

Pine Grove Area School District



**Board of School Directors Public Meeting Thursday, August 19, 2021, 5:30 PM
Committee of the Whole Meeting, 6:30 PM Regular Board Meeting in the Middle School Library.**

The Regular Board Meeting will begin no later than 10 minutes beyond the close of the Committee of the Whole Meeting and not before 6:30 pm.

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

Board President Dave Lukasewicz called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:30 pm. In attendance were Dave Lukasewicz, Amanda Daubert, Randy Stump, Donald E. Brown, Jr., J.T. Herber, Heath Renninger, Joanne Brindle, Mike Janicelli, Rich Dunkelberger, Scott Dimon, Todd Lengle, Keith Lehman, Henry Snyder, Melissa Mekosh, Jill Hlavaty, Bernie Kelly, Vince Hoover, Karissa Morgan, Sandy Burns, Jennifer Modesto, Andrea Primeau, Kira Wertz, Russ and Bonnie Fornwalt.

- Karissa Morgan, Student Representative Candidate was introduced to the Board.
- Heath gave the Board an update on Health and Safety Plan, the change from August 3, 2021 is that the Federal Government has mandated that students and drivers must wear masks on the bus. If the bus is empty, the driver does not need to wear a mask. The Board then had a discussion on whether to mandate that everyone wear masks when the school year starts while they are inside.
- On a motion by G. Moyer, seconded by J.T. Herber, the Board decided to follow the Federal Government on mandated masks for students and drivers on the school bus. **Vote was Unanimous**
- Andrea S. Blevins Primeau, PhD, MBA of Summit Drive, Pine Grove – who asked to be put on the agenda to speak, spoke to the Board encouraging them to consider mandating masks to begin the school year.
- Jennifer Modesto of Birds Hill Road, Pine Grove – who asked to be put on the agenda to speak, also spoke to the Board encouraging them to mandate masks for the beginning of the school year.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER – Dave Lukasewicz, Board President called the meeting to order at 6:47 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Donald E. Brown, Jr.	Amanda Daubert	Dave Frew	J.T. Herber
Genavieve Moyer(by phone)	Wes Ney	Randy Stump	Dave Lukasewicz

In attendance were Heath Renninger, Joanne Brindle, Mike Janicelli, Rich Dunkelberger, Scott Dimon, Todd Lengle, Keith Lehman, Henry Snyder, Melissa Mekosh, Jill Hlavaty, Bernie Kelly, Vince Hoover, Attorney Nick Quinn, Sandy Burns, Jennifer Modesto, Andrea Primeau, Kira Wertz, Russ and Bonnie Fornwalt, Wade Gettle, Paul Dean, Matthew Renninger, Kayle O'Neill and Kerri Clauser.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Russ Fornwalt of Dad Burnhams Road, Pine Grove, stated that his daughter hates wearing a mask and will not go to school if she has to wear a mask. He asked the Board to not mandate masks in school.
Kira Wertz of Stoney Top Road, Pine Grove, said parents should have the choice whether their children must wear masks or not.

Wade Gettle of Pine Vista Drive, Pine Grove, said mandating masks are taking away personal choice. Sarah Boltz of Oak Grove Road, Pine Grove, spoke out against mandating masks. Bonnie Fornwalt of Dad Burnhams Road, Pine Grove said she also believes this is a parents' choice, not the schools choice on whether a student has to wear a mask or not. Jennifer Modesto stated unless everyone wears a mask the mask will not be effective. Andrea S. Blevins Primeau stated that she would like masks for indoor use, masks would not be necessary for outside.

G. Moyer made a motion that masks be mandated in the beginning of the school year while we are in the high and substantial range and pivoted when not in high or substantial, this was seconded by J.T. Herber. **Vote was 3 yes (Herber, Moyer and Lukasewicz) and 3 no (Daubert, Brown, Stump). This vote must be a majority of the whole board so the motion was defeated.**

J.T. Herber made a motion that we start the school year mandating masks for grades 7 and below because these children are not eligible to be vaccinated, seconded by G. Moyer. **Vote was 3 yes (Herber, Moyer and Lukasewicz) and 3 no (Daubert, Brown, Stump). This vote must be a majority of the whole board, so the motion was defeated.**

6. BOARD BUSINESS

J.T. Herber made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to approve the letter of resignation from Steve Brill from his position as at-large school board member effective immediately. **Vote was Unanimous**

A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by J.T. Herber to appoint Karissa Morgan as the 2021-2022 Student Representative to the School Board. **Vote was Unanimous**

D. Brown made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to deny Grievance #2021-001 at Step III. **Vote was Unanimous**

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to approve the June 17, 2021 COW and Regular Board Meeting Minutes and August 3, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes. **Vote was Unanimous**

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

9. CURRICULUM *(Dave Lukasewicz, Chairperson)*

A. J. T. Herber made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to approve the list of curriculum facilitators and their stipends as found in the board packet. **Vote was Unanimous**

B. J. T. Herber made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to purchase Exact Path, an online personalized learning subscription, from Edmentum for \$17,923.20. This will be funded by the ARP ESSER grant under the requirements of addressing learning loss. This will be implemented in the Middle School. **Vote was Unanimous**

C. J. T. Herber made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to approve the PGASD Middle School Student Handbook. **Vote was Unanimous**

D. J. T. Herber made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to approve the PGASD High School Student Handbook. **Vote was Unanimous**

E. J. T. Herber made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to approve the PGASD Elementary School Student Handbook. **Vote was Unanimous**

- F. J. T. Herber made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to purchase microscopes for the middle school and high school science departments, from Microscope World for \$20,600. This will be funded by the ESSER II grant.
Vote was Unanimous
- G. J. T. Herber made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to approve the Cardinal Virtual Campus Student Handbook. **Vote was Unanimous**

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

- A. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to approve the bills for payment. **Vote was Unanimous**
- B. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to approve the Treasurer’s Report. **Vote was Unanimous**
- C. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to approve of the Disposition of Assets as found in the board packet and to dispose of them as per Board Policy. **Vote was Unanimous**
- D. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to approve the Child Nutrition Program Agreement between the Pine Grove Area School District, the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and the Schuylkill Vo-Tech School.
Vote was Unanimous

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

- A. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to ratify hiring the following football assistants and the volunteers, pending receipt of all clearances:
 - Travis Mumma at a stipend of \$2,957.50
 - Tom Renninger at a stipend of \$3,003.00
 - Jake Stoudt at a stipend of \$2,730.00
 - Trent Mars at a stipend of \$2,730.00
 - Jeremiah Gaffney at a stipend of \$1,365.00Volunteers: Mike Kalyan, Matt Kalyan, Francis Hall, Joe Barra and Joe Connelly
Vote was Unanimous
- B. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to ratify hiring the following boys’ soccer assistants and the volunteers, pending receipt of all clearances:
 - Brandon Witmer at a stipend of \$1,820.00
 - Jamie Shollenberger at split stipend of \$1,365.00
 - Jason Soper, at a split stipend of \$1,365.00Volunteers: Mark Frankenfield and Kaden Lengle.
Vote was Unanimous
- C. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to ratify hiring the following girls’ soccer assistants and the volunteers, pending receipt of all clearances:
 - Mackenzie Lesh at a stipend of \$2,730.00
 - Samantha Hoover at a stipend of \$1,820.00Volunteer: Joshua Ott
Vote was Unanimous
- D. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to ratify hiring the following girls’ volleyball assistants, pending receipt of all clearances:
 - Chloe Readinger at a stipend of \$2,730.00
 - Erin Frantz at a stipend of \$1,820.00**Vote was Unanimous**
- E. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to ratify hiring the following golf assistant and volunteer:
 - Jack Kenneff at a stipend of \$1,000.00Volunteer: Paul Felty
Vote was Unanimous

- F. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert ratify hiring the following cross country assistants and volunteers:

Jamie Hitz at a stipend of \$1,820.00

Volunteer: Kristina Wilde

Vote was Unanimous

- G. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to ratify hiring the following cheerleading advisors and volunteers, pending receipt of all clearances:

Kelsey Fidler at a stipend of \$2,047.50

Volunteer: Baylie Schneck

Vote was Unanimous

- H. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to hire David Mease as the head archery coach for the 2021-2022 season. David will receive a stipend of \$1,729.00

Vote was Unanimous

12. PERSONNEL (*David Lukasewicz, Chairperson*)

- A. J.T. Herber made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to ratify accepting the resignation letter from Tyler Cann from his position as special education teacher in the middle school effective the last day of the 2020-2021 school year. **Vote was Unanimous**
- B. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by J.T. Herber to hire Paul Dean as a temporary professional beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Paul will be paid Bachelors Step 1 for a salary of \$42,695 and all benefits in accordance with the professional staff contract. He will teach special education in the middle school replacing Tyler Cann. **Vote was Unanimous**
- C. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by J. T. Herber to hire Matthew Renninger as a temporary professional beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Matthew will be paid Bachelors Step 1 for a salary of \$42,695 and all benefits in accordance with the professional staff contract. He will teach 6th grade math replacing Samantha Starr Bohn. **Vote was Unanimous**
- D. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to hire Jennifer Lutz as a professional beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Jennifer will be paid Bachelors+15 Step 7 for a salary of \$49,015 and all benefits in accordance with the professional staff contract. She will teach 8th grade science replacing Samantha Kemmerling. **Vote was Unanimous**
- E. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to ratify accepting the resignation from Lara Swartz from her position as Social Worker effective August 13, 2021. **Vote was Unanimous**
- F. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to hire Kerri Clauser as an administrative employee beginning on August 31, 2021. Kerri will be paid \$52,000 pro-rated and receive all benefits as per the administrative contract. She is replacing Lara Swartz at the District Social Worker. **Vote was Unanimous**
- G. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by J.T. Herber to hire Kayle O'Neill as a temporary professional beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Kayle will be paid at a Bachelors Step 1 for a salary of \$42,695 and receive all benefits as per the professional staff contract. She will teach learning support in the high school replacing Andrea Zehring. **Vote was Unanimous**
- H. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to ratify accepting the resignation of Lindsey Croker from her position as Life Skill Teacher in the high school at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

Vote was Unanimous

- I. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to approve the request for maternity leave for Makenzie Biddle, Special Education Teacher in the high school from approximately November 5, 2021 until approximately January 28, 2022. **Vote was Unanimous**
- J. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by J.T. Herber to transfer James Wolfe to the administrative contract effective September 1, 2021. James will receive all benefits as per the administrative contract and will receive a pro-rated salary of \$42,000. **Vote was Unanimous**
- K. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by D. Brown to ratify accepting the resignation of Sydney Griffiths from her position as paraprofessional at the end of the 2020/2021 school year. **Vote was Unanimous**
- L. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by J.T. Herber to ratify accepting the resignation of Kelly Fisher from her position as paraprofessional at the end of the 2020/2021 school year. **Vote was Unanimous**
- M. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by J.T. Herber to hire Olivia Lehman as a paraprofessional beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Olivia will be paid \$11.35 per hour and receive any benefits in accordance with the AFSCME contract. She will begin when all clearances are received. **Vote was Unanimous**
- N. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to hire Alicia Hikes as a paraprofessional beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Alicia will be paid \$11.35 per hour and receive any benefits in accordance with the AFSCME contract. She will begin when all clearances are received. **Vote was Unanimous**
- O. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to hire Cassandra Barry as a paraprofessional beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Cassandra will be paid \$12.80 per hour and receive any benefits in accordance with the AFSCME contract. She will begin when all clearances are received. **Vote was Unanimous**
- P. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to end the employment of Employee #97317. The employee has exhausted all leave including FMLA and has not expressed interest in returning to their position. **Vote was Unanimous**
- Q. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to ratify adding Kelly Weiss and Michelle Hinderliter to the list of approved teachers to teach ESY during the summer at a salary of \$27.00 per hour. **Vote was Unanimous**
- R. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to ratify paying Glen Gray, Cindy Moyer, Robert Frankford, Sue Kuchinsky, and Jamie Hitz the negotiated rate of \$27.00 per hour to instruct in the Summer Scholars Program receiving no more than 27 hours per instructor. This will be funded out of the ARP ESSER Grant. **Vote was Unanimous**
- S. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to ratify paying Joelle Bretz her current rate per hour as a paraprofessional for the Summer Scholars Program receiving no more than 26 hours. This will be funded from the ARP ESSER Grant. **Vote was Unanimous**
- T. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by J.T. Herber to ratify adding Nicholas Harner to the list of summer workers. He began June 23, 2021 and was paid minimum wage. **Vote was Unanimous**
- U. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to approve the following mentors for the new employees, each mentor receives \$400 for the year: **Vote was Unanimous**
 - Amy Harrison for Paul Dean
 - Melissa LaSalle for Matthew Renninger
 - Malarie Munden for Kayle O'Neill
- V. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to ratify hiring Christine Nicholas as a cleaning person. Christine will be paid \$12.00 per hour and receive all benefits as per the AFSCME Contract. Her first day was July 6, 2021. **Vote was Unanimous**

- W. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to approve the following game workers for the 2021-2022 seasons who are not district employees: Mike Culbert, Linda Dietrich, Stephanie Dimon, Rick Heinbach, Kelsey Fidler, Bruce Kosack and Will Shiffer. **Vote was Unanimous**
- X. A. Daubert made a motion, seconded by R. Stump to approve the following support staff substitutes for the 2021-2022 school year: Sydney Griffiths, Paraprofessional, Lois Whittmore, Paraprofessional, Nicholas McGrath, Cleaning & Custodial, Mason Hatfield, Cleaning & Custodial. **Vote was Unanimous**
- Y. D. Brown made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to allow Caylee Conrad, Paraprofessional, leave without pay from the first day of school until September 13, 2021. **Vote was Unanimous**

13. POLICY- (*J.T. Herber, Chairperson*)
None

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

- A. R. Stump made a motion, seconded by A. Daubert to approve the 2021-2022 Drivers List. **Vote was Unanimous**

15. TECHNOLOGY – (*Donald E. Brown, Jr., Chairperson*)
None

16. SCHUYLKILL INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT – (*Dave Frew, Representative*)
None

17. PUBLIC COMMENTS
None

18. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by D. Brown, seconded by J.T. Herber the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.


Joanne Brindle
Board Secretary