

BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Bucks County Technical School Joint Board Committee was held on **January 25, 2021 by Electronic Communication** and called to order by President, Mr. Gary Sanderson at 7:32 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

	<b>NAME</b>	
	Gary Sanderson	Pennsbury
	Michael Pallotta	Pennsbury
	John Ruszin	Bristol Borough
	Steve Cullen	Bristol Borough
	Heather Snyder, Alternate	Bensalem
	Kim Rivera	Bensalem
	Kellie Buchanan	Bristol Township
	Gallus Obert	Bristol Township
	Donna Getty	Morrisville
	Joseph Gilleo	Morrisville
	John Allen	Neshaminy
	Cyndie Bowman	Neshaminy

**TOTAL MEMBERS PRESENT: 12**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: 0**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
	Samuel Lee	Superintendent of Record
	Leon Poeske	Administrative Director
	Sharon Rendeiro	Bus Administrator/Board Secretary
	Patricia Cumberland	Board Treasurer
	Ellis Katz	Solicitor
	Henry DeGeorge	Assistant Director
	Karen Moyer	Human Resources Coordinator
	John Haney	Supervisor of Information Technology
	Theresa Prato	BCTSEA President
	Nancy Greco	Administrative Assistant to the Director

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Sanderson welcomed the public and announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

Mr. Sanderson announced that New Business, Letter B, Approve the end of emergency service of Mathematics teacher, Suzanne Hargadon, effective January 28, 2021, has been pulled from the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** A motion was made by Gallus Obert, seconded by Kim Rivera, to approve the agenda as presented. Board members unanimously approved the agenda (12,0,0).

**PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL REPORT**

Dr. Sam Lee advised that a meeting of the Professional Council was held on Monday, January 11, 2021 via Zoom. The following members were in attendance: Sam Lee (Bensalem School District), Rose Minniti, (Bristol Borough School District), Melanie Gehrens (Bristol Township School District), Jason Harris (Morrisville School District),

Rob McGee (Neshaminy School District), Bill Gretzula (Pennsbury School District) and Leon Poeske (BCTHS).

The following topics were discussed:

- In-Person/Hybrid Learning During COVID Pandemic
  - The Superintendents discussed where they are as far as in-person vs. remote learning currently and future plans to offer additional in-person learning depending on COVID data.
  - Sports activities have started back in most of the districts with limited numbers of fans.
- Bucks County COVID Data
  - Dr. Poeske shared the latest pandemic metrics for Bucks County and there was a brief discussion how this has played out in each of the districts in relation to their own numbers.
  - With COVID testing easily accessible to school district employees, there is no plan in any of the six districts to offer COVID testing at their school buildings.
- State Testing
  - While State testing (Keystone/PSSA) will not be a graduation requirement this year and next school year, most districts are planning on administering the tests to their students.
  - Dr Poeske explained that NOCTI testing is optional this year and is up to the Administrative Director's discretion at each school.
- COVID Vaccination
  - The Superintendents discussed the challenges they have had with getting their school nurses vaccinated as part of the first phase of the vaccine distribution.
  - In preparation for Phase 1B of the vaccine distribution, the Superintendents are making plans to be in a position to vaccinate their school employees.
- Capital Improvements
  - BCTHS will be working through the BCTS Authority and sending districts School Boards to apply for a Bond for capital improvements to BCTHS, i.e. roof, AC units, Fire Alarm replacement, etc.

- Dr. Poeske shared a document with the Superintendents outlining the percentages and amounts shared by the districts for a BCTHS Bond back in 2018 for capital improvements. There was a discussion as to how this will impact the district budgets.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda Items)**

None

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Gallus Obert, seconded by Kim Rivera, that the Board approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2020 meeting. Board members unanimously approved the motion (12,0,0).

## **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 thanked Republic Bank for their EITC Donation. Funds will be used to purchase a piece of equipment for the Carpentry program.
- Dr. Poeske discussed that BCTHS is looking at getting more students in the building, but the COVID-19 numbers are still high in the County. He is hoping that this can happen in the near future.
- Dr. Poeske advised that BCTHS continues to work with the County Health Department to attempt to get the vaccine for staff to do an onsite vaccination day; however, no date has been established as of yet due to limited supply of the vaccine.
- Dr. Poeske advised preliminary discussions have begun for a Capital Improvement Project, to ensure BCTHS is a “Dry, Clean and Safe” building for students and staff.

## **ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**

A motion was made by Gallus Obert, seconded by Kim Rivera, that the Board approve the Financial Reports, subject to audit, as per pp. C1-C14. Board members unanimously approved the motion (12, 0, 0).

A motion was made by Gallus Obert, seconded by Kim Rivera, that an order be drawn on the Treasurer for payment of the properly approved bills and electronic payments in the total amount of \$880,826.62 and release salaries, subject to audit, as per pp. D1-D31. Board members unanimously approved the motion (12,0,0).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **P.I.A. Committee:**

Ms. Buchanan advised that P.I.A. met this evening. Discussed were the following:

- Action items on for approval.
- BCTHS's plan for moving from 25% to 50% hybrid.
- Committee Assignments.
- Preliminary Building Renovation Project.

### **Negotiating Committee:**

Mr. Sanderson, as previous Chair of the Negotiating Committee, discussed the highlights of Dr. Poeske's Compensation Plan up for consideration this evening.

A motion was made by John Ruszin, seconded by Gallus Obert to recommend the Board approve the Compensation Plan for Leon Poeske, Administrative Director, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026, as discussed. Board members unanimously approved the motion (12,0,0).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Gallus Obert, seconded by Kim Rivera, to combine the motions and approve the following recommendations A, and C-J pp F1-F2:

- A. Accept the resignation of Baking and Pastry Arts teacher, Kelly Ann Laba, effective December 21, 2020.

Accept the resignation of temporary Maintenance Technician, Thomas Bennett, effective December 8, 2020.

- B. Approve the end of emergency service of Mathematics teacher, Suzanne Hargadon, effective January 28, 2021. (REMOVED)

- C. Approve an unpaid leave of absence for Cafeteria Worker, Cindy DeValerio from December 21, 2020 through January 13, 2021 (10 days).

Approve an unpaid leave of absence for Cafeteria Worker, Patricia Darroch from January 6, 2021 through January 13, 2021 (6 days).

Approve an unpaid leave of absence for Temporary Monitor, Tara Townsend from January 6, 2021 through January 20, 2021 (10 days).

Approve an unpaid leave of absence for Facilitator, Penny Boring from January 25, 2021 through January 29, 2021 (5 days).

- D. Approve the transfer of Jeffrey Otto from temporary maintenance Technician to Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$17.40, effective February 1, 2021.

Approve the transfer of Tyler Fortna, from day to day/everyday substitute teacher to long term substitute Baking and Pastry Arts for Kelly Ann Laba, Column E, Step Entry, at an annual salary of \$62,829 effective 01/06/2021.

- E. Approve the employment of Tyler Fortna as a Baking and Pastry Arts Teacher to replace Kelly Ann Laba, on Column E/Step Entry at an annual salary of \$62,829 effective January 26, 2021. (Refer to Addendum #1)

Approve the employment of Mark Demshick as a Maintenance Technician to replace David Brous, at an hourly rate of \$23.12, effective January 26, 2021, pending completion of criminal background checks and new hire paperwork.

- F. Approve the offering of the Summer Opportunities Are Real (SOAR) program from Monday, June 21, 2021 through Thursday, July 22, 2021, funded by tuition, donations and fundraising efforts, at no cost to the Board. The SOAR program is held Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuition includes the approval of Extended School Year (in the Individualized Education Program) from districts for students with special needs.

- G. Approve the Bucks County Technical High School Course Selection Book with Academic and Technical offerings for the 2021-2022 school year. (Refer to Addendum #2).

- H. Accept the donation of \$6,937.50 from Republic Bank as part of the Education Improvement Tax Credit Program for the updating of curriculum and equipment.

- I. Approve the Bucks County Technical High School bid for a Coordinate Measuring Machine in the amount of \$50,850, based on being the lowest responsible bidder. (Refer to Addendum #3)

- J. Approve the budgetary transfers for the 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$9,915. (Refer to Addendum #4)

The Board unanimously approved the motions (12, 0, 0).

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Non-Agenda Items)**

None

**NEXT MEETING Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.**

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by John Ruszin, seconded by Kim Rivera, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:48 p.m. Board members unanimously approved the motion (12,0,0).

Sincerely,

Sharon Rendeiro  
Secretary