

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the February 9, 2023 Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 2-23-2023

CALL TO ORDER:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on February 9, 2023 and called to order by President Sue Kresge at 7:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Tim McCutchan followed by a moment of silence. The meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley School District Conference Room, 2233 Route 115, Brodheadsville, PA 18322.

Roll Call – School Board Recorder: Ms. Debra Duff

School Board members in attendance: Mrs. Sue Kresge, Mr. Todd Kresge, Mr. Robert Clark, Mr. Norm Burger, Ms. Teresa Greggo, Mr. Delbert Zacharias, Mr. Michael Galler. Absent: Mrs. Melanie Zipp, Mrs. Diane Serfass.

Administrative staff in attendance: Dr. James Konrad, Superintendent, Dr. Rae Lin Howard, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Lori Fulmer, Supervisor of Human Services, Mr. Michael Simonetta, Business Manager, Mrs. Tammy Smale, Assistant Business Manager, Mrs. Kathleen Franklin, Assistant Board Secretary, Mr. Bill Gasper, Director of Operations, Dr. Susan Mowrer Benda, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Mr. Chuck Tomori, Technology Coordinator, Mr. James Korcienski, Athletic Director, Mrs. Lynn Courtright, Chief of School Police/Security.

Building Administrative staff in attendance: Ms. Sabrina Albright, Mr. Jason Van Voorhis, Mr. Tim McCutchan, Mr. Jonathan Ayre, Mr. Brian Boylan, Ms. Jamie Rockwell.

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Notification of Executive Session:

President Sue Kresge announced that an executive session was held on February 9, 2023 immediately prior to the regularly scheduled meeting for the purposes of personnel matters including, but not limited to, performance and/or discipline; negotiations; and legal issues.

Superintendent's Response to Community Questions: Dr. Konrad addressed questions received by the community. One question was regarding suicide prevention and Go Guardian and provided the following information:

- Go Guardian costs \$11.25 per student and was Board approved August 11, 2022 and has been active since the start of the school year.
- Beacon, the suicide prevention system application, is one of three applications in that package that has been slowly rolled out over the last few months.
- Go Guardian is COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) and CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) compliant.
- When students are seeking inappropriate websites, they are blocked and school district administrators and/or school counselors are notified. Staff have contacted parents when these situations arise.
- This type of software is required by school districts to keep students safe.

In addition, Dr. Konrad stated that our school district has focused on the health and wellbeing of our students and that the pandemic has increased these mental health concerns. He said that as a result, our district uses the following to focus on mental health:

- Mosyle Technology is filtering software for the iPad devices.
- TACT Training for therapeutic aggression control techniques.
- Safe2Say.
- We have partnered with St. Luke's to offer the YESS!! Program.
- We contract with Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol Counseling Unit for training and student support.
- We also have the student Aevium Club to unify students, teachers and administrators in support of suicide prevention and awareness. In addition, we have a Superintendent's Advisory Committee at the high school to support students.
- Rachel's Challenge focuses on teaching kindness and creating a positive school environment.

The second question was regarding the purchase of new chromebooks. Dr. Konrad stated that our district is currently using grant dollars through ESSER and Ready to Learn to purchase the chromebooks. He said that computers for PVE students were recently purchased and that all students in the district will now have chromebooks. In addition, PVSD Technology staff is trained to service chromebooks.

Student Highlights – Pleasant Valley High School: Mr. Arye stated that good things have been happening at the high school during the first 100 days. A video was provided showcasing what is happening at the high school including, among other things, events such as the Bear Painting event, FBLA fundraisers, Homecoming, and Bear Café. Mr. Boylan introduced FBLA students, Joy Saitta, President, and Bill Bruckman, Vice President, who spoke about the many events including the middle school outreach activity to boost school spirit and serve as mentors relating to entrepreneurship and a challenge was given to middle school students to create a product with a unique logo and provide a presentation.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Mrs. Tammy A. Smale, Board Secretary

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Galler to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on January 26, 2023; approve the Board Meeting Agenda of February 9, 2023 amended to remove Agenda item #14.B. Student Placement.

VOICE VOTE: 7-0 CARRIED

Mrs. Kresge announced the meeting procedures and an opportunity was given for Pleasant Valley citizens to address the Board on agenda items:

Pleasant Valley Citizens – (Agenda items):

Ron Reynolds, Chestnuthill Township expressed concern about the number of out-of-district students and costs involved as well as a plan to bring them back to Pleasant Valley.

End of public comments.

Dr. Konrad referred to the Enrollment Report for the month of February and clarified that there are 360 students in cyber/charter schools. He said that there has been success in the Bear Academy and we will continue to make efforts in the community working towards bring students back to Pleasant Valley. Mrs. Kresge provided enrollment numbers from March of 2020 where 203 students were enrolled in PV Cyber School and 193 were out-of-district students.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Mr. Michael Galler

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #4.A. – Accounts Payable, as attached:

Approval of Agenda item #4.B. – Manual Checks January 1, 2023 through January 31, 2023.

Approval of Agenda item #4.C. – Manual Checks January 1, 2023 through January 31, 2023 – PSDLAF

Approval of Agenda item #4.D. – Accounts Payable February 9, 2023.

VOICE VOTE: 7-0 CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monroe Career & Technical Institute: – Mrs. Kresge stated that at the meeting held on Monday, the JOC approved the budget be forwarded to all school districts and it is attached to the agenda for the District Planning meeting.

Colonial IU20: - Mr. Michael Galler – No report.

PSBA Legislative Liaison Report: – No report.

Education Committee: Mrs. Sue Kresge – Mrs. Kresge stated that she had a tour of the middle school and high school life skills classrooms as well as the science classrooms to observe all new items that have been purchased for teachers and life skills students through grant funds. In addition, she stated that she received an email inviting all to visit the middle school life skills classroom who will be hosting a Souper Bowl party for the staff.

Finance Committee: Mr. Norm Burger – Mr. Burger stated that an update on finances will be provided at the District Planning meeting on Monday.

Athletic Committee: Ms. Teresa Greggo – No report.

Policy Committee: – No report.

SUPERINTENDENT-REPORT/REQUESTS: Dr. James R. Konrad

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Galler to approve Agenda item #7.A. and Addendum item #8:

Approval of Agenda item #7.B. – Agreement of Expulsion for Student #E01202308-M.

Approval of Agenda item #7.C. – Second Reading and Approval of Policy #802 School Organization.

Approval of Addendum item #8.A. – Agreement of Expulsion for Student #E02062309-H.

VOICE VOTE: 7-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #7.D. – Informational: First Reading of Policy #334 Sick Leave.

Agenda item #7.E. – Informational: February Enrollment Report.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Lori Fulmer

Ms. Greggo motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #9.A. – Personnel Items:

Approval of Agenda item #9.B. – Hiring of Support Staff:

1.	Name:	Dakota Altemose
	Position:	Custodian
	Building:	PVHS
	Salary:	\$18.29 per hour
	Effective Date:	February 26, 2023

Approval of Agenda item #9.C. – Supplemental Contracts: Athletic Non-Coaching: Appointment herein and the District’s obligation to pay the coaches and supplemental positions approved in this motion(s) is subject to the District's ability to hold and/or participate in the activity in light of the COVID-19 Crisis. In the event (1) the District is closed or providing modified services, (2) unable to hold the activity as the result of direction from outside agencies such as PDE, PIAA, the CDC, the Governor’s Office, District XI, etc., or (3) the Administration determines not to hold such activities for the safety of the students and community, the District shall have no obligation to pay athletic and non-athletic contracts appointed herein. In the event sports and/or activities are reduced, the athletic and non-athletic contracts approved herein shall be paid a pro-rata amount of the stipends herein based on the percentage of the season/activity that was held and students participated. The decision to cancel and/or discontinue the activities or sports season shall be at the exclusive discretion of the administration based, in part, on guidance from the Center for Disease Control, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, other health agencies, and student participation in such activities.

	Name	Sport	Position	Salary
1.	Tim Hinton	All	Event Supervisor	\$5,400.00 Retroactive from (11/17/2022)

Approval of Agenda item #9.D. – Supplemental Contracts: Salary Adjustment

1.	Name:	Hope Christman
	Position:	Girls Basketball – Jr. High Assistant
	Date Approved:	December 19, 2022
	Approved Salary:	\$3,550.00
	Adjustment:	Prorated salary due to December 20, 2022 start date (season started November 18, 2022)

Approval of Agenda item #9.E. – Intramural Advisors:

If the intramural runs at least 9 weeks and a total of 54 hours, one stipend of \$1,240.00 will be distributed. In the event the intramural does not meet the 54-hour requirement, payment will be distributed using the hourly intramural rate of \$21.00 per hour per the Supplemental Contract.

1.	Club/Activity:	Volleyball
	Advisor:	Kathleen Gesiskie
	Advisor:	Melissa Bruckman
	Volunteer:	John Gesiskie
	Volunteer:	Katie Frankunas
	Volunteer:	Joe Akob
	Dates:	March 2, 2023 – May 30, 2023
	Day(s):	Tuesdays and Thursdays
	Times:	5:15 PM – 8:00 PM
	Building:	PVHS

	Received in HR Office:	February 2, 2023

VOICE VOTE: 7-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #9.F. – Informational: Resignation:

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Erin Denmon	Substitute Monitor Substitute Paraprofessional Associate Substitute Teacher	N/A	February 2, 2023

Agenda item #9.G. – Informational: Retirement:

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Barbara S. Smith	Substitute Teacher	N/A	February 1, 2023

ADDENDUM – HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Lori Fulmer

Ms. Greggo motioned, seconded by Mr. Clark to approve Addendum item #10.A. – Personnel Addendum Items:

Approval of Addendum item #10.B. – Supplemental Contracts: Athletic:

Appointment herein and the District’s obligation to pay the coaches and supplemental positions approved in this motion(s) is subject to the District's ability to hold and/or participate in the activity in light of the COVID-19 Crisis. In the event (1) the District is closed or providing modified services, (2) unable to hold the activity as the result of direction from outside agencies such as PDE, PIAA, the CDC, the Governor’s Office, District XI, etc., or (3) the Administration determines not to hold such activities for the safety of the students and community, the District shall have no obligation to pay athletic and non-athletic contracts appointed herein. In the event sports and/or activities are reduced, the athletic and non-athletic contracts approved herein shall be paid a pro-rata amount of the stipends herein based on the percentage of the season/activity that was held and students participated. The decision to cancel and/or discontinue the activities or sports season shall be at the exclusive discretion of the administration based, in part, on guidance from the Center for Disease Control, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, other health agencies, and student participation in such activities.

	Name	Sport	Position	Level	Salary
1.	Drew Davis	Track and Field	Varsity Assistant	L6+	\$5,350.00

Approval of Addendum item #10.C. – Athletic Volunteers:

	Name	Sport
1.	Thomas Lawrence	Track and Field
2.	Joe Akob	Track and Field

Approval of Addendum item #10.D. – Intramural Advisors:

If the intramural runs at least 9 weeks and a total of 54 hours, one stipend of \$1,240.00 will be distributed. In the event the intramural does not meet the 54-hour requirement, payment will be distributed using the hourly intramural rate of \$21.00 per hour per the Supplemental Contract.

1.	Club/Activity:	Football
	Advisor:	Lowell Clements
	Dates:	March 13, 2023 – May 14, 2023
	Day(s):	Tuesdays and Thursdays
	Times:	2:30 PM – 5:30 PM
	Building:	PVMS
	Received in HR Office:	February 6, 2023

Approval of Addendum item #10.E. – Change to Current Assignment:

1.	Name:	Jennifer Cirba
	Current Position:	Kindergarten Teacher
	Current Building:	PVES
	New Position:	Reading Specialist/Gifted Teacher
	New Building:	PVHS

Approval of Addendum item #10.F. – Hiring of Professional Staff – Long Term Substitutes (pending receipt of required paperwork):

1.	Name:	Suzanne Kuehner
	Position:	Math Teacher

Building:	PVMS
Salary:	B, Step 1: \$46,467 (prorated)
Replace:	Dana West
Effective Date:	February 9, 2023 – end of the 2022/2023 school year

Approval of Addendum item #10.G. – Supplemental Contracts: Non-Athletic:

Appointment herein and the District’s obligation to pay the coaches and supplemental positions approved in this motion(s) is subject to the District's ability to hold and/or participate in the activity in light of the COVID-19 Crisis. In the event (1) the District is closed or providing modified services, (2) unable to hold the activity as the result of direction from outside agencies such as PDE, PIAA, the CDC, the Governor’s Office, District XI, etc., or (3) the Administration determines not to hold such activities for the safety of the students and community, the District shall have no obligation to pay athletic and non-athletic contracts appointed herein. In the event sports and/or activities are reduced, the athletic and non-athletic contracts approved herein shall be paid a pro-rata amount of the stipends herein based on the percentage of the season/activity that was held and students participated. The decision to cancel and/or discontinue the activities or sports season shall be at the exclusive discretion of the administration based, in part, on guidance from the Center for Disease Control, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, other health agencies, and student participation in such activities.

	Name	Position	Building	Salary
1.	Lauren Staub	Social Studies Department Chairperson (Grades 9-12)	PVHS	\$2,275.00 (prorated January 30, 2023 – April 5, 2023)

VOICE VOTE: 7-0 CARRIED

CURRICULUM & STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Dr. Rae Lin Howard -

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Ms. Greggo to approve Agenda item #11.A. – Curriculum & Staff Development items:

Approval of Agenda item #11.B. – Application to Attend PA State Athletic Directors Conference – James Korcienski to attend the PA State Athletic Directors Association Conference at the Hershey Conference Center, March 21, 2023, through March 25, 2023, at an approximate cost of \$1,395.00 including conference registration fee, lodging, meals and mileage reimbursement.

Approval of Agenda item #11.C. – Field Trips:

1.	Organization/Grade: Teacher(s) Involved: Destination: District Purpose: Date(s): Buses Needed: Cost per Student: Cost for District:	6 th Sense/Grade 6 Nadia Gauronsky Northwestern Lehigh School Academic Competition 3/27 and 3/28/2023 One (1) van None \$1036.90 – Van; \$400 – Reg. Fee (PVMS Budget)
2.	Organization/Grade: Teacher(s) Involved: Destination: Purpose: Date(s): Buses Needed: Cost per Student: Cost for District:	HOSA/Grade 11 and 12 Jenna Wernett Valley Forge Casino Resort PENN HOSA Conference 3/29-3/31/2023 One (1) \$165.00 \$476.00 (to be paid by HOSA Club)

VOICE VOTE: 7-0 CARRIED

OPERATIONS SERVICES: Mr. William Gasper –

Mr. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mr. Zacharias to approve Agenda item #12. – Operations Items:

Approval of Agenda item #12.A. – Facility Usage Requests:

A.	Organization	Class of 2023
	Schedule ID Number	11548
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Middle School Old Gym
	Purpose	Fun with Friends Fundraiser Snow Date
	Dates/Times	March 3, 2023 2:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
	Requestor	Elaine Cucci

	Attendance	300
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
B.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Boys Soccer
	Schedule ID Number	11573
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Stadium
	Purpose	Varsity and JV Boys Soccer Camp
	Dates/Times	August 8, 9, 10, 2023 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
	Requestor	Isaac Blagogee
	Attendance	60
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
C.	Organization	Boy Scouts of America
	Schedule ID Number	11540
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Cafeteria/Stage
	Purpose	Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Event
	Dates/Times	February 18, 2023 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	Requestor	Tim Hinton
	Attendance	50
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
D.	Organization	Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA
	Schedule ID Number	11541
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Cafeteria/Stage
	Purpose	Powder Puff Derby
	Dates/Times	April 22, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
	Requestor	Jill O'Neill
	Attendance	65
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
E.	Organization	Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA
	Schedule ID Number	11542
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Cafeteria/Stage
	Purpose	Powder Puff Derby Set-Up
	Dates/Times	April 21, 2023 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
	Requestor	Jill O'Neill
	Attendance	10
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
F.	Organization	Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA
	Schedule ID Number	11570
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Cafeteria/Stage
	Purpose	Program Aide Event
	Date/Times	March 11, 2023 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
	Requestor	Ana Piel
	Attendance	25
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
G.	Organization	Girls on the Run Pocono
	Schedule ID Number	11574
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Auxiliary Gym
	Purpose	Youth Development After School Program
	Dates/Times	March 8, 2023 through May 18, 2023 3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. March Dates: 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 April Dates: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 May Dates: 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18
	Requestor	Dolores Everett
	Attendance	25

	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply

VOICE VOTE: 7-0 CARRIED

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mr. Michael Simonetta

Mr. Kresge motioned, seconded by Ms. Greggo to approve Agenda item #13.A. – Business Management Items:

Approval of Agenda item #13.B. – Cafeteria Fund:

- Cafeteria Accounts Payable for February 9, 2023
- Cafeteria Fund – Asset Cost Summary – January 2023.

Approval of Agenda item #13.C. – The following contracts:

1. Curriculum Associates - i-Ready Classroom for Kindergarten - Total Cost \$33,994.15 to be paid through Ready to Learn Grant
2. IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreement between Pleasant Valley School District and Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 for the July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023
3. IntegraOne - Purchase of 950 Chromebooks for K-3 transition to 1 to 1 learning. PEPPM Contract # 528897. Total Cost: \$423,097.79 to be paid through Ready to Learn Grant.
4. Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 - Provide Master's Level Applied Behavior Analytic Services. Cost: \$67.38 per hour for 25 hours. Not to exceed \$1,684.50. Terms: February 23, 2023 to end of 2022-2023 school year.

VOICE VOTE: 7-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #13.D. – Informational: Student Activities Accounts:

Beginning Balance: January 1, 2023: \$164,216.82
 Receipts: \$11,573.00
 Expenditures: (\$5,189.94)
 Ending Balance: January 31, 2023: \$170,600.78.

ADDENDUM – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mr. Michael Simonetta

Addendum item #14.B. – Item removed

Addendum item #14.C. – Informational: ESSER Fund Allocations:

1. CDW - Purchase of 109 MooreCo Interactive Whiteboards with Brio Trim. Total Cost: \$52,320.00 (PEPPM 2022 Contract) to be paid with ESSER III funds.

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – Mr. Fitzgerald provided information about a case that has been in litigation for years relating to state funding for all school districts. He read a portion of the Commonwealth court decision.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mr. Burger commented about the Commonwealth court decision outlined by Mr. Fitzgerald. He expressed his concern about fair funding.

Ms. Greggo questioned if schedules at the high school relating to time between classes, now set at 4 minutes, can be increased back to 5 or 6 minutes. Dr. Howard addressed the question and Dr. Konrad said that the issue will be looked into. In addition, she expressed concern about some students missing the morning announcements. Mr. Boylan and Mr. Ayre addressed the issue and provided information on resolutions to address this concern in the future.

Mr. Kresge commented about the SkillsUSA Competition and congratulated the students who participated.

Mr. Galler expressed concern about Act 158 and how we are approaching internships and shadowing with only one contact person. Mr. Ayre addressed the issue.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS – Agenda items/Non-Agenda items:

Dominic Roberti, Eldred Township, thanked the Board for approving the HOSA field trip. He expressed concern about costs for parking passes for seniors. He expressed his concern and opinion about the transfer of Ms. Fallon to the middle school while she is still working on behalf of seniors at the high school.

Ron Reynolds, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his concern and opinion about live instruction vs. electronic instruction. He expressed concern about Go Guardian relating to transparency.

Janet Dooner, Polk Township, expressed concern about Go Guardian relating to transparency and the need for better communication to parents.

Ann Gravell, Polk Township, expressed concern about Go Guardian relating to privacy for parents and lack of communication to parents.

Casey Weiss, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about students involved in not dressing in line with a dress code – dressing as “furries”. He requested the issue be looked into.

Ron Reynolds, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his opinion about live instruction vs. virtual learning and suggested a town hall be held for students.

End of Public Comment

SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS:

Dr. Konrad addressed some comments expressed and stated that he sees engagement and incredible instruction in the classrooms throughout the district. He said that communication is our major priority and the goal is to get better and we will continue to work to always improve. In response to a request for a town hall, he reminded all that there is a monthly town hall meeting held before the 7:00 PM District Planning meeting which is set aside for questions and answers.

Dr. Konrad thanked Gina Charowsky, IU20 Hearing Support Teacher and our PVE Life Skills Support Teacher Kristen Gschwend, for helping students and staff in her classroom communicate more effectively by utilizing sign language. The idea came from Ms. Charowsky who was working with a student who was nonverbal with fluctuating hearing loss. Both teachers began teaching the other students in the class a few signs. The students just gravitated to it and wanted to learn more. They have been working on the alphabet and songs and at this point know over 100 signs. The nonverbal student is now voicing many words. This has been a great learning opportunity for our elementary students.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Galler motioned, seconded by Mr. Zacharias to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy A. Smale, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next scheduled Board of Education meeting:
February 23, 2023 @ 7:00 PM