

**NORTH HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 – 7:15 P.M.
VIDEO BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM
www.nhsd.net**

Call to Order

The meeting, which was held via Zoom Webinar, was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Mrs. Mathis opened the meeting with a moment of silence and salute to the flag. Mrs. Mathis took attendance via roll call.

Board Members Present

Sandra Kozera, Phil Little, Allison Mathis, Annette Giovengo Nolish, Deanna Philpott, Katie Poniatowski, Kathy Reid, Rachael Rennebeck, and Helen Spade.

Board Members Not Present

None

Also Present

Dr. Patrick J. Mannarino, Dr. Beth Williams, Dr. Nicole Bezila, Amy Mathieu, Jerry Muth, Michael Witherel, Esq., Heather Pelat, Kris Kaufmann, and student representatives Ellie Fleischer and Hannah Sciulli.

Board Member Comments

Mrs. Mathis announced that the Board met in Executive Session on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 to discuss personnel and legal issues.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade and unanimously passed to approve the minutes from the July 23, 2020 Committee Meeting with Action.

Superintendent's Report

Re: Gov. Wolf's recommendation to postpone youth, school sports until 2021

Our health and safety plans say that we will follow the guidance and recommendations of the governor's office. As you know I am a member of the WPIAL and the PIAA board of directors. The PIAA board will be meeting tomorrow [Friday] at noon to discuss the governor's recommendations, get clarification as to recommendation on in season vs. out of season activities and to develop a plan as it pertains to sports that traditionally occur during the fall

season. We will wait for that plan before making any decisions about cancelling or suspending fall sport activities.

Re: Virtual opening recommendation

This is a very difficult time. I never expected to be in this situation for the start of this school year, but here we are. This virus is alive and active in Allegheny County and in our communities. Our daily case counts place me in a situation to think very long and hard about the health, safety and well-being of the students and staff of this district.

I have read every email, countless studies, documents and medical opinions. I agree that the best place for children to receive their education is in person with our amazing teachers. But we are a large district, and even at a reduced capacity in our most restrictive in-person model, we have large numbers of people congregating in our buildings for over seven hours each day. Our buildings are the largest operating spaces in our communities. Even at the hybrid capacity, the high school will have over 900 people occupying it daily. West View Elementary is our smallest school and at hybrid capacity, they will have 300 people in the building for the day.

This is where the issue lies for me: Large buildings, with large populations, in an environment where there is a virus that can quickly infect a great number of people and begin its spread before we know it is upon us. It is a risk that I am not willing to take at this time. I know there is the potential for danger, and for that danger to turn into disastrous results for students or staff. My gut is telling me, “Don’t do it. Don’t put the lives of our students and staff in a compromising position.” So, I recommend that we begin the year virtually, and we will be presenting the details and logistics of the virtual start this evening. I have been stating that we have planned for 180 days of instruction with four different operational models.

I want to get to in-person instruction as soon as it becomes safer for us to do so. Should my recommendation fail this evening, we are prepared for in-person learning. My recommendation is not based on readiness for in-person learning, it is about exposure to risk.

I am optimistic that we as a community can get this virus under control and allow for the district to move to the Hybrid model on Oct 5 and eventually to a full traditional operation before the end of the school year.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mark Hajbura, 115 Sprucewood Drive, Ross Township

Joanne Lauer, 161 Westfield Avenue, West View

Donna Roberts, 247 Nelson Run Road, Ross Township

Maureen Welsh, 336 Perry Highway, West View

The above residents had questions and concerns regarding various reopening models. Some questions were of general interest, and some questions were specific to their child or children.

EDUCATION

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade and **passed by a roll call vote of 6 yea and 3 nay to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to open school on August 25, 2020 in the Virtual Model, as outlined in the approved North Hills School District Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan.** It is recommended that students will attend school virtually through Friday, October 2, 2020, with the hope of moving to the Hybrid model on Monday, October 5, 2020, if conditions improve. Voting yea was Ms. Kozera, Mr. Little, Mrs. Mathis, Dr. Nolish, Ms. Philpott and Mrs. Reid. Voting nay was Mrs. Poniatowski, Mrs. Rennebeck, and Mrs. Spade.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the Acceptance of the PCCD Grant in the amount of \$287,943,** as per document 3, as recommended by the Superintendent. This grant is being used to ensure continuity of education by providing funding for MacBooks, iPads, and cleaning and sanitizing supplies.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the North Hills High School Student Handbook and Guide for Parents 2020-21,** as per document 4, as recommended by the Superintendent.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the North Hills Middle School Student Handbook and Guide for Parents 2020-21,** as per document 5, as recommended by the Superintendent.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the North Hills Elementary School Student Handbook and Guide for Parents 2020-21,** as per document 6, as recommended by the Superintendent.

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

None

A.W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER

None

PERSONNEL

Resignations

A motion was made by Mrs. Spade, seconded by Mrs. Mathis, and unanimously **passed to approve Resignations,** as per document 1, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Shannon Gruber – Girls' Middle School Volleyball Coach, effective July 30, 2020

Andrea Gallant – Speech Therapist at Ross Elementary, effective August 3, 2020

Sharon Gallagher – Food Service Worker, with the intent to retire effective May 28, 2020

Appointments

A motion was made by Mrs. Spade, seconded by Mrs. Mathis, and unanimously **passed to approve Appointments**, as per document 2, as recommended by the Superintendent.

1. Carey Iannuzzo – Middle School Girls’ Soccer Coach, at the rate of \$2,100, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Ryan Montgomery – Middle School Boys’ Soccer Coach, at the rate of \$2,286, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. Steven Guntrum – Electrician, at the rate of \$21.28/hour, effective August 10, 2020.

The Board approved the substitute employees effective August 25, 2020, per the attached listing.

Changes of Status

A motion was made by Mrs. Spade, seconded by Mrs. Mathis, and unanimously **passed to approve Changes of Status ****, as per document 3, as recommended by the Superintendent.

****Ms. Philpott voted nay on item 2.**

1. Brandon Wagner – from Paraprofessional at the Middle School to Long-Term Substitute teacher at Highcliff Elementary, at the rate of \$35,000 effective August 10, 2020 through the end of the 2020-21 school year.
2. Hannah Trocchio – from Teaching Assistant at McIntyre Elementary to Long-Term Substitute elementary teacher, at the rate of \$35,000, effective August 10, 2020 through the end of the 2020-21 school year.
3. Leah Curtis – from Teaching Assistant at Highcliff Elementary to Long-Term Substitute elementary teacher, at the rate of \$35,000, effective August 10, 2020 through the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Mrs. Spade, seconded by Mrs. Mathis, and unanimously **passed to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the North Hills School District and the North Hills Education Association**, as per document 4, as recommended by the Superintendent.

This MOU provides specific operational language relative to the COVID19 pandemic and is effective for the 2020-21 school year.

Substitute Rates for 2020-2021

A motion was made by Mrs. Spade, seconded by Mrs. Mathis, and unanimously **passed to approve the pay rates for substitute employees for the 2020-21 school year.**

- Substitute Teacher Rate: \$ 95/day (1-20 workdays)
 \$100/day (21-40 workdays)
 \$105/day (41-60 workdays)
 \$110/day (61 workdays and beyond)
- Substitute Nurse: \$100/day
- Substitute Paraprofessional: \$10/hour
- Substitute Secretaries: \$12/hour
- Substitute Clerk \$10/hour
- Substitute Custodians: \$10/hour
 - LTS Custodians: \$12/hour
- Substitute Food Service: \$10/hour
- Sub Lunchroom Aide: \$9.49/hour

Superintendent Authority

A motion was made by Mrs. Spade, seconded by Mrs. Mathis, and **unanimously passed to authorize the Superintendent to make personnel hiring decisions in consultation with the School Board President, that will be ratified at the next public meeting.** This action is required in order to have the appropriate staffing model to open the 2020-21 school year on August 13, 2020 for employees while not having another school board meeting until September 3, 2020.

COMMUNITY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Little, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the annual agreement with Ross/West View Emergency Medical Services Authority,** as per document 1, as recommended by the Superintendent.

POLICIES

A motion was made by Mrs. Kozera, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve revisions to the following Board Policies,** as recommended by the Superintendent:

- Policy 118 – Homeschooling
- Policy 201 – Admission of Students
- Policy 213 – Grading Procedures

LEGISLATIVE

None

FINANCE

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to ratify General Fund Bills**, as per document 1, as recommended by the Superintendent. These include checks numbered: 61043 through 61060; 61062 through 61068; 61072 through 61122; and 61126 through 61136.

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and **unanimously passed to ratify Capital Project Fund Bills**, as per document 2, as recommended by the Superintendent. These include checks numbered: 61069 through 61071.

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to ratify Food Service Fund Bills**, as per document 3, as recommended by the Superintendent. These include checks numbered: 61123 through 61125.

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to ratify Scholarship Fund Bills**, as per document 4, as recommended by the Superintendent. These include checks numbered: 61061

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve Payroll for the Month of July 2020 in the amount of \$2,821,938.93**, as per document 5, as recommended by the Superintendent.

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to appoint Hoseck Specht Muetzell and Wood LLP as the district's auditors** for the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 fiscal years, for a cumulative total for these services of \$57,750, as per document 6, as recommended by the Superintendent.

SUPPORT SERVICES

A motion was made by Ms. Philpott, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the Bid Award for Security Cameras**, as per document 1, as recommended by the Superintendent. The bid was awarded to Dagostino Electronics, Inc. for 15 surveillance cameras, including licenses and accessories in the amount of \$12,877.50, and the bid for 10 panoramic cameras, including licenses and accessories, in the amount of \$12,721.80.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scharie Arbogast, 78 Amherst Avenue, West View

Diane Conover, 107 Ivy Road, Ross Township

Jewelene Piso, 7 Clarion Avenue, Ross Township

Thomas Cloonan, 614 Park Place, Ross Township

Toni Reed, 208 Oakwood Avenue, West View

Maureen Welsh, 336 Perry Highway, West View

The above individuals asked questions of the Board and administration regarding virtual learning and hybrid learning in matters of general interest as well as matters specific to their children.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Mathis adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Loretta J. Rieger
School Board Secretary