

PENN

BOARD REPORT

Volume 45 No. 13

CAMBRIA

June 2024

This report summarizes the actions taken by the Penn Cambria Board of Education at its regular meeting, June 18, 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. Approved the agenda as presented.
- II. Michael Sheehan announced that the regular School Board meeting scheduled for July 24, 2024 has been cancelled.
- III. HEARING OF VISITORS - Questions, concerns, comments, related to school business.
 - A. Catherine Garner (Cresson) addressed the Board of Directors with her concerns on the reduction of third grade staff and the effect it will have on class sizes, teacher time with students, specifically exceptional students, and the availability of resources for students.
- IV. Designated depositories for school district funds for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
- V. Authorized the Superintendent or his designee be empowered to invest funds from the various school district accounts in interest bearing accounts in compliance with the District Investment Policy.
- VI. Authorized the business office to pay invoices for the 2023-2024 fiscal year that are received after the date of the regular meeting on June 18, 2024, and to make any necessary budgetary transfers for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
- VII. Approved premiums for Package and Worker's Compensation insurance for the 2024-25 policy year:
- VIII. Approved Student Accident Insurance Coverage through United States Fire Insurance Company for the 2024-2025 fiscal year with a premium of \$13,300.00 and that under the same policy make available for parents to purchase Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Coverage at a premium of \$28.00 for school-time coverage and \$124.00 for twenty-four-hour coverage.
- IX. Set school breakfast/lunch/A la Carte prices for the 2024-2025 school term.
- X. Adopted a plan amendment to the Penn Cambria School District 403(b) Plan to permit in-service withdrawals of rollover funds.
- XI. Approved the Superintendent's recommendations as follows:
 - A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS
 1. Accept Resignations
 - a. Tamara Rakar, Ebensburg, High School Math Teacher and Junior-Senior Class Co-Advisor, effective at the close of the 2023-2024 school year
 - b. Katlin Little, Gallitzin, Head Varsity Softball Coach, effective immediately
 - c. Mary Borlie, Lilly, Middle School Special Education Aide, effective June 26, 2024
 2. Remove Substitutes, effective immediately
 - a. Substitute Aide, Secretary, Cafeteria
 1. Margo Buck, Ashville
 - b. IU08 Substitute Teachers
 1. James Miller, Ashville
 2. Morgan O'Neill, Duncansville

- 3. Angelica Shoemaker, Loretto
 - c. Substitute Teachers
 - 1. Douglas Fogel, Ashville
 - 2. Brian Gibson, Ebensburg
 - d. Substitute Nurse
 - 1. Joseph Zeak, Hollidaysburg
 - 3. Remove ESY Staff
 - a. Lynn Lassak, Aide
 - b. Christina Plouse, Nurse
 - 4. ESY Independent Contractor
 - a. Adara Health, Nursing
 - 5. Approve Appointments, effective with the start of the 2024-2025 school year
 - a. Derrik Eckenrode, Ashville, Fifth Grade Teacher, Bachelor's Step 17, \$68,738
 - b. Kristin Kargo, Portage, Junior-Senior Class Co-Advisor, at a stipend of \$1,452
 - c. Jessica Burlingame, Altoona, Junior-Senior Class Co-Advisor at a stipend of \$1,452
 - d. Brittany Mogollon, Gallitzin, Majorette/Colorguard Advisor, at a stipend of \$1,995
 - e. Susan Reed, Duncansville, Substitute Teacher
 - f. Todd Niebauer, Cresson, from Assistant to Volunteer Cross Country Coach
 - g. Jason Grassi, Altoona, Assistant Varsity Football Coach, at a stipend of \$3,958
 - h. Joshua Stringent, Gallitzin, from Assistant to Head 7th and 8th Grade Football Coach, at a stipend of \$3,033
 - i. Dontae Lilly, Lilly, from Assistant to Volunteer Varsity Football Coach
 - j. Nicholas White, Gallitzin, from Volunteer to Assistant 7th and 8th Grade Football Coach, at a stipend of \$1,726.40
 - k. Christina Racz, Ashville, from Head Junior High to Varsity Cheerleading Coach, at a stipend of \$3,958
 - 6. Approve Appointments, effective pending documentation
 - a. Lindsey Sease, Portage, Primary School Special Education Aide
 - b. Victoria Kochara, Gallitzin, Head Junior High Cheerleading Coach, at a stipend of \$2,359
 - c. Nathan Erzal, Loretto, Volunteer 7th and 8th Grade Football Coach
 - d. Mike Smith, Lilly, Volunteer Junior High Soccer Coach
 - 7. PCESPA Summer Cleaners
 - a. Cherri Heiss
 - b. Brenda Kalwasinski
 - c. Karen Hodgson
 - d. Leah George
 - e. Robin Lappi
 - f. Brenda Biller
 - B. Retain Dr. Oravec as a school dentist at \$5.00 per exam.
 - C. Dr. Scharf as school physician at \$8.00 per student physical exam to provide services as requested by the district in accordance with the School Code.
 - D. Establish the daily substitute teacher rate of \$100 for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - E. Establish the hourly substitute support staff rate of \$9 for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - F. Authorize the Superintendent to apply for various state and federal grants, including those administered by PDE. The Superintendent is also authorized to sign and file related contracts.
 - G. Approve the revised 2023-2024 School Calendar (Act 80 day)
- XII. Approved commencement of Jaime Hartline's Superintendent role on July 1, 2024, at which time Mr. Hartline will be approved as a commissioned officer through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- XIII. Appointed Jaime Hartline, a school administrator, as the school safety and security coordinator.
- XIV. Approved a Memorandum of Agreement between Penn Cambria School District and the Penn Cambria Educational Support Professionals Association pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025; the Association wishes to assist the District with cleaning throughout the summer and to work cooperatively to address the summer cleaning positions.

- XV. Approved an agreement with UPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies to provide mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, or rehabilitation services.
- XVI. Approved the Federal Programs Parent and Family Engagement Policy Statements for Penn Cambria School District, Penn Cambria Pre-Primary School, Penn Cambria Primary School, and Penn Cambria Intermediate School.
- XVII. Approved the revised English Learner (EL) Program Plan.
- XVIII. Approved the Home-School Compact for Penn Cambria School District.
- XIX. Authorized Altoona Area School District's ELECT Program to apply for and expend funds on behalf of the Penn Cambria School District through the AASD ELECT Consortium, to operate the ELECT program and activities for eligible students through 2024.
- XX. Approved entering into an agreement with Imagine Learning to provide curricular and instructional services for grades K-12 PC Cyber Academy.
- XXI. Approved entering into an agreement with Extended Campus to provide curricular and instructional services for the grades K-5 PC Cyber Academy.
- XXII. Approved entering into an agreement with Educere to provide curricular and instructional services for the grades 6-12 PC Cyber Academy.
- XXIII. Approved the revised Penn Cambria School District Health and Safety Plan.
- XXIV. Adopted the Final budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, in the amount of \$28,181,349.
- XXV. Approved an agreement with Peoples Gas Co., LLC to extend or have extended its main pipeline facilities to accommodate the Penn Cambria Middle School Project.
- XXVI. Approved the reconfiguration of Penn Cambria Intermediate School to include grades 3 through 5 and approve reconfiguration of Penn Cambria Middle School to include grades 6 through 8 effective July 1, 2024. This change is necessary due to the current status of the A-wing portion of Penn Cambria Middle School.
- XXVII. Approved to hold a public hearing of the Board to consider the permanent closure and/or reconfiguration of the Pre-Primary School Building.
- XXVIII. Approved to hold a public hearing of the Board to consider the permanent closure and/or reconfiguration of the Primary School Building.
- XXIX. Approved a contract with Courtney Hirsch, Johnstown, for School Psychologist services, at a rate of \$500 per day, effective July 1, 2024 through August 22, 2024.
- XXX. Approved a one-year service agreement for non-hazardous waste services with M & M Roll-Off Service of Lilly, PA for the Intermediate School and Primary School effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 at a yearly rate of \$7,290.
- XXXI. Approved a Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) contract with SitelogIQ for boiler removal and replacement at the High School. The total value of the GESA is \$2,186,838.
- XXXII. INFORMATION ITEMS
 - A. FIRST READING OF NEW, REVISED, OR BOARD POLICIES FOR REVIEW:
 - 1. 123-AR-2 – Athletic Coaches
 - 2. 204 AR Attachment – Educational Trip Request

XXXIII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Carrie Conrad, Special Education Director, updated the Board of Directors on the past school year, including challenges and advancements, and discussed Special Education projects for 2024-2025.

Mrs. Conrad began with the challenges of filling support staff vacancies; beginning the year understaffed, ending the year understaffed, and the efforts to fill those vacancies using posters, advertisements, job fairs, and registrations. She also stated that there are still jobs available and that anyone interested should visit the pcam.org website and apply.

Regarding advancements, the Special Education Department added an ADA class at the middle school and additional academic and behavior support at the Pre-Primary, that were both very successful. Mr. Lawhead, Special Education Teacher, moved to the Pre-Primary School and happily embraced this challenging role.

The MTSS team, now implemented district wide, helps to identify students that are struggling both academically and/or emotionally. The team meets on a monthly basis to review students, their progress, accommodations provided, and to determine if there is a need for additional services.

After attending a mental health conference in Pittsburgh, Mrs. Galebach, School Social Worker, and Mrs. Conrad decided to implement a peer mentor program for ninth graders going to high school in the 2024-2025 year. From lists that will be provided from the high school and middle school guidance counselors, ninth graders that would benefit from this program will be paired with eleventh grade students who possess good qualities and are compassionate students. These peer mentors and ninth graders will be involved in different activities throughout the year. Mrs. Conrad stated that she is excited to watch this new program evolve.

XXXIV. Michael Sheehan congratulated William Marshall on his retirement, reflecting back on the past nine years that he has worked with him and his many accomplishments, and expressed that he will truly be missed here at Penn Cambria.