

## May 04, 2021 – Board Work Session Minutes

President Mr. Oscar Manbeck called this Voting Session of the Tulpehocken Area School District Board of Directors to order at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom. Pledge of Allegiance and opening Prayer followed.

**PRESENT:** Mr. Kyle Batz, Mr. Chris Heck, Mr. Matthew Lytle, Mr. Oscar J. Manbeck, Mr. William T. Palmer Jr. (arrived 7:12 pm), Mrs. Kristan Rissmiller, Mr. Anthony Rodig, and Mr. Daniel Steinhauer.

**ABSENT:**

### **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Mr. Andrew Netznik, Superintendent  
Mrs. Amanda Cipolla, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Thomas Kowalonek, Chief Financial Officer  
Mrs. Kristin Holst, Director of Pupil Services  
Mrs. Rebecca Marmas, Assistant Director of Pupil Services  
Mr. Justin Welker, JSHS Principal  
Mr. Christopher Hamrick, Assistant JSHS Principal  
Mr. Michael Leister, Assistant JSHS Principal  
Ms. Jena Damiani, Penn-Bernville Elementary Principal  
Mr. Andrew Guers, Bethel Elementary Principal  
Mr. Matthew Shirk, Director of Technology

**And the following interested citizens and staff:** Chris Kraemer, H. Baer, Jamie Schur, Jason Honicker, Jennifer Engelbert, Jennifer Kiene, Jocelyn Gross, JSmith, K. Karl, Leigh Bragg, Rebecca, Suzanne Hamrick,

Call to Order ..... President

Pledge of Allegiance.....President

Prayer.....Board Member

Roll Call .....Recording Secretary

### **I. Discussion Items**

#### **1. Superintendent's Report**

##### **A. Tulpehocken Show Choir & Marching Band Trip- Baltimore, MD**

*Mrs. Gross presented the field trip to Baltimore, MD for Show Choir and Marching Band students. This trip was planned because the students were unable to go on the Disney trip that was planned for this school year due to the pandemic. She explained students would leave the JSHS in the morning, attend Elf the Musical, visit the Baltimore Aquarium, have dinner at Hardrock Café and then return home. The total cost of the trip for students would be \$151.06, she explained that students did have accounts with accrued funds from fundraising over the years. After the presentation the following discussion occurred.*

*Mrs. Rissmiller asked: Will some students have to put some money towards toward the trip or do all students have enough funds?*

*Mrs. Gross responded: Some students may have out of pocket costs but there are still fundraising opportunities available this school year.*  
*Mrs. Rissmiller asked: So it isn't just seniors?*  
*Mrs. Gross responded: No, all show choir and marching band students.*  
*Mr. Netznik explained this would be on the May 18<sup>th</sup> agenda for approval.*

B. 2020/2021 School Year Update

*Mr. Netznik reported all COVID mitigation efforts are ending on May 31<sup>st</sup>. This was announced this afternoon at 1:30 by the PA Governor's office. This means that contract tracing, quarantines, venue restrictions, etc. would all expire on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The only restriction that will remain in effect is the mask guidelines until 70% of the state is vaccinated. The following discussion occurred.*

*Mr. Lytle asked: What about graduation?*

*Mr. Netznik responded: Recommendation to continue with the plans we have started but we are open to discussing reverting to how it was done in the past.*

*Mr. Steinhauer asked: Why not put parents in the bleachers and still keep 5 tickets?*

*Mr. Netznik responded: We can do that. Concern that we did need to rent chairs and have them set up, not sure if we are able to cancel at this point. It is a possibility with it being a month out.*

*Mr. Manbeck commented: I am worried about a change coming from the Governor at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and that chairs won't be able to be cancelled.*

*The decision was made to stay the course with graduation because the planning has begun and been communicated with families. We will explore options to allow for additional attendees.*

*Mr. Heck commented: I understand that communication has been put out but I would like to see everything return to normal as soon as possible.*

2. Citizen/Student Participation (Pertaining to Agenda items only)

3. Buildings and Grounds

4. Finance

**4.1.1** A resolution was offered by Mr. Rodig, seconded by Mr. Heck, to adopt the preliminary budget for the 2021-2022 School Year with projected expenditures of \$35,593,050 and projected revenues of \$35,418,050 including a real estate millage rate of 26.00, Act 511 per capita tax of \$5.00, School Code Section 679 per capita tax of \$5.00, .5% earned income tax and .5% real estate transfer tax.

AYES: Mr. Kyle Batz, Mr. Chris Heck, Mr. Matthew Lytle, Mr. William T. Palmer Jr., Mrs. Kristan Rissmiller, Mr. Anthony Rodig,

NAYS: Mr. Oscar J. Manbeck, Mr. Daniel Steinhauer, and

ABSENT: Mrs. April Klopp

ABSTAINED:

This motion was carried 8-0.

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- A. ESSER Funding Allocations – Mr. Netznik, Mr. Kowalonek, and Mrs. Cipolla  
i. Elementary Outdoor Learning Ideas – Mr. Damiani & Mr. Guers

*The following items were presented to purchase with ESSER II and III funds:  
ESSER II (Year 1)*

- **JSHS Mac Lab**
    - *expand the art classes that we offer to students*
    - *eliminate carts in music*
    - *can be used for video production*
    - *central location for all students to use instead of only students enrolled in specialty classes*
  - **CARON**
    - *Expansion of services for students from 3 to 5 days*
    - *Currently for the 20-21 school year we were able to expand with safe school funding and this was of great benefit*
  - **Food Service**
    - *Replenish some of the lost funding that has occurred during the pandemic. This has occurred because of the loss of selling ala cart items.*
  - **School Van**
  - **Dump Truck**
  - **Band Uniforms**
  - **Elementary Ag Program**
    - *Creation of science rooms at each elementary*
  - **Card Access Systems**
    - *Begin to fail and will need to be replaced, system that controls it is outdated and needs to be fixed*
  - **Entrances at Bethel**
    - *Still investigating this to see the extensiveness of this project*
  - **Furniture**
    - *Replacement of furniture at the JSHS, jumpstart to alleviate some of soft costs in the building project*
  - **Outdoor Educational Spaces**
    - **Bethel-Outdoor nature trail and educational area**
      - **Outdoor literacy and lunch area (adjacent to cafeteria)**
        - *Landscaping, picnic tables, etc.*
      - **Expand on the pizza garden**
        - *K-6 authentic learning experiences*
      - **Walking Path**
        - *Signage explaining the habitats that is on the grounds*
    - **PB-Outdoor Classroom space**
      - *Increase engagement and motivation for students*
      - *PTO is willing to purchase items for this space*
      - *Could be utilized for educational and social events*
      - *Upfront cost but would be able to be used for years to come*
  - **Camp Invention**
    - *Provide camp for 120 students for no cost over the summer*
  - **Additional Math Supports**
  - **Classroom Libraries**
    - *Expand classroom libraries in the elementary classrooms*
- ESSER II (Year 2)**
- **CARON**
    - *Expansion of services for students from 3 to 5 days*
    - *Currently for the 20-21 school year we were able to expand with safe school funding and this was of great benefit*
  - **Camp Invention**
    - *Provide camp for 120 students for no cost over the summer*

- *JSHS Soft Costs for project*
- ESSER III**

- *7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher (Salary and Benefit)- Learning Loss*
- *Elementary IST Teachers (Salary and Benefits x2)- Learning Loss*
- *JSHS HVAC*

- B. Approve the following institutions as depositories for the 2020-2021 school year:

Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF)  
 Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT)  
 BB&T  
 Wells Fargo  
 PNC Bank  
 US Bank  
 Tompkins VIST Bank

- C. Appoint Anthony Rodig as board treasurer for a term beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 for a stipend of \$500.
- D. Appoint April Klopp as board secretary for a term beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024 for a stipend of \$900.
- E. Approve the Superintendent as the Tulpehocken Area School District's Trustee for the Berks County School District Health Trust and the Business Manager as the Alternate Trustee for the 2021-2022 school year.

## **5. Personnel**

- A. Accept the following resignations
- Ashley Pastor, JSHS STEM teacher, effective August 9, 2021.
- B. Approve the contract renewal for Substitute Teacher Service, Inc. effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.
- C. Approve the appointment of Sean Young as Junior Systems Administrator, at a salary of \$57,000 effective July 1, 2020.
- D. Approve the appointment of Adrienne Troutman as a School Counselor with assignment at the Junior-Senior High School for the 2021-2022 School Year at a salary of \$54,413, Step 1M, pending completion of paperwork.
- E. Approve the recommendation to provide Adrienne Troutman up to 8 days at per diem rate prior to July 1, 2021 to utilized for the sole purpose of transition due to the retirement of Mrs. Susan Burns.
- F. Approve Connor Davis as a part-time technology summer student worker at an hourly rate of \$10.50, effective June 9, 2021 through approximately August 15, 2021 not to exceed 29.5 hours per week.

## 6. Programs

### 7. Policy

- A. A resolution was offered by Mr. Heck, seconded by Mr. William T. Palmer Jr., to approve **Appoint Amanda Cipolla, Assistant Superintendent, as the Homeless Liaison until the revision of the Policy 251. The Director of Pupil Services is currently designated in the policy, yet Homelessness has been under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Superintendent's Office since 2019.**

AYES: Mr. Kyle Batz, Mr. Chris Heck, Mr. Matthew Lytle, Mr. Oscar J. Manbeck, Mr. William T. Palmer Jr., Mrs. Kristan Rissmiller, Mr. Anthony Rodig, Mr. Daniel Steinhauer,

NAYS: and

ABSENT: Mrs. April Klopp

ABSTAINED:

This motion was carried 8-0.

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- A. Give first reading with the intent to give second reading and final approval on June 16, 2021 to the following policies:

#251 Homeless Students

### 8. Curriculum

### 9. Items for Board Action

- A. Approve the listed appointments for the Board committees for 2021.

- B. Approve the listed Board representatives for 2021.

*The above motions were discussed and will be voted on at the 01/19/2021 board voting session.*

### 10. Technology

- A. A resolution was offered by Mrs. Rissmiller, seconded by Mr. William T. Palmer Jr., to approve the purchase of Dell Latitude 3120 from Dell Computer Inc, at a unit price of \$412.78 for students in grades 5 & 9 at a cost of \$102,782.22 for 249 laptops in accordance with the District Technology Plan. The administration is also authorized to purchase additional laptops as necessary based on additional enrollments into grades 5 and 9 for the 2021-2022 school year.

AYES: Mr. Kyle Batz, Mr. Chris Heck, Mr. Matthew Lytle, Mr. Oscar J. Manbeck, Mr. William T. Palmer Jr., Mrs. Kristan Rissmiller, Mr. Anthony Rodig, Mr. Daniel Steinhauer,

NAYS:

ABSENT: Mrs. April Klopp

ABSTAINED:

This motion was carried 8-0.

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- B. Approve the purchase of the 68 Dell Latitude 3420 laptops from Dell Computer Inc at a cost of \$49,877.32 and a Dell Mobile Precision 5500 at a cost of \$1,607.03 in accordance with the District Technology Plan.

AYES: Mr. Kyle Batz, Mr. Chris Heck, Mr. Matthew Lytle, Mr. Oscar J. Manbeck, Mr. William T. Palmer Jr., Mrs. Kristan Rissmiller, Mr. Anthony Rodig, Mr. Daniel Steinhauer,

NAYS:

ABSENT: Mrs. April Klopp

ABSTAINED:

This motion was carried 8-0.

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## 11. Transportation

## 12. Legislative

## 13. Administrative Reports

- Ms. Jena Damiani – Penn-Bernville Elementary Principal

*Ms. Damiani reported that they are 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Champions of 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Can Structure Competition. Students will be here at the next board meeting to present. She also shared that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week.*

- Mr. Andrew Guers – Bethel Elementary Principal

*Mr. Guers reported that he and Mr. Netznik visited The Nature Place last week to begin building a partnership. He and Mrs. Engelbert poled all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to see what book they would like to read over summer. The winning books were purchased and students will be reading over summer. Teachers and administration will be holding book talks.*

- Mr. Justin Welker – JSHS Principal

*Mr. Welker reported that the Student Council, Art, and Music Students held Choral Café last Friday. Mrs. Bachman and Mr. Welker have been working tediously on the schedule.*

- Mr. Christopher Hamrick – JSHS Assistant Principal

*Mr. Hamrick reported that the Envirothon Team won 2nd place in the county. Also, Mr. Stoy's Community Service club collected plastic bags again for the Trex Recycling Program. The plastic bags are used to make Trex decking and this year we placed 7<sup>th</sup> out of 13 in our category nationwide*

- Mr. Michael Leister – JSHS Assistant Principal

*Mr. Leister reported that prom went very well on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Fantozzi did a great job organizing. He also reported that the BBQ club has built a smoker that they will be using for the club next year, the musical was held and students did great, and PSSA's are going on now in the JSHS.*

- Ms. Jillian Bergman – Director of Food Services

*Ms. Bergman reported that they did Elf on the Shelf in the elementary buildings. The kids had a great time. We are still doing the Tiny Tummy's pre-school program.*

- Ms. Kristin Holst – Director of Pupil Services

*Ms. Holst reported that the new school psychologist started this week. She also shared that we have seven, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students accepted to early admission at BCTC. Also, one student accepted to Project Search which is a work based program at the BCIU. An update was given on Extended School Year, 40 students are signed up and this will be an in person and classroom based for the first time.*

- Ms. Rebecca Marmas – Assistant Director of Pupil Services

*Ms. Marmas reported that Gifted Teacher, Mrs. Snyder did a book and craft drive for Pennsylvania Children's Hospital. She shared that this has been a great learning experience for the students.*

- Mr. Matthew Shirk – Director of Technology

*Mr. Shirk reported that he helped with the set-up of the Choral Café and the event was a huge success. He is also looking forward to the upcoming concerts on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, each student will be given 5 tickets. This week he met with Emily Dietrich and Erika Kindoll who created a survey for summer trainings. The PSSA's have really tied up Sean and him but are going well. He also wanted to thank Kyle, Heston and the team with the power outage on Sunday!*

- Mr. Heston Frey- Director of Operations

*Mr. Frey reported that lighting at Bethel took a lot of time to iron out but working now. He also shared that the spring startup has had hiccups but is going well.*

#### **14. Old Business**

#### **15. New Business**

*Mr. Netznik shared that the students who won the Can Structure competition will be at the board meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.*

*Mr. Batz shared that he is excited that students will be attending the meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. As this is one of the great joys of being a board member.*

*Mr. Manbeck shared that a new Executive Director was hired at BCTC.*

#### **16. Public Comment**

#### **17. Adjournment**

#### **II. Adjournment**

*Mrs. Rissmiller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Palmer. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.*

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*Mrs. April L. Klopp  
Board Secretary*