

PELLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Minutes

**Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board of Education Conference Room
7:00 p.m.**

Monday, November 11, 2024

A Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Pellston Public Schools was held in the Gerald E. Mallory Board of Education Conference Room on Monday, November 11, 2024. Members present: Jim Milbrandt, Rob Thomson, Kristen Bauer-Frye, Serenity Dankert and Bryan Searles. Members absent: Mark Zink and Stephanie Bromley.

President Milbrandt called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* and a moment of reflection were led by Rob Thomson.

Information/Presentations

Spotlight Presentation – Char-Em ISD: our ISD Team, Superintendent and Special Education Director highlighted the inclusion activities taking place at Pellston.

Athletic Report – Mr. Nick Mesnard provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

Transportation Report – Mr. Lee Minzey provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

Food Service Report – Mrs. Mariah Heinz provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

Elementary Principal Report – Mrs. Tammy VanAntwerp provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

MS/HS Principal Report – Mr. Chris Schlappi provided a written report to the Board. Report on file.

Administrator Highlights

Public Commentary

Correspondence

Old Business

New Business

National Blue Ribbon Award Presentation and Video – Mrs. Tammy VanAntwerp was excited to share highlights with the Board of Education about her recent trip to Washington D.C. to accept the 2024 National Blue Ribbon Award on behalf of Pellston Elementary School. She also had the honor of showing the Board of Education the NBR video Mr. Richard Hartwell created.

MS/HS Rebranding – Mr. Seelye and Mr. Schlappi led a discussion with the Board of Education about the possibility of rebranding/giving the MS/HS a facelift. They met with Carter’s Image last week to generate ideas. If the board is interested in seeing their ideas, they will have pricing available at the next meeting. No action was requested at this time.

Custodial Services – Tony and Tara Thomas spoke to the Board of Education about their desire to provide cleaning services for the district should the current contract with Axium dissolve. No action was requested at this time.

School of Choice Data – Mr. Seelye shared School of Choice data with the Board of Education. The number of school of choice students who attend Pellston continues to be impressive and trend in a great direction. No action was requested at this time.

EV and Diesel Buses – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about the current bus fleet. The electric buses continue to have a positive impact on the district but we have encountered some major delays in repairs this year. The 5th electric bus has been ordered and our oldest diesel bus (which is in need of repairs) will be turned in when the new EV bus arrives. If we get in a bind, Mr. Minzey may need to purchase a used bus before the next board meeting. No action was requested at this time.

USDA Grant, Grant Writer and 15% Match – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about a USDA Grant opportunity that will open in January. The two main takeaways are: 1) The district would need to hire a grant writer, which Mr. Seelye believes to have found an organization to cover that cost. 2) The grant is a 15% match. Mr. Seelye would like to apply for a \$1,000,000 in technology funding which means the district would only need to cover \$150,000; which we nearly spend on a yearly basis already. No action was requested at this time.

Graduation Alliance Coalition of the Willing – Mr. Seelye and Mr. Schlappi led a discussion with the Board of Education about the Graduation Alliance Program. We currently offer this online programming as an alternative to homeschooling, in discipline related situations and as a credit recovery tool. Graduation Alliance has reached out asking if Pellston would be interested in partnering with online students from all over the state. Through this Coalition of the Willing partnership, those online students would become Pellston students and would generate revenue for the district. A couple of considerations to keep in mind are the impacts this could have on our graduation rate and special education caseloads. No action was requested at this time.

NCMC Athletes Mentor Program – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about a NCMC Athletes Mentor Program. No action was requested at this time.

Open Board Seat Interview – Mrs. Jenny Kerr
Mr. Seelye provided the interview questions to each board member and candidate prior to tonight’s meeting so they could be prepared for the interview.

Open Board Seat Interview – Mrs. Kim Jutson
Mr. Seelye provided the interview questions to each board member and candidate prior to tonight’s meeting so they could be prepared for the interview.

Open Board Seat Interview – Mrs. Mindy Taylor
Mr. Seelye provided the interview questions to each board member and candidate prior to tonight’s

meeting so they could be prepared for the interview.

Open Board Seat Candidate Discussion – After completing the round of interviews, the Board of Education did not require time for discussion.

Open Board Set Selection – It was motioned by Serenity Dankert and supported by Bryan Searles, “that Kim Jutson be elected to serve the remaining term of our open board seat until December 2025.” Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Bryan Searles, supported by Kristen Bauer-Frye, “that the Consent Agenda Items for the November 11, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education be adopted, as presented.” The motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the Regular meeting minutes of the October 14, 2024 Board Meeting”.

Payment of the Bills

Motion: “that the Board of Education, pay Gross Payrolls for October 4, 2024 and October 18, 2024; Benefits and Utilities and ACH transfers for the month of October 2024.”

Motion: “that the Board of Education of Pellston Public Schools pay all fund bills paid by checks as listed in the enclosed board packet totaling: \$629,033.46.”

Business and Finance Items

Personnel Items

Adjournment

It was motioned by Serenity Dankert and supported by Bryan Searles to adjourn the meeting at 8:18PM. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned.