

NORTH HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 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, Amy Mathieu, Jerry Muth, Michael Witherel, Esq., Heather Pelat and Kris Kaufmann.

Board Member Comments

Mrs. Mathis noted that the Board met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters. She then stated that our district has been dealing with the coronavirus for over 4 months and we understand that this has caused a great deal of anxiety and stress within our community. We know that this is a marathon and not a spring as we will continue to be faced with challenges and ever-changing circumstances. However, she is certain that as a district, we will rise to all challenges and we will succeed as long as we keep the best interest of the students and staff in mind.

Mr. Little spoke about PA Auditor General Eugene Pasquale's audit of PA Cyber and Lincoln Park Charter Schools and that they have over \$80 million in their fund balance. He feels this speaks to the unfair, outdated, flawed funding formula for charter schools and the immediate need for legislative reform.

Ms. Philpott thanked the members of the community for their input regarding the reopening of schools. She appreciated hearing from concerned parents and community members.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mannarino presented the Health and Safety Plan for Phased Reopening for the 2020-21 school year. He stated that this plan is for all 180 days of school, not just August 25th. In the plan, there are 4 operating models: Traditional, Blended, Hybrid, or Virtual. After his presentation and discussion of the Board, Dr. Mannarino noted that the Board will vote on August 6, 2020 as to which model to open schools. However, his recommendation at this point is to open in a Virtual model, for approximately 5 to 9 weeks, and then to evaluate the situation to see if we would remain in Virtual or move to one of the other operating models.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Toni Reed, 208 Oakwood Avenue, West View – asked if every teacher will be required to teach live in the virtual model.

John Heranic, 330 McIntyre Road, Ross Township – said thank you to Board and Administration. He expressed concerns that the blended model causes logistical problems for parents. He also asked if parents could be notified if their child is placed in a classroom with a child who has a medical exemption to not wear a mask. Could they asked to be moved to another classroom.

Marlene Ozel, 123 Carriage Drive, Ross Township – said thank you for communication and transparency. She is relieved to see that the district plans to begin in a virtual platform. But if the time comes when the students may return to the classroom, can students transfer into the Online Academy if parents are still not comfortable with in-person instruction.

Mark Hajbura, 115 Sprucewood Drive, Ross Township – expressed concern for parents who are essential employees and cannot be home with their children during virtual learning. Can the district help to find volunteers or gather resources to help families with child care.

Barbara Dreves, 106 Hidden Valley Drive, West View – stated that she has children entering the middle school and the high school, and neither of them are familiar with the buildings. Is there a plan to have a walk-through or an orientation for students prior to in-person learning.

Brandon & Christina Atwood, 732 Perry Highway, Ross Township – have a child at Highcliff Elementary and they expressed concern for their child’s social isolation if the district opens in a virtual model. They feel it’s extremely important for children to stay connected to other children as well as their teachers.

Michelle Trageser, 80 York Drive, Ross Township – stated she is new to the district and her child is an incoming kindergartner. She feels 6 to 8 hours of online learning is too much for smaller children and asked what is developmentally appropriate. Will there be an orientation for kindergartners?

Sheri Martinelli, 99 Sunnyhill Drive, Ross Township – asked who will be responsible for mask enforcement when the children are in school.

EDUCATION

Action Items:

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and **unanimously passed to approve the Dual Enrollment Agreements with Community College of Allegheny County, LaRoche University, Point Park University, Seton Hill University and the University of Pittsburgh**, as per document 2, as recommended by the Superintendent.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and **unanimously passed to approve the Student Education Agreement with Glade Run/St. Stephen’s Academy**, as per document 3, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Non-Action Items:

5. North Hills High School Student Handbook and Guide for Parents – 2020-2021
6. North Hills Middle School Student Handbook and Guide for Parents – 2020-2021
7. North Hills Elementary School Student Handbook and Guide for Parents – 2020-2021

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade and unanimously passed to add Education Items 5 through 6 to the August 6, 2020 Meeting Agenda.

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

Announcement

Mrs. Poniatowski announced that the following individuals were selected to be inducted into the North Hills Sports Hall of Fame:

- Dennis Watson – Community Supporter
- Andrew Johnson – Class of 2004
- Bill Lamb – Class of 2003
- Brian Lovasik – Class of 2015
- Shannon Malone – Class of 2013

A.W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER

Announcement

Two North Hills seniors who attended A.W. Beattie Career Center were honored for their achievements during the 2019-20 school year by the Pennsylvania Builders Association. PBA awarded certifications to students who completed at least 2 years in their CTE program, as well as met high grade point averages in their career and technical programs.’

- Brian Senchak – Carpentry Building Construction
- Benjamin Hannan – HVAC

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:

Rick Kabbert – Boys’ Middle School Soccer Coach, effective June 12, 2020
Chase Martin – Boys’ Middle School Soccer Coach, effective June 12, 2020
Danitza Nicklow – Middle School Equipment Manager, effective July 24, 2020
Samantha Sulek - Girls’ Middle School Soccer Coach, effective June 15, 2020
Kelly Marshalek – LPN at the Middle School, effective June 26, 2020
Patricia Manganaro – Food Service Worker at McIntyre, effective June 30, 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:

Justin Dosch – Varsity Assistant Cross Country Coach, at the rate of \$3,141, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.
Andy Folmer – Middle School Boys’ Soccer Coach, at the rate of \$2,286, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.
Sarah McLain – 12-month Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent, at the rate of \$17.28 per hour, effective July 1, 2020.
Parker Pain – 1st Grade Teacher at Highcliff, at the rate of \$45,718 (M-Step 2), effective August 10, 2020.
Danielle Lipscak – 2nd Grade Teacher at McIntyre, at the rate of \$45,718 (M-Step 2), effective August 10, 2020.

Superintendent’s Contract

A motion was made by Mrs. Spade, seconded by Mrs. Mathis, and **unanimously passed to approve the District Superintendent’s Contract with Dr. Patrick Mannarino for a term of (5) years, commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2026**, as per document 3.

COMMUNITY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

None

POLICIES

Action Item:

A motion was made by Ms. Kozera, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and **unanimously passed to Suspend Current Board Policy 204 Attendance, and Implement Revised Policy 204 Attendance for the 2020-21 School Year due to the COVID Pandemic**, as per document 1, as recommended by the Superintendent. This revised policy will expire on June 30, 2021 and will revert to the approved Attendance Policy currently utilized.

Policies for First Reading:

3. Policy 118 – Home Schooling – Revisions
4. Policy 201 – Admission of Students – Revisions
5. Policy 213 – Grading Procedures – Revisions

A motion was made by Ms. Kozera, seconded by Mrs. Mathis, and unanimously passed to add Policy Items 3, 4, and 5 to the August 6, 2020 Meeting agenda.

Action Items: Policies for Second Reading and Approval:

A motion was made by Ms. Kozera, seconded by Mrs. Mathis, and unanimously passed to approve the following policies for adoption, as per documents 7 through 20, as recommended by the Superintendent:

7. Policy 203 – Immunizations and Health Records – Revisions
8. Policy 208 – Pupil Medications – Revisions
9. Policy 209 – Health Examinations - Revisions
10. Policy 216 – Pediculosis (Head Lice) – Revisions
11. Policy 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products - Revisions
12. Policy 323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Administrative Employees - Revisions
13. Policy 423 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Professional Employees – Revisions
14. Policy 523 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Classified Employees – Revisions
15. Policy 244 – Diabetes Management – Revisions
16. Policy 245 – Asthma – New Policy
17. Policy 246 – Bloodborne Diseases – New Policy
18. Policy 247 – Communicable Diseases – New Policy
19. Policy 248 – Concussion – New Policy
20. Policy 249 – Food Allergies – New Policy

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: 60364 through 60374; 60376 through 60388; 60397 through 60412; 60414 through 60593; 60597 through 60685; 60687 through 60715; 60717 through 60764; 60766 through 60769; 60773; 60830 through 60901; 60908 through 60951; 60956; 60957 through 60974; 60979 through 61033; 61040 through 61042.

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: 60770; 60771; 60902; 60903; 60975; 60976; 60977; and 60978.

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: 60389 through 60396; 60772; 60774 through 60829; 60904 through 60907; 60952 through 60955; and 61034 through 61039.

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.

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and **unanimously passed to approve Payroll for the Month of June 2020 in the amount of \$3,305,150.20**, as per document 5, as recommended by the Superintendent.

SUPPORT SERVICES

None

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Vesely, 116 Lingay Drive, Ross Township – congratulated Dr. Mannarino on his contract extension. He also expressed concerns regarding the differing Health and Safety Plans for schools involved in interscholastic sports, particularly Girls Slow Pitch Softball. He is looking for direction from the PIAA for guidance on how to proceed with the season.

Toni Reed, 208 Oakwood Avenue, West View – asked if any of the student clubs could resume even in a virtual model, particularly Drama Club.

ADDITIONAL BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Mathis announced that the Board’s next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School LGI Room. All attendees are required to wear masks. Mrs. Mathis also stated that it is possible that this meeting will be changed to a Zoom Virtual Meeting. If this happens, notice will be posted on the District’s website and social media platforms.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Mathis adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Loretta J. Rieger
School Board Secretary