

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Brodheads ville, PA 18322

Minutes of the November 5, 2020 Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 11-19-2020

CALL TO ORDER:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on November 5, 2020 and called to order by President Donna Yozwiak at 7:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Susan Famularo, followed by a moment of silence. The meeting was held virtually in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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, Teresa Greggo, Norm Burger, Delbert Zacharias, Sue Kresge, Dan Wunder.

Administrative staff in attendance: Lee Lesisko, Superintendent, Jessica Tomon, Director of Human Resources, Robert Mauro, Interim Assistant to the Superintendent, Susan Famularo, 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, Beverly Hendricks, Director of Food Services.

Building Administrative staff in attendance: Matt Triolo.

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Notification of Executive Session: President Yozwiak announced that an executive session was held on November 5, 2020 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. Mrs. Yozwiak announced that this virtual meeting is being recorded.

Pleasant Valley Citizens: None.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Mrs. Susan Famularo, Board Secretary

Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on October 22, 2020; and to approve the Board Meeting Agenda of November 5, 2020.

VOICE VOTE: 9-0 CARRIED

TREASURER’S REPORT: Mrs. Laura Jecker

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Ms. Greggo to approve Agenda item #3.A. – Accounts Payable, as attached:

Approval of Agenda item #3.B. – Manual Checks October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.

Approval of Agenda item #3.C. – Manual Checks October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020 – PSDLAF.

Approval of Agenda item #3.D. – Accounts Payable – November 5, 2020.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #3.E. - The Accounts Payable approved at the October 22, 2020 Board of Education meeting was attached to the agenda for informational purposes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

Other: Mrs. Jecker questioned the Schoology Program as to when the tasks will be decided and communicated to teachers and also asked about training dates. She suggested that some kind of communication form be given so that teachers can communicate as they are working through the training process and have a smooth transition into this program. Mrs. Yozwiak stated that Dr. Mauro will be giving an update on the expectations on the Schoology Program as soon as possible.

Mrs. Yozwiak addressed the exorbitant fees that the District will incur because of cyber charter bills which are projected to be in excess of \$12 million dollars. She asked the Board members to advocate to our legislators to take action for cyber charter school reform. Dr. Lesisko sent an email to all employees asking them to voluntarily contact our legislators and Mrs. Yozwiak asked the community for their help in advocating for cyber charter school reform to help keep taxes down. The link on the pvbears website was shared with the community for contacting legislators.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Yozwiak stated that the Committee Reports were attached to the agenda and provided for informational purposes.

SUPERINTENDENT-REPORT/REQUESTS: Dr. Lee J. Lesisko

Dr. Lesisko stated that he recognizes that many parents want to return to school five days a week which would alleviate stress and anxiety on children and families as well as staff. Dr. John Hauth and Dr. Rajika Reed of St. Luke’s University Health Network, our health provider, were present to provide answers as to when we can return to school full time, what the risks are as well as their recommendations. Dr. Reed shared data through a PowerPoint presentation including recommendations and guidelines with regard to safety to help the District make a decision. Included in the presentation was data released by the Pennsylvania Department of Health with guidelines and recommendations for instructional models in Pennsylvania. Monroe County is at the moderate transmission level with a recommendation for instructional models to include hybrid or fully remote learning. Dr. Hauth stated that the number of cases in Monroe County and surrounding counties are moving up and to make data driven decisions. He addressed the added risks including indoor sports activities and flu season and until the cases are flattened, we should stay the course we are on and that overall the hybrid model is working well. Dr. Reed reiterated that the hybrid model has been successful in keeping infection and transmission low and stressed the importance of staying vigilant in following the recommendations of social distancing, mask wearing, and proper hygiene.

Agenda item #6.A. – The following policies were attached to the agenda for a second reading:

1. Policy #118 Independent Study
2. Policy #123 Interscholastic Activities
3. Policy #123.1 Concussion Management
4. Policy #123.2 Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Agenda item #6.B. – The Enrollment Report was attached to the agenda for informational purposes.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Jessica Tomon

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

Approval of Agenda item #7.B. – Hiring of Professional Staff (pending receipt of required paperwork):

1.	Name:	Meghan Whitney
	Position:	Science Teacher
	Building:	PVMS
	Education Level:	BA: Earth and Space Science
	Undergraduate School:	East Stroudsburg University
	Certificate:	Instructional I: Earth and Space Science 7-12
	Salary:	B, Step 1: \$45,067
	Effective Date:	TBD
	Replace:	Matthew Durich

Approval of Agenda item #7.C. – Hiring of Support Staff (pending receipt of required paperwork):

1.	Name:	John Grimaldi
	Position:	Custodian
	Building:	PVIS
	Salary:	\$17.84 per hour
	Effective Date:	TBD
	Replace:	Roland Steele

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

1.	Name:	Susan Marcin
	Current Building:	PVHS
	Current Position:	Paraprofessional Association (PT)
	New Building:	PVMS
	New Position:	Paraprofessional Association (FT)

	Effective Date:	October 28, 2020
	Replace:	Stephanie Foust
2.	Name:	Christine Preston
	Current Building:	PVHS
	Current Position:	Family/Consumer Science Teacher
	New Building:	PVIS
	New Position:	Special Education Teacher
	Effective Date:	December 1, 2020
	Replace:	Elizabeth Watson

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

1.	Name:	Bibi Parasram
	Position(s):	Substitute Monitor Substitute Secretary
	Effective Date:	November 6, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.F. – FFCRA – Emergency FMLA Expansion Act:

1.	Name:	Kristen Pierri
	Position:	Secretary
	Building:	PVES
	Type:	Intermittent
	Start Date:	October 9, 2020
	Expected End Date:	December 18, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.G. - Family and Medical Leave:

	Name	Position	Building	Number of Days	Dates
1.	Sharon Baker	Teacher	PVES	Twenty (20)	October 23, 2020 – November 19, 2020
2.	Noreen Ciarleglio	Teacher	PVIS	Three (3)	October 8, 2020, October 9, 2020 and October 13, 2020
3.	Tanya Durkey Witmer	Teacher	PVIS	Thirty-Seven (37)	October 29, 2020 – December 23, 2020
4.	Jeannine Saylor	Teacher	PVES	Ten (10)	October 19, 2020 October 30, 2020
5.	Derek Strohl	Teacher	PVHS	Forty-Five (45)	January 22, 2021 – March 26, 2021
6.	Deborah Wadiak	Custodian	PVIS	Seven (7)	October 12, 2020 – October 20, 2020

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

	Name	Position	Effective Date
1.	Melissa Bruckman	Volleyball Line Judge	October 20, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.I. – Terminations due to expired clearances after multiple notices: Employee Nos.: 4376, 3486, 4274, 1505, 3425.

Approval of Agenda item #7.J. – Athletic Volunteer:

	Name	Sport
1.	Doug Wisser	Boys Basketball

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

ADDENDUM: HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Jessica Tomon

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

Approval of Addendum item #8.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) 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 the fall 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.	Vincent Arezzi	Boys Lacrosse	Head Coach	6	\$6,950.00
2.	Steve Caffrey	Softball	Head Coach	6	\$6,950.00
3.	Mark Allison	Boys Tennis	Head Coach	6	\$5,250.00
4.	Toni Bush	Girls Lacrosse	Head Coach	6	\$6,950.00
5.	TJ Murphy	Baseball	Head Coach	3	\$6,350.00

Approval of Addendum item #8.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) 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 the fall 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.	Gena Orłowski	Spring Event Manager	\$610.42
2.	Augie Kresge	Winter Event Manager	\$610.42

Approval of Addendum item #8.D. – Change to Supplemental Contracts:

1.	Name:	Stephen Kalbach
	Sport:	Boys Basketball
	Current Position:	Freshman Assistant
	New Position:	Jr. High Assistant
	Level:	2
	Salary:	\$3,650.00
2.	Name:	Matt Gould
	Sport:	Boys Basketball
	Current Position:	Jr. High Assistant
	New Position:	Freshman Assistant
	Level:	1
	Salary:	\$4,800.00

Approval of Addendum item #8.E. – Intramural Advisor:

1.	Club/Activity:	HOSA
	Advisor:	Mark Rehrig
	Advisor:	Jenna Wernett
	Advisor:	Carol Patterson
	Dates:	September 1, 2020 – June 4, 2021
	Day(s):	Thursday
	Times:	2:00 pm – 4:30 pm
	Building:	PVHS

Approval of Addendum item #8.F. – Correction of Salary:

1.	Name:	Shefike Mehmedi
	Position:	Custodian
	Salary approved 10/26/2020:	\$18.29 per hour
	Correct Salary:	\$18.80 per hour

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED
Abstained on Addendum #8.C.2.: Mr. Kresge
8-0-1 CARRIED (Abstention form attached)

CURRICULUM/STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Dr. Susan Mowrer Benda –

Agenda item #9.A. – Informational – The Curriculum Report was provided for October 2020.

Agenda item #9.B. Other: Dr. Mowrer Benda stated that during the course of a full series of grants to support food service operations in the district, Pleasant Valley has received the No Kid Hungry Grant in the amount of \$15,000. These funds will be used for paper products, no touch point sale and additional PPE. She stated that in addition, there will be potentially additional funds that we will be able to purchase for automatic water filling machines, one for each building. Director of Food Services Beverly Hendricks stated that it will cover most of the paper products for meal distributions and website for communicating to the community about cafeteria services.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Ms. Julie Harris –

Agenda item #10.A. – PA Virtual Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders: Amy Bargiel, Supervisor of Special Education and Julie Harris, Director of Special Education have both been accepted to this fellowship for the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Harris stated that there is a mental health link on the pvbears website specific to suicide prevention which contains several resources available to the community and will be updated as new information is received. She further stated that the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day will be holding a free webinar on November 21, 2020 offering support, help, and guidance for anyone who has been affected by suicide. Ms. Harris shared the link for anyone wishing to attend the event.

OPERATIONS SERVICES: Mr. Bill Gasper – No report.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mrs. Susan Famularo

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #12.A. – Business Management Items:

Approval of Agenda item #12.B. – Cafeteria Fund per attached.
1. Cafeteria Accounts Payable for November 5, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #12.C. –The following fundraisers:

1. PVHS - FBLA - Painting Party - 12/05/2020
2. PVHS - FBLA & State Project - American Heart Association - Krispie Kreme Donut Sale with After School Pickup - 01/05/2021 - 01/21/2021
3. PVHS - FBLA & State Project - Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Sale with After School Distribution Boxes - 01/19/2021 - 02/18/2021
4. PVHS - Class of 2022 - Dress Down for Valentine's Day - 2/9/2021 and 2/12/2021

Approval of Agenda item #12.D. – Budget Transfer as attached: Budget transfer to move Ready to Learn budget amounts from Instruction - Regular Programs (Function 1100) to Support Services - Instructional Staff (Function 2200) in the amount of \$12,000.00.

Approval of Agenda item #12.E. – Budget Transfer as attached: Budget transfer to move Ready to Learn budget amounts from Budgetary Reserve (Function 5900) to Special Programs (Function 1200) in the amount of \$2,230,000.

Approval of Agenda item #12.F. – Bond Fund: The following is recommended for payment from the 2018 Bond Fund: As per attached - \$16,090.10.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

ADDENDUM – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Ms. Susan Famularo –

Mrs. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker to approve Addendum #13.A.:

Approval of Addendum item #13.B. – The following fundraisers:

1. PVHS - FBLA - Thirty-One Sale - 11/25/20 - 12/23/20
2. PVHS - Class of 2024 - Red and Green Dress Down Day - 12/18/20 and 12/22/20
3. PVMS - NJHS - Sock and Hygiene Product Collection for Paul's Valor House - 12/1/20 - 12/11/20

Approval of Addendum item #13.C. – Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement: Fox Rothchild LLP to enter into an agreement(s) for the property located at 869 Route 115 in Ross Township (Parcel 15.4.1.8) setting the assessment of the property at \$1,041,000 for tax year 2020 (school tax year 2020-2021) and tax year 2021 (school tax year 2021-2022) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the assessment pursuant to applicable law.

Prior to roll call, Mrs. Jecker questioned the amount of fundraisers for FBLA expressing concern that these fundraisers may hinder other clubs or organizations from having fundraisers. Mr. Triolo addressed the question and stated that he has not seen this affecting other organizations.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mrs. Jecker stated that she has received messages questioning the curriculum differences from VLN and when the students transition back into brick and mortar. She said that parents are concerned that students transitioning may be behind those using VLN curriculum. Dr. Lesisko explained the differences and that we want students to stay in cyber until the end of the quarter.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS (non-agenda items):

Jessica Place, Eldred Township, expressed appreciation for the data given by St. Luke's this evening but encouraged the Board to reach out to local pediatricians who she stated are seeing a change in their patients' increase in mental health issues.

Kristine Rodriguez, Ross Township, expressed concern that the incident rate is lower than the mental health issue and urged more conversation on that issue. She spoke about her child's rising negative effect that this has caused.

Tracey Jacobi, Chestnuthill Township, thanked the Board for looking into the projected costs associated with cyber charter schools and urged community members to send letters to the legislators about cyber charter school reform. She expressed disappointment about the low student population and no decrease in staff.

Mrs. Yozwiak stated that the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9th at 6:00 PM followed by the Buildings & Grounds meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM. In addition, she stated that the next Athletic Committee meeting is scheduled for November 11th at 6:00 PM and that the next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Dr. Lesisko stated that a survey will be sent to the community in the very near future. In addition, he stated that we want to bring the children back full time but need to comply with CDC guidelines about social distancing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Zacharias motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Famularo, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:
November 19, 2020 @ 7:00 PM