

PELLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Minutes

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

Monday, December 9, 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, December 9, 2024. Members present: Jim Milbrandt, Kristen Bauer-Frye, Serenity Dankert, Bryan Searles and Kim Jutson. Members absent: Rob Thomson 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 Kristen Bauer-Frye.

Information/Presentations

Spotlight Presentation – Mr. Steven Mallory shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting how Native students at Pellston Public Schools are being supported through his Title VI Coordinator role.

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

Athletic Conference – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about an invitation to join a new athletic conference. Mr. Seelye and Mr. Schlappi shared their thoughts and gathered feedback from board members. 2025-2026 athletic schedules are already set so this potential move wouldn't take effect until the 2026-2027 school year. A final decision is not needed until the fall. No action was requested at this time.

Grid Link Demand Response Program – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about an opportunity offered by Consumers Energy called Grid Lock Demand Response Program. Demand Response is a program that encourages energy consumers to reduce or shift their electricity usage during peak demand periods to alleviate stress on the electrical grid, ensuring reliability and cost-effectiveness. Grid Lock enables our district to participate seamlessly by automating and optimizing energy reduction during peak demand periods, ensuring maximum revenue generation with minimal operational effort. If Pellston joins, there will be one event quarterly where Consumers Energy may notify us that energy is needed on the grid and we would simply agree not to charge our buses during peak times. An agreement to participate would also include a financial contribution from Consumer’s Energy. No action was requested at this time.

Part Time Maintenance Position – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about the need to hire a part time maintenance person to assist Mr. Chapman. Mike does an amazing job maintaining both buildings, the grounds and the endless list of work orders. Jared will project a budget for this addition and will report back to the board next month. No action was requested at this time.

Bus Driver Hiring Bonus – Mr. Seelye led a discussion with the Board of Education about the ongoing need for bus drivers nationwide. It may be time to consider offering a hiring bonus in an attempt to attract new drivers. This would potentially need to include a retention bonus to keep our current drivers. No action was requested at this time.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Bryan Searles, supported by Kristen Bauer-Frye, “that the Consent Agenda Items for the December 9, 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 November 11, 2024 Board Meeting”.

Payment of the Bills

Motion: “that the Board of Education, pay Gross Payrolls for November 1, 2024, November 15, 2024 and November 29, 2024; Benefits and Utilities and ACH transfers for the month of November 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: \$1,054,427.76.”

Business and Finance Items

Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the new Mandatory Weight Room Policy as presented.” Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel Items

Adjournment

It was motioned by Serenity Dankert and supported by Kim Jutson to adjourn the meeting at 7:47PM. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned.