

Mt. Pulaski Community Unit District #23 Board of Education
Mt. Pulaski Unit Office
December 17, 2018

President Doug Martin called the meeting to order on December 17, 2018, in the Unit office at 6:00 P.M. Roll call was taken. Present were Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. Also present were Phil Shelton, Principal Terry Morgan, and Principal Gene Newton.

Motion by Deanne Mott, second by Jeff Beccue, to enter Executive Session at 6:01 P.M. for discussion of employment, evaluation of personnel, school safety, Superintendent search, and property acquisition. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Beccue, second by Eric Cowan, to exit Executive Session at 7:00 P.M. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

President Martin re-opened the meeting in open session at 7:04 P.M.

The Tax Levy Hearing was opened at 7:06 P.M. Phil Shelton stated the levy was similar to last year. With our district having 5 counties we are able to catch all revenue available. The floor was open for questions. No questions being asked the meeting was closed at 7:08 P.M.

Motion by Deanne Mott, second by Aaron Wilham, to employ Mark Graue as Special Education teacher aide for MPHS effective January 7, 2019. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Deanne Mott, second by Eric Cowan, to approve Angela Ford as volunteer assistant coach for volleyball 2018-2019. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Deanne Mott, second by Charlie Hickey, to adopt Consent Agenda items, A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

- A. Approve November 19, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve November 14, 2018, Special Meeting Minutes
- C. Approve December 8 & 15, 2018, Special Meeting Minutes
- D. Sales Tax Revenue Report – November \$21,881.09
- E. Approve Payment of Bills
- F. Review of Executive Session Minutes from June through December 2018
- G. Approve the Abstract of Votes from November 6, 2018, Referendum

Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

The new fire alarm system will be tested next week. The process has taken longer than wanted but it has been done correctly.

Louis Volle is waiting on some bids for the air conditioning project in the pod area of the grade school. The hope is to have 3 bids to vote on at the January meeting. The project should move along quickly once a company is approved.

Officers Tony West and Josh Pharis were in attendance to talk about vaping concerns in schools. Mr. West said he hasn't noticed anything but some of the teachers have expressed some concern. He explained how there are

different devices that are being used as well as many flavors that attract teens. Josh Pharis went on to tell how kids are hiding devices and vaping in the hallways or classrooms without anyone noticing. He told how he saw one student had a vapor tucked in his shirt collar and was easily vaping in the hallway. Warrensburg-Latham and Olympia are having large problems with vaping. You can walk down the hallways and smell the different flavors being used. He is concerned that kids can put marijuana, alcohol, or K2 in the vapers and nobody would know. Josh stated the only way they can tell what's in the vapor is to send it off to the lab. The Board members wanted to know if there is a fine for underage usage. Tony West said there can be a fine of \$200 plus some community service. Aaron Wilham asked if there is a city fine but Tony wasn't sure. There is a policy on smoking in the handbook which could result in a \$250 fine. The Board would like to see some training available for the teachers so they are more aware of what's going on. Josh said there is a website called Catch My Breath that has some information. Jeff Beccue suggested someone come for a Teacher Institute day.

Tim Custis, the auditor from Gorenz & Associates, provided a handout to the Board members showing the expenditures over the past years. It also showed some comparisons with other schools. We have remained within \$3,000.00 over the years.

The gym floor at the grade school will be refinished over the break at no cost. Mr. Grisham would like to see padding put over the lip on the stage. The sound system has been installed in the gym at the high school. The volume is controlled through an iPad which will help prevent someone from turning it up to high. Brent is checking on what to do with seeding the soccer field. The company doing the scorer's table is still working on getting advertisements. Once they get their money we will get the table.

Gene Schoth had asked the Board about purchasing more cameras for the stop arms of the buses. He said they could help prove when someone disregards the stopped bus arms. Deanne Mott asked if the buses had high backs with double padding on the seats as this could potentially save lives. She also asked if there were front facing cameras inside the bus. The buses do have high backs on the seats but as to whether they are double padded they weren't sure. They are checking on that. At this time there are no front facing cameras. Aaron Wilham suggested putting some in not only to help see what happened in case of an accident or a vehicle not stopping but also so drivers have some accountability.

Motion by Deanne Mott, second by Aaron Wilham, to purchase additional cameras for school bus safety arms. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

Mr. Shelton hopes to have final plans for the high school addition in January. He would like some of the teachers to meet with Kevin Handy and Board members before the January meeting.

Motion by Deanne Mott, second by Jeff Beccue, to approve Gayle Clark as WYSE (academic challenge) Supervisor. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

Corey Leonard had addressed the Board at last month's meeting asking for the Zion Lutheran kids to join our junior high Track & Field team. After checking with IESA they are allowed to co-op with MPGS. Brent and Corey will draw up a draft to be voted on at next month's meeting.

Motion by Deanne Mott, second by Jeff Beccue, to adopt 2018 Tax Levy, payable in 2019. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Deanne Mott, second by Jeff Beccue, to employ Gorenz & Associates as School District Auditor for 2018-2019 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

Melanie Hinson would like to make some changes to Honor's Night. There has been a consistent decline in attendance over the last 5 years. Last year 14 students did not attend, some of those students were receiving substantial scholarships. She has noticed parents leaving once their child received their awards as well as students

leaving. She attributes some of this to the program being long and being quite warm in the gym. She would like to have a Senior Recognition Night. This will allow community members, and organizations to still present their scholarships to the seniors. The numbers would also allow the program to be held in the cafeteria where it is air conditioned. They would then hold a school wide assembly for all students in grades 9-12 to receive their awards for classrooms, clubs, and sports. Parents will be invited to this assembly as well. A brief recap will be given of the awards and scholarships handed out the previous night to the seniors. By doing this the students will still be recognized in front of their peers and may encourage some students to set higher goals for themselves. After some discussion the Board voted on this change.

Motion by Eric Cowan, second by Charlie Hickey, to approve adopted proposal for changes to Honors Night beginning 2018-2019 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. Answering nay: Aaron Wilham and Jeff Beccue. Motion carried.

Motion by Deanne Mott, second by Aaron Wilham, to approve School District Seniority List for Certified and Non-Certified Personnel. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Ashley Combs, Eric Cowan, Aaron Wilham, Jeff Beccue, Deanne Mott, Charlie Hickey, and Doug Martin. No nay. Motion carried.

Principal Gene Newton reported Alexis Johnson was the December Student of the Month. The girls' basketball team had a successful season this year. The 7th grade placed 3rd in state and the 8th grade were state qualifiers.

Principal Terry Morgan reported Maggie Anderson is the December Senior of the Month.

Homecoming will be the week of January 8th – 12th. LSA students are invited to attend the dance. Finals will be December 20 & 21 with odd periods on the 20th and even on the 21st.

Doug Martin stated Dean & Doris Cates will be inducted into the IBCA.

Mr. Shelton commented the Board is starting their 2nd interviews for superintendent search.

Submitted by,



Anna Beckers
Recording Board Secretary

