

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Brodheadsville, PA 18322
Minutes of the August 26, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 9-9-2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on August 26, 2021 and called to order by President Donna Yozwiak at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Len Peeters followed by a moment of silence in memory of Pleasant Valley graduate Dalton Davidson. The meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley High School Auditorium, Route 209, Brodheadsville, PA 18322.

Roll Call – School Board Recorder: Mrs. Debra Duff

School Board members in attendance: Donna Yozwiak, President, Len Peeters, Vice President, Laura Jecker, Treasurer, Todd Kresge, Norm Burger, Sue Kresge, Teresa Greggo, Dan Wunder, Delbert Zacharias.

Administrative staff in attendance: Charlene Brennan, Acting Superintendent, Rae Lin Howard, Assistant to the Superintendent, Jessica Tomon, Director of Human Resources, Michael Simonetta, Business Manager, Tammy Smale, Assistant Business Manager, Bill Gasper, Director of Operations, Julie Harris, Director of Special Education, Susan Mowrer Benda, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Lynn Courtright, Chief of Security, Chuck Tomori, Director of Technology.

Building Administrative staff in attendance: Josephine Fields, Jason Van Voorhis.

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Notification of Executive Session: President Yozwiak announced that an executive session was held on August 18, 2021 and August 19, 2021 for the purpose of personnel matters; August 26, 2021 immediately prior to the regularly scheduled meeting for purposes of legal issues, negotiations, personnel matters including, but not limited to, performance and/or discipline.

President Yozwiak announced that the meeting procedures were attached to the agenda and posted online. She provided the opportunity for Pleasant Valley citizens to comment on agenda items with a three-minute time limit for duration of one hour.

Pleasant Valley Citizens:

Kevin Neary, Polk Township, addressed Policy #832. Mrs. Yozwiak informed him that the item was not an agenda item.

Maryellen Altman, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about a reference to mask wearing in the high school student handbook. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the universal mask requirement is no longer in effect and that it was an error. Dr. Howard said that it was a mistake and that the reference would be taken out of the handbook.

Kevin Neary, Polk Township, expressed concern about non responses to his email.

Dan Willis, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about the agenda.

President Yozwiak called for a recess at 7:06 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 7:18 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mrs. Tammy Smale, Board Secretary

Mr. Zacharias motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on August 12, 2021; and to approve the Board Meeting Agenda of August 26, 2021 with the following amendments: Agenda item #8.B.1. to include a salary of \$95,000; and the removal of Agenda item #13.C. – Best Buddies Contract.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0-1 CARRIED

Abstained: Mrs. Kresge (abstention form attached)

Agenda item #2.B. – The Minutes of the Operations Workshop meeting held on August 9, 2021 was provided for informational purposes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mrs. Laura Jecker

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #3. – Accounts Payable, as attached:

Approval of Agenda item #3.A. – Accounts Payable August 26, 2021.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #3.B. - The Accounts Payable approved at the August 12, 2021 Board of Education meeting was attached to the agenda for informational purposes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monroe Career & Technical Institute: Mrs. Donna Yozwiak – No report.

Colonial IU20: Mr. Daniel Wunder – An informational report was provided.

PSBA Legislative Liaison Report: Ms. Teresa Greggo – An informational report was provided.

Education Committee: Mrs. Susan Kresge – Mrs. Kresge stated that the next in-person meeting is scheduled for September 13th at 9:30 AM.

Finance Committee: Mr. Len Peeters – No report.

Athletic Committee: Ms. Teresa Greggo – An informational report was provided.

Policy Committee: Mrs. Donna Yozwiak – No report.

West End Park and Open Space Commission: Dr. Rae Lin Howard – The minutes of the meeting held on August 11th was provided for informational purposes.

President Yozwiak took this opportunity to recognize and congratulate two teachers who have achieved a significant educational milestone earning their doctoral degree – Dr. James Shoopack, World Language teacher at the middle school, and Dr. Susanne Rasely-Philipps, ELA teacher at the high school.

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT-REPORT/REQUESTS: Dr. Charlene Brennan

Agenda item #6.A. – The Enrollment Report for August 2021 was provided for informational purposes.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Jessica Tomon

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Ms. Greggo to approve Agenda item #7.A. – Personnel Items:

Approval of Agenda item #7.B. – Supplemental Contracts: Athletic (pending receipt of required paperwork):

Appointment herein and the District’s obligation to pay the coaches and supplemental positions approved in this motion(s) are 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.	Alex Depew	Wrestling	Head Coach	1	\$6,450.00

Approval of Agenda item #7.C. – Supplemental Contracts: Athletic Non-Coaching (pending receipt of required paperwork):

Appointment herein and the District’s obligation to pay the coaches and supplemental positions approved in this motion(s) are 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.	Carol Priebe	Cross Country	Jr. High Timer	\$35.00
2.	Michael Wassuta	Cross Country	Jr. High Timer	\$35.00
3.	Michael Wassuta	Football	JV Chain Crew	\$30.00
4.	Michael Wassuta	Football	Freshman Chain Crew	\$30.00
5.	Michael Wassuta	Football	Jr. High Chain Crew	\$30.00
6.	Ryan O'Keefe	Football	Assistant Announcer/Spotter	\$35.00
7.	Erin Tortora	Football	Varsity Ticket Staff	\$36.00

Approval of Agenda item #7.D. – Supplemental Contracts: Non-Athletic (pending receipt of required paperwork):

Appointment herein and the District's obligation to pay the coaches and supplemental positions approved in this motion(s) are 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.	Kathleen Dekmar	Honor Society – Junior Advisor	PVMS	\$1,600.00
2.	April Kresge	Musical Assistant Director	PVMS	\$1,617.00
3.	Julie Kresge	Gifted Department Chairperson (K-12)	PVES/PVIS	\$2,275.00

Approval of Agenda item #7.E. – Change to Current Assignment:

1.	Name:	Gerald Radcliffe
	Current Position:	Casual Security
	New Position:	Part-time Security
	Effective Date:	August 27, 2021
	Replace:	Bryan Kohberger

Approval of Agenda item #7.F. – Sabbatical Leave:

1.	Name:	Valerie Eblin
	Position:	ELA Teacher
	Building:	PVMS
	Semester(s):	2 nd Semester of the 2021-2022 School Year

Approval of Agenda item #7.G. – Resignations:

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Bethany Taggart	Substitute Teacher	N/A	August 5, 2021
2.	Aleisa Kinsey	Honor Society – Junior Advisor	PVMS	August 12, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #7.H. – Retirements:

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Robert Siglin	Custodian	PVMS	August 10, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #7.I. – Homebound Instruction: Approval of all current teachers, therapists, and substitutes to implement homebound instruction for students as may be deemed necessary. The Administration is further authorized to identify the appropriate individuals to implement homebound instruction.

Approval of Agenda item #7.J. – Family and Medical Leave Date Correction:

1.	Name:	Joanna Richardson
	Board Approved:	August 12, 2021
	Date(s) Approved:	August 24, 2021 - January 14, 2022
	Correct Date(s):	August 24, 2021 - November 18, 2021

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

ADDENDUM: HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Jessica Tomon

Mrs. Kresge motioned, seconded by Ms. Greggo to approve Addendum item #8.A. – Personnel Addendum Items:

Approval of Addendum item #8.B. – Change to Current Assignment:

1.	Name:	Kendal Askins
	Building:	PVIS
	Current Position:	Assistant Principal
	New Position:	Principal
	Salary:	\$95,000
	Effective Date:	August 27, 2021
	Replace:	Todd Breiner
2.	Name:	Nancy Heckman
	Position:	Paraprofessional Associate
	Current Building:	PVHS
	New Building:	PVIS
	Effective Date:	August 24, 2021

Approval of Addendum item #8.C. – Resignations:

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Teresa Reed	Substitute Food Service Employee	N/A	August 13, 2021

Approval of Addendum item #8.D. – Family and Medical Leave:

1.	Name:	Rachel Goodwin Brown
	Position:	Secretary
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	One (1)
	Dates:	August 16, 2021

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Voting No on Agenda item #8.B.1.: Mrs. Jecker 8-1 CARRIED

CURRICULUM/STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Dr. Rae Lin Howard/Dr. Susan Mowrer Benda –

Dr. Howard requested approval of Agenda item #9.A. with the amendment to remove a reference to mask wearing as previously stated.

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mr. Zacharias to approve Agenda item #9. – Curriculum/Staff Development items:

Approval of Agenda item #9.A. – 2021-2022 Student Handbooks with amendment as noted.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Ms. Julie Harris – No report.

OPERATIONS SERVICES: Mr. Bill Gasper –

Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #11.A. – Operational Items:

Approval of Agenda item #11.B. – Facility Usage Requests:

A.	Organization	Girls on the Run
	Facility Requested	PVE outside run/walking area, PVE Gym (weather location)
	Purpose	Running/walking program
	Dates/Times	September 20, 2021 thru December 3, 2021 Tuesday's & Thursday's 4:00 pm-5:30 pm 9/21/2021, 9/23/2021, 9/28/2021, 9/30/2021, 10/5/2021, 10/7/2021, 10/12/2021, 10/14/2021, 10/19/2021, 10/21/2021, 10/26/2021, 10/28/2021, 11/2/2021, 11/4/2021, 11/9/2021, 11/11/2021, 11/16/2021, 11/18/2021, 11/23/2021, 11/25/2021, 11/30/2021, 12/2/2021
	Requestor	Alison Fennel
	Attendance	25

	Tuition	N/A
	Fee by District	Class 3- All Appropriate Fees Apply
B.	Organization	Girls on the Run
	Facility Requested	PVI outside run/walking area, PVI Auxiliary Gym (weather location)
	Purpose	Running/walking program
	Dates/Times	September 20, 2021 thru December 3, 2021 Tuesday's & Thursday's 4:00 pm-5:30 pm 9/21/2021, 9/23/2021, 9/28/2021, 9/30/2021, 10/5/2021, 10/7/2021, 10/12/2021, 10/14/2021, 10/19/2021, 10/21/2021, 10/26/2021, 10/28/2021, 11/2/2021, 11/4/2021, 11/9/2021, 11/11/2021, 11/16/2021, 11/18/2021, 11/23/2021, 11/25/2021, 11/30/2021, 12/2/2021
	Requestor	Alison Fennel
	Attendance	25
	Tuition	N/A
	Fee by District	Class 3- All Appropriate Fees Apply
C.	Organization	PV Bruins Wrestling
	Facility Requested	PVHS New Gym, wrestling room, locker rooms, concession stand, Ticket booth
	Purpose	Duel in the Den Wrestling Tournament
	Dates/Times	Sunday, November 14, 2021 - 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
	Requestor	Kristen Pierri
	Attendance	250
	Tuition	N/A
	Fee by District	Class 3- All Appropriate Fees Apply
D.	Organization	PV Bruins Wrestling
	Facility Requested	PVHS Wrestling Room
	Purpose	Wrestling Practice
	Dates/Times	Monday-Friday November 1, 2021 – January 21, 2022 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm 11/1/2021, 11/2/2021, 11/3/2021, 11/4/2021, 11/5/2021, 11/8/2021, 11/9/2021, 11/10/2021, 11/11/2021, 11/12/2021, 11/15/2021, 11/15/2021, 11/16/2021, 11/17/2021, 11/18/2021, 11/19/2021, 11/22/2021, 11/23/2021, 11/24/2021, 11/25/2021, 11/26/2021, 11/29/2021, 11/30/2021, 12/1/2021, 12/2/2021, 12/3/2021, 12/6/2021, 12/7/2021, 12/8/2021, 12/9/2021, 12/10/2021, 12/13/2021, 12/14/2021, 12/15/2021, 12/16/2021, 12/17/2021, 12/20/2021, 12/21/2021, 12/22/2021, 12/27/2021, 12/28/2021, 12/29/2021, 12/30/2021, 1/3/2022, 1/4/2022, 1/5/2022, 1/6/2022, 1/7/2022, 1/10/2022, 1/11/2022, 1/12/2022, 1/13/2022, 1/14/2022, 1/17/2022, 1/18/2022, 1/19/2022, 1/20/2022, 1/21/2022
	Requestor	Kristen Pierri
	Attendance	40
	Tuition	N/A
	Fee by District	Class 3- All Appropriate Fees Apply

Approval of Agenda item #11.C. – 2021-2022 Athletics & Activities Handbook.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

BUILDING REPORTS –

Building reports for August 2021 were attached to the Agenda for informational purposes.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mr. Michael Simonetta

Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mr. Burger to approve Agenda item #13.A. – Business Management Items:

Approval of Agenda item #13.B. – Cafeteria Fund: Cafeteria Accounts Payable for August 26, 2021.

Agenda item #13.C. – Item removed - Best Buddies Contract.

Approval of Agenda item #13.D. – 2020 Senior Citizen Rebate – Extension of the filing deadline for the 2020 Senior Citizen Property Tax Rebate to December 31, 2021.

Approval of Agenda item #13.E. – Advertisement for Bids: Spring Athletic Supplies and Equipment for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Approval of Agenda item #13.F. – Fundraisers:

1. PVHS - Class of 2022 - Dine to Donate at PJ Whelihan's on September 30, 2021.
2. PVHS - Class of 2022 - Coin Drop at Shoprite on September 12, 2021.
3. PVHS - Class of 2022 - Red, White and Blue Dress Down Day on November 11, 2021.

Approval of Agenda item #13.G. – Student Placement: Student #112769 - Abraxas Leadership Development Program, effective 7/1/2021.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #13.H. – Informational: District Investment Report – July 31, 2021

ADDENDUM – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mr. Michael Simonetta

Mr. Zacharias motioned, seconded by Mrs. Kresge to approve Addendum item #14.A. - Business Management Addendum Items:

Approval of Addendum item #14.B. – Student Placement: Student #107344 - Abraxas Leadership Development Program - Effective 7/1/2021.

Approval of Addendum item #14.C. – Trafera Chromebook Purchase: Purchase from TRAFERA four hundred and sixty-five (465) HP Chromebooks 11MK G9 at a cost of \$315.10 each to be paid by ESSER III funds.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mrs. Kresge stated that the three staff development days were held and thanked all. She wished everyone a good opening and a great year.

Mr. Wunder thanked all for the success of the staff development days.

Mrs. Jecker wished everyone in every department as well as students and parents a good first day on Monday.

Mrs. Yozwiak stated that she, Mr. Peeters, and Mrs. Kresge attended the opening day ceremonies welcoming back all employees. She stated it was very positive and wished everyone well.

Mrs. Yozwiak stated that the Board is discontinuing discussion about Policy #832. All Board members were in agreement. Mr. Fitzgerald clarified that it is the consensus of the governing board that the policy will not go back to the Policy Committee for review and any consideration will be discontinued.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS (non-agenda items):

Anne Gravell, Polk Township, expressed concern about approval of the handbooks. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the error about masks will be removed.

Karen Deppen, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about nursing needs in the district and to provide the necessary tools, resources and training.

Jordon McGrath, Ross Township, expressed his opinion about masks and requested that the district publish data.

Leia Leuthardt, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about wearing masks on school buses, health and safety decisions, and parental choice.

Maryellen Altman, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern and opinions about certain content in the handbooks; parental rights; masks; and testing for COVID.

Amanda Guinta, Polk Township, expressed concern and opinions about report cards being sent electronically; updated emergency contact information; and attendance by the public at committee meetings. Mrs. Yozwiak stated that all committee meetings are open to the public and the minutes are posted on the agenda.

Ramon Baker, Eldred Township, expressed his opinions about the unknowns regarding COVID, and the efficacy about masks.

Linda Zak, Ross Township, expressed her opinion about viruses; differences in masks; attacks on school boards regarding masks; and funding differences for public schools and charter schools.

Olivia Altman, Chestnuthill Township, spoke about negative medical effects of wearing masks.

Judy Moeller, Smithfield Township, expressed her opinions about science; COVID testing; and insurance coverage.

Janet Dooner, Polk Township, expressed concern about incentives to take the vaccine for COVID.

Cory Endrulat, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his opinion about individual rights.

Tom Kneisly, Ross Township, expressed his opinion about improving relationships. He requested clarification about the decision regarding Policy #832 and reasoning for the decision. Mrs. Yozwiak stated it was the consensus of the Board to discontinue discussion about the policy and will not be on the agenda for the Policy Committee.

Dan Willis, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concerns and opinions about the format of the meeting; negative effects of wearing masks; and basic education for students.

Nellie Gordon, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her opinions about legal issues; civil rights; a working environment that is safe; individual rights about mask wearing and vaccinations and risks involved.

Tom Kneisly, Ross Township, expressed his opinions about the intent of Policy #832 and expressed concern about not knowing the reasoning for discontinuing it.

Kasey Seiler, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her opinion about Policy #832 and shared resources including those contained on the PDE website.

Ramon Baker, Eldred Township, expressed his opinions about basic education for students.

Nellie Gordon, Chestnuthill Township, spoke about her family's heritage.

Anne Gravell, Polk Township, expressed concern about the Constitution not being taught in school as well as a rumor about a potential hiring.

Kathleen Burch, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her opinions about divisive terms being used; keeping everyone safe; and masks.

Danielle Serfass, Eldred Township, expressed her opinions about vaccinations and parental rights. She expressed concern about the tradition of the bear paw painting at the high school.

Leia Leuthardt, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her opinion about upholding the Constitution and parental rights and choice.

President Yozwiak announced that the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting is scheduled for September 9th at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Smale, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:
September 9, 2021 @ 7:00 PM