

PENN

BOARD REPORT

Volume 45 No. 11

CAMBRIA

April 2024

This report summarizes the actions taken by the Penn Cambria Board of Education at its regular meeting, April 16, 2024. 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. Approved the Superintendent's recommendations as follows:
 - A. Personnel Actions
 1. Accept Resignations
 - a. Michele Billings, Portage, Primary School Food Service Worker, effective April 1, 2024
 - b. Nicole Durkay, Lilly, Primary School Food Service Worker, effective April 15, 2024
 - c. Samantha Fitzsimmons, Cresson, Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach, effective April 15, 2024
 - d. Brandon Ickes, Portage, Elementary Computer Teacher, effective at the close of the 2023-2024 school year
 - e. Melissa Moreland, Gallitzin, High School Secretary, effective March 29, 2024
 - f. Nicholas Wanyo, Ebensburg, Assistant Junior High Wrestling Coach, effective immediately
 2. Approve Appointments
 - a. Hannah Ernest, Portage, High School Substitute Teacher, effective March 7, 2024, through on or about May 3, 2024
 - b. Dominic Farabaugh, Lilly, Substitute Teacher, effective pending documentation
 - c. Mark Mardula, Lilly, Head Golf Coach, at a stipend of \$2,770.60, effective with the start of the 2024 season
 - d. Cameo Spohn, Cresson, Middle School Aide, effective pending documentation
 - e. Michelle Welch, Gallitzin, Primary School Secretary, effective on or about May 2, 2024
 3. Approve McIlwain School Bus Lines, Inc. Driver, effective pending documentation
 - a. Tammy Coke, Ashville
 - B. Set Graduation Location, Date, and Time
Graduation will be held at the Maurice Stokes Athletic Center/DeGol Arena on the campus of Saint Francis University on Saturday, June 1st at 1:00 P.M.
 - C. Approve the 2023-2024 Revised School Calendar
 - D. Approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar
- III. Determined that the Superintendent, pursuant to Act 141 of the Pennsylvania School Code enacted in 2012, has successfully achieved the mutually agreed upon goals in his contract for the 2023-2024 school year.
- IV. Rejected the 2024-2025 budget as presented and endorsed by the Superintendent's Advisory Committee and the Joint Operating Committee of Admiral Peary Area Vocational-Technical School.
- V. Approved an agreement with Manning Photography for school and student photography services from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027, with an additional two-year renewal option.

- VI. Entered into a contract with The Nutrition Group to serve as Food Service Management Company for the district cafeterias. The contract is for a period of one year beginning on or about July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, with up to four one-year renewal options upon mutual agreement between the district and The Nutrition Group.
- VII. Approved renewal of lease for classroom space for the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08 Preschool Class at Penn Cambria Pre-Primary for the 2024-2025 school year at the annual sum of \$4,500.
- VIII. Approved Penn Cambria School District participation with the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08 to provide emergency substitute services to the Penn Cambria School District for a fee of \$500 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- IX. Approved an agreement with Doing Better Business to lease Sharp equipment district-wide for a 60-month term, effective upon installation.
- X. Approved the purchase of a Pitney Bowes postage machine for \$3,859.36 and the related agreement for meter lease and equipment service/maintenance, effective upon installation.
- XI. Approved Ms. Holly Smith, 10 qualified students, and 1 chaperone to attend the National Forensics Competition in Chicago, Illinois on May 23, 2024.
- XII. Approved Bonnie Hite as a volunteer chaperone to accompany qualifying students to the 2024 National Forensics Competition.
- XIII. Approved the second reading and adoption of the following policies:
 - A. 200 - Enrollment of Students
 - B. 202 - Eligibility of Non-Resident Students
 - C. 217 - Graduation
 - D. 217 AR - Graduation Requirements
 - E. 254 - Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- XIV. Mr. Monica personally offered an apology to Mr. Dziabo for the recent request of his resignation.
- XV. Approved a motion to rescind the request for resignation of Board member, Anthony Dziabo.
- XVI. INFORMATION ITEMS
 - A. First Reading of New, Revised, or Board Policies for Review:
 - 1. 609 - Investment of District Funds
 - 2. 815.2 - District Social Media
- XVII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph Smorto, Elementary Principal, spoke to the Board of Directors about the elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

“When I first started as elementary principal, our PTO meetings would consist of the four officers and myself. These volunteers had many ideas, but we had a very difficult time recruiting parents to attend these meetings. This left our four officers doing all the work and limited the activities and fun things they wanted to do for our students. Then there was the covid era. We ended that school year with one officer of the PTO and myself. We decided to send home informational items about the PTO with the students and speak with the incoming kindergarten families about the PTO during registration. I knew we had to think outside the box to increase our active members. Speaking with families during their kindergarten year and educating them on the great things the PTO could do was the key to our success. Because of these efforts, we had four brand new officers at that time and our families slowly started attending meetings. This was the start of something that I never thought our PTO would turn into. We currently have 5 very active officers, with an average of 15-20 parents attending meetings and volunteering. I am so proud of the growth in this organization. These are some of the activities that the PTO funds and volunteers for:

- Winter Wonderland – Santa’s Workshop
- Fairy Tale Night, which is a family engagement night with STEM related fun activities
- Grade Level Moms – these volunteers are assigned to a grade level once every two weeks to assist with copies, hands-on activities, and assisting students in the classroom
- Volunteer for Easter Egg Hunt, PAWs rewards, Beach Day, Field Days, and Field Trips
- Teacher appreciation
- Activities including, but not limited to:
 - o Field Trips
 - o Welcoming gift for new kindergarten students and new students to the district
 - o Classroom projects/crafts
 - o Grade level special events
 - o Parent communicator folders for all students
 - o Kindergarten Graduation and 4th grade t-shirts
 - o Author in-residence at the Intermediate school
 - o Delgrosso Day
 - o Scholastic Book Fair
 - o Food for the teachers during parent/teacher conferences
 - o Spirit Wear

I am so proud of the growth in this organization and must give credit where credit is due. If it wasn't for our current officers, the PTO would not be where it is now. The current officers are President - Leigh Casher, Vice President - Holly Calvetti, Treasurer - Chelsea Hallinan, Secretary - Lisa Wisniewski, and Social Chair - Sarah Toyne.

These ladies form the cornerstone of the success of the PTO. They pour their hearts into everything they do and dedicate many hours to enhance our students' elementary experience. I want to personally thank you and commend you on all of your efforts.”