

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the December 17, 2020 Board of Education Meeting

**Board Approved 1-14-2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on December 17, 2020 and called to order by President Donna Yozwiak at 7:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Susan Famularo followed by a moment of silence. The Administrative Offices are located at 2233 Route 115, Brodheadsville, PA 18322. 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, Todd Kresge, Teresa Greggo, Norm Burger, Laura Jecker, Treasurer, Delbert Zacharias, Sue Kresge, Dan Wunder.

**Administrative staff in attendance:** Lee Lesisko, Superintendent, Jessica Tomon, Director of Human Resources, Susan Famularo, Business Manager, Bill Gasper, Director of Operations, Julie Harris, Director of Special Education, Susan Mowrer Benda, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Chuck Tomori, Technology Coordinator.

**Building Administrative staff in attendance:** Matt Triolo, Roger Pomposello, Jason Van Voorhis, Todd Breiner.

**Student Council Representative:** Alexis Neri, President

**School Solicitor in attendance:** Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

**Notification of Executive Session:** President Yozwiak announced that an executive session was held on December 17, 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. Mrs. Yozwiak further announced that this virtual meeting is being recorded.

**Student Council Representative:** Alexis Neri, President

Ms. Neri reported on activities and events at the high school:

- Completion of health class course requirements for Adult/Child/Infant First Aid, CPR and AED certification.
- PV reclaims the Old Oaken Bucket against the Cardinals.
- PVHS fall drama, *Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus*, was performed on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with success.
- Associate Principal Hines' last day on November 30<sup>th</sup>. He will be greatly missed.
- Auditions began on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for Macbeth which will be performed by Shakey's Players in May 2021.
- Congratulations to athletes for their All-League Honors.
- Aevium hosted the first Festive Holiday attire yoga session on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A holiday tree has been placed in Gress Hall.

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 only with a three-minute time limit.

**Pleasant Valley Citizens:**

MaryEllen Altman, Chestnuthill Township, wished to speak on a non-agenda item and was advised she could do so at the second PV Citizens' portion of the meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mrs. Susan Famularo, Board Secretary**

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Organization Meeting held on December 3, 2020 and to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on December 3, 2020; and to approve the Board Meeting Agenda of December 17, 2020 as amended: Agenda item #13.C. amended to include an end date of 3-25-2020.

VOICE VOTE: 9-0 CARRIED

**TREASURER’S REPORT: Mrs. Laura Jecker**

Mr. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to approve Agenda item #3.A. per attached:  
Approval of Agenda item #3.B. – Accounts Payable 12-17-2020.  
Approval of Agenda item #3.C. – Financial Statements for month ending November 30, 2020, per attached:  
Approval of Agenda item #3.D. – Trial Balance/Financial Statement-November 2020.  
Approval of Agenda item #3.E. – Asset Cost Summary-November 2020.  
Approval of Agenda item #3.F. – Condensed Board Summary II/Expenditures and Revenues-November 2020.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED  
Abstained on Agenda item #3.B. Check No. 00229679: Mr. Peeters (Abstention form attached)

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.** – No report.

**Other:** Ms. Greggo began a discussion regarding the fall sports budget requests and in particular the color guard flags and costumes to be purchased. She requested the Board’s opinion on whether or not to purchase new uniforms this year. Mr. Peeters suggested speaking with Mr. DeVivo on this issue due to the unique circumstances this year where the uniforms were not worn. Mrs. Yozwiak stated that since the community has not seen the band perform in its entirety with new uniforms, perhaps the same theme can be continued. Mr. Wunder, Mrs. Kresge, and Mr. Kresge support using the same uniforms and Ms. Greggo will speak to Mr. Toth and Mr. DeVivo. Mrs. Jecker questioned what happens to uniforms from previous years which Ms. Greggo will also speak to Mr. Toth about. Ms. Greggo also requested an update on the Adopt a School Program with the dental program.

Mrs. Jecker addressed the high school project Lead the Way having less than adequate enrollment and feels it is a waste of taxpayer money. She also stated that there are duplicate courses in the High School Programs of Studies and suggested that the Board not vote on the High School Programs of Studies until certain courses are taken out. Dr. Lesisko offered an explanation and suggested staying the course. Dr. Mowrer Benda offered information on the project Lead the Way which was a three to five year endeavor and was an investment we would have to make in order to grow the program, purchase all devices and materials that are necessary, and continually feed students into the program. She stated that enrollment had been growing as of last year but unfortunately with the use of the Hybrid model there was a change in the master schedule. She also reminded the Board of the request to increase the graduation requirements and project Lead the Way provides the opportunity for graduation credits in the areas of math and science.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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

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

Dr. Lesisko wished the Pleasant Valley community a happy holiday season and to stay safe and well and to remember to wear masks and social distance.

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #6.A:  
Approval of Agenda item #6.B. – Resolution to the West End Rotary Club – Resolved that the Board of School Directors of the Pleasant Valley School District approve the attached resolution in recognition and appreciation of the distinguished public service by the West End Rotary Club as recommended by the Superintendent.

Approval of Agenda item #6.C. – The following policies, per attached:  
1. Policy #126 Class Size  
2. Policy #829 Electronic Signatures

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #6.D. – The following policies were provided for a second reading, per attached:  
1. Policy #246 Student Wellness

Mrs. Yozwiak stated that the Board just passed a resolution in recognition of the West End Rotary Club who has participated in The Dictionary Project organization with a vision to provide a dictionary to every student in the United States. The West End Rotary Club has been providing dictionaries to the Pleasant Valley School District's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class and their teachers since 2004 donating approximately 6,500 dictionaries to our school system. Mrs. Yozwiak read the resolution in its entirety which was attached to the agenda.

**HUMAN RESOURCES: Ms. Jessica Tomon**

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker 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) 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.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Salary</b>
1.	George Fair	Track and Field	Head Coach	1	\$6,100.00

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

1.	Name:	Michelle Albanese
	Position:	LTS Health & Physical Education Teacher
	Building:	PVMS
	Dates:	Remainder of the 2020/2021 School Year

Approval of Agenda item #7.D. – Intramural Advisors:

1.	Club/Activity:	Winter Track
	Advisor:	Drew Davis
	Dates:	December 1, 2020 – February 22, 2021
	Day(s):	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
	Times:	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
	Building:	PVHS
	Received in HR Office:	December 3, 2020
2.	Club/Activity:	PVI Volleyball
	Advisor:	Arianna Weaver
	Dates:	December 8, 2020 – May 2021
	Day(s):	Tuesdays and Thursdays
	Times:	3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
	Building:	PVIS
	Received in HR Office:	December 3, 2020
3.	Club/Activity:	Softball
	Advisor:	Steve Caffrey
	Advisor:	Drew Dymond
	Dates:	December 18, 2020 – March 1, 2021
	Day(s):	Varies
	Times:	Varies
	Building:	PVHS
	Received in HR Office:	December 10, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.E. – Family and Medical Leave:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Number of Days</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1.	Elaine Cucci	Paraprofessional Associate	PVHS	Four (4)	November 9, 2020 – November 12, 2020

2.	Alex Sterenchock	Network Administrator	District	Twenty-three (23)	December 1, 2020 – January 8, 2021
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Approval of Agenda item #7.F. – FFCRA – Emergency Expansion Act:

1.	Name:	Janine Brown
	Position:	School Nurse
	Building:	PVMS
	Type:	Intermittent
	Start Date:	December 3, 2020
	Expected End Date:	December 14, 2020
2.	Name:	Suzanne Hunsicker
	Position:	Teacher
	Building:	PVHS
	Type:	Intermittent
	Start Date:	October 23, 2020
	Expected End Date:	December 31, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.G. – Leave Without Pay:

	Name	Position	Building	Number of Days	Dates
1.	Evelyn Garced	Monitor	PVMS	One (1)	December 11, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.H. – Child Rearing Leave:

	Name	Position	Building	Number of Days	Dates
1.	Stefanie Santiago	Teacher	PVMS	Twelve (12)	December 17, 2020 – January 12, 2021

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

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Vincent Arezzi	Boys Lacrosse Head Coach	N/A	December 2, 2020
2.	Tiffany Brancato	School Nurse	PVHS	December 4, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.J. – Terminations – Failure to complete required paperwork after multiple attempts to contact: 1). 20201217-1; 2). 20201217-2; 3). 20201217-3; 4). 20201217-4.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

**ADDENDUM: HUMAN RESOURCES: Ms. Jessica Tomon**

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

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

1.	Name:	Lizbeth Blair
	Position:	Substitute Monitor
	Salary:	\$10.59 (current employee)
	Effective Date:	December 21, 2020

Approval of Addendum item #8.C. – Child Rearing Leave:

	Name	Position	Building	Number of Days	Dates
1.	Cassandra Crawford	Teacher	PVES	Twenty-seven (27)	January 12, 2021 – March 19, 2021

Approval of Addendum item #8.D. – Leave Without Pay:

	Name	Position	Building	Number of Days	Dates
1.	Jodi Swanson	Monitor	PVIS	Two (2)	November 19, 2020 and November 23, 2020

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

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Number of Days</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1.	Danielle Staples	Teacher	PVES	Twenty-five (25)	December 14, 2020 – January 27, 2021

Approval of Addendum item #8.F. – Position Descriptions, per attached: Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Addendum item #8.G. – Withdrawal of Candidate Interest in Offer as Business Manager: Thomas Cipriano, Jr.

**OPERATIONS SERVICES: Mr. Bill Gasper** – No report.

**CURRICULUM/STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Dr. Susan Mowrer Benda** –

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mrs. Kresge to approve Agenda item #10.A. – Curriculum Items:

Approval of Agenda item #10.B. – Changes to the Middle School Programs of Studies for the 2021-2022 school year, per attached.

Approval of Agenda item #10.C. – Changes to the High School Programs of Studies for the 2021-2022 school year, per attached.

Prior to roll call, Mrs. Yozwiak questioned if a minimum enrollment statement is contained in the high school Programs of Studies. Mr. Triolo stated that it does and he will provide it to Mrs. Yozwiak.

ROLL CALL: 8-1 CARRIED  
Voting No: Mrs. Jecker

**SPECIAL EDUCATION: Ms. Julie Harris** – Ms. Harris reported the following:

- School Psychologists completed training on assessments provided through the GEERS Grant on December 10, 2020 at Polk.
- Life Skills teachers completed PASA Administrators training on December 10 and 14, 2020 at Polk.
- Thank you to Peter DeSanto and Annette Borger for their generous donation of two Chromebooks to the Pleasant Valley School District.
- Speech and Language Therapists were trained on their new digital assessments on December 8, 2020 at Polk.
- The AEDY (Alternate Education for Disruptive Youth) application has been accepted and approved by PDE. Thank you to Dr. Gustafson, Dr. Mowrer Benda, Darcy Caruso, and Susanne Rasely-Phillipps for their collaboration.

**BUILDING REPORTS:** Mrs. Yozwiak stated that all building reports including the PV Cyber Academy report for December 2020 were provided for informational purposes.

**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mrs. Susan Famularo**

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

Approval of Agenda item #13.B. – Cafeteria Fund per attached.

1. Cafeteria Accounts Payable for December 17, 2020 – \$17,168.00.
2. Cafeteria Fund-Asset Cost Summary – November 2020

Approval of Agenda item #13.C. – Student Placement: Student #022720JV – Scranton School District, effective 2/27/2020 with an end date of 3/25/2020.

Approval of Agenda item #13.D. – Payment from the 2018 Bond Fund, per attached - \$1,276.94.

Approval of Agenda item #13.E. – The following Fundraisers:

1. PVHS – Mini-thon 2021 Virtual Event – 4/10/2021 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM.
2. PVHS – PV HOSA Apparel Sale – 1/4/2021 – 1/18/2021

Approval of Agenda item #13.F. – Establishment of a new Student Activity/Club(s), per attached: Science National Honor Society.

Approval of Agenda item #13.G. – Purchase of Storage Locker and Refrigerators for Medication Storage, per attached:

1. QTY 4: Wilson Pharmacy Safe plus shipping and handling – Total Cost: \$5,139.65.
2. QTY 4: Accucold 1 Cu. Ft. Compact Vaccine Refrigerator plus shipping and handling – Total Cost: \$3,610.00.

Approval of Agenda item #13.H. – Purchase of Bleachers from PYT Sports, Inc. QTY: 8 Four Row High, 15' foot long bleacher plus shipping – Total Cost: \$11,380.00 to be paid from St. Luke's District Sports Facility Sponsorship, per attached.

Approval of Agenda item #13.I. – Purchase of Dugout Benches from PYT Sports, Inc. QTY: 6 2-Tiered Player Bench plus shipping for softball dugouts – Total Cost: \$2,390.00 to be paid from St. Luke's District Sports Facility Sponsorship, per attached.

Approval of Agenda item #13.J. – Resolution for the Business Manager, Assistant Business Manager, Accountant, and Bookkeepers to have confidential access to earned income tax information regarding the Pleasant Valley School District, per attached.

Prior to roll call, Ms. Greggo referred to Agenda item #13.G. and asked if this purchase was in consultation with the department chair which Mr. Gasper stated that it was. Ms. Greggo also referred to Agenda item #13.H. – Purchase of Bleachers and questioned the placement of the bleachers as well as bleachers that are in the high grass. Mr. Gasper addressed the issues raised including removal of bleachers. Mrs. Kresge referred to Agenda item #13.G. and asked about the size ordered which is different than originally proposed. Mr. Gasper explained the rationale for the size ordered.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Voting No on Agenda item #13.E.1.: Mrs. Yozwiak 8-1 CARRIED; Voting No on Agenda item #13.G.: Mr. Kresge 8-1 CARRIED

Agenda item #13.K. –Informational: Student Activity, per attached:

Beginning Balance: November 1, 2020: \$232,479.33  
Receipts: \$4,853.58  
Expenditures: (\$5,803.89)  
Ending Balance: November 30, 2020: \$231,529.02

Agenda item #13.L. – Informational: District Investment Report for November 30, 2020 as attached.

**ADDENDUM: BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mrs. Susan Famularo**

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mr. Burger to approve Agenda item #14.A. – Business Management Items:

Approval of Addendum item #14.B. – Purchase of LiftGate P440 Ceiling Lift and track installation for Pleasant Valley Middle School bathroom – Total Cost: \$11,625.00 with a 50% deposit prior to ordering, per attached.

Prior to roll call, Mrs. Jecker questioned the use of the lift. Ms. Harris addressed the issue and stated that this lift will carry the child through high school years.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

**SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.** – Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he will keep Dr. Lesisko and the Board apprised of any additional guidance brought forward by the Governor's office, the Department of Health, or the Department of Education during the holiday break that may impact how we deliver education.

**PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:**

Mr. Wunder wished the community, colleagues, staff, students, and parents a Merry Christmas. He also thanked Mrs. Famularo for a job well done.

Mr. Peeters wished Mrs. Famularo all the best in her retirement and stated that it was a pleasure working with her in the Finance Committee.

Ms. Greggo thanked Mrs. Kresge for introducing her to Mrs. Eckert as she is now the Legislative Liaison. She also questioned how and who decides where St. Luke's sponsorship money goes every year which Dr. Lesisko addressed. Ms. Greggo wished Mrs. Famularo a happy retirement and thanked her for her service.

Mr. Zacharias questioned start times for snow removal which Mr. Gasper addressed. Discussion between Mr. Zacharias and Mr. Gasper was held.

Mrs. Kresge extended best wishes to Mrs. Famularo in her retirement and wished all a happy and safe holiday season.

Mr. Burger extended his appreciation for the opportunity to work with Mrs. Famularo and wished her well in her retirement.

Mrs. Jecker wished the community, district employees, and all happy holidays. She extended her best wishes to Mrs. Famularo in her retirement.

Mrs. Yozwiak extended congratulations to Mrs. Famularo and quoted "live long and prosper."

Mr. Kresge extended best wishes to Mrs. Famularo and wished all a happy holiday season.

**PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS (non-agenda items):**

Anne Morton, Chestnuthill Township, requested that the food distribution include at least one Wednesday per month closer to the end of the day in order to accommodate working families.

Tammy Pellerin, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about the high school soccer booster club and coach and requested that the Board reconsider their decision.

Mrs. Kresge questioned the food distribution concern expressed and Dr. Lesisko stated that he will work with Ms. Hendricks to address this reasonable request.

Dr. Lesisko thanked Mrs. Famularo for her service and dedication to the District and wished her well in her retirement.

Mrs. Yozwiak informed all of the name change for Buildings & Grounds meetings to Operations Workshop meeting and stated that the next Operations Workshop meeting will be held on January 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM and that the next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM. She wished all a happy holiday season.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Zacharias motioned, seconded by Mr. Peeters to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Famularo, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:  
January 14, 2021 @ 7:00 PM