaysburg, High School Math Teacher, effective at the close of the 2021-2022 school year, after 33 years of service

Lisa Dillon, Carrolltown, Middle School Language Arts Teacher, effective at the close of the 2021-2022 school year, after 22 years of service

Approve Termination

Melisa Bradley, Patton, Temporary ESSER Funded Part-Time Health Room Support, effective December 22, 2021

Approve Appointments

Tonya Niebauer, Cresson, School Nurse under Emergency Permit Type 01 with an educational obligation to pursue certification as per CSPG #13, effective February 14, 2022, with a starting Step 1 salary of \$38,301, pro-rated from effective date

Michele Taddei, Gallitzin, High School and Middle School Health Room Assistant, retroactive to January 3, 2022

Lindsay Beyer, Cresson, Head Junior High Softball Coach, at a stipend of \$2,359.00, effective immediately

Mark Mardula, Lilly, Head Junior High Baseball Coach, at a stipend of \$2,359.00, effective immediately

Justin Magnotti, Cresson, Assistant Varsity Boys Soccer Coach, at a stipend of \$1,689.80, effective pending documentation

Dominic Ricupero, Cresson, from Assistant Varsity Football Coach to Volunteer Coach, effective immediately

Kaeli Smith, Cresson, Assistant Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, at a stipend of \$1,689.80, effective pending documentation

Andrew Tomaselli, Loretto, Assistant Varsity Football Coach, at a stipend of \$3,958.00, effective immediately

Award Tenure

Suzan McMullen

Approve Mentors, stipends per the PCEA contract, prorated from employee start date

Renee Myers as Mentor for Kayla Galebach

Jenny Damin as Mentor for Leah Montgomery

Approve McIlwain School Bus Lines, Inc. Driver

George Nesbella, Lilly, retroactive to January 10, 2022

Approve Substitute Teacher

Madison Smith, Patton, effective pending documentation

Approve Driver

Patricia Derosa, daily transportation for student #260015, retroactive to November 9, 2021

- VII. Approved the officials' stipends and athletic ticket price increase for the 2022-2023 school year.
- VIII. Approved a resolution in lieu of adopting a preliminary budget, to not raise the rate of any tax for the support of public schools for the 2022-2023 fiscal year by more than its index (4.8%).
- IX. Approved the letter of commitment for continued participation in the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference for the 2023-2024 through 2026-2027 school years.
- X. Approved the revised Penn Cambria School District Health and Safety Plan to allow Test to Stay, pending acceptance into the program.
- XI. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
First Reading of the following revised board policies:
 - 006.1: Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications
 - 246: Student Wellness
 - 247: Hazing
 - 249: Bullying/Cyber Bullying
 - 610: Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
 - 611: Purchases Budgeted
 - 626 Attachment: Procurement – Federal Programs

XII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Kaitlyn Kalwanaski, High School Principal, shared the activities and events organized by student groups at the high school to increase building morale.

The student council planned many events, such as: hallway decorating contests; an outdoor pep rally that included kindergarten students; tailgates at every home football game; winter challenge activity the day before Christmas break; and the Fall Flake dance in November. Upcoming events such as collections for Mending Hearts and the Cambria County Humane Society and the Sadie Hawkins dance are also being organized.

This is the third year for the Penn Cambria Bocce Ball team, which is coordinated with the Special Olympics. For the first time ever, Penn Cambria was able to host Youth Summit at the high school. The school day event saw six school districts bring members of their Bocce Ball teams, as well as their coaches. The students worked on team building activities with instructions from the Special Olympics, while coaches were able to meet and discuss the upcoming season with the area Bocce Ball coordinator. The first home match is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26th. This year, Penn Cambria will also be hosting the Bocce Ball Regional Championship on Thursday, February 24th.

The National Honor Society hosted a teacher breakfast and organized themed days leading up to Christmas break. In addition, they organized and promoted "Penny Wars" that supported the Angel Tree fundraiser. This fundraiser, coupled with "Dress Down Day", raised over \$3,000 to assist twelve Penn Cambria families for Christmas.

Unfortunately, there were a number of homecoming court members that were unable to attend due to quarantine. Since it is an honor being elected to homecoming court, and part of the high school experience, a second crowning ceremony was held at the school, in front of the student body and the kindergarten students.

The new Creative and Community Arts class allows students the opportunity to participate in art projects in the building, and in the community. At Penn Cambria, students painted a sign in the concession stand at the stadium, lockers outside the library, and created murals for various classrooms. In the community, the class coordinated projects with a local VFW and the Cresson Lions Pool.

The Spanish Club promoted holiday spirit by caroling outside the high school, as well as at the Pre-Primary building when students got off the bus in the morning.

The Pink Panthers organization has been actively working to support local breast cancer survivors and coordinating pink out days with Penn Cambria sport teams.

Yearbook class added support by decorating bulletin boards throughout the building to highlight this year's theme, "Behind the Theme".

Mrs. Kalwanaski expressed her pride for all the organizations, students, and advisors behind these groups. These organizations have all been challenged with the pandemic and still exceeded everyone's expectations with their creativity and dedication.