

March 2021 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education Meeting

Pioneer CTC Community Room

Monday, March 15, 2021

7:00pm

Present: Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member; Mrs. Mary Dixon, Board Member; Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member; Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member; Mr. John Kime, Board Member; Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member; Mrs. Margie Prater, Board Member; Mr. Richard Prater, Board Vice-President; Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member; Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President; Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member; Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent; Linda Schumacher, Treasurer; Kowalski Kris, Director of Operations, High School; Mary Lee Barr, Interim Administrator; Jim Calhoun, Assistant Director, High School

Absent: Sandy Grau, EAP President

1 ROLL CALL

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Mary Dixon, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mr. John Kime, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Margie Prater, Board Member	X		
Mr. Richard Prater, Board Vice-President	X		
Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

2 PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

3 MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

4 ADOPT RESOLUTION TO ALLOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETING

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Minutes:

Superintendent Nickoli informed the Board that this resolution is necessary since we are resuming in person meetings.

No more discussion or questions. Sent to vote.

Motioned: Mrs. Margie Prater

Seconded: Mr. Royden Smith

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Mary Dixon, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mr. John Kime, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Margie Prater, Board Member	X		
Mr. Richard Prater, Board Vice-President	X		
Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[Resolution 04.21 Meeting in Person.pdf](#)

5 CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Minutes:

No more discussion or questions. Sent to vote.

Motioned: Mr. Royden Smith

Seconded: Mrs. Margie Prater

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member	X		

Mrs. Mary Dixon, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mr. John Kime, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Margie Prater, Board Member	X		
Mr. Richard Prater, Board Vice-President	X		
Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

5.1 Approve February 2021 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Attachments:

[February 2021 Board Mtg. Minutes.pdf](#)

5.2 Adopt Resolution Accepting Amounts and Rates of Taxes

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Minutes:

Treasurer Schumacher informed the Board that this is the approved Budget resolution for the County.

Attachments:

[Tax Rates Resolution.pdf](#)

5.3 Adopt 2021-2022 School Calendars

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the attached calendars be adopted for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Pioneer CTC High School Calendar
- Pioneer CTC Preschool Calendar and Fee Schedule
- Pioneer CTC Adult Education Calendar

Attachments:

[Pioneer HS 2021.22 Calendar.pdf](#)

[Adult Ed 2021-2022 Calendar.pdf](#)

[Preschool Calendar 2021.2022.pdf](#)

5.4 Approve College Credit Plus (CCP) Agreement with North Central State College for 2021-2022 School year

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the attached agreement for College Credit Plus (CCP Courses for the 2021-2022 School Year with North Central State College be approved.

Attachments:

[NCSC CCP Agreement 2021.2022.pdf](#)

5.5 Approve American Health Network of Ohio, LLC as Clinical site for Adult Education CCMA program

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the agreement between American Health Network of Ohio, LLC as a clinical setting for the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) be approved.

Attachments:

[Adult Ed Agreement CCMA class and AHN.pdf](#)

5.6 Adopt Job Description

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the following job description be adopted:

- Success Center Tutor

Attachments:

[Success Center Tutor.pdf](#)

5.7 Adopt Resolution 05-21 Appreciation of Donation

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Attachments:

[Resolution 05.21 Gorman Family Foundation donation.pdf](#)

5.8 Accept Donations

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the following donations be accepted:

- **The Blackbaud Giving Fund, Wells-Fargo Employer Match Program, Dawn Wright-Smith;** generous monetary donation of \$30. This donation will be deposited into the Pioneer Alumni Association fund and used for annual student scholarships.
- **Civista Bank, Shelby;** generous monetary donation of \$500. This donation is will be used for the scholarship awarded annually to a Pioneer senior.
- **Joe Vondrasek, 943 Evergreen Circle, Willard;** generous donation so two (2) Kennedy tool Boxes and multiple tools with an approximate value of \$1,200. These tools will be used for educational purposes by the students in our Precision Machining Technology program.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT

Linda Schumacher, Treasurer

Minutes:

Treasurer Schumacher reported as follows:

Budget update – Hearings and meetings are being held in the House. They expect a substitute Bill to be introduced this week and then more hearings and committee meetings until they come up with their version of the budget. The expectations from lobbyists are there will not be a lot of major changes from the House except this is where, if at all, the proposal to implement the Fair Funding Model will be included. They feel it will be included and the funding will come from the Student Wellness and Success monies because the new funding formula has a lot of the same concepts included in its computation as the SWFS money guidelines. But, then it goes to the Senate where they expect to see School choice and Voucher expansion the main agenda for the Senate. It looks as though they will introduce an Education Savings Account as a part of the Ed Choice Program. Senator Huffman is a huge advocate of school choice and voucher expansion. The budget bill also includes a requirement to include a second community partner in the plan for Student Wellness and Success funds. Of course, if they use the SWSF to fund the Fair School Funding Formula, we won't need and community partners. I did get the answer to one question concerning the freeze on the foundation funding. Would it be outside the freeze? The lobbyists believe it will be inside the freeze just as it was this year. What fun this is!

We moved \$4M from PNC to Civista. Civista is now a higher rate than Star Ohio. I just checked Star Ohio and it .08%. Civista is .10%. That little bit of time from 2017 to 2020 when interest rates were looking better was so much more fun than back to 0%. We still have some decent CD's out through May of 2023 with interest from 2 to 2.75%.

Some further discussion concerning using GEER monies to cover losses in 006 Food Service fund. I asked directly of Aaron Rausch from ODE if the GEER funds could be used to cover Food Service deficits. His answer is as follows: "Yes. This is allowable under "continuity of operations" or the allowable use that speaks to planning for and coordinating during long-term closures. I recommend shifting staff costs from 006 to 508 (GEER). Your costs to continue to employ staff continued, but revenues dropped as a result of hybrid or remote instruction." My next question to him was "Thank you so much for your prompt response. One last question. We have to serve free lunches all year, and have seen a deficit in our funds due to the "free lunches". Is any of this allowable use of GEER funds?" his response: "Interesting, so you haven't seen a drop in participation in your lunch programs? Either way – I think you can use "continuity of operations." So it looks as though we will be able to use some of the GEER funds to make Food Service whole at year-end.

We received our first advancement of taxes from Richland County totaling \$202,000.00.

We made our annual 034 Maintenance Fund transfer of \$425,360 in February and made a few adult ed Cares Act monies transfers.

Motioned: Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker

Seconded: Mrs. Margie Prater

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Mary Dixon, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mr. John Kime, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Margie Prater, Board Member	X		

Mr. Richard Prater, Board Vice-President	X		
Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[February 2021 Financial Report.pdf](#)

7 RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent

8 EAP REPRESENTATIVE

Sandy Grau, EAP President

9 PUBLIC INPUT

Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent

Board Policy Section 0164

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent

11 REPORT ON 2020-2021 BOARD GOALS

Kris Kowalski, Director of Operations, High School

Minutes:

Director Kowalski reported as follow:

1. Pioneer will ensure that all policies are followed in regard to all legal and ethical standards related to the Covid-19 guidelines as set for by state and local authorities. Several staff members assisted with 1st and 2nd dose of vaccines at Shelby High School
2. Pioneer staff and students will foster a compassionate, responsive and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued, supported and empowered. NTHS received letters of acceptance and also conducted Food Drive to fill the cupboards at Shelby pantry. Promotion of scholarships in all labs. First student Apprenticeship with MTD – Precision Machining.
3. Pioneer will ensure the health, security and safety of all students and staff by responding to current best practices with local and state agencies. Mrs. Barr meeting with Richland County Safety Council – virtual. Review of layouts for lunch to ensure safety and meeting safety requirements.
4. Pioneer will incentivize innovation by challenging staff and students to step out of their normal setting in order to expose students to new and emerging trends and technology. Mr. Beal and the Industrial Diesel Seniors

visited Mansfield City Schools and performed bus inspection on possible purchase of used bus. Students from Mr. Johnson's Meat and animal Science class participated in Virtual Meat Judging Contest. Students in Skills USA participated virtually in Regional competitions and 22 move on to State and 6 Voting Delegates (vote for state officers)- Student received Cosmetology license from the 2020 class Hunter Vaughan (Buckeye Central HS).

5.Pioneer will sustain financial stability by optimizing current resources, exploring alternative resources, managing facilities to meet staff, students and community needs. Purchased 2011 school bus from Mansfield City Schools to upgrade fleet.

12 PRESENTATION

Mr. Kevin Vargyas, Supervisor

Minutes:

Mr. Vargyas spoke to the Board about the Virtual Sophomore visitations that were accomplished in the last month.

13 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member

Attachments:

[March 2021 Student Achievement Report.pdf](#)

14 LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member

Minutes:

Mr. Grady discussed SB62 and HB153 which would reduce property valuation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our organizations oppose this matter.

A brief discussion of the American Rescue Act included some of the figures for education.

15 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent

Minutes:

Superintendent Nickoli reported as follows:

On a much more positive note, new student enrollment is high again this year. The overall sophomore class that we are recruiting from is smaller than in past years but our percentage of applications remains high. Currently, we have 655 applications which puts our projected enrolment at 1,255 for the 2020-2021 school year. Thanks to our Student Services Department and to Mr. Vargyas for their tremendous work in these very unusual circumstances. The whole staff and student body worked very hard and did an outstanding job this year to prepare our virtual tours.

We are working to put together a virtual Awards Program and Senior Moments Ceremony. At this time, we still don't have clear guidance from the Ohio Department of Health but we expect more detailed information later this week. I have invited representatives to our Richland County Superintendents' Meeting this Friday to share available updates.

We expect the guidance to continue to limit indoor attendance and since we are using the arena as a cafeteria

to permit social distancing, we don't have a space large enough to accommodate spectators which necessitates the virtual events this year. We are working very hard to recognize the accomplishments of our students and I think you will be very proud of the outcomes.

We are at the end of our first Chromebook Lease and Luke Brenneman, our Technology Coordinator, has worked to find the best price for our next set of devices. We will be entering into that agreement in the very near future. Our 1-to-1 program has been very successful and made our response to the pandemic much more manageable for both staff and students.

We have another large capital project this summer. It is time to reseal the split-faced block on the exterior of our building. This is necessary approximately every ten years and we are now at that point. This is a large project and, once we have the project specifications, we will be seeking bids for the job. I would anticipate that we will bring a bid for you to approve at our May meeting.

April 30 - Awards Program – (Virtual)

- May 7 - Senior Moments (Virtual)
- May 15 - Prom
- Postponed - Ralph Phillips Business Partner Dinner
- Postponed - Pioneer All-Board Dinner

At our February Meeting you accepted the retirement resignations of Mary Lee Barr as the Director of Business Affairs and Jim Calhoun as the Assistant Director for the High School. Tonight, I am asking that you hire Kris Kowalski as the Director of Business Affairs and Jolene Young as the Assistant Director for the High School. I am also asking that you hire Clay Frye as the Director of Operations. I have great confidence in these individuals and believe these moves will put Pioneer in a position to continue to grow and serve our communities for many years to come.

These internal changes will leave two Supervisors positions vacant. We have tentatively posted these positions internally and will begin advertising them externally this week.

Additionally, I am recommending 3 year contracts for Shannon Sprang, Academic and Student Services Supervisor and Kevin Vargyas, Career-Technical Supervisor.

- All other personnel are common for this time of year.

Attachments:

[March 2021 Superintendent s report.pdf](#)

16 PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the following personnel recommendations be approved:

- Accept resignations of Administrative personnel.
- Approve employment of Administrative personnel.

Minutes:

No questions or discussion. Sent to vote.

Motioned: Mr. Richard Prater

Seconded: Mrs. Margie Prater

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Mary Dixon, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mr. John Kime, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Margie Prater, Board Member	X		
Mr. Richard Prater, Board Vice-President	X		
Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[March 2021 Personnel Recommendations.pdf](#)

17 APPROVE AUTHORIZATION TO PURSUE SELECTION OF CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS FOR SEALING OF BUILDING

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that authorization be approved to pursue the selection of construction consultants to assist with the scope, documentation and bid process for the application of sealer to the exterior walls of our building.

Minutes:

No questions or discussion. Sent to vote.

Motioned: Mr. Richard Prater

Seconded: Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Mary Dixon, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mr. John Kime, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Margie Prater, Board Member	X		

Mr. Richard Prater, Board Vice-President	X		
Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

18 APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE RIDGE PROJECT AND PIONEER ADULT CAREER CENTER

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation that the attached memorandum of understanding be approved between The Ridge Project and Pioneer Adult Career Center.

Minutes:

Supertinentent Nickoli explained that this is an MOU concerning Adult Education and the training of inmates who have completed their sentence and have been released.

No more questions or discussion. Sent to vote.

Motioned: Mrs. Mary Dixon

Seconded: Mrs. Robyn Almanson

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Mary Dixon, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mr. John Kime, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Margie Prater, Board Member	X		
Mr. Richard Prater, Board Vice-President	X		
Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[MOU The Ridge Project Adult Education.pdf](#)

19 ADJOURN MEETING

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Motioned: Mr. Richard Prater

Seconded: Mrs. Margie Prater

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Mary Dixon, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mr. John Kime, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Margie Prater, Board Member	X		
Mr. Richard Prater, Board Vice-President	X		
Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		