

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
November 21, 2023

MEMBERS: Caleb Drenning, Matthew Kearney, Terry Krug, Rudy McCarthy, Guy Monica, George Pyo,
Justin Roberts, Michael Sheehan, Jeffrey Stohon

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, November 21, 2023, in the Library of the Penn Cambria High School.

ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Caleb Drenning
Mr. Matthew Kearney
Mr. Terry Krug
Mr. Guy Monica
Mr. George Pyo
Mr. Justin Roberts
Mr. Michael Sheehan
Mr. Jeffrey Stohon
TOTAL. 8

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Rudy McCarthy
TOTAL. 1
QUORUM PRESENT.

AMONG OTHERS PRESENT:

William Marshall, Superintendent
Jill Francisco, Business Administrator
Jeanette Black, Assistant to the Superintendent
Ronald Repak, School Solicitor
Kaitlyn Kalwanaski, High School Principal
Kristen Blackburn, Assistant High School Principal
Dane Harrold, Middle School Principal
Benjamin Watt, Assistant Middle School Principal
Joseph Smorto, Elementary Principal
Scott Sherry, Director of Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance
Lewis Hale, Director of Technology
Carrie Conrad, Special Education Director
Jacquelyn Mento, Recording Secretary
Justine Hrzic-Smith, Food Service Director

Charles Terek, Athletic Director
Adam Clevenger, PCEA President
Robin Lappi, PCESPA President
Veronica Noll, PCESPA Secretary
Kerry Nileski, Teacher
Kayla Galebach, Social Worker
Jessica Cherico, Teacher
Deb Baker, Teacher
Stephanie Rossman, Teacher
Amanda Smorto, Teacher
James Ronan, Teacher
Kristin Baudoux, Mainliner Reporter
Matt Churella, Altoona Mirror Reporter
Katie Smolen, Tribune Democrat Reporter

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Mr. George Pyo presented James Ronan, Head Varsity Basketball Coach, with a 2022-2023 P.I.A.A. District VI Boys Basketball Coach of the year plaque. Mr. William Marshall praised Mr. Ronan for his achievements and tremendous dedication to student athletes. James Ronan expressed that it is an honor to receive this award after a great year and thanked the parents and community members that have supported the team since day one with so much love and energy. This unbelievable honor is not a reflection of the coach, but reflects the players, parents, and community.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully auditioned into the group and will be representing Penn Cambria at the Cambria County Honor Band Festival:

Junior High: Alto Saxophone - Leah Conway and Madelyn Kittell
Clarinet - Kaylee Biel, Jaeda Hurst, and Adyson Lloyd
Euphonium - Vincenzo Ricupero
Flute - Elizabeth Zumstein
French Horn - Sophia Miller
Percussion - Dominic Weisinger
Trombone - Grace Gregg
Trumpet - Isabella Askins, Kendyl Lawrence, and Kendal Wessel

Senior High: Alto Saxophone - Cassidy Adams and Jacob Bossler
Tenor Saxophone - Destiny Gray
Baritone Saxophone - Colin Berkheimer
Clarinet - Avah Harber and Peyton Farabaugh
Euphonium - Camryn Ashworth and Avree Majors
Trombone - Charles Golden
Flute - Hailey Farabaugh and Allison New
Piccolo - Ariane Eckenrode
French Horn - Emma Hazlett

Congratulations to the following Varsity Boys Soccer Team who placed 1st at District VI Championships: Levi Baker, Elijah Chyr, Evan Connacher, Kyle Conrad, Seth Conrad, Andrew Dillon, Kurtis Eger, Cody Farabaugh, Zachary Farabaugh, Ryan Giraud, Charles Golden, Duncan Gongloff, Cayden Helsel, Joseph Hite, Gabriel Irving, Preston Kilcoyne, Nicholas Marshall, Carter Panick, Jackson Rice, Giovanni Tiracave, Sean Tomlinson, and Frank Wallis.

Congratulations to the following Varsity Football players who placed 2nd at District VI Championships: Ethan Amsdell, Asher Ball, Isaac Britton, Malakai Brown, Aaron Brumbaugh, Cameron Coudriet, Jeremiah Delacruz, James Delgrande, Andrew Dillon, Isaac Dreese, Jack Eckenrode, Marcus Eckenrode, Matthew Eckenrode, Landon Ehrenfeld, Preston Farabaugh, Brayden Foreman, Brock Fredack, Mason Geist, Grant Gides, Benjamin Gorba, Ryan Hanlon, Gavin Harrold, Nikolajis Heil, Ayden Himmer, Derek Hite, Jarett Holmes, Jesse Horning, Gabriel Irving, Brady Jones, Anthony Keith, Evan Latterner, Marcus Lilly, Johnathan McAndrew, Carter McDermott, Mason Mento, Blake Nadolsky, Chase Plazek, Thomas Plunkett, Cameron Price, Logan Price, Hunter Pyo, Anthony Rossman, Benjamin Shoemaker, Isaac Strittmatter, Dayne Summerville, Eli Summerville, Braydon Tickerhoof, Ian Urish, Corbin Vinglish, and Keegan Waddell.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the regular meeting held October 17, 2023, 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. Stohon, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the invoices as mailed to the 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 Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Kearney, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Treasurer's Report for October 2023 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. Krug, seconded by Mr. Monica, 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”*)

DENTAL INSURANCE PROGRAM

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors hereby approve a one-year renewal agreement effective January 1, 2024, with *MetLife* to provide dental insurance coverage for all eligible employees. This benefit plan will continue to be administered in compliance with all employment agreements.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Ronald Repak thanked the two departing Board members for giving him the opportunity to work with them over the past ten years. He also recognized their years of service, and the experiences and values that the two have shared and have now passed onto sitting Board members.

Mr. Repak then informed the Board of Directors on a newly signed bill that repeals a section of the Public School Code of 1949, which prohibits a teacher from wearing any garb, mark, emblem or insignia that would indicate their religion while teaching. Educators who break the rule can be disciplined and even removed. The bill will go into effect in early January.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A motion was offered by Mr. Monica, seconded by Mr. Kearney, 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, effective at the close of the 2023-2024 school year

Deborah Roberts, Cresson, Elementary Teacher, after 26 years of service

Darlene Podrasky, Lilly, Middle School Teacher, after 32 years of service

Accept Resignations

Kimberly Gobert, Gallitzin, High School Cafeteria Worker, retroactive to October 16, 2023

Angela Gibbons, Cresson, Elementary Dean of Students/Gifted Education Teacher, retroactive to November 14, 2023

Jessica Secriskey, Cresson, Aide, retroactive to September 20, 2023

Coreen Zaffuto, Altoona, Majorette/Color Guard Advisor, effective at the close of the fall sport season

Approve Appointments

Paulina Miller, Ashville, Middle School Special Education Teacher, Masters Step 9, \$54,799, effective date to be determined

Adam Smearman, Altoona, from High School Special Education Teacher to Elementary Dean of Students/Gifted Education Teacher, retroactive to November 13, 2023

Crystal Thomas, Cresson, from 185-day Middle School Secretary to the Principal to Central Office Administrative Assistant, effective date to be determined

Wendi Rardin, Cresson, 4.75 hours per day High School Cafeteria Worker, retroactive to October 23, 2023

Dawn Houser, Lilly, from 4.75 hours to 6.5 hours per day High School Cafeteria Worker, retroactive to October 25, 2023

Katelyn Seese, Ashville, Volunteer Varsity Cheer Coach, effective immediately

Richard Brooks, Ebensburg, Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach, at a stipend of \$3,958, effective pending documentation

Approve McIlwain School Bus Lines, Inc. Drivers, effective pending documentation

Cheyenne Sands, Gallitzin

Daniel Ehrenfeld, Lilly

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION IN LIEU OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors, in lieu of adopting a preliminary budget, to not raise the rate of any tax for the support of public schools for the 2024-2025 fiscal year by more than its index (7.5%).(See Addendum “D”)

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YES: Mr. Kearney, Mr. Krug, Mr. Monica, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Stohon, Mr. Drenning, Mr. Pyo
NO: 0

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

RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT WITH PENN CAMBRIA EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors hereby ratify the successor agreement with PCEA, which covers the period from August 21, 2024 through August 20, 2029.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YES: Mr. Krug, Mr. Monica, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Stohon, Mr. Drenning, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Pyo
NO: 0

Mr. Pyo thanked the Board, Mr. Marshall, administrators, PCEA team, and entire PCEA staff for their hard work and efforts in completing the agreement.

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

APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE TO APAVTS

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors appoint Matthew Kearney as representative to the Admiral Peary Area Vocational Technical School Joint Operating Committee, for a three-year term expiring December 1, 2026.

WRESTLING BOOSTERS’ TOURNAMENT SPONSOR

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors hereby approve Pursuit Sports Apparel as the official sponsor of the Penn Cambria Wrestling Boosters’ Tournament to be held December 15 and 16 at Mount Aloysius College, per Policy #915. The official name of the tournament will be known as the Panther Holiday Classic Tournament, presented by Pursuit Sports Apparel.

VOLUNTEER CHAPERONES

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors hereby approve Stefanie Adams, Charlie Golden, Tina Golden, Amy Hazlett, Lacey Kittell, Katie Lloyd, Rebecca Strunk, and Meghan Weisinger as volunteer chaperones to accompany Penn Cambria band students to a Broadway Workshop and Performance in New York City, NY in Spring of 2024.

ADOPTION OF NEW, REVISED, OR BOARD POLICIES FOR REVIEW

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors approve the second reading and adoption of the following policies:

- 251 - Students Experiencing Homeless, Foster Care, and Other Educational Instability
- 810 - Transportation (See Addendum “E”)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

REORGANIZATION MEETING of the Board of School Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Library of the Penn Cambria High School for the following purposes:

- Elect a President
- Elect a Vice-President
- Select a Solicitor
- Designate time and place for committee and regular monthly meetings for 2024
- Conduct any business to come before the Board as this is the only meeting in December

FIRST READING OF THE FOLLOWING NEW, REVISED, OR BOARD POLICIES FOR REVIEW:

- 006 - Meetings
- 216.1 - Supplemental Discipline Records
- 217 - Graduation Requirements
- 236.1 - Threat Assessment (*See Addendum "F"*)

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Jeanette Black, Assistant to the Superintendent, provided an update to the Board of Directors on recent academic data and test scores.

"We are working to prepare productive citizens in a safe and positive environment that promotes excellence in academics, the arts, and athletics.

We've been concentrating on continuing to improve that safe and positive environment over the last three years as a result of COVID and the challenges in society. Tonight, however, I wanted to take an opportunity to talk a bit about our focus on striving for excellence in academics as well.

Please know that academics can be a broad area, especially if we're talking about preparing productive citizens. However, how do we know how prepared our students are? Grades are subjective, an "A" is not equal everywhere. Standardized assessments can tell us this. Our students are going to be measured against others when competing for college and career opportunities, and it is our job to be sure they are as well prepared as others. We must look at lots of different data, not just one snapshot, one grade, or one test. However, if a student can score proficient or advanced on a state assessment, that tells us they have a solid foundational knowledge in that subject area and sometimes much more than foundational knowledge. It also tells us they can think, and problem solve to some extent, since questions are often difficult and complex.

Penn Cambria Reading and Math PSSA scores in grades 3-8 are inconsistent. In some grade levels we are exceeding state averages, but in others we are below state averages. We have areas where we can see room for improvement such as fractions in grade 4 or geometry concepts in grade 5, but we also see areas of strength.

For example, our 8th grade averages in every reporting category in every subject (ranging from physical science to functions in math, to conventions in English) exceed the state averages.

At the high school, our percentage of first time Keystone testers in 22-23 scoring proficient or advanced was significantly higher than the state average for first-time testers in 22-23.

Achievement data is important, but to me as a public educator, growth data is even more important. Are students learning and growing at an appropriate rate, whether they are a high achiever or a low achiever? PVAAS growth data helps answer that question.

At PC Intermediate, we exceeded growth standards in both Language Arts and Science, met the growth standard in Math, and met or exceeded the growth standard for Students with IEPs and students who are economically disadvantaged in all three subject areas as well.

At PC Middle School, we exceeded the growth standard in Language Arts, Math, and Science and exceeded the growth standard for students with IEPs and students who are economically disadvantaged in both Language Arts and Math.

At PC High School, we exceeded the growth standard in English, Algebra, and Biology and exceeded the growth standard for students with IEPs and students who are economically disadvantaged in all three subject areas as well.

While we always have room to improve, this growth data shows that students are learning important foundational skills to help them be productive citizens, no matter what their future might hold."

Mr. Monica inquired about state rankings.

Mrs. Black responded that the Future Ready Index shows how each school is doing in multiple categories, and not overall.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Marshall stated that he has worked with Mr. Roberts and Mr. Pyo for the past seventeen years and that it has truly been an honor. Both have allowed the administrators to take lead and have impacted thousands of students and community members over the years. Their service to Penn Cambria School District is greatly appreciated!

Mr. Sheehan mirrored Mr. Marshall's statement and thanked Mr. Pyo and Mr. Roberts for always supporting him.

Mr. Pyo concluded that it has been an honor to serve Penn Cambria School District.

ADJOURNMENT

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

RESOLVED: That there being no further business, this meeting is adjourned at 7:29 P.M.