



Board of Education Meeting Minutes

[Tuesday, August 10, 2021 6:00p.m.]

In Attendance: Tina Ward, Alicia Gillen, Dr. Linda Remele, Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney

Absent: Brian Maune, Eli Keller

Call to Order

Dr. Linda Remele

Dr. Remele called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Stephen Delaney

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Faith Maynard, a Sylvan Hills High School (SHHS) student and member of the band, spoke to the Board regarding the band program and facilities. She shared that the ceilings are leaking and that there was not enough space available for all of the band members or storage space to house instruments and equipment. Miss Maynard also shared that during the renovation of SHHS the portable building that the band used for practice and storage was removed and has not returned. She stated that SHHS is the only school in the District not meeting the recommended spacing requirements per instrumentalist. Miss Maynard requested that the band facilities at SHHS be equal and a functioning learning environment for the students.

Dr. Aaron Wenger, parent and current medical director at a local health facility, spoke to the Board advocating for the use of the professional advice for COVID-19 protocols as students return to school next week. He shared that as a hospitalist he sees first hand what this virus is doing to our community and with the help of school districts and the public we can get the virus exposures/transmissions under control. Dr. Wenger pleaded with the District to help the students, families and frontline staff by making masks a requirement for students/staff.

Wendy Potter, a parent of Maumelle area students, spoke to the Board regarding a parent's right to choose whether their student(s) wears a mask or not. Ms. Potter shared data explaining that the current PCR test given to test for COVID-19 does not include testing for the "Delta" variant and that the surge in current cases is not related to the current crisis the public is seeing with this variant. She concluded by asking why a school board would be allowed to make a medical decision when they are not medical professionals.

Luke Potter, a student at Maumelle Middle School, expressed to the Board his feelings about wearing a mask at school. Luke stated that masks make it hard for him to concentrate and that his grades struggled last school year because he had to wear a mask, while noting he was previously an A/B Honor roll student. Luke concluded by saying that parents should be able to make that decision for their students.



Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Vote to approve Minutes from July 13, 2021 Meeting

- Motion by Alicia Gillen

- Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Certified P.P.C. Presentation

Brenda Robinson, Certified PPC Chairperson, shared that professional staff was ready for the school year to begin and that the best learning is done in person. Ms. Robinson stated that safety was the #1 goal and as the Board reviews the updated protocols for the 2021-22 school year, last school year's protocol helped mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the district. She also expressed her support of the COVID leave and incentive items being presented to the Board for approval so that employees do not have to use their accrued leave. Ms. Robinson made mention of what is currently happening in the Marion School District with the large number of covid cases and quarantine of students and that we do not want to see that same thing happen in PCSSD. She thanked the Board and administration for the pandemic pay funds provided last school year. In closing she stated that the team will continue to do what is needed to make sure students are learning.

Classified P.P.C. Presentation

Emery Chesterfield, Classified PPC Chairperson, shared that the Classified Personnel Policies Committee met on Monday, August 9, 2021, to discuss the COVID incentives being presented to the Board. He added that the Committee voted unanimously to bring that proposal to the Board and that it made sense. Mr. Chesterfield added that whether the Board voted yes or no that he would be wearing his mask as precaution against contracting COVID-19. He encouraged the Board to do the right thing.

Reports

Financial Updates

Ms. Rowlett

Construction Updates

Mr. Johnson



Action Items - Old Business

Updated COVID-19 Protocols (August 9, 2021) - Dr. Charles McNulty

Vote to approve Updated COVID-19 Protocols (August 9, 2021)

- Motion by Alicia Gillen

- Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Authorizing Resolution for the Series 2021 Refunding Bonds - Jack Truemper, Stephens, Inc.

Vote to approve Authorizing Resolution for the Series 2021 Refunding Bonds

- Motion by Stephen Delaney

- Seconded by Alicia Gillen

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Action Items - New Business

Resolution with Proposed Budget of Expenditures for the November 2, 2021 Annual School Election - Jack Truemper, Curtis Johnson and Dr. Charles McNulty

Vote to approve Resolution with Proposed Budget of Expenditures for the November 2, 2021 Annual School Election

- Motion by Alicia Gillen

- Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed



PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Sylvan Hills High Athletic Facilities, Foundation Loan - Dr. Charles McNulty/ Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard

Vote to approve the recommendation of our attorneys concerning the Sylvan Hills assets

- Motion by Stephen Delaney

- Seconded by Alicia Gillen

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

Tina Ward

Motion passed

Quaver Ed - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Resources for Elementary - LaJuana Green

Vote to approve Quaver Ed - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Resources for Elementary

- Motion by Shelby Thomas

- Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Panorama Education - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Resources for Secondary - LaJuana Green

Vote to approve Panorama Education - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Resources for Secondary

- Motion by Shelby Thomas

- Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

COVID Incentives for 2021-2022 School Year - Shawn Burgess

Vote to approve COVID Incentives for 2021-2022 School Year

- Motion by Alicia Gillen

- Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed



Heat Wheel Replacement/Direct Placement at Robinson Middle School – Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Heat Wheel Replacement/Direct Placement at Robinson Middle School

- Motion by Shelby Thomas

- Seconded by Alicia Gillen

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

New Shot Clock with Game Timers for (2) Main Goals at Maumelle High, Robinson Middle, Robinson High and Mills High Basketball Arenas – Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve New Shot Clock with Game Timers for (2) Main Goals at Maumelle High, Robinson Middle, Robinson High and Mills High Basketball Arenas

- Motion by Tina Ward

- Seconded by Alicia Gillen

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Renovation of Old Robinson Middle School Gym – Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Renovation of Old Robinson Middle School Gym (Diamond Legacy Bid)

- Motion by Shelby Thomas

- Seconded by Stephen Delaney

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Clinton Elementary Flooring – Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Clinton Elementary Flooring (Floors First Bid)

- Motion by Stephen Delaney

- Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed



Crystal Hill Elementary Flooring - Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Crystal Hill Elementary Flooring (Diamond Legacy Bid)

- Motion by Alicia Gillen

- Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Maumelle High School Football Field Subgrade Analysis - Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Maumelle High School Football Field Subgrade Analysis

- Motion by Alicia Gillen

- Seconded by Stephen Delaney

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

TENDAJI Reclaiming Scholars Program 2021-2022 - Dr. Charles McNulty

Vote to approve TENDAJI, Reclaiming Scholars Program 2021-2022

- Motion by Stephen Delaney

- Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Intervenors Attorney's Fees/Cost - Dr. Charles McNulty, Devin Bates

Vote to negotiate a 30% discount of original offer that will cover the payment all future monitoring and work completed on the desegregation case and payable over a 12 month period

- Motion by Stephen Delaney

- Seconded by Alicia Gillen

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed



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Lessons for Life - Yaa McNulty, Dr. Lisa Watson, Dr. Charles McNulty

Vote to approve Lessons for Life

- Motion by Shelby Thomas

- Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Comments from the Board

Ms. Ward gave kudos to the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for their work with the girls in the Sweet Home area as well Mills Middle School. She also expressed that while we are providing mental and emotional support to our students, that our District and school administrators and staff need that same support to help one another get through another school year during a pandemic. Ms. Ward thanked Drs. McNulty and Smith for their leadership and Mr. Johnson for his knowledge of the District facilities and the areas in his realm of responsibility. She stated she would like to give Mr. Johnson a raise to show that we appreciate what we have.

Dr. Remele shared that last spring during the Teacher of the Year competition our District had one of the 12 finalists and congratulated Ms. Hum for being selected as a finalist in the Statewide competition. She stated that she would like to see more of our teachers being nominated for that honor. Dr. Remele thanked Ms. Duff for her assistance with that initiative and hoped that the District continues it.

Mr. Thomas echoed the comments of Ms. Ward regarding Mr. Johnson and the District facilities and keeping our schools clean. He stated that there was some tension and intensiveness during the meeting in reference to the mask mandate, however he thought that the administrative team stepped up and did what was right for our teachers and students. Mr. Thomas then thanked everyone and stated to make it a great school year on Monday when school begins.

Ms. Gillen shared that the Board was one of diverse backgrounds and differing opinions when she was elected and that it was an honor to sit on this board, however she was giving her official resignation from the school board. She stated that the District is a shining star of Central Arkansas and that she has worked to try and find a replacement for her area and recommends Lindsey Gustavson for the seat. Ms. Gillen added that Ms. Gustavson was previously on the Community Advisory Board when the District was under State control.

Dr. Remele added that it had been a pleasure working with Ms. Gillen and that she came well prepared to advocate for every PCSSD student during her time on the Board and that she would be missed. Dr. Remele stated that according to School Board policy the position would have to be filled within 30 days and that a special board meeting, for the end of August, would be called for the purpose of filling this position. She then asked Mrs. Burgess if the employee hearing for September could be held during that meeting as well. Mrs. Burgess answered that she would check to see. Ms. Ward asked if interested parties could attend the special meeting or if the Board was just going to go with Ms. Gillen's recommendation. Dr. Remele answered that Ms. Gillen is knowledgeable about her Board zone so the Board will consider her recommendation.



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Mr. Delaney expressed recognition of Ms. Gillen's work as an advocate for students and constituents before becoming a board member. He said that he was aware of her impending resignation but hoped it wouldn't be today. Mr. Delaney shared that Ms. Gillen was a bright person and he appreciated and will miss her.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. McNulty began by thanking Ms. Gillen for her work and accountability, specifically to Maumelle students, and all of PCSSD. He shared that he would always speak truthfully of PCSSD. Dr. McNulty thanked the Board for their honesty and transparency. He stated that school starts on Monday and that his prayer is that the school year uplifts students and takes care of professional staff. Dr. McNulty concluded his comments by expressing that the central office administration, cabinet and building administrators hold our families and students in high esteem.

Consent Agenda

Vote to approve Consent Agenda

- Motion by Shelby Thomas

- Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Alicia Gillen, Tina Ward, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)

Motion passed

Employee Hearings/Level III Grievances

There were no Employee Hearings/Grievances.

Adjournment

Vote to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

- Motion by Alicia Gillen

- Seconded by Stephen Delaney

In Favor

Tina Ward, Alicia Gillen, Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney, Dr. Linda Remele

Opposed

(None)