

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 1-28-2021

CALL TO ORDER:

A special meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on January 19, 2021 and called to order by President Donna Yozwiak at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Debra Duff 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. Mrs. Yozwiak stated that this meeting is being recorded.

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, Delbert Zacharias, Dan Wunder.

Administrative staff in attendance: Lee Lesisko, Superintendent, Jessica Tomon, Director of Human Resources, Tammy Smale, Assistant Business Manager, Chuck Tomori, Technology Coordinator.

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

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 and non-agenda items with a three-minute time limit.

Pleasant Valley Citizens:

Ms. Kristin Heller, Polk Township, expressed concern about kindergarten children returning to brick and mortar for five days a week. She stated that her children have had a wonderful school year to date and that it would be a negative experience for her kindergarten child due to the possibility of changing teachers. She asked the Board to reconsider this decision and she will email additional concerns.

Ms. Desiree Murray, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about kindergarten returning to brick and mortar for five days a week and encouraged the Board to tour the environment before making a decision.

Ms. Jennifer Rufo, Ross Township, stated that she sent an email expressing many concerns with regard to the transition for kindergarten children returning to brick and mortar including financial aspects to the District, personnel, classroom environment, and changing teachers. Ms. Rufo also expressed her opinion that all children should return next year and asked if the Board will vote on this issue stating that parents and teachers should be involved in the decision.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mr. Burger to approve the Special Board Meeting Agenda of January 19, 2021 as amended: Agenda #3 to include "subject to final review of the Solicitor's office."

VOICE VOTE: CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Peeters for the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education to ratify the contract for Acting Business Manager, Mr. Joseph Surridge at \$62.50 per hour, plus travel and mileage, pending Solicitor's review.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mrs. Kresge stated that it is her understanding that the Board will not be voting on bringing kindergarten children back to school. She expressed her belief that this issue needs to be a fully implemented plan and fully thought out and asked when the projected start date is. Mrs. Kresge also expressed her desire to have better communication as a Board. Dr. Lesisko stated that Dr. Howard is working with teachers and that there is a plan with a tentative start date of February 1st. Discussion was held where Mrs. Jecker stated we need to be completely ready to go, Mrs. Yozwiak suggested the possibility of holding a town hall, and Mr. Burger expressed concerns about the document that was sent to parents not including an opportunity to provide any comments. Mr. Wunder questioned the Board's authority on this issue and Mr. Fitzgerald will review the documents and get back to the Board.

Mrs. Yozwiak congratulated Mr. Surrige on his appointment as Acting Business Manager stating that he is competent and will do a great job with his experience in this field. She also reminded the Board about a virtual meeting being held on January 21st at 5:30 PM to review the Hamilton & Musser report. In addition, Mrs. Yozwiak stated that the Board should pick up backup material with regard to Policy #004 from Dr. Lesisko or at the tour of the high school being held on Saturday in preparation of workshops so as to improve the functioning as a Board. Mrs. Kresge stated that she was not aware of the meetings and expressed concern about lack of communication between Board members.

Dr. Lesisko stated that with regard to concerns expressed about changing teachers, kindergarten students will be able to keep the same teacher. He stated that there are no additional costs and will be following CDC guidelines.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that on November 19th, the administration and the Board ratified the Attestation form which allowed for the continuation of in person learning and that it did not modify the current hybrid program. He stated that if the District is going to substantively change the model for kindergarten, Board authorization would be needed. Discussion was held.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mr. Peeters to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Smale, Assistant Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:
January 28, 2021 @ 7:00 PM