

Pine Grove Area School District



Board of School Directors Public Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2020
Regular Board Meeting
6:30 PM

Pine Grove Area District Office/Zoom
Pine Grove, PA 17963

Mr. Dave Lukasewicz **Mr. Heath W. Renninger**
Board President **Superintendent**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Board President Dave Lukasewicz called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He announced that the April 16, 2020 School Board Meeting is physically closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting is being held virtually by using the ZOOM Webinar platform. The public is invited to attend this virtual meeting by going to www.pgasd.com and following the directions under the School Board Meeting Alert heading. Public comment on the agenda will be accepted by email up to the official start of the meeting.

He asked for a moment of silence for former Board Member Marc Griffiths who passed away on Monday. He also informed the Board that Pine Groves Head Boys Soccer Coach Mark Wyllie is gravely ill. Dave also thanked everyone in the district for all their help and cooperation during this pandemic.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Steve Brill	Donald E. Brown, Jr.	Dave Frew
J.T. Herber (6:37)	Genavieve Moyer	Wes Ney
Randy Stump	Alethea Wessner	Dave Lukasewicz
Allison Butler (Student Rep)		

All Board Members were attending through Zoom except for Dave Frew, and Dave Lukasewicz who were present in the district office. Mr. Renninger, Mrs. Brindle and Attorney Quinn were also present in the district office.

On Zoom: Melissa Mekosh, Jill Hlavaty, Sandy Burns, Mike Janicelli, Rich Dunkelberger, Henry Snyder, Jodie Dermo, Bernie Kelly, Vince Hoover, Andy Diehl. The Zoom Session was also open to the community.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mike Janicelli, Melissa Mekosh, Sandy Burns and Jill Hlavaty updated the Board on what they have been doing along with their faculty to keep the kids educated during this time period. They also announced the March and April 8th graders and seniors for the month of March and April. Bernie Kelly spoke about the lunches that have been given out since this pandemic started and will continue until the last day of school. He thanked the many businesses who have donated food items to be given out with the lunches and the faculty and his staff who have helped him make this a success. Andy Diehl spoke about the technology staff and what they have been doing during this pandemic. Laptops and Ipads have been given out to students who do not have one at home.

Heath thanked administration, faculty and all staff for their help during this pandemic.

5. POLICY– (*J.T. Herber, Chairperson*)

- A. J.T. Herber made a motion, seconded by D. Frew to approve the first reading of Policy 006.1 “Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications.”

Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no

- B. J.T. Herber made a motion, seconded by G. Moyer to suspend all policies that govern Promotion and Retention and / or Graduation requirements for the school district. The suspension will be automatically lifted on July 1, 2020 (#215 – Promotion and Retention and #217 Graduation). The district will adhere to the state and board approved Instructional Continuity Plan and Addendum #1 for the remainder of this school year. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

- C. J. T. Herber made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to approve the first reading of Policy 626 “Federal Fiscal Compliance.” **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

6. INVITATION TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS – During this time, written public comment on agenda items will be accepted electronically via email at public_comment@pgasd.com All public comments must be posted no later than ten minutes prior to the official start of the meeting on the day of the meeting. Dave Lukasewicz asked Joanne Brindle Board Secretary if there have been any public comments, she replied there have been none.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. On a motion by J.T. Herber, seconded by G. Moyer the board approved the March 15, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

8. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (*Dave Frew, Chairperson*)

No Report

9. CURRICULUM – (*Dave Lukasewicz, Chairperson*)

- A. A. Wessner made a motion, seconded by G. Moyer to accept the Pine Grove Area School District Instructional Continuity Plan. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

- B. A. Wessner made a motion, seconded by J.T. Herber to accept Addendum #1 to the Instructional Continuity Plan regarding 4th marking period grading expectations.

Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no

- C. A. Wessner made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to purchase the English Language Arts Series, Wonders from McGraw–Hill for grades K through 5 at a cost of \$160,124.17. This is a budgeted curriculum item that will be split across two fiscal years, 2019–20 and 2020–21. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

Informational: The Pine Grove Area School District Instructional Continuity Plan will follow our current board approved school calendar for the remainder of the year.

10. FINANCE/AUDIT (*Dave Frew– Chairperson*)

- A. D. Frew made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to approve the bills for payment and the Treasurers Report. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

- B. D. Frew made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to award the 2020–2021 Request for Proposal of Cafeteria Management Services to Metz Culinary Management. This proposal from Metz includes a guarantee of \$90,106.97 for the 2020–2021 school year. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

Dave thanked Bernie Kelly and Metz Culinary Management for the great service the last five years and looks forward to working with them for the next five.

Jodie Dermo stated that the Band Boosters are in need of a new trailer. They would like to purchase one and will sell the old one and reimburse the district after the sale. The board agreed to let Jodie move forward with this.

Dave also mentioned that Jodie and Heath are working on the budget and he asked the Board about removing the 1 mil increase already in the tentative budget for next year and possibly look at reducing the per capita tax. This will be discussed in more depth at the May 14th Finance Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm. Jodie will have a copy of a budget created for next year without the 1 mil tax increase for this meeting.

11. EXTRA-CURRICULAR (*Wes Ney, Chairperson*)

- A. W. Ney made a motion, seconded by D. Frew to approve the resignation of Denise Schneck as Head Cheerleading Advisor effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no

12. PERSONNEL (*David Lukasewicz, Chairperson*)

- A. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by G. Moyer to accept the notice of intent to retire from Mary Franko, Special Education Teacher in the middle school as per the PGASD Early Retirement Incentive. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

- B. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by A. Wessner to accept the notice of intent to retire from Lori Chuba, Social Worker/Home and School Visitor as per the PGASD Early Retirement Incentive. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

- C. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by G. Moyer to accept the notice of intent to retire from Kathy Breidigan, Custodian as per the PGASD Early Retirement Incentive. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

- D. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by D. Frew to hire Scott Dimon as 2020–2021 Athletic Director of the PGASD effective July 1, 2020 at a yearly stipend of \$8,920.

Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no

- E. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by D. Frew to accept the notice of intent to retire from Scott Dimon, English teacher in the high school as per the PGASD Early Retirement Incentive. **Roll Call Vote, 9 yes, 0 no**

13. TRANSPORTATION- (*Dave Lukasewicz, Chairperson*)

- A. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by W. Ney to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Pine Grove Area School District and Newhurst, Inc. to address the unique and emergent issues involved with school closing due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). **Roll Call Vote, 8 yes, 0 no (Mr. Stump was offline)**

14. **TECHNOLOGY** – *(Donald E. Brown, Jr., Chairperson)*

Informational: The district has applied for a Continuity of Education Equity Grant in the amount of \$17,750 to offset the cost of instructional continuity.

15. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE** – *(Allison Butler)*

Ali spoke to the Board about how the senior class is disappointed that the school year is over, missing each other, missing their teachers, and not having the opportunity to say goodbye to anyone. They also have not had the opportunity to have the military ball, prom, play, sporting events, field trips and now graduation exercises since the school year technically ended according to the Governor. Dave Lukasewicz responded that we are all disappointed in what is going on right now but the school district will make every effort to come up with an idea to recognize the graduates.

16. **SCHUYLKILL INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT** – *(Dave Frew, Representative)*

IU and Technical School are both using online apps with their students working towards the end of the school year and the Technical School is trying to help the students towards graduating without being able to take the end of the year exam. Heath complemented Dr. Koons and Ms. Brennan for all their hard work in keeping things running.

17. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – The board is not accepting public comments at this time on non-agenda items. All comments of this nature should be directed to the Superintendent.

18. **ADJOURNMENT** – on a motion by D. Brown, seconded by D. Frew the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Joanne Brindle
Board Secretary