

**NORTH HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020 – 7:15 P.M.  
VIDEO BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM  
[www.nhsd.net](http://www.nhsd.net)**

**Call to Order**

The meeting, which was held via Zoom Webinar, was called to order at 7:20 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, Rachael Rennebeck, and Helen Spade.

**Board Members Not Present**

Kathy Reid

**Also Present**

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

**Board Member Comments**

Mrs. Mathis stated that the Board met in Executive Session on May 13, 2020 and May 18, 2020 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

She then stated that this is the last meeting before the end of the school year and on behalf of the Board, she wanted to thank the administration, teachers, students and families for their hard work and cooperation during the school closure and digital learning.

Lastly Mrs. Mathis stated that Ross Township, in cooperation with the school district, held a food drive at the high school. There was a huge turnout and they collected food and donations for our families in need.

Mr. Little stated that the North Hills School District Administration was recognized in Education Weekly for developing a plan to hold a socially distant graduation ceremony. Mr. Little thanked Dr. Mannarino and the Administrative team for all they are doing to honor the Class of 2020.

Ms. Philpott stated that she participated in teacher interviews and was very impressed with the quality of the applicants. She thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the interview team.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

None

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of April 30, 2020 Committee Meeting with Action.

### **Student Representatives' Report**

Ellie Fleischer and Hannah Sciulli thanked all of their teachers for being helpful, available and encouraging during virtual learning.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Good evening. It's hard to believe that here we are -- *albeit virtually* -- at our May legislative meeting with the last day of school just a week away. The last two-and-a-half months have never looked so different, and not in a good way. We've faced never-before-seen challenges and have been tested in ways that I truly hope are behind us. But we did it. We made it through. And I couldn't be more proud of this district -- our teachers, families, students, administrators, for all of your hard work. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We're excited about commencement next Saturday, and we think our seniors are too! We held a cap and gown pick up parade at the high school today, and many showed up with their cars decorated, horns blaring... We gave them North Hills masks and yard signs... Teachers, administrators and board members lined the parking lot to cheer on our graduates -- six feet apart, of course. We had music playing. And it was just great to see everyone come together in celebration of such a great class.

We continue to plan for next school year and what it might look like. We're hopeful we're back in a traditional classroom setting in August, but we're also planning as best we can for the uncertainty that lies ahead. We've got to. We're working on plans to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff members. It's also possible we might move our first day, potentially starting earlier or potentially starting after Labor Day, this all depends on how the next month or so goes and the guidance we receive from the Governor's Office and the Department of Education. We'll be sure to communicate details as soon as we have them.

Since our last meeting, we've also received word that some welcomed relief is coming from the federal government. We're entitled to \$313,000 of the state's share of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund to respond to challenges faced by COVID-19.

The money will allow us to hire in some areas where we otherwise would not have been able to, and ultimately maintain current class sizes without utilizing the proposed class size policy override, so we're very excited about that.

## EDUCATION

Dr. Beth Williams presented a Curriculum Council Update to the Board. The curricular areas covered in this presentation are K-12 Art, K-6 Social Studies, 7-12 Social Studies, 7-12 Math, Accelerate Educate Online Learning Platform, and Project Connect.

### Action Items

2. A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade and unanimously, **passed to approve the Remake Learning Grant Acceptance**, as per document 2, as recommended by the Superintendent. This grant in the amount of \$1,000 is to be used in a middle school social studies classroom.
3. A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the Allegheny Intermediate Unit 2020-21 Services Agreement**, as per document 3, as recommended by the Superintendent. The AIU provides specialized educational services as needed.
4. A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the CAD Computers Bid Award**, as per document 4, as recommended by the Superintendent. The bid for 55 CAD computers was awarded to Staples in the amount of \$73,948.60.
5. A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and **passed by a vote of 7 yea and 1 nay, to approve the Suspension of Requirement to take the Advanced Placement Exam**, as per document 5, as recommended by the Superintendent. Voting yea was Ms. Kozera, Mr. Little, Mrs. Mathis, Ms. Philpott, Mrs. Poniatowski, Mrs. Rennebeck and Mrs. Spade. Voting nay was Dr. Nolish. AP students will have the choice to take any AP exams for the courses in which they are enrolled, and the district will pay 50% of the cost associated with each AP exam. The remaining 50% of the associated cost for the exam will become the responsibility of the student.

## A.W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER

- 1-A A motion was made by Mrs. Rennebeck, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the School Board Secretary to record each board member's vote on behalf of the individual board members**. This action is being taken due to the virtual nature of this meeting.

1. A motion was made by Mrs. Rennebeck, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve the 2020-2021 Operating Budget for the A.W. Beattie Career Center**, as per document 1, as recommended by the Superintendent. The North Hills School District is responsible for \$965,369 to the Operating Budget and \$203,152 for debt service.

## **PERSONNEL**

### Resignations

1. Julie Bairhalter – Middle School Softball Coach, resignation effective May 15, 2020
2. Clare Brown – Asst. Varsity Cross Country Coach, resignation effective April 27, 2020
3. Rachele Dixon – Girls Varsity Head Soccer Coach, resignation effective April 28, 2020
4. Rick Nobbs – Maintenance, resignation with intent to retire, effective August 5, 2020
5. William Steiner – Maintenance, resignation effective June 5, 2020

### Appointments

1. Caitlin Evans – Elementary Physical Education Teacher, at the rate of \$49,668 (B-Step 5), effective August 11, 2020.

## **COMMUNITY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

The PSBA Delegate Assembly will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2020 digitally via Zoom. North Hills may appoint up to 3 members to serve as voting delegates. Dr. Nolish nominated Ms. Kozera, Mrs. Mathis, and Mrs. Spade to serve. These members have agreed to serve, and this item will be placed on the June 4, 2020 agenda for approval.

## **POLICIES**

A motion was made by Ms. Kozera, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously passed to approve Policy Items 1 through 8, as recommended by the Superintendent.

1. Policy 310 – Abolishing a Position – Administrative Employees – Revisions
2. Policy 410 – Abolishing a Position – Professional Employees – Revisions
3. Policy 224 – Care of School Property – Revisions
4. Policy 412 – Evaluation of Professional Employees – Revisions
5. Policy 504 – Employment of Classified Personnel – Revisions
6. Policy 708 – Lending of School Owned Equipment and Books – Revisions
7. Policy 904 – Public Attendance at School Events – Revisions
8. Policy 838 – Professional Development – New Policy

## LEGISLATIVE

Ms. Kozera stated that she and Mrs. Mathis attended PSBA’s Advocacy Day on May 11<sup>th</sup> on a virtual platform. She stated that Senator Lindsey Williams, Representative Sara Innamorato and Senator Adam Ravenstahl are strong advocates for public education. She also stated that board members from other districts voiced concerns regarding their budgets and funding for education.

## FINANCE

### Informational Item

Dr. Nolish provided information on the district’s Property Tax Payment Plan. This payment plan is only offered for those that qualify for the Homestead Exemption. It includes 4 installments: August 31<sup>st</sup>, September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>. The 2% discount cannot be combined with a payment plan. After a taxpayer submits the first payment (25%), Jordan Tax Service will send coupons for the remaining payments.

Dr. Nolish also announced that there are 2 remaining meetings of the Public Budget Committee – May 28, 2020 and June 2, 2020. Both meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The Final 2020-21 General Fund Budget will be on the agenda for the June 4<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting of the Board, and then voted upon at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting.

### Action Items

2. A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to ratify General Fund Bills**, as per document 2, as recommended by the Superintendent. This includes checks numbered 60148 through 60175.
3. 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. This includes check number 60147.
4. A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to approve Budget Transfers**, as per document 4, as recommended by the Superintendent.
5. A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously **passed to award the Bid for Replacement of the Warehouse Roof and heavy maintenance for the Roofs at the Administration Building and Maintenance Garage**, as per document 5, as recommended by the Superintendent. This bid was awarded to Triangle Roofing in the amount of \$212,345.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Loretta J. Rieger  
School Board Secretary