

BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL
JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Bucks County Technical School Joint Board Committee was held on **November 23, 2020 in the Board Room and by Electronic Communication** and called to order by President, Mr. John Ruszin at 7:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

	NAME	
	John Ruszin	Bristol Borough
	Michael Pallotta	Pennsbury
	Heather Ody, Virtual	Bensalem
	Kellie Buchanan, Virtual	Bristol Township
	Gallus Obert	Bristol Township
	Kim Rivera, Virtual	Bensalem
	Donna Getty, Virtual	Morrisville
	Joseph Gilleo	Morrisville
	John Allen	Neshaminy
	Cyndie Bowman, Virtual	Neshaminy
	Gary Sanderson, Virtual	Pennsbury

TOTAL MEMBERS PRESENT: 11

MEMBERS ABSENT: 1

	Al Pirollo	Bristol Borough
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ALSO PRESENT:

	NAME	AFFILIATION
	Samuel Lee, Virtual	Superintendent of Record
	Leon Poeske	Administrative Director
	Sharon Rendeiro	Bus Administrator/Board Secretary
	Patricia Cumberland, Virtual	Board Treasurer
	Ellis Katz, Virtual	Solicitor
	Henry DeGeorge, Virtual	Assistant Director
	Karen Moyer, Virtual	Human Resources Coordinator
	Theresa Prato, Virtual	BCTSEA President
	John Haney, Virtual	Supervisor of Information Technology
	Susan Schechter, Virtual	Bucks County I.U. #22 Representative

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Ruzin welcomed the public and announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA A motion was made by Joseph Gilleo, seconded by Gallus Obert, to approve the agenda as presented. Board members unanimously approved the agenda (11,0,0).

PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

Dr. Sam Lee advised that a meeting of the Professional Council was held on Monday, November 16, 2020, at the Bucks County Technical High School. The following members were in attendance: Sam Lee (Bensalem School District), Rose Minniti, (Bristol Borough School District), Melanie Gehrens (Bristol Township School District), Rob McGee (Neshaminy School District), Bill Gretzula (Pennsbury School District) and Leon Poeske (BCTHS). Jason Harris (Morrisville School District) was unable to attend.

The following topics were discussed:

- In person/Remote Learning and the plan, or current situation, as it relates to remote/in-person learning.
 - Current confirmed COVID-19 cases in each district;
 - Issues with staffing - teachers and nurses;
 - Response time from the Department of Health;
 - Continuing remote learning options after the pandemic;
 - Lower student enrollment numbers in some of the Districts;
 - Metrics being used to determine operational modes;
 - Revisions to Health and Safety Plans
- PDE Pandemic Metrics
 - Dr. Poeske provided the most recent weekly report of Bucks County COVID cases.
- CHOP Antigen Testing
 - Dr. Poeske advised that 95% of the BCTHS staff are willing to participate in the CHOP Coronavirus Rapid Antigen Body Testing.
- 2021-2022 BCTHS Application was discussed.
 - The application lottery will be held 100% virtual on December 17, 2020.
- Postponement of the BCTHS Adult Education Program was discussed.
 - Postponed until further notice.
- Update on status of approval of Articles of Agreement.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda Items)

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Joseph Gilleo, seconded by Gallus Obert, that the Board approve the Minutes of the October 26, 2020 meeting. Board members unanimously approved the motion (11,0,0).

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Student Accounting Dr. Leon Poeske, Administrative Director, referred to Student Accounting, the Bucks County Technical High School Newsletter and newspaper articles relative to the Technical School and upcoming events.

- Dr. Poeske announced that BCTHS has remained strong in enrollment, despite the current situation.
- Dr. Poeske announced that BCTHS will remain at the current 25% hybrid model. We will revisit this with the Board each month as needed.
- New student application drop off is next week, November 30 to December 4, 2020. The application lottery will be held virtually on Thursday, December 17, 2020.

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

A motion was made by Joseph Gilleo, seconded by Gallus Obert, that the Board approve the Financial Reports, subject to audit, as per pp. C1-C13. Board members unanimously approved the motion (11,0,0).

A motion was made by Joseph Gilleo, seconded by Gallus Obert, that an order be drawn on the Treasurer for payment of the properly approved bills and electronic payments in the total amount of \$643,232.06 and release salaries, subject to audit, as per pp. D1-D23. Board members unanimously approved the motion (11,0,0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

P.I.A. Committee: Ms. Buchanan advised that PIA met this evening.

Discussed were the following Action items on for approval this evening:

- Employment Motions – Retirements, termination, unpaid leave of absence, transfer, furlough of Adult Education/Workforce Development Supervisor, employment, temporary employment, substitutes, emergency return to service and a stipend.
- Revised Health and Safety Plan
 - New Attestation Statement
- Equipment Grant on for Board approval

Discussed were the following Discussion items:

- Re-opening plan:
 - 25% hybrid – remaining until a later date and further discussion.
 - 50% hybrid – delayed

Other Committees:

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Joseph Gilleo, seconded by Gallus Obert, to combine the motions and approve the following recommendations A-M pp F1-F3:

- A. Accept the retirement of TPC clerk, Elizabeth Fellmeth, effective December 4, 2020.
- B. Approve the termination of Maintenance Technician, David Brous, effective November 24, 2020.
- C. Approve an unpaid leave of absence for Monitor, Danielle DiCampello, with a retroactive effective date of August 31, 2020.
- D. Approve the transfer of Jeffrey Otto, Custodian, to temporary Maintenance Technician, at an hourly rate of \$23.12, with a retroactive effective date of November 17, 2020.
- E. Approve the furlough of the Adult Education/Workforce Development Supervisor effective November 24, 2020.
- F. Approve the employment of Angela Pallotta to replace Main Office Secretary, Barbara Long, at an hourly rate of \$16.82 effective November 24, 2020, pending completion of criminal background checks and new hire paperwork.

Approve the employment of Jill Murphy, as a substitute School Nurse, effective November 24, 2020, at a daily rate of \$125, pending the completion of the criminal background checks and new hire paperwork.

Approve the employment of Erin Kehan, as a substitute School Nurse, effective November 24, 2020, at a daily rate of \$125, pending completion of the criminal background checks and new hire paperwork.

Approve the employment of Thomas Bennett as a temporary Maintenance Technician, at an hourly rate of \$23.12, with a retroactive effective date of November 17, 2020.

Approve the employment of Tina Marie Feijo as a Day to Day/Everyday

Substitute Custodian to replace Alan Marietta, at an hourly rate of \$13.00, effective November 30, 2020.

- G. Approve the emergency return to school service of Mathematics teacher Suzanne Hargadon, on Column E/Step 7, at a prorated annual salary of \$75,957, with a retroactive effective date of November 4, 2020.
- H. Approve the pro-stipend in the amount of \$776 for Nicole Fix as Advisor of the Writers' Club/Literary Magazine effective November 24, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year.
- I. Approve the Bucks County Technical High School General Advisory Council Members for the 2020-2021 school year. (Refer to Addendum #1)
- J. Approve the revised BCTHS 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan. (Refer to Addendum #2)
- K. Accept the Pennsylvania Department of Education 2020-2021 Competitive Equipment Grant FA-122-21-0000 in the amount of \$50,000, effective November 18, 2020 to April 30, 2021. (Refer to Addendum #3)
- L. Approve solicitors, Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams routine fees in the amount of \$160 per hour and non-routine fees in the amount of \$195 per hour for the 2021-2022 school year.
- M. Approve the budgetary transfers in the amount of \$3,560 for the 2020-2021 school year. (Refer to Addendum #3)

The Board unanimously approved the motions A-E and G-M (11,0,0). F (1st item) Mike Pallotta abstained due to the candidate being a near relative (daughter). Board approved motion F (1st item) (10,0,1). Board unanimously approved the remainder of F recommendations (11,0,0)

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Non-Agenda Items)

None

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Joseph Gilleo, seconded by Gallus Obert, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:46 p.m. Board members unanimously approved the motion (11,0,0).

Sincerely,

Sharon Rendeiro
Secretary