

PENN  
**BOARD REPORT**  
CAMBRIA

Volume 45 No. 1 August 2023

This report summarizes the actions taken by the Penn Cambria Board of Education at its regular meeting, August 15, 2023. Routine business, such as approval of minutes, treasurer’s reports, and payment of bills 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 - Mr. George Pyo, Board President, on behalf of the Pennsylvania School Board Association, recognized two School Board members for years of service and Pennsylvania School Board Service Honor Roll. “The number of years that you have spent on the School Board and knowing that you do well for your students, faculty, district, and the taxpayers is an honor. The first certificate of appreciation goes to Mr. Justin Roberts in recognition of his ongoing service and long-term contribution to bring energy, values, and guidance to the Penn Cambria School District. The other certificate of appreciation goes to Mr. Michael Sheehan in recognition of his ongoing service and long-term contribution to bring energy, values, and guidance to the Penn Cambria School District. Mr. Sheehan has eight years of service and Mr. Roberts has twenty years of service.”
- III. Set the A la Carte Price List for the 2023-2024 school term.
- IV. Concurred in the settlement with tax collectors for the 2022 school duplicate in accordance with the TAX COLLECTION SETTLEMENT FOR 2022-2023 DUPLICATE REPORTS.
- V. Accepted the annual exoneration reports of the tax collectors, submitted for the 2022-2023 school year; settlement with the collectors pending review of records by the Business Office and school district auditor.
- VI. Approved the Superintendent’s recommendations as follows:
  - A. **PERSONNEL ACTIONS**
    - Accept Retirement**  
Mary Lou Arford, Portage, Pre-Primary School Aide, effective August 18, 2023, after 24+ years of service
  
    - Accept Resignations, effective immediately**  
Allen Coble, Altoona, Volunteer Varsity Girls’ Basketball Coach  
John Jasper, Cresson, Volunteer Junior High Softball Coach  
Michele Jones, Gallitzin, Volunteer Volleyball Coach  
Paul David Myers, Cresson, Volunteer Wrestling Coach  
Andrew Stopko, Johnstown, Volunteer Junior High Softball Coach  
Lauren Woomer, Altoona, Health/PE Teacher
  
    - Accept Resignations**  
Jenna Miller, Altoona, High School Special Education Teacher, effective June 28, 2023  
Benjamin Pratt, Cresson, Assistant Golf Coach, effective July 20, 2023  
Gregg Talko, Lilly, 9th Grade Assistant Football Coach, effective June 13, 2023
  
    - Approve Leave**  
Employee #017353, Primary School Aide, effective on or about September 27, 2023 through on or about November 8, 2023

**Approve Appointments**

Charles Colbert, Cresson, High School Custodian, retroactive to July 17, 2023

Hannah Ernest, Portage, Primary School Substitute Teacher, effective on August 22, 2023 through on or about November 10, 2023

**Approve Appointments, effective immediately**

Katlin Little, Gallitzin, Volunteer Golf Coach

Derek Mardula, Chardon, OH, Volunteer Junior High Baseball Coach

Dominic Ricupero, Cresson, 9th Grade Assistant Football Coach, at a stipend of \$2,700

**Approve Appointments, effective at the start of the 2023-2024 school year**

Kenise Buck, Smithmill, Middle School Health and Physical Education teacher, Bachelors Step 16, \$65,499

Lauren Madonna, Cresson, Primary School Special Education Teacher, Masters Step 8, \$52,899

Zachary McCracken, Altoona, High School Science Teacher, Bachelors Step 1, \$39,299

Tara Van Caster, Cresson, High School Student Council Co-Advisor, at a stipend of \$1,042

**Approve Appointments, effective pending documentation**

Maddi Laret, Lilly, Volunteer Varsity Volleyball Coach

Rebecca Martini, Gallitzin, Aide, location to be determined

Keith Saleme, Cresson, Assistant Golf Coach, at a stipend of \$2,414

**Approve Substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year**

Substitute Teachers

Deletions made to the attached list are as follows:

Alexis Eckenrode, Lilly

Patricia Tarwater, Ebensburg

Marissa Vinglish, Dysart

IU08 Substitute Teachers

Deletions made to the attached list are as follows:

Dustin Hartline, Lilly

Alyssa Martinazzi, Cresson

Ryan Niklaus, Gallitzin

Alexandra Williams, Lilly

Nurses

Additions made to the attached list are as follows:

Joseph Zeak, Hollidaysburg

**Approve School Bus Drivers for the 2023-2024 school year**

Additions made to the attached list are the following:

Joseph Benzie, Gallitzin

Merle Conley, Lilly

Joseph Gallagher, Loretto

Wesley Miller, Portage

Deletions made to the attached list are the following:

Bryanna Alexander

Jacqueline Artko

David Belles

Kathy Brown

Brian Dares

Ron Farabaugh

Samantha Ickes

Regis Kinback

Heidi Macdonald

Cindy Miller  
Lynn Miller  
Leah Montgomery  
David Moses  
Dan Mullen  
Lynn Racz  
Kathleen Rhodes  
Alyssa Rickens  
Kathleen Riden-Hammond  
Joseph Storm  
Pamela Vinglas

**Approve Mentors for the 2023-2024 school year**, stipend \$1,000 per PCEA contract pro-rated based on start dates.

Professional Staff

Kenise Buck  
Zachary McCracken  
Lauren Madonna

Mentor

Michael Simone  
Melissa Kane  
Chelsey McMahan

- B. **APPROVE INCENTIVE BONUS** for Charles Terek, Athletic Director, based on additional revenue generated per the compensation plan clause of the Athletic Director agreement.
- C. **APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION** - Computer/Network Technician
- D. **APPROVE STUDENT HANDBOOKS**
- E. **RETAIN** Dr. Brett Scharf, DO, as school physician at \$8.00 per student physical exam to provide services as requested by the district in accordance with the School Code.
- VII. Appointed P. Emery D’Arcangelo, Ed.D. of Boswell PA, to conduct a Superintendent search on behalf of the district in accordance with the provision of Public School Code of 1949.
- VIII. Approved a resolution to appoint the firm of PFM Financial Advisors LLC (the "Financial Advisor") as Financial Advisor and the firm of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP (the "Bond Counsel") as Bond Counsel to advise and assist the School District regarding the authorization, structuring, issuance, and sale of the Project Bonds, in one or more series in one or more calendar years, to finance the Project.
- IX. Approved the Penn Cambria Band students to attend Broadway Workshop and Performance in New York City, NY in Spring of 2024.
- X. Approved entering into an agreement with Community Guidance Center to provide school-based student mental health counseling services for the 2023-2024 school year with funding provided by ARP-ESSER and PCCD School Mental Health and Safety and Security grants.
- XI. Approved the second reading and adoption of the following policies:  
137 - Home Education Programs  
137.1 - Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students  
137.2 - Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students  
137.3 - Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students  
251 - Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care, and Other Educational Instability
- XII. Approved the updated Penn Cambria School District Future Ready Comprehensive Plan which will be posted on August 16, 2023 for a twenty-eight-day public review.
- XIII. Approved the purchase of security cameras and related licenses from Link Computer Corp at a cost of approximately \$38,670.00 based on successful bid.

XIV. Approved the participation in the following surveys in various grade levels/classrooms:

Safe Touches (if applicable)  
Botvin Lifeskills Grades 6-8 for United Way  
2023 PA Youth Survey

XV. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

First reading of new, revised, or Board Policies for review:  
305-AR Compensation of Substitute Teachers

XVI. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Lewis Hale, Director of Technology, informed the Board of Directors on the past, present, and future in technology for Penn Cambria School District:

- Stopfinder mobile app was introduced to parents to track school buses with GPS trackers for student pickup and drop-off.
- Leveraged Clever as an Online Datawarehouse to integrate Rostering and Single-Sign-On (SSO) to multiple vendors. When a student enters or leaves the district, the vendor database is updated nightly. Vendors included: Go Math, AR, Clever, Nav360, etc.
- A Digital Hall pass system was started at the Middle School. We made use of the outdated Stream 11 Laptops and created a Microsoft form to allow students to sign out of the classroom. If the student selected a visit to the nurse, the nurse would get an email that the student was in route. This system allows the teachers and administrators to see real-time and historical data for students in the hallways. This same system has been reproduced for the High School this year.
- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and forced password changes have been pushed out to all non-student users on the Penn Cambria network. While on the Penn Cambria network (wired or wireless), MFA is not forced.
- eRate Category 2 funds (we normally do not qualify for Category 2, however, this was the second round of funding that we were able to receive) were applied for and granted for the renewal subscription for our Network Firewall and for our Wireless Upgrade.
- A bid has just been completed for Axis Cameras and License for each building. The bid sheet had various camera options to allow for a la carte options to get the best camera for each camera location. The cameras and license will be purchased through the Act 55 Physical Safety – PCCD Grant budget.
- FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS ... This is our new Student Information System (SIS). We all knew it was going to be a tough transition from MMS/Visions. We operated with MMS for as long as we could, but it was time to upgrade. Other than some integration issues with outside vendors and some minor details about the setup, FOCUS is an improvement over MMS. As with anything new, there is a learning curve. All SIS vendors have the same product, just different ways to navigate.