

PENN CAMBRIA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
201 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
CRESSON, PENNSYLVANIA 16630

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting  
January 16, 2024

MEMBERS: Caleb Drenning, Anthony Dziabo, Matthew Kearney, Rudy McCarthy, Guy Monica,  
Michael Sheehan, Cindy Sheehan-Westrick, and Jeffrey Stohon

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A Regular Meeting of the Penn Cambria School District Board of Education was called to order by Matthew Kearney,  
Board Secretary, at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 16, 2024, in the Library of the Penn Cambria High School.

ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Caleb Drenning  
Mr. Anthony Dziabo  
Mr. Matthew Kearney  
Mr. Guy Monica  
Mr. Michael Sheehan (via zoom)  
Mrs. Cindy Sheehan-Westrick  
TOTAL. . . . . 6

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Rudy McCarthy  
Mr. Jeffrey Stohon  
TOTAL. . . . . 2  
QUORUM PRESENT.

AMONG OTHERS PRESENT:

William Marshall, Superintendent	Matt Churella, Altoona Mirror Reporter
Jill Francisco, Business Administrator	Adam Clevenger, PCEA President
Jeanette Black, Assistant to the Superintendent	Robin Lappi, PCESPA President
Ronald Repak, School Solicitor	Veronica Noll, PCESPA Secretary
Kristen Blackburn, Assistant High School Principal	Kerry Nileski, Teacher
Dane Harrold, Middle School Principal	Sean Davison, Teacher
Benjamin Watt, Assistant Middle School Principal	Kasey Bradley
Joseph Smorto, Elementary Principal	Russ Driskel
Scott Sherry, Director of Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance	Tony Tomaselli
Lewis Hale, Director of Technology	Jennifer Gmuca
Carrie Conrad, Special Education Director	Chris Marana
Jacquelyn Mento, Recording Secretary	Jennifer Horning-Thomas
Justine Hrzic-Smith, Food Service Director	David Myers
Kristin Baudoux, Mainliner Reporter	Jessica Mento, Parent/Baseball Booster President

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

HEARING OF VISITORS - Questions, concerns, comments, related to school business.

- A. Attorney Ronald Repak stated the rules for public comment, informed the Board on the process for which the invited Board candidates will be addressing the Board, and described the procedures to be followed to appoint a new Board Director.
- B. During public comment the following individuals addressed the Board of Directors on the reasons they are the best candidates for the open Board vacancy: Kasey Bradley (Cresson), Russell Driskel (Ashville), Anthony Tomaselli (Cresson), Dr. Jennifer Gmuca (Cresson), Chris Marana (Lilly), and David Myers (Lilly).
- C. The Board of Directors expressed their individual selections as the strongest candidates.

A motion was offered by Mr. Dziabo, seconded by Mr. Drenning, to accept the following resolution:

**APPOINTMENT OF BOARD DIRECTOR**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education appoint Dr. Jennifer Gmuca to fill the vacancy in membership of the Board through December 2025.

The Board members voiced their approval as follows:

YES: Mr. Dziabo, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Monica, Mrs. Sheehan-Westrick, Mr. Drenning

NO: Mr. Sheehan

**SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER**

Louann Hoffman, Notary Public, administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected board member.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

A. A Special Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2024 in the Penn Cambria High School Library at 7:00 P.M.

B. 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.

Pennsylvania school directors are locally elected officials who voluntarily devote an average of twenty (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.

**SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

Congratulations to the following student-athletes who have been named to the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference All-Conference Team for the 2023 fall sports season:

Girls Golf: Kiya Thomas

Girls Soccer: Second Team Defense - Leah Shoemaker

Boys Soccer: First Team Offense - Andrew Dillon

Honorable Mention Defense - Jake Zurich

Football: First Team Defense - Preston Farabaugh and Derek Hite

First Team Offense - Preston Farabaugh and Gavin Harrold

Second Team Defense - Mason Mento, Gavin Harrold, Marcus Lilly,

Carter McDermott, and Gabriel Irving

Second Team Offense - Derek Hite

Honorable Mention Defense - Nikolajis Heil

Honorable Mention Offense - Eli Summerville, Carter McDermott, and

Thomas Plunkett

Congratulations to the following student-athletes who have been named to All-State Teams:

First Team Defense - Gavin Harrold and Second Team Defense - Derek Hite

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meetings held December 5, 2023 and December 12, 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. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Drenning, 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. Dziabo, seconded by Mr. Kearney, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolution:

**RESOLVED:** That the Treasurer's Reports for November and December 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. Drenning, seconded by Mr. Kearney, 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"*)

#### **REVISION TO TAX WORKBOOKS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education authorize 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.

#### **ANNUAL DONATIONS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education authorize the Business Administrator to continue past practice of making donations to local fire companies and libraries.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

*Mr. Ronald Repak* thanked the Board for a very smooth operation in selecting a new Board member and congratulated Dr. Gmuca on her appointment. He also complimented the way that the Penn Cambria School District, the Board of Directors, and the community conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner and stated his appreciation for being able to work with the District.

Mr. Repak then informed the Board of Directors that Pennsylvania is one of twenty-five states to enact Personal Finance as a required course for high school students, to be implemented in the 2026-2027 school year.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

A motion was offered by Mr. Monica, seconded by Mr. Dziabo, 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**

1. Accept Retirement
  - a. Deborah Baker, Cresson, Pre-Primary School Teacher, effective at the close of the 2023-2024 school year, after 20 years of service
2. Accept Resignations
  - a. Lori Heldibridle, Lilly, Intermediate School Health Room Assistant, effective December 29, 2023
  - b. Kaitlyn Kalwanaski, Patton, High School Principal, effective January 16, 2024
  - c. Nicole Lundberg, Lilly, IU08 Substitute Teacher, effective immediately
3. Approve Appointments
  - a. Leigh Casher, Cresson, Elementary Substitute Teacher, effective on or about January 10, 2024 through on or about February 16, 2024
  - b. Hannah Ernest, Portage, Intermediate Substitute Teacher, effective on or about January 22, 2024 through on or about March 5, 2024
  - c. Ashley Galovich, Cresson, Volunteer Softball Coach, effective pending documentation
  - d. Christina Plouse, Cresson, Intermediate School Health Room Assistant, effective pending documentation
  - e. Michael Noel, Dysart, High School 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Custodian, effective pending documentation
  - f. Christine Trexler, Cresson, Middle School Science Substitute Teacher, effective January 16, 2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year

- g. Benjamin Watt, Ashville, from 205-day Assistant Middle School Principal to 260-day High School Principal, at an annual salary of \$83,000 (prorated for days worked in 2023-24), effective January 17, 2024
- h. Justin Wheeler, Gallitzin, from Science Teacher to 205-day Assistant Middle School Principal, at an annual salary of \$76,512 (prorated for days worked in 2023-24), effective January 17, 2024
- 4. Award Tenure
  - a. Brittany Mogollon
- 5. Approve McIlwain School Bus Lines, Inc. Driver, effective pending documentation
  - a. Thomas Schettig, Cresson

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

##### **APPOINT ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO ADMIRAL PEARY AREA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education appoints Anthony Dziabo as first alternate representative to the Admiral Peary Area Vocational Technical School Joint Operating Committee.

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

##### **ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors authorize CORE Architects, LLC, to provide professional Architectural and Engineering Services for the District-wide Consolidation and Renovation Project, in accordance with their Proposal, dated January 12, 2024, and pending execution, subject to review by the District Solicitor, of an Amendment to the Architectural Master Services Agreement, dated December 1, 2022.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **A. FIRST READING OF THE FOLLOWING NEW, REVISED, OR BOARD POLICIES FOR REVIEW:**

- 1. 610 - Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
- 2. 611 - Purchases Budgeted
- 3. 626 Attachment - Procurement – Federal Programs  
(*See Addendum "D"*)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was offered by Mr. Monica, seconded by Mrs. Cindy Sheehan-Westrick, and approved unanimously by voice aye vote, to accept the following resolution:

**RESOLVED:** That there being no further business, this meeting is adjourned at 7:56 P.M.