

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Board Approved 12-16-2021

Minutes of the December 2, 2021

Board of Education Organization Meeting & Regularly Scheduled Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

The Organization meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on December 2, 2021 and called to order by Board Secretary, Tammy Smale, at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. James R. Konrad, followed by a moment of silence. The meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley High School Auditorium, Route 209, Brodheadsville, PA 18322 and via Zoom.

Roll Call – School Board Recorder: Ms. Debra Duff

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

Administrative staff in attendance: Dr. James Konrad, Superintendent, Ms. Rae Lin Howard, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Michael Simonetta, Business Manager, Mrs. Tammy Smale, Assistant Business Manager, Mrs. Susan Mowrer Benda, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Ms. Lynn Courtright, Chief of Security, Mr. Chuck Tomori, Technology Coordinator, Ms. Fawn Meli, Special Education Supervisor, Ms. Julie Harris, Director of Special Education.

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Notice of the Organization Meeting:

Board Secretary Tammy Smale read the Notice of the Organization Meeting: The Organization Meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education shall be held on December 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom and the link will be sent to the Board members as well as being posted on the school district website at www.pvbears.org on the day of the meeting. This meeting was scheduled and approved at the December 3, 2020 School Board meeting.

Pleasant Valley Citizens (organization comments): None.

Nominations and Election of Temporary President: Norm Burger nominated Todd Kresge as Temporary President, seconded by Sue Kresge. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and a voice vote was taken. Todd Kresge was unanimously elected Temporary President by unanimous vote.

Nominations and Election for President:

Todd Kresge, Temporary President, opened up nominations for the election of President of the Board of Education.

Norm Burger nominated Sue Kresge as Board President. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and a voice vote was taken. Sue Kresge was unanimously elected President of the Board of Education.

Nominations and Election for Vice President:

President Sue Kresge opened up nominations for the election of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Teresa Greggo nominated Laura Jecker as Board Vice President, seconded by Todd Kresge. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and a voice vote was taken. Laura Jecker was unanimously elected Vice President of the Board of Education.

The following appointments were made:

- MCTI JOC Representative – 3-year term (term expires December 2024): Sue Kresge volunteered for this position and was unanimously appointed by voice vote. Norm Burger volunteered for the 2-year term (term expires December 2023).
- MCTI JOC Representative – 1-year term for Alternates – Mrs. Kresge stated that all remaining Board members are appointed as alternates, with the exception of Diane Serfass, with terms expiring on November 30, 2022 or upon the convening of the 2022 organization meeting. A voice vote was taken and was unanimously approved.
- PSBA Liaison: Melanie Zipp volunteered and was unanimously appointed (term expires on November 30, 2022 or upon the convening of the 2022 organization meeting).

- PSBA Voting Delegates: Michael Galler and Diane Serfass volunteered for this position and were unanimously appointed (term expires on November 30, 2022 or upon the convening of the 2022 organization meeting).
- IU20 Board Member: Michael Galler volunteered and was unanimously appointed (term expires June 30, 2022).
- West End Open Space Commission Representative: Melanie Zipp volunteered and was unanimously appointed. This appointee replaces Laura Jecker.
- Laura Jecker nominated Diane Serfass to serve as Treasurer of the Board of Education, seconded by Todd Kresge. The nominations were closed and Diane Serfass was unanimously appointed as Treasurer.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Sue Kresge thanked all for their support. Each Board member introduced themselves and shared their personal and professional backgrounds with the Board and public.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

Dr. Konrad stated that he is honored to be at Pleasant Valley and shared his personal and professional background. Dr. Konrad congratulated the new Board President and Vice President and welcomed the new School Board Directors, Michael Galler, Diane Serfass, and Melanie Zipp and congratulated Mrs. Jecker on her second term. He stated that he is thrilled to be at Pleasant Valley and is excited to begin his journey and working with the Board, Administration, staff, parents, and community to continue to provide an excellent education for all students.

In addition, Dr. Konrad stated that starting in January he will provide a number of opportunities to meet with parents in each of our buildings to hear about the successes and challenges in our schools and his goal is to listen to multiple perspectives as we create stability and bring unity back into our district. Dr. Konrad highlighted some of the wonderful events coming up in the next 2 weeks.

- On Friday, December 3rd at 7:00 PM and Saturday December 4th at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM our Middle School Students will be performing A Midwinter Night’s Dream. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. There is free admission at 2:00 PM on Saturday if you bring in a toy.
- Also, we have the High School Winter Band Concert at 7:30 PM on December 9th in the auditorium.
- On December 14th we have the High School Winter Choir Concert at 7:00 PM in the auditorium.
- On December 15th we have the Middle School Winter Band Concert at 7:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT OF REORGANIZATION AND CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 7:26 PM.

CARRIED

President Sue Kresge called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:26 PM and announced that an executive session was held on December 2, 2021 immediately prior to the Reorganization meeting for the purposes of personnel matters including, but not limited to, performance and/or discipline; negotiations; and legal issues. Mrs. Kresge also announced that Agenda item #20.B.6 – Policy #913 has been removed and will be sent back to committee.

Pleasant Valley Citizens – (Agenda items): None.

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

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Galler to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on November 18, 2021; to approve the Board Meeting Agenda of December 2, 2021 as amended.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

TREASURER’S REPORT: Ms. Diane Serfass

Mr. Kresge motioned, seconded by Ms. Greggo to approve Agenda item #17.A. – Accounts Payable, as attached:

Approval of Agenda item #17.B. – Accounts Payable – December 2, 2021.

Approval of Agenda item #17.C. – Manual Checks October 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.

Approval of Agenda item #17.D. – Manual Checks November 1, 2021 through November 30, 2021 – PSDLAF.

ROLL CALL: 8-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #17.E. - The Accounts Payable approved at the November 18, 2021 Board of Education meeting was attached to the agenda for informational purposes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – Mr. Fitzgerald provided an update on the current status of the masking Order. He stated that the PA Supreme Court reinstated the automatic stay of the Order pending oral arguments in front of the Supreme Court which are to occur on December 8th. Mr. Fitzgerald said that the Supreme Court will notify the public as to the status of the Order after December 8th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monroe Career & Technical Institute: Mr. Norm Burger – Mrs. Kresge stated that the reorganization meeting is scheduled for December 13th and a recording member will be needed. Mr. Burger accepted.

Colonial IU20: Mr. Michael Galler – No report.

PSBA Legislative Liaison Report: Ms. Teresa Greggo – An informational report was provided. Ms. Greggo highlighted School Board Director training in December and January.

Education Committee: Mrs. Kresge – Next meeting is December 6, 2021; however, Mrs. Kresge stated that the meeting may be rescheduled.

Finance Committee: No report.

Athletic Committee: Ms. Teresa Greggo – Next meeting is December 8, 2021.

Policy Committee: Next meeting is December 13, 2021.

West End Park and Open Space Commission: Ms. Melanie Zipp – Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mrs. Kresge stated that she will be sending an email to Board members regarding what committees they wish to serve on. She suggested that the Finance Committee be served by the Board as a whole and after brief discussion, everyone agreed. Mr. Simonetta will send meeting dates and all agreed that the meeting will be held in person. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for December 13th in person with the location TBD and Mr. Simonetta pointed out that there is no Operations Meeting scheduled for December 13th. Ms. Greggo clarified that these are public meetings.

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

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Galler to approve Agenda item #20.A. – Superintendent Items, with the removal of Agenda item #20.B.6.; and to approve Addendum item #21.A. – Superintendent Items:

Approval of Agenda item #20.A. – 2022 Board Meeting Dates/Operations Workshop Dates as provided.

Approval of Addendum item #21.A. – Agreement for Expulsion for Student #E111821BR-H.

ROLL CALL: 8-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #20.B. – Informational – Second Reading of policies as provided:

1. Policy 124 Alternative Instruction Courses
2. Policy 124.1 Online Courses
3. Policy 207 Confidential Communications of Students
4. Policy 217 Graduation
5. Policy 229 Student Fundraisers
6. REMOVED - Policy 913 Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals

HUMAN RESOURCES: Dr. Rae Lin Howard

Ms. Greggo motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #22.A. - Personnel Items:

Approval of Agenda item #22.B. – Hiring of Support Staff (pending receipt of required paperwork):

1.	Name:	Dorene Darabaris
	Position:	Monitor
	Building:	PVIS
	Salary:	\$10.97 per hour
	Effective Date:	December 6, 2021
	Replace:	Mary Colon
2.	Name:	Nickolas Snyder
	Position:	Custodian
	Building:	PVHS
	Salary:	\$17.84 per hour
	Effective Date:	December 6, 2021
	Replace:	Michael Olszweski

Approval of Agenda item #22.C. – 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) 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.	Mark Allison	Boys Tennis	Head Coach	6	\$5,250.00
2.	Steve Caffrey	Softball	Head Coach	6	\$6,950.00
3.	Toni Bush	Girls Lacrosse	Head Coach	6	\$6,950.00
4.	Thomas J. Murphy	Baseball	Head Coach	3	\$6,350.00
5.	Bob VanDerheyden	Boys Lacrosse	Head Coach	1	\$6,100.00

Approval of Agenda item #22.D. – 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) 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	Salary
1.	Bron Leupold	Substitute Event Worker	TBD
2.	Dana West	Spring Event Manager	\$610.41
3.	Gena Orlowski	Spring Event Manager	\$610.41

Approval of Agenda item #22.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:	Girls Lacrosse
	Advisor:	Toni Bush

	Volunteer:	Todd Urand
	Dates:	January 2, 2022 – March 5, 2022
	Day(s):	Mondays and Wednesdays
	Times:	5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
	Building:	PVHS and PVMS
	Received in HR Office:	November 18, 2021
2.	Club/Activity:	Indoor Field Hockey
	Advisor:	Corin Ower Mohle
	Advisor:	Cory McKeever
	Advisor:	Brittany Angelica
	Dates:	December 3, 2021 – March 30, 2022
	Day(s):	Tuesdays and Wednesdays
	Times:	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
	Building:	PVIS
	Received in HR Office:	November 16, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #22.F. – Family and Medical Leave:

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:	Girls Lacrosse
	Advisor:	Toni Bush
	Volunteer:	Todd Urand
	Dates:	January 2, 2022 – March 5, 2022
	Day(s):	Mondays and Wednesdays
	Times:	5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
	Building:	PVHS and PVMS
	Received in HR Office:	November 18, 2021
2.	Club/Activity:	Indoor Field Hockey
	Advisor:	Corin Ower Mohle
	Advisor:	Cory McKeever
	Advisor:	Brittany Angelica
	Dates:	December 3, 2021 – March 30, 2022
	Day(s):	Tuesdays and Wednesdays
	Times:	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
	Building:	PVIS
	Received in HR Office:	November 16, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #22.G. – Leaves Without Pay:

1.	Name:	Dawn Knauff
	Position:	Custodian
	Building:	PVIS
	Number of Days:	Eight (8)
	Dates:	November 4, 2021 – November 16, 2021
2.	Name:	Norma Smith
	Position:	Monitor
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	One (1)
	Dates:	November 24, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #22.H. – Retirement:

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Renee Schuler	Teacher	PVIS	December 3, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #22.I. – Resignations:

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Beth Green	Substitute Paraprofessional Associate	N/A	November 23, 2021
2.	Elvin Mercado	Head Custodian	PVES	November 8, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #22.J. – Termination: Failure to respond to Reason Assurance Notices after multiple attempts.

Employee ID#	Position
4619	Substitute Secretary

Approval of Agenda item #22.K. – Long Term Substantial Volunteer:

Name	Building
Amanda Andrews	PVES

ROLL CALL: 8-0 CARRIED

CURRICULUM/STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Dr. Rae Lin Howard/Dr. Susan Mowrer Benda
Agenda item #23.A. – No report.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Ms. Julie Harris –

Agenda item #24.A. – Informational: Transition Discoveries Grant. Ms. Harris thanked Mrs. Kerry Freeman for applying and receiving a grant in the amount of \$7,500 in order to assist students who are transitioning from school to adult life post-graduation. Mr. Galler questioned the use of the grant funds which Ms. Harris explained the criteria and where we can best use the funds.

OPERATIONS SERVICES: – No report.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mr. Michael Simonetta

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #26.A. – Business Management Items:

Approval of Agenda item #26.B. – Cafeteria Fund, per attached.

1. Cafeteria Accounts Payable for December 2, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #26.C. – The following contract:

- Zoom - Annual License Renewal. Total Cost: \$5,149.50 Terms 11/21/2021
11/20/2022

ROLL CALL: 8-0 CARRIED

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mr. Burger welcomed the new Board members and stated he is looking forward to working with them for the remaining two years of his term.

Mr. Kresge welcomed the new Board members and Dr. Konrad wishing them all the best.

Mr. Galler stated that he is looking forward to working with all and welcomed Dr. Konrad to Pleasant Valley.

Mrs. Kresge stated that she is looking forward to working together with the new Board and the new superintendent as a team with great communication and communication to the public. She stated that at the end of the meeting, the Board members will meet with community members to hear any questions and/or concerns.

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

Dan Willis, Chestnuthill Township, referred to and read an article concerning another school district and a court injunction and its impact on public comment. Mr. Fitzgerald addressed the issue concerning PSBA policy.

Amanda Guinta, Polk Township, welcomed Dr. Konrad and new Board members. She expressed concern about an incident of assault at the high school and asked the Board to work with the parents to address concerns.

Alice Wheelis, Ross Township, expressed concern about personal views expressed by some individuals. She expressed thoughts about all working together.

Abby Haberle, Ross Township, expressed her opinion about mask protocols and decisions made by the Supreme Court and expressed concern about mental and emotional health.

Danielle Serfass, Eldred Township, expressed concern about social distancing; teachers' personal views; nepotism; and mask wearing.

Leia Leuthardt, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about empty buses and costs involved. She welcomed Dr. Konrad and offered help by parents.

Lawrence Kahn, Polk Township, welcomed Dr. Konrad and new Board members and expressed that all work together as a team.

Ron Reynolds, Chestnuthill Township, welcomed new Board members and Dr. Konrad. He expressed to move forward as a team and welcomes open communication. He reiterated the need for a citizen's advisory board.

Vanessa Winger, Chestnuthill Township, welcomed new Board members. She expressed her concern and opinion about the special education department and improving communication.

Carlos Lizardi, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about special needs students and issues at PVI regarding social distancing as well as cleanliness of the building.

Janice Griffith, Ross Township, expressed her opinion about mask wearing and discretion of parents.

Alice Wheelis, Ross Township, expressed concern about fear of violence in the schools and consequences of such actions.

Richard Hill, Polk Township, expressed concern about issues at schools and questioned partnerships with State Police; and reassurance that students are safe.

Nellie Gordon, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her opinion about mental health issues relating to mask wearing.

Krissy Rodriguez, Ross Township, welcomed Dr. Konrad and thanked the Board. She expressed concern about students cutting class at the middle school; safety of students; offered help as part of a solution.

Dan Willis, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his opinion about freedom and to make mask wearing optional.

Leia Leuthardt, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her opinion about bonded Board members; and mask wearing to be optional.

Mercedes Reed, Chestnuthill Township, welcomed the new Board members and Dr. Konrad. She expressed her concern and opinion about community meetings; the gifted program and teacher shortage in the program.

End of public comment.

Dr. Konrad expressed that he understands the different perspectives of parents and knows that parents care for their children. He said together we can strategically make a difference insuring student safety and offering the best academic opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Galler motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Smale, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:
December 16, 2021 @ 7:00 PM