

**NORTH HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE MEETING WITH ACTION
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020 ~ 7:15 P.M.
DIGITAL MEETING – VIA ZOOM
www.nhsd.net**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting which was held via Zoom due to the Covid 19 closures, was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Mrs. Mathis held a roll call for attendees, and then opened the meeting with a moment of silence and salute to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

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

Board Member Comments

Mrs. Mathis read the following statement on behalf of the Board:

“Over the past week, our nation and community have been grappling with the tragic death of George Floyd and other similar incidents of racism. There is a lot of pain, anxiety, hurt and fear.

The path forward requires open and honest conversations.

North Hills is committed to being part of a larger systematic change to confront racism and inequality of any type within our neighborhoods and community, but especially in education. As a district we stand in solidarity against any and all acts of racism, disrespect and inequitable treatment of persons of color. As such, we are committed to confronting racism to create a more inclusive and just world.

We acknowledge that this is a journey. This is not a one-time statement but an ongoing conversation and the beginning of making changes as we all work together to tackle these issues. As such, North Hills will be:

- Creating a diverse task force to address these issues, ensuring that we include and center the voices of groups who have faced marginalization
- **Publishing a list** of anti-racism references and resources for our families
- Continuing to review all our policies and guidelines including our use-of-force policy
- Identifying achievement gaps and coming up with action-plans to close them
- Encouraging potential teachers, administration and all of those interested in education to apply to North Hills as a start in creating a more diverse personnel.
- Partnering with community groups, families, and leaders that represent the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in our district
- Partnering with HBCUs to gain a better understanding of needs and goals for both North Hills students and representatives of HBCUs

Know that we are committed to learning, growing and making the changes necessary to fight prejudice, racism and inequality. We will learn how to do better so that we can do what we do best, teach and educate our future leaders.”

Mrs. Reid stated that although she has missed several meetings due to health issues, she is still very much committed to doing everything she can for the district and hopes to remain on the Board.

Ms. Philpott stated that she was very interested in working on diversity, racial justice and learning about white privilege. She is an advocate for police reform and the “8 Can’t Wait” policies, particularly as they relate to our school police department.

Ms. Kozera stated that she and her daughters visited Ross elementary to pick up their belongings from lockers and classrooms and the process went very smoothly. She thanked all involved for making it a nice closure to the school year for families.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

Student Representatives’ Report

Ellie Fleischer and Hannah Sciulli, both 11th graders, talked about the nice experience they had dropping off their iPads and books, and retrieving their personal belongings from their lockers. They thanked all of the staff members for allowing them to close the school year on a nice note.

Superintendent’s Report

“Good evening. I just wanted to quickly thank all of our graduating seniors and their families for attending Saturday’s commencement. It was a great day and I’m so glad we were able to celebrate the accomplishments of our senior class with their families by their side. Congratulations and best wishes to all.

Looking forward to next school year... the Pennsylvania Department of Education announced yesterday that schools can reopen for face-to-face instruction as long as a plan is in place to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

To develop that plan, I've formed a Reopening Planning Committee made up of teachers, administrators and board members, and our first meeting is on Monday.

Together, we will build instructional models for reopening in all phases as defined by the governor. We will have a red, yellow, green and no restrictions plan in the event the governor moves us in and out of these phases. This will allow us to adopt a hybrid or virtual learning model as necessary.

We're also going to be exploring different calendar options that would get us in school earlier than our current August 25 start date. The thinking is -- get our students into our buildings, in front of their teachers for not only the high-quality instruction they're accustomed to in the classroom, but to give them the most possible time with their teachers in the event COVID-19 cases spike this fall or winter, and we are moved to a different phase by the governor.

My committee will also focus on items PDE has asked us to include in our reopening plan such as identifying a pandemic coordinator, how we're going to monitor students and staff for symptoms, guidelines for hygiene practices, processes for cleaning and disinfecting, guidelines for wearing face masks, social distancing protocols and what constitutes a large gathering.

Although this committee will be focused on our district's needs, I have been and will continue to work with the northern area school superintendents and other superintendents in the Allegheny County Intermediate Unit as we identify and solve the challenges this crisis has put before us.

Finally, we plan to survey families on their comfort level of reopening, particularly in regard to in-person instruction, virtual instruction and transportation, to ensure we are doing all we can to meet the learning and safety needs of our students and their parents.

And then, of course, we'll share details with you all as soon as we have a better understanding of the direction we will take for the 2020-21 school year."

SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Mrs. Lindsay Radzvin, Director of Food Services provided her annual Wellness Report to the Board.
2. Lunch, Breakfast, and Morning Care Prices – a request for the Board to approve the prices for the 2020-2021 school year: Breakfast - \$1.50 Paid; \$0.30 Reduced Price, Lunch - \$2.50 Paid; \$.40 Reduced Price, and Morning Care - \$3.50 per day.

A motion was made by Ms. Philpott, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously passed to add Support Services Item 2 to the Legislative Meeting Agenda.

EDUCATION

1. Holy Family Institute – SAP Letter of Agreement – Agreement effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 for services provided as needed.
2. Bid Award – iPad Cases – a request for the Board to award the bid for iPad Cases to Sunrise Hiteck in the amount of \$86,852.70.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously passed to add Education Items 1 and 2 to the Legislative Meeting Agenda.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

1. Agreement with Allegheny Health Network Sports Medicine – Agreement to provide athletic trainers’ services effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. The fee is \$26,000 in 2020-21, with a 2% increase in each of the following years through the term of the agreement.
2. Student Initiated Club – Spanish National Honor Society
3. Student Initiated Club – Tabletop at the Hilltop.

A motion was made by Mrs. Poniatowski, seconded by Mrs. Spade, and unanimously passed to add Athletics & Activities Items 1 through 3 to the Legislative Meeting Agenda.

A.W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER

None

PERSONNEL – ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Spade, seconded by Mrs. Mathis and **unanimously passed to approve Resignations, Appointments, Tenure and Executive and Administrative Staff Evaluations**, as per documents 1 through 4, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Resignations

Elizabeth Gasior – MS Girls Basketball Coach effective May 27, 2020

Appointments – Teachers appointed effective August 11, 2020:

Coleman Mazur – Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, at the rate of \$45,718 (M-Step 2).

Victoria Dragonjac – 4-8 English/Math at the Middle School, at the rate of \$44,347 (B-Step 2)

Courtne Rodgers – Elementary Librarian at Highcliff, at the rate of \$45,718 (M-Step 2)

Nicolette Bendick – Elementary Counselor at Ross, at the rate of \$45,718 (M-Step 2)

John Gould – Emotional Support Teacher at Ross, at the rate of \$44,347 (B-Step 2)

Kolby Finch – Learning Support Teacher at McIntyre, at the rate of \$44,347 (B-Step 2)

Lisa Varecka – Autistic Support Teacher at Ross, at the rate of \$45,718 (M-Step 2)

Jennifer Siegle – School Nurse at the High School, at the rate of \$46,175 (M+15 – Step 2)

Appointments – Curriculum Leaders appointed effective August 11, 2020:

Jason Hillegas – K-12 Art, at the rate of \$3,750

Patrick Carey – K-12 Physical Education, at the rate of \$2,500

Kimberly Wroblewski – 7-12 Mathematics, at the rate of \$4,000

Margaret Byrnes – 7-12 English/Speech, at the rate of \$3,000

James DeWeese – 7-12 Social Studies, at the rate of \$4,000

Stephanie Tumbas – Library, at the rate of \$4,000

Justin Kerr – K-6 Mathematics, at the rate of \$4,000

Kristen Carmody – K-12 Special Education, at the rate of \$4,000

Sherrie Kovach – K-6 English Language Arts, at the rate of \$4,000

The following Summer Workers for Facilities Services were appointed effective May 19, 2020

At the rate of \$9.00 per hour:

Colton Lucas

Nicholas Pietrone

Jacob Wolf

The following Volunteers were appointed, effective for the 2020-21 school year:

Julia Fedorchak – Band

Aidan Kelly – Band

Anelise McGee – Band

Malia Mueller – Band

Grant Parkhill – Band

Julia Shimkus – Band

Kelsey Sponsor – Band

Donald White – Band

William Richard – Football

TENURE

The following teachers earned tenure, effective June 1, 2020:

Shanna Anick
Kelly Brennan
Jordyn Clark
Michelle Weismann
Kyle Henny
Lindsay Piette
Bridget Scherer
Stephanie Fairley
Alisha Ravenstahl
Heala Hayden
Lauren Sarazen
Lauren Wilmus
Lauren Barbour
Alyssa Cerminara
Ashley Schlaegle
Brienne Stuble
Timothy Mackowski
Lisa Marcellus
Stephanie Reif

EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF EVALUATIONS

The Board approved the Executive Staff, Administrative Staff and Principals' evaluations and project-based deferred compensation for the 2019-2020 school year.

COMMUNITY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

ACTION ITEM

A motion was made by Mr. Little, seconded by Mrs. Spade and unanimously passed to appoint Sandra Kozera, Allison Mathis and Helen Spade to serve as voting delegates at the 2020 PSBA Delegate Assembly which will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2020 virtually via Zoom.

POLICY

None

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Kozera announced that Rep. Adam Ravenstahl lost his bid for re-election at the Pennsylvania primary election. She stated that he has been a staunch advocate for public education and she thanked him for his service.

FINANCE

1. Resolution 2020-02 – Establishing the Tax Rate for 2020-2021 at 18.65 mills.
2. Resolution 2020-03 – Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion
3. 2020-2021 Final Budget Approval
4. General Fund Bills
5. Capital Project Fund Bills
6. Food Service Fund Bills
7. Scholarship Fund Bills
8. Budget Transfer
9. Payroll for the Month of May 2020 in the amount of \$3,165,218.74
10. Appointment of Treasurer – to appoint Gerard F. Muth as Treasurer for 2020-21
11. General Insurance and Workers Compensation Renewals
12. Facilities Use Fees for 2020-21

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mrs. Spade and unanimously passed to add Finance Items 1 through 12 to the Legislative Meeting Agenda.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Duffy, 16 East Orchard Avenue – Ms. Duffy the Board that in light of Allegheny County going green the following day (June 5), when will the school facilities open to the public, specifically the tracks and fields. Dr. Mannarino stated that the district intends to open the tracks at Martorelli Stadium and Ross Elementary to the public. Our fields will open on July 1, for our school sporting teams, but not to the public or to community teams.

Ed Vesely, 116 Lingay Drive – Mr. Vesely wished to thank Mr. Muth for holding the Public Budget Committee Meetings during the COVID closure, and to state they were the most informative budget meetings he's attended in his many years on this committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Mathis announced that the next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Mathis adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Loretta J. Rieger
Board Secretary