

PEN ARGYL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 20, 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, July 20, 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 the meeting to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

PAASD Health and Safety Plan for 21/22 School Year – Mr. Schlegel reviewed the 2021/22 H&S Plan, his review included the following information:

The H&S Plan is required by all districts who will receive Federal Funding under the ESSER's program.

The plan was developed following the template provided by PDE. The plan took into consideration the guidance provided by the CDC in their latest release of information. It also took into consideration current conditions that exist in the state/county/local.

Mr. Schlegel reviewed current guidance provided by the CDC as it pertains to masking for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals within schools.

The plan is available on the district website. Highlights of the plan included.

- Masks will be optional for all students and staff. Masks will be highly recommended for unvaccinated individuals. Masking will be optional outdoors.
- Masks are required for all individuals on school buses per the federal requirements.
- Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent practicable
- Lunch will be served primarily in cafes and students will be seated to the greatest distance between one another that is possible.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette practices will remain in place.
- The District will continue to practice many of the same cleaning and ventilation procedures that were in place in 2020/21.
- Contact tracing, quarantining and isolation will be followed using the latest CDC and DOH guidance.
- Daily screening will continue to be encouraged of all staff and students before reporting to school.

Mr. Schlegel stressed that the plan is again based on current conditions and may change as conditions change.

District-Wide Virtual Instruction Professional Development Plan – Mr. Greg Freeman, Mrs. Mary Dillon, and Chris Harrington presented a professional development plan in which the District would partner with Michigan Virtual to provide long-term, comprehensive professional development to District faculty addressing the delivery of virtual instruction. Mr. Freeman initiated the presentation by explaining that the admin. team met with all District faculty to solicit feedback concerning the level of need for professional development in the area of virtual instruction, then formulated three, District-wide professional development goals predicated upon that feedback: (1) Gain a knowledge of instructional design principles for 100% virtual instruction; (2) Designing effective asynchronous activities that correspond with curriculum; (3) Identify and implement (Create) effective assessments in a virtual setting. Mrs. Dillon continued the presentation by explaining that the plan would be financed using ESSER III funds and explained the vetting process that culminated with the selection of Michigan Virtual. Administrators reached out to and solicited proposals from five professional development organizations. Michigan Virtual was selected because they offered the most targeted and comprehensive plan at a price point deemed reasonable when considering the level of support being provided. Finally, Chris Harrington, a Michigan Virtual employee, provided an overview of the company and reviewed the proposed professional development plan. Mr. Schlegel confirmed that a Board vote to approve the plan was not needed or sought, but that the relatively high cost of the plan warranted an explanation to the Board.

Approval of Minutes – Mrs. Hahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Hackman and unanimously carried to approve the Board Minutes of June 22, 2021 and June 29, 2021.

Treasurer's Report – Mrs. Hackman moved, seconded by Mrs. Castle and unanimously carried to accept the Treasurer's Report of July 14, 2021.

Budget Report – The report of the General Fund showing revenues received, expenditures, encumbrances and balances as of July 14, 2021 was presented to the Board.

Approval of Payment of Bills – Mr. Keenhold moved, seconded by Mr. Habrial and unanimously carried to approve the payment of bills for July 2021.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Mr. Dally shared with the Board that the August 11, 2021 meeting has been rescheduled for August 4, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. at the High School Media Center.

Athletic Committee – Mr. Evans shared with the Board that the August 11, 2021 meeting has been rescheduled for August 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the High School Media Center.

Public Comment – Mr. Robert Pipech, High School teacher, publicly thanked the Board, Administration for their support in his Administrative principalship, which is coming to an end.

Revised 2021 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution - Mr. Habrial moved, seconded by Mr. Keenhold 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~~553.85~~.
 - 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~~776.41~~.
 - c. Aggregate amount available. Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$695,812.69~~330.26~~.
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 3,016~~068~~.
 - b. Farmstead property number. The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is ~~4543~~.
 - c. Homestead/farmstead combined number. Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 3,061~~444~~.
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 3,061~~444~~, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$227.72~~224.14~~.

Revised ~~2021~~2018 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 \$4,062~~076~~. 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 \$4,062~~076~~. 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. Hackman moved, seconded by Mrs. Hahn and unanimously carried to approve the following resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Kaitlin Sofronie	Teacher – PAHS	Immediately
Cheryl Hance	Secondary English Coordinator	Immediately
Cheryl Hance	12 th Grade Advisor	Immediately
Catherine Novello	Secondary Social Studies Coordinator	Immediately
Sarah Hannick	10 th Grade Advisor	Immediately
Krista Campbell	11 th Grade Advisor	Immediately
Tara Warnke	Teacher – PAHS	Immediately

Appointment – Mrs. Hackman moved, seconded by Mrs. Hahn and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Krista Campbell to teach the Pen Argyl High School summer school program as an addition to the faculty members approved at the 5/25/21 Board meeting at the contracted rate as per the PAASD Professional Personnel Contract.

Appointments – Mrs. Hackman moved, seconded by Mrs. Hahn 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>
*Carrie Castanhinha	ESSER Teacher – PES	New	\$51,425 (St. 1, Cl. 4)	08/24/21
*Rebecca Hart	ESSER Teacher – PES	New	\$46,000 (St. 1, Cl. 1)	08/24/21
*Kristen Alonzo	ESSER Teacher - WGMS	New	\$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.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Katie Kern	Teacher – WGMS	08/24/21-11/19/21

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Replacing</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Nolan Gerencser	Induction Program Support Teacher – Austin Cory	New	\$1,820.00 (4.0 Pts.)	08/24/21
Jeanne Smith	Induction Program Support Teacher – Monika Danoski	New	\$1,820.00 (4.0 Pts.)	08/24/21
Ryan Berger	Induction Program Support Teacher – Kristen Alonzo	New	\$1,820.00 (4.0 Pts.)	08/24/21

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Replacing</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Adam Ferullo	Secondary Social Studies Coordinator	Catherine Novello	\$3,412.50 (Yr. 1, St. 1, 7.5 Pts.)	08/24/21
Krista Campbell	Secondary English Coordinator	Cheryl Hance	\$3,412.50 (Yr. 1, St. 1, 7.5 Pts.)	08/24/21
Karin Capri	SADD Advisor	Open	\$910.00 (Yr. 1, St. 1, 2.0 Pts.)	08/24/21
Johanna Roche	10 th Grade Advisor	Sarah Hannick	\$1,365.00 (Yr. 1, St. 1, 3 Pts)	08/24/21
Sarah Hannick	11 th Grade Advisor	Krista Campbell	\$2,550.00 (Yr. 5, St. 3, 5 Pts)	08/24/21
Krista Campbell	12 th Grade Advisor	Cheryl Hance	\$2,785.00 (Yr. 11, St. 5, 5 Pts)	08/24/21

Resignation – Mrs. Hackman moved, seconded by Mrs. Hahn and unanimously carried to approve the following resignation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Frances Rowley	Head Field Hockey	Immediately

Appointments – Mrs. Hackman 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>
*Austin Cory	Teacher – PAHS	Catherine Novello	\$51,225 (St. 1, Cl. 3)	08/24/21
*Monika Danoski	Teacher – WGMS	Mary Kay Williams	\$51,425 (St. 1, Cl. 4)	08/24/21
*Morgan Schantz	Teacher - PES	Aubry Miller	\$46,000 (St. 1, Cl. 1)	08/24/21
*Pamela O’Brien	Teacher - WGMS	Brooke Hartranft	\$53,825 (St. 4, Cl. 4)	08/24/21
*Mildred Gomez	Teacher - PAHS	Kaitlin Sofronie	\$47,600 (St. 2, Cl. 2)	08/24/21
*Kylie Rissmiller	LTS - PES	Kelly Thomas	\$51,225 (St. 1, Cl. 3)	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.

Change Order Numbers 4 and 5 – Mr. Dally moved, seconded by Mr. Keenhold and carried to approve the following Change Order Number 4 and 5 for the Pen Argyl High School Air Conditioning Modification Project:

Order #4	Furnish & Install 28 missing wall boxes and supports as required to install the unit ventilators.	Add	\$35,313.99
Order #5	Expedite Wall Box Fabrication Delivery	Add	\$600.00

The motion carried with one nay vote (Habrial)

Approval of PAASD Health and Safety Plan for the 21/22 School Year – Mr. Keenhold moved, seconded by Mr. Dally and unanimously carried to approve the PAASD Health and Safety Plan for the 21/22 School Year.

Approval of Colonial Academy School Lunch Contract – Mr. Keenhold moved, seconded by Mr. Dally and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 to provide breakfasts at a cost of \$1.40 per breakfast and lunches at a cost of \$2.65 per lunch to the Colonial Academy for the 2021/22 school year.

Approval of PAASD/Community Services for Children Inc. Contract for Services – Mr. Keenhold moved, seconded by Mr. Dally and unanimously carried to approve the attached Contract between the Pen Argyl Area School District and Community Services for Children, Inc. to collaborate in the delivery of Early Childhood Education services to 40 children and their families who are enrolled in the PAASD/Pre-K Counts for the period beginning 8/1/21-7/31/22.

9-2Approval of PAASD/CIU #20 Letter of Agreement for Non-Public Schools Instructional Services – Mr. Keenhold moved, seconded by Mr. Dally and unanimously carried to approve the attached Letter of Agreement between the Pen Argyl Area School District and Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 requesting that CIU#20 provide reading and/or math instructional services in accordance with the Title I Program at non-public parochial schools for the 2021/22 school year.

9-2Approval of Psychological Services – Mr. Keenhold moved, seconded by Mr. Dally and unanimously carried to approve Dr. Janine Wargo, School Psychologist at \$70 per hour to complete special education and gifted evaluations and Mrs. Kirsten Truman, School Psychologist at \$45 per hour to complete special education and gifted evaluations from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Approval of Textbooks – Mrs. Hackman moved, seconded by Mrs. Hahn and unanimously carried to approve the addition of the following textbooks to the list of approved textbooks for the Pen Argyl Area School District:

Environmental Science	<u>Environmental Science: Your World, Your Turn</u> Savvas Learning Company 2021
Science, Grades 4-8	<u>Inspire Science</u> McGraw-Hill 2020
Criminal Justice	<u>Introduction to Criminal Justice</u> McGraw Hill 2021
AP U.S. History	<u>By the People: A History of the U.S.</u> Savvas Learning Company 2021
AP European History	<u>The Western Heritage Since 1300</u> Savvas Learning Company 2020
Social Studies K-3	<u>Young Citizens</u> Social Studies School Service- Nystrom Education 2019
FCS 1, 2, 3 & Family Relations	<u>Interpersonal Relationships</u> Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc. 2018
Coding	<u>Java Programming</u> Cengage Learning 2019
Spanish 5	<u>Asi de Dice</u> McGraw Hill 2016

Request for Approval for Potential Overnight Athletic Trips – Mrs. Hackman moved, seconded by Mrs. Hahn and unanimously carried to approve the following potential overnight athletic trips for the High School Athletic Program for the 2021/22 School Year:

Oct. 11, 2021	PIAA State East Regional Golf Tournament in Fleetwood, PA
Oct. 18, 19 & 25, 2021	PIAA State Golf Tournament in York, PA
Oct. 29-30, 2021	PIAA State Girls Team Tennis Tournament in Hershey, PA
Nov. 5-6, 2021	PIAA State Girls Singles/Doubles Tournament in Hershey, PA
Nov. 6, 2021	PIAA State Cross Country Meet in Hershey, PA
Jan. 15, 2022	Souderton Duals Wrestling Tournament, Souderton, PA
Jan. 14-15, 2022	PIAA State Competitive Spirit Championships, Hershey, PA
Feb. 16-19, 2022	PIAA State Swimming & Diving Competition, Lewisburg, PA
Feb. 10-12, 2022	PIAA State Team Wrestling Tournament in Hershey, PA
March 4-5, 2022	PIAA State SE Regional Individual Wrestling Tournament in Reading, PA
March 10-12, 2022	PIAA State Wrestling Individual Tournament in Hershey, PA
March 24-26, 2022	PIAA State Team Basketball Tournament, Hershey, PA
May 20-21, 2022	PIAA State Boys Team Tennis Tournament in Hershey, PA
May 27-28, 2022	PIAA State Boys Individual Tennis Tournament in Hershey, PA
May 27-28, 2022	PIAA State Track and Field Meet in Shippensburg, PA
May 16-17, 2022	PIAA State Baseball Tournament in State College, PA
May 16-17, 2022	PIAA State Softball Tournament in State College, PA

*The above tournaments may have athletes participate and the athletes will be under the direct supervision of their coaches or their parents.

Administrative/Board Comments – There were no comments.

Adjournment – Mr. Rutt declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.