



# Public Schools of Petoskey

Every Opportunity.

Organizational and Regular School Board Meeting  
Thursday, July 16, 2020 7:00 PM Eastern

Zoom Meeting  
1130 Howard Street  
Petoskey, MI 49770

Mark Ashley: Present  
Mary Ling: Present  
Kathy Reed: Present  
Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Present  
Keith Szajnecki: Present  
Present: 5.

## 1. Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265303273>  
Meeting ID: 882 6530 3273

"Executive Order 2020-75 gives temporary authorization of remote participation for School Board meetings. Executive Order 2020-115 limits all public gatherings to 50 people or less until June 30, 2020. The Public Schools of Petoskey's Board of Education will meet remotely."

## 2. Organizational Meeting

### 3. Call to Order and Roll Call

### 4. The Pledge of Allegiance

### 5. Resolution: Designation of Depositories

Moved that the listed companies be designated as depositories of the school funds for the Public Schools of Petoskey in the 2020-21 fiscal year. This motion, made by Kathy Reed and seconded by Jessica Shaw-Nolff, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

### 6. Resolution: Delegation of Authority, Chief Election Officer

Moved that Branden Wheeler, Director of Finance be delegated the authority of the school district's Chief Election Officer in instances where the Secretary of the School Board cannot fulfill the appropriate election duties. This motion, made by Mark Ashley and seconded by Jessica Shaw-Nolff, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

#### 7. Resolution: Investment of Funds, Delegation of Authority

Moved to delegate the investment of District Funds to the Director of Finance, in accordance with Board Policy 3300 and Board Rules 3300-R. This motion, made by Kathy Reed and seconded by Mark Ashley, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

#### 8. Resolution: Bank Authorization

Moved that Branden Wheeler, Director of Finance; Kathleen Reed School Board Treasurer; and Mark Ashley School Board 2nd Vice-President be authorized to perform the banking and check signing duties of the Public Schools of Petoskey for the 2020-21 fiscal year, effective immediately. This motion, made by Jessica Shaw-Nolff and seconded by Mark Ashley, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

#### 9. Resolution: Annual Subscription Price

Moved per Board Policy #1375; the annual subscription price will be set at \$60.00 (\$5 per month) for the 2020-21 school year. This motion, made by Mary Ling and seconded by Jessica Shaw-Nolff, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

#### 10. Adjournment

Moved to adjourn the Organizational meeting at 7:11 p.m.. This motion, made by Kathy Reed and seconded by Mark Ashley, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

#### 11. Regular Meeting

##### 12. Call to Order and Roll Call

Trustee Shaw-Nolff spoke about the loss of student Abe Knott and the type of person he was. He could make friends with everyone, he went out of his way to make people happy. He was passionate about everything he did. Our thoughts are with Abe's family. A moment of silence was requested.

##### 13. Audience Participation

Val Meyerson, 802 Baxter Street, Petoskey

- Read resolution from the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians which condemns the use of Indian logos and mascots by tribal council per unanimous vote on March 20, 2005

- The State Board of Education also supports the elimination of Indian names, logos and mascots, resolved June 2003.

Brian Kay, 7756 East Mitchell Road, Petoskey

- Spoke regarding the difference between a logo and mascot. The logo is a representation of the history of our great area and see it as a sign of respect.

14. Resolution: Approval of Minutes

Moved that the written minutes from June 25, 2020 be approved as recorded. Trustee Ashley was not at the Board meeting so he abstained. This motion, made by Mary Ling and seconded by Jessica Shaw-Nolff, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Abstain (With Conflict), Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

15. Resolution: Approval of Warrants

Moved that the warrants paid, as submitted by the administration, be approved in the amount of \$2,443,305.34. This motion, made by Mary Ling and seconded by Mark Ashley, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

16. Resolution: Paper Bid Award

Moved to award the paper purchase contract to Paper 101 for the 2020/2021 school year at a cost of \$19,656. This motion, made by Kathy Reed and seconded by Jessica Shaw-Nolff, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

17. Resolution: Change of Regular Meeting Date in August

Moved to change the date of the August Regular Board Meeting from Thursday, August 20, 2020 to the new date of Thursday, August 13, 2020. This motion, made by Mark Ashley and seconded by Mary Ling, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

The Return to School Plan is required to be approved by the Board and submitted to the CharEm ISD by August 15, 2020. Mr. Parker requested the Boards approval to move the August Regular meeting date from August 20, 2020 to August 13, 2020.

18. Resolution: Butler Law Group (BLG) Retainer

Moved to accept the attached retainer from Butler Law Group for a total of \$475.00 for the 20/21 school year. This motion, made by Mark Ashley and seconded by Jessica Shaw-Nolff, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

Mr. Parker fielded questions from the Board and recommended their approval.

#### 19. First Read: #9070 Acceptable Imagery for the Public Schools of Petoskey

Mr. Parker noted that this is a first read of revised Policy #9070 Acceptable Imagery. The revision would remove the Northmen head as an approved logo for Petoskey Schools. Mr. Parker read an email, received today from Ian Record from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), regarding the negative effect that Native American imagery/logos/mascots has on Native American students. NCAI is the oldest, largest, and most representative national organization representing tribal nations and peoples. Our job is to lift up everybody that we serve and to elevate each student to the next level and equip them with the tools and belief that they can do what they set out to do. Mr. Parker is requesting the Board review the policy and remove the Northmen head logo as an approved image.

#### Trustee Reed

- Reviewed the schools imagery in 2017 and the imagery committee was started
- The committee spoke with and listened to the community
- The committee spoke with tribal members at the tribal headquarters regarding the logo
- Would recommend that the committee reconvene to discuss and review comments

#### Trustee Ashley

- Thoughtful review of stakeholders opinions

#### Trustee Ling

- Agree that we should reconvene the committee
- We are listening and appreciate the comments and viewpoints of the community
- Times can change

#### Trustee Shaw-Nolff

- Timely process
- Committee should meet soon

#### Trustee Reed

- Use the same staff position committee members that were on the committee before

#### Trustee Szajnecki

- Would like to focus on our community's concerns not the national issues

#### Trustee Ling

- The logo and mascot have become very blended
- Times have changed
- We need to listen to the community

#### Trustee Shaw-Nolff

- When considering all decisions that are voted upon, our first priority should be focused on how this affects our students

- The logo must be babysat

## Trustee Reed

- We can control what goes on in the district
- We cannot control what is used outside of the district
- A meeting should be set up prior to the next board meeting with both school and tribal members
- Recommend that we ask Arlene Naganashe to continue as a member
- Contact tribal chair for recommendation of others

Mr. Parker will send out available dates to the Board of Education and school staff. Trustee Reed will reach out to Arlene Naganashe.

## 20. Board of Education Reports

### Trustee Ashley

- Attended the golf outing for PEF
- Great event, good day, all outside
- Good organization that supports the school

### Trustee Ling

- Kayak for a Cause is this Saturday, funds that are raised will go to help Camp Daggett
- 11th time kayaking around Walloon

## 21. Superintendent's Report

### Mr. Parker

Thank you to Trustee Shaw-Nolff for the kind words about Abe. We are working with local and national resources to help students and families heal, to provide support and to try to keep these things from happening. Posters with hotline numbers for local businesses have been distributed.

- Legislatively:
  - Spoke on a Zoom call with Senator Schmidt
  - What if anything will the federal government do in relation to COVID relief funds
  - There was significant conversation regarding pupil count, seat time, days, hours, etc.
  - Still are expecting cuts for 20/21 - we do not know the total dollar amount of the cuts
- The Return to School Roadmap was released on June 30, 2020
  - Two task forces have met this week
  - We sent a quick survey to parents to see if we should look into an online program
  - 20-25% surveyed would choose online
  - The plans will need to be approved by the Board of Education by August 15, 2020
- Three main prongs
  - In person option - following guidelines
  - Full online option - folks not ready, medically fragile
  - Distance learning - utilize curriculum for those that need to quarantine, if the building has to close, or if the district drops back to phases 1-3

- The online and distance learning programs will be more robust than what we had in the spring.
  - Classes will be more rigorous
  - Assignments, assessments, grading and participation will be an expectation
- Will resume communication on a regular basis, every Friday with staff and families, mid week if needed
- Focus on social and emotional needs of our staff and students
- Sinking fund projects continue
  - Laying the carpet will not interfere with the start of school
  - Permit issues for high school bathrooms at the moment but have been assured the project will be completed
  - Spittler parking lot will be repaved starting tomorrow
  - Concrete was poured at Sheridan for the basketball hoop
- Foster and Veurink properties were assessed today and we will have the quotes at the August meeting
  - Will use a sealed bid process for the sale of the houses
  - Mr. VanTreese will handle the paperwork at no cost
  - Thank you to Mr. VanTreese
- Trustee Ling requested that the Board get a copy of the parent survey and results

## 22. Audience Participation

Kristy Whitman 512 Arcadia, Harbor Springs

- Logo - times change, agrees and would like to see the tribe included in the decision, two natives, current and a second person
- Online school - would like to see split days if students are unable to return in person

Meredith Kennedy, 7859 Banwell Road, Alanson

- Mascot - upset that people say the image is an honor
- It is a slap in the face to their sovereignty by putting together a committee

Denise Petoskey, 141 Balsam Ave, Petoskey

- Thank you Mr. Parker for your research
- Teach the local native history to honor the Native Americans in our community
- Caution the Board about just asking people to be on the committee
- Honor the resolution and speak to the tribal council

Brenda Kulbieda, 1209 Hoag Road, Petoskey

- Honored by the native symbol that represents our teams
- Brings pride to her and her family, family enjoys native activities
- Does not consider the logo a mascot
- Reminds her of her grandfather, doesn't see how it is offensive
- Appreciates that the Board is putting together a committee

- Online learning - hope that kids can go back to school, isolation is awful, did take survey

Sjana Baker, 1679 M-119, Petoskey, member of Little Traverse Bay Bands, 2016 graduate

- Need more than two Native Americans on the board
- How were the natives chosen to be on the committee
- Letter from Mr. Parker stated that the school has the responsibility to show respect to all people
  - Examine the use of the mascot
  - It causes hurt and embarrassment to a lot of native people even though the white people are not hurt by it.
- Appreciate comments/research

Val Meyerson, 802 Baxter Street, Petoskey

- Do no harm - this is the most important thing that we need to remember
- We need to care and respect the request of the Native American's in our area

Tiffany Lenau, 444 E Mitchell Street, Petoskey

- White girl, have been in schools with native mascots her whole life, hard to cheer about Indians, always felt very conflicted
- Thank you Chris for your words tonight
- Remain trauma informed
- Reminder that tribal council didn't want the image in 2005
- Can community be on the committee, she would like to attend
- Is it ok to continue to teach racism to our students?
- Info on number of signatures on petition?

Stasha Simon 7953 Pickerel Lake Road, Petoskey

- Honor the tribe with the name of the town and school
- We have to babysit the logo when we shouldn't still be using it, it is problematic in our schools, would like it changed

Maria Fantozzi, 3889 Springvale Road, Boyne Falls

- Started the petition - 1,250 signatures

Matt Koontz

- Listening to everyone's comments it seems that it is an overwhelming time to change

Loriel Grigsby 4457 High Street, Oden

- Agree, time to change, grandfather did not like the logo when he was in school
- Proud PHS graduate but didn't want to explain what a Northmen is to her daughter
- Online - would like kids to go back to school normally, mental health is important, good virtual learning plan

Harris Schwartz, 319 Starling Road, Petoskey

- Support means a lot
- PHS graduate - has seen first hand the negative things that go along with the image
- 1/6 of our total population in Petoskey have signed the petition

### 23. Adjournment

Moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. This motion, made by Mark Ashley and seconded by Mary Ling, Passed.

Mark Ashley: Yea, Mary Ling: Yea, Kathy Reed: Yea, Jessica Shaw-Nolff: Yea, Keith Szajnecki: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0