



# Public Schools of Petoskey

Every Opportunity.

Regular School Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 21, 2022 7:00 PM Eastern

High School Auditorium  
1500 Hill Street  
Petoskey, MI 49770

Mark Ashley: Present  
Mary Ling: Present  
Denise Petoskey: Absent  
Kathy Reed: Present  
Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Present  
Present: 4, Absent: 1.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call  
Called to order at 7:01 PM.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance  
President Ling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Audience Participation #1  
President Ling explained the new process for public comment cards for the meeting.

**Carlin Smith, Petoskey:** Little Traverse Bay housing partnership, discussed support for the easement requests for the foster property. It is a 156 unit apartment complex that is planned for McDougal and Atkins. The other request is for a utility easement (sewer). He hopes the Board will support these easement requests to support housing in Petoskey.

**Ryan Donahue, Petoskey:** Parent of two children in PSP. Disappointed in the report offered by Dr. Washburn. We must acknowledge the difficulties and stress put on all of us for the last two years and work to come together. The pandemic has exacerbated the vitriol in our society, we cannot allow that to happen in our schools. Must value unity and celebrate differences. Blaming school staff, board, and administrators helps no one. We have a choice in how we move forward. Expressed gratitude for our staff working to give students the best education possible.

**Jamie Buchanan, Petoskey:** Urged the Board to not adopt policy 3119, experimental or pilot programs. We have not operated like this before, we have always just collaborated. The only reason a district ever uses these pilots is to avoid collective bargaining agreements. Thinks adopting this would exacerbate the we / they mentality. Do not adopt this policy, leave it blank

as it is stated in the policy.

**Melanie Meengs, Petoskey:** Thanked the Board for revisiting the English Embedded Honors program and considering concerns relating to going forward with traditional honors classes. She also stated that she has been frustrated with the Superintendent because he had not responded to the report. Said Mr. Parker did not take ownership of his role getting us to this point. Wants to see some level of responsibility or remorse for this. Wants to move forward with the right leadership values.

**Stephanie Kimball, Petoskey:** Discussed Dr. Washburn's report and thanked the Board for their actions and her pride in the school board for addressing the issues. She agreed with Mrs. Ling's perception that rebuilding trust will take longer and that starts at the top. Continues to be proud of our district and staff. Believes Board and Mr. Parker have knowledge, but Mr. Parker has displayed poor leadership practices. His acceptance of the behaviors have led to our current circumstances...

**Summer Poquette, Petoskey:** Thanked the school board for hiring Mr. Washburn and expedited the evaluation of Mr. Parker. She stated that a contract is not renewed when work is not being done, if a party is not living up to its contract. Mr. Parker, you are not doing your job. Swallow your pride, Superintendents should be the district's biggest cheerleader. She stated that Mr. Parker is not asking how to improve, he is looking for another job.

**Michael Schulte:** This is about the superintendent's evaluation. He stated that Mr. Parker fired him while he was in his class while students were coming into his classroom. He stated that he was given a verbal "no trespass" order from Mr. Parker and Officer Troxel. He stated that he was told he could not talk to anyone who worked for Petoskey schools. Officer Troxell told him he could not contact a particular counselor or he would be charged with stalking. Mr. Parker included in a report to EduStaff a ban for communicating with Petoskey school employees and cannot talk to them in the district. He stated that the socratic approach to education is not honored. He stated that his file states that he is a suicide risk. He stated that Mr. Parker and a "couple of other people" in central office need to go.

**Karin Grangood, Petoskey:** Not sure if you know what has really been going on in the school. Mrs. Gamble was in her office at 5:00 working with a boy so he could go to DECA, on that trip. While Mrs. Gamble was gone, Mr. Parker, Mrs. Akins, and Mrs. Ringle worked with her. Stated that she watched Parker, Ringle, and Akins work hours. She stated that Mr. Parker has a student advisory council, who meets with Mr. Parker and they get pizza and talk about school.

4. Resolution: Approval of Minutes

Moved that the written minutes be approved as recorded. This motion, made by Mark Ashley and seconded by Jessica Shaw-Nolff, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Mr. Parker recommended the Board's approval.

5. Resolution: Approval of Warrants

Moved that the warrants paid, as submitted by the administration, be approved in the amount of \$2,959,994.46. This motion, made by Jessica Shaw-Nolff and seconded by Mark Ashley, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Mr. Parker recommended the Board's approval.

6. Resolution: Purchase of cafeteria tables

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_ to purchase cafeteria tables from School Specialty in the amount of \$24,619.80. This motion, made by Kathy Reed and seconded by Mark Ashley, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Mr. Wheeler discussed the purchase of cafeteria tables to be purchased from the food service budget. These tables will be for Sheridan.

7. Resolution: Custodial contract

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_ to accept the quote from Gray's Cleaning Services to provide temporary custodial services for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year at an amount not to exceed \$21,000. This motion, made by Jessica Shaw-Nolff and seconded by Kathy Reed, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Mr. Wheeler recommended the Board's approval of a contract with Gray's Cleaning Services to help clean schools through the end of the school year, due to custodial shortages.

8. Resolution: Adoption of Board Policies

Move to adopt policies 3118, 3301, 4205, 4205AG1, 5206 F17. This motion, made by Mark Ashley and seconded by Kathy Reed, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Yes to approve 3118, 3301, 4205, 4205AG1, and 5206 F17. The Board discussed adopting policy 3119 and to table discussion on 5407, 2201, and 4601 until a later time.

9. Resolution: Foster Property Public Infrastructure Easement

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_ to intend acceptance of a public infrastructure easement from the Borland Group on the southwest corner of district-owned parcel number 01-19-05-400-001. This motion, made by Mark Ashley and seconded by Kathy Reed, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Mr. Wheeler discussed the Foster property public infrastructure easement. Mr. Ashley discussed the easements, both infrastructure and temporary easements and answered questions from the Board.

10. Resolution: Foster Property Temporary Construction Easement

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_ to intend acceptance of a temporary construction easement from the Borland Group on the northern section of district-owned parcel number 01-19-05-400-001. This motion, made by Mark Ashley and seconded by Kathy Reed, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

11. Resolution: Human Growth & Development

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_ to update the 6th grade Human Growth and Development materials. This motion, made by Jessica Shaw-Nolff and seconded by Kathy Reed, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Mr. Oberman, Mr. Wilcox and committee members discussed the purchase of new curriculum materials for the 6th grade Human Growth and Development committee. This purchase modernizes the materials and they have held the required public hearings prior to this request. Those were held in the middle school and had some parents attend and discuss the revised curriculum. Mr. Wilcox discussed the make up of the HG&D Committee and the related guidelines, including what the committee is and is not allowed to talk about or teach. Mrs. Martin, 6th grade teacher of the HG&D curriculum discussed the current curriculum and needs for an update to those materials, noting that the curriculum is the same. She reviewed the lesson plans and described supplemental material that accompanies each lesson as well. Public comments from the public hearings were discussed by Mr. Oberman and the committee fielded questions from the Board.

12. Resolution: Removal of English Embedded Honors at PHS

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_ to remove English embedded honors for the 2022-23 school year. This motion, made by Jessica Shaw-Nolff and seconded by Kathy Reed, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Mr. Parker addressed the agenda topic with the Board. Mrs. Ling indicated her hope for a hybrid option and wanted to be sure to support the teachers. She expressed disappointment in the way this is ending, but thinks changing all of the English at the same time is a big step to take at one time. Mrs. Shaw-Nolff would like to see it offered at Junior / Senior level since there isn't an Honors option at those grade levels. She stated she didn't feel comfortable with voting at the time. Mrs. Reed expressed discomfort in making the change with a new curriculum, not having tested it. Mr. Ashley stated we will never know unless we try it. Mrs. Gamble indicated there would be additional preps for teachers with a hybrid option. Mrs. Gamble indicated agreement in getting to know the curriculum first and has spoken with the English department and they will bring back additional information to the Board. Mr. Ashley asked for the item to bring it back to the Board for consideration in the future.

13. Resolution: Acceptance of Superintendent's Evaluation

Moved by Reed to at this time table consideration of a performance improvement plan, pending the Board's consideration of proceeding either under Section 1 or Section 11 of the Superintendent's contract and that the Board delegate to one Board member responsibility of working with legal counsel to develop information for the Board's consideration on that point which may include written notice and opportunity for a hearing. This motion, made by Kathy Reed and seconded by Mark Ashley, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Mrs. Ling discussed Mr. Parker's evaluation. The Board questioned the data provided by Mr. Parker in his evaluation instrument. Mrs. Ling discussed tabling the discussion on growth data. The Board asked questions about using data that was achieved prior to Mr. Parker's arrival in the district. Mrs. Ling discussed options out there to discuss data. Mrs. Shaw-Nolff discussed tabling the decision to get data that is actually relevant to Mr. Parker's years here. Mrs. Reed expressed concern that the same data resulted in a 3 last year and was a 4 this year. Also problems noted with use of data from prior to Mr. Parker's arrival. Without a facilitator, making a decision on data will be difficult, stated Mrs. Ling. They would like to look further at the data and have someone look through it with them. Growth measure is tabled.

Mr. Ashley indicated the progress toward district wide goals should not include one item. Mrs. Ling asked MASB about the use of district goals and was told they can use the school board goals and strategic plan. The board agreed that the score on progress toward district goals is a 3, Effective. Mrs. Ling described the Superintendent's overall score was minimally effective, with some areas that need to be improved and there could be a need for an improvement plan. Mr. Ashley reported areas with low scores that we need to work on the low end for future growth of the district. Mrs. Reed cited concerns about conducting an IDP and did not think that was going to be useful or effective. Stated that the board has issues with mistrust. She indicated that she

would like the board to pursue action on Mr.Parker's contract and working with the attorney to address sections 1 and 11 in the contract.

#### 14. Educational Reports

Elementary: Mr. Prins discussed the events in elementary schools

- Elementary Enrichment Play
- 5th grade preparing to move on to middle school with orientation
- band teachers coming to elementary to share information with students
- Kindergarten registration is at 134 students, number is looking good and it's an exciting time
- Principals meet in early may and start working on class assignments
- interviews are happening for open positions in elementary classrooms
- Earth Day celebration tomorrow 4/22
- Elementary school teacher nominated as teacher of the year - Sarah Jonke

Middle School:

- interviewing for 3 open teaching positions, good candidates in each position
- track is underway with 155 students participating
- Week of May 9, 8th graders going to Camp Daggett
- Teacher appreciation starts May 2
- Students awarded in writing competitions at Crooked Tree
- Stock market challenge team placed first in state, 7th grade team placed second

High School:

- testing and scheduling is keeping everyone busy
- hope to have final schedule done before we leave this year
- counselors meet individually with every student in the high school
- Next Tuesday CTE banquet - 50 students to be recognized for achievements
- Wednesday Band, Thursday Madrigal
- May 9 is NHS induction ceremony
- Senior plans are back
- Scholarship night Wednesday May 11
- Friday May 20 last day for seniors, decision day in the morning
- Graduation and parade immediately following on June 6th

### 15. Board of Education Reports

Mrs. Shaw-Nolff discussed principal interviews.

Mr. Ashley talked to a substitute teacher today and complimented students and teachers.

Mrs. Reed went to the dual enrollment meeting and learned a lot of good information.

Mrs. Ling discussed the climate report and stated that the Board is going to prioritize and continue to move forward to address the issues. Would like to start addressing behavioral issues first. Board will be meeting on a weekly basis and will be providing updates.

### 16. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Parker acknowledged the job search. Stated that he did not feel he has the Board's support and while he looks forward to the opportunity to address issues with Board, owes it to himself and his family to explore other opportunities. He stated his focus has been on the health, safety, and education of students and to help students achieve their greatest academic success. He stated that he would continue to do whatever he could to help as long as he is the superintendent.

Mr. Parker provided an update on school safety and the Emergency Operations Plan updates that are being worked on by Codenity. He stated that he would communicate more with staff once they are further along in the process and will gather safety concerns of staff to share with the safety experts at Codenity.

Mr. Parker discussed the Sinking Fund construction projects scheduled for Summer 2022. There will be major work at PHS in the form of a new entrance and expansion of the weight room, as well as an update to staff restrooms. Additional projects will be taking place at other schools, such as locker replacement and repair and some playground work at Lincoln Elementary.

Mr. Parker also discussed principal interviews and work being done by the hiring committee made up of teachers, principals, central office administrators and board members. There has been an offer made to one candidate and they are awaiting a response. Should the candidate accept, the administrative / board team will make the final decision on placement in a building. That placement decision will be based on the comments and feedback from each building's representative team, as well as the needs of each of the buildings. He stated there is another posting out and that the committee expects to bring in another pool of qualified candidates to fill the other two elementary principal vacancies. He also related that the committee discussed interviewing candidates as they submit applications, rather than waiting until the end date to begin interviews.

### 17. Audience Participation #2

**Don Lucky, Petoskey:** Mr. Lucky stated that he is in the middle and high school as a substitute teacher and there are academics going on in every classroom. He said that hears that there are lots of things going on, but they are not true - teaching and learning is happening. There are lots of rumors going on in the community that aren't true. He stated that kids are not out of control and not learning and that school staff, administration are great. Mr. Lucky related that this has been 2 years that are not normal. Administrators probably didn't want to wear masks, but they

had to do it. He is glad his kids go to the school here.

**Jason Cautcher, Petoskey:** Mr. Cautcher stated that Chris is in the community and that this is his career and it's a big decision. He noted that prior to February the board approved everything and stated now there is a report and Chris is the scapegoat. Want to voice his concerns that Chris is not given progressive counseling if there were concerns.

**Tom Adams, Petoskey:** Addressed Washburn report, and stated that he was glad Mr. Parker finally addressed the report. Has compassion for someone's career, understands. This has been building since before February. Covid has been a convenient excuse. There was nothing in the Washburn report. He is asking that Chris and Board have courage to make decision to go separate ways, negotiate a deal and provide the evaluation Mr. Parker needs to help continue his career. You can't fix a broken culture with evaluation, statistics and all of that. You need to work on the culture first. Need to address the elephant in the room about culture.

**Summer Poquette, Petoskey:** She would like to address curriculum mandates from Chris Parker and Karla Akins. 90 and 120 minutes of Math and ELA instruction make it so teachers cannot have enough time to teach science and social studies. It is challenging for teachers to not share materials, they are not allowed to share students, which is a major disservice to students. This does not allow our teachers to shine. Preparing for science labs takes additional time. Also concerned about handwriting - into reading does not match handwriting without tears. Teachers are forced to adopt too many directives that aren't best practice. Listen to teachers and let them teach. She also stated she attended workforce / CTE group at the high school. It was very well organized by Mrs. Gamble. She urged the Board to please continue to pursue the work study program.

## 18. Adjournment

Moved to adjourn the meeting. This motion, made by Mark Ashley and seconded by Kathy Reed, Passed.

Denise Petoskey: Absent, Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.