

PEN ARGYL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 22, 2021

A meeting of the Pen Argyl Area School Board was held in the Wind Gap Middle School, Russell H. Roper Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 with Mr. Robert Rutt, President, presiding.

Roll Call – Those present were: Mrs. Debbie Castle, Mr. John Dally, Jr., Mr. Darrin Evans, Mr. Ethan Habrial, Mrs. Lisa Hackman, Mrs. Heather Hahn, Mr. Jason Keenhold, Mr. Jeff Moyer and Mr. Robert Rutt. Also present were: Mr. Walter Schlegel, Jr., Mrs. Jamie Achenbach and Mr. Alan McFall.

Mr. Rutt stated an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss safety issues, personnel and student issues.

ATSI School Improvement Plan – Mr. Domchek and Mr. Freeman reviewed the Non-title I, ATSI School Improvement Plan for the Pen Argyl Area High School. This is expected to be the third and final year of the ATSI process. Mr. Domchek explained that the High School has exceeded the goals set in years one and two of the ATSI process by wide margins. Mr. Domchek elaborated upon the contributing factors for the positive results, and explained that the interventions in place for the third and hopefully final year of the ATSI process remain unchanged due the marked success experienced in the first two years. Approval was sought from the Board for the plan outlining the third year of the ATSI process and was included on the agenda as item 9-1.

Pen Argyl Area Education Association Contract – Mr. Schlegel presented the detail of the new six year contract that the Administration is recommending which includes:

- 2.73% average increase over six years
- Increase to various insurance co-payments and premium shares
- Changes to the Retirement Incentive
- Changes to Medical Contribution
- Adjustments to beginning salaries

2021/22 ESSER'S Health and Safety Plan – Mr. Schlegel explained districts receiving money must complete a Health and Safety plan following federal and state guidelines. The plan must include the following three components.

1 – How the LEA will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate school for in-person learning;

2 – How the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services;

3 – How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendation established by the CDC:

- a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;
- b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);
- c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;
- d. Cleaning and maintaining health facilities, including improving ventilation;
- e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with State and local health departments;
- f. Diagnostic and screening testing;
- g. Efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to school communities;
- h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and
- i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

The LEA's Health and Safety Plan must be approved by its governing body and posted on the LEA's publicly available website by July 30, 2021.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Mr. Dally shared with the Board items discussed at the June 9, 2021 meeting including the High School and Middle School HVAC Projects, the stadium renovation project, the cupola and tennis overlay. The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. at the High School Media Center.

Curriculum Committee – Mr. Moyer shared with the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. at the Wind Gap Middle School Library.

Athletic Committee – Mr. Evans shared with the Board items discussed at the June 9, 2021 meeting including Colonial League/District XI updates, football schedules for 2022/23 and appointments. The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the High School Media Center.

Technology Committee – Mr. Rutt shared that the next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. at Wind Gap Middle School.

Public Comment – Megan Pultz spoke against reappointing Matt Suarez as head baseball coach stating her reasons why. She also spoke about a student treated unfairly at graduation and not allowed to take part in the graduation ceremony. She thanked everyone for their efforts in graduation and baccalaureate.

Adoption of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 – Mr. Dally moved, seconded by Mrs. Hackman and carried to approve that the Budget for the school year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$35,023,129 be adopted, and the necessary taxes be levied pursuant to Section 672 of the School Code as amended, and appropriations made as set forth in the budget.

Budget Summary

*Estimated Beginning Balance	\$ 1,919,996
6000 Revenue from Local Sources	20,646,945
7000 Revenue from State Sources	10,670,268
8000 Revenue from Federal Sources	1,760,920
9000 Revenue from Other Financing Sources	<u>25,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$35,023,129

1000 Instruction	\$19,169,317
2000 Support Services	11,314,560
3000 Non-instructional Services	1,284,542
5000 Other Financing Uses	<u>3,254,710</u>
Total Expenditures	\$35,023,129

*Fund Balance Designated in 2021/22 Budget:

Designated for Capital Reserve Transfer	\$1,500,000
Designated for Equipment Purchases	268,496
Designated to Balance 2021/22 Budget	140,000
Designated for Fund 29 (Athletic) Expenses	<u>11,500</u>
Total Fund Balance Used	\$1,919,996

The motion carried with one nay vote (Habrial).

Adoption of Tax Resolutions – Mr. Dally moved, seconded by Mrs. Hackman and carried to approve to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Pen Argyl Area School Board does hereby levy for the school fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, on each dollar of total assessment of all property in the School District comprised of the Borough of Pen Argyl, the Borough of Wind Gap, and the Township of Plainfield, as assessed and certified for taxation by the County, a Real Estate Tax in the amount of 5.606 mills, or \$5.606 on each One Hundred Dollars of assessed valuation of taxable property, for general school purposes, the payment of salaries and increments of the teaching staff, and to pay rental to municipal authorities and Obligation Bonds.

RESOLVED, that the Pen Argyl Area School Board reenacts the following taxes under the provisions of Act 511, known as "The Local Tax Enabling Act" of 1965 as amended for the 2021/2022 school year:

1. Earned Income Tax @ .85%
2. Realty Transfer Tax @ .5%

The motion carried with one nay vote (Habrial).

2021 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution - Mr. Dally moved, seconded by Mr. Habrial and unanimously carried to approve to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Pen Argyl Area School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2021, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction. The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2021:
 - a. Gambling tax funds. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$690,570.64.
 - b. Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds. PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$5,242.05.
 - c. Aggregate amount available. Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$695,812.69.
2. Homestead/farmstead numbers. Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:
 - a. Homestead property number. The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 3,041.
 - b. Farmstead property number. The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 45.
 - c. Homestead/farmstead combined number. Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 3,086.
3. Real estate tax reduction calculation. The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(c) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$695,812.69 by the paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 3,086, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$225.81.

2021 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution (Cont'd.)

4. Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$4,028. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$4,028. For purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

5. Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization – interim real estate tax bills. No homestead or farmstead exclusion will apply to any interim tax bill except an interim tax bill applicable to a property that includes an approved homestead or approved farmstead listed in the report received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, but not included in the tax assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill for the property. In most cases, the assessment of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads will be reflected in July 1 tax bills. However, in any case when there is an approved homestead or an approved farmstead that is not included in the assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill, and when an interim real estate tax notice is issued later based on an interim assessment including the approved homestead or approved farmstead, the interim tax notice shall reflect a homestead or farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction calculated under paragraph 5, except that the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be prorated in the same manner as the real estate tax is prorated. Assuming the interim tax notice reflects taxation as of July 1, as will occur in most such cases, the full amount of the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will apply. In the extraordinary case where the new interim tax assessment is effective after July 1, the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be prorated in the same manner as the real estate tax reflected in the interim tax bill is prorated.

Resignations – Mrs. Castle moved, seconded by Mr. Evans and unanimously carried to approve the following resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Chad Frankenfield	Teacher	Immediately
Kirsten Truman	School Psychologist	Immediately

Sabbatical Leave – Mrs. Castle moved, seconded by Mr. Evans and unanimously carried to approve the following sabbatical leave for Restoration of Health:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Debra Eichner	Teacher	21/22 School Year

Resignation/Retirement – Mrs. Castle moved, seconded by Mr. Evans and unanimously carried to approve the following resignation/retirement:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Linda Fulmer	Part Time Aide	End of 20/21 School Year

Appointment – Mrs. Castle moved, seconded by Mr. Evans and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Michayla Kelsch to teach the Wind Gap Middle summer school reading and math program from July 12 through July 23, 2021 at the contracted rate as per the PAASD Professional Personnel Contract.

Changes of Classification – Mrs. Castle moved, seconded by Mr. Evans and unanimously carried to approve the following changes of classification:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Replacing</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Glenn Chromiak	District Courier to PT Night Custodian/ Van Driver	Matthew Itterly	\$24.88/hr	06/07/21
Dean Bobko, Jr.	Substitute Custodian to PT Night Custodian/ Van Driver	Matthew Itterly	\$24.88/hr (90% payable first 45 work days)	06/07/21

Request for Family Medical Leave – Mrs. Castle moved, seconded by Mr. Evans and unanimously carried to approve the following request for Family Medical Leave:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Kelly Thomas	Teacher – PES	9/17/21-6/2/22

Appointments – Mrs. Castle moved, seconded by Mr. Evans and unanimously carried to approve the following appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Replacing</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Krista Campbell	Induction Program Support Teacher – Patrick Alfieri	New	\$1,820.00 (4.0 Pts.)	08/24/21
Jeffrey Meyers	Induction Program Support Teacher – Jessica Tighe	New	\$1,820.00 (4.0 Pts.)	08/24/21
Sarah McCone	Induction Program Support Teacher – Madeline Kohutka	New	\$1,820.00 (4.0 Pts.)	08/24/21
Sarah Herbert-Hannick	Induction Program Support Teacher – Brady Mutton	New	\$1,820.00 (4.0 Pts.)	08/24/21

Resignation – Mrs. Castle moved, seconded by Mr. Evans and unanimously carried to approve the following resignation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Thomas Prosser	Head Golf	Immediately

Appointments – Mrs. Hahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Castle and unanimously carried to approve the following appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Replacing</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
*Devin Presby	Teacher – PES	Mary Cramer	\$51,425 (St. 1, Cl. 4)	08/24/21
*Patrick Alfieri	Teacher – PAHS	Cheryl Hance	\$51,425 (St. 1, Cl. 4)	08/24/21
*Nicole Francis	Teacher - PES	Amanda Koenig	\$46,000 (St. 1, Cl. 1)	08/24/21

*Pending receipt of all required paperwork. It is understood that employment is provisional until all required paperwork is received, based on the requirements of the Public Employee Relations Act and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Appointments – Mrs. Hackman moved, seconded by Mr. Keenhold and unanimously carried to approve the following appointments which are temporary for the 21/22 school year and funded by Federal ESSER’s funds until the funds are exhausted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Replacing</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
*Brady Mutton	ESSER Teacher - PAHS	New	\$46,000 (St. 1, Cl. 1)	08/24/21
*Jessica Tighe	ESSER Teacher – PAHS	New	\$46,000 (St. 1, Cl. 1)	08/24/21
*Chad Hausmann	ESSER Teacher - PAHS	New	\$46,200 (St. 2, Cl. 1)	08/24/21
*Madeline Kohutka	ESSER Teacher - WGMS	New	\$46,000 (St. 1, Cl. 1)	08/24/21
*Kaitlyn McConnell	ESSER Teacher - PES	New	\$46,200 (St. 2, Cl. 1)	08/24/21
*Allison Young	ESSER Teacher - PES	New	\$46,200 (St. 2, Cl. 1)	08/24/21

*Pending receipt of all required paperwork. It is understood that employment is provisional until all required paperwork is received, based on the requirements of the Public Employee Relations Act and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Re-Appointment – Mr. Keenhold moved, seconded by Mr. Habrial, to table 7-11. A roll call vote was taken.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
John Dally	Debbie Castle
Ethan Habrial	Darrin Evans
Jason Keenhold	Lisa Hackman
Jeff Moyer	Heather Hahn
Robert Rutt	

The motion carried 5-4 to table 7-11.

Upon further clarification, Mr. Keenhold requested to table Matthew Suarez but approve all others listed under 7-11 for re-appointment.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Matthew Suarez	Head Baseball	\$7,095.00 (15.0 Pts., Yr. 4, St. 3)

Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mrs. Hahn, and unanimously carried to approve the following re-appointments for the 2021/2022 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
William Schankel	Head Softball	\$7,740.00 (15.0 Pts., Yr. 29, St. 5)
Glenn Bray	Head (Boys) Track & Field	\$5,676.00 (11.0 Pts., Yr. 16, St. 5)
Christina Straub	Head (Girls) Track & Field	\$5,423.00 (11.0 Pts., Yr. 6, St. 4)
Peter Demyan	Head (Boys) Tennis	\$6,690.00 (15.0 Pts., Yr. 2, St. 2)

Approval of Pen Argyl Area High School ATSI School Improvement Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year – Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mrs. Castle and unanimously carried to approve the ATSI School Improvement Plan for Pen Argyl Area High School for the 2021-2022 school year.

Approval of Pediatric Therapeutic Services Contract – Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mrs. Castle and unanimously carried to approve the contracted rate listed below with Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc.

Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc. is engaged in the business of providing a range of pediatric therapy services. It is recommended that the Pen Argyl Area School District enter into a contract with PTS for school based Psychological Therapy services at the following rate:

<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	
\$78.49/hr.	\$77.49/hr.	Psychological Therapy services

Approval of PSBA 2021 Delegate Assembly Certification of Voting Delegates – Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mrs. Castle and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Lisa Hackman and Heather Hahn as voting delegates for the PSBA 2021 Delegate Assembly.

Administrative/Board Comments – There were no comments.

Adjournment – Mr. Rutt declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.