

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the February 25, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 3-11-2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on February 25, 2021 and called to order by President Donna Yozwiak at 7:03 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Bill Gasper 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. President Yozwiak announced 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, Todd Kresge, Teresa Greggo, Norm Burger, Laura Jecker, Treasurer, Delbert Zacharias, Sue Kresge, Dan Wunder.

Administrative staff in attendance: Lee Lesisko, Superintendent, Rae Lin Howard, Assistant to the Superintendent, Jessica Tomon, Director of Human Resources, Joseph Surridge, Acting 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, Lori Hagerman, Curriculum Supervisor, Tom Toth, Director of Athletics, Chuck Tomori, Technology Coordinator.

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

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Notification of Executive Session: President Yozwiak announced that an executive session was held on February 25, 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.

Student Council Representative: Alexis Neri, President

Mrs. Yozwiak announced that Ms. Neri is not present but will be at a future Board meeting to address the Board.

2021-2022 MCTI Budget Presentation – Mr. Dennis Virga

Mr. Dennis Virga, Director, and Ms. Diane Serfass, Business Manager provided a presentation on the Monroe Career and Technical Institute 2021-2022 Proposed Budget which was attached to the agenda. Mr. Virga thanked Pleasant Valley Board and administration for their support and stated that he and Ms. Serfass have worked hard trying to be cognizant of all districts facing financial difficulty. The presentation included the formula for the operating budget funded by four districts in Monroe County as well as completed and upcoming capital improvements. Mr. Virga stated that Pleasant Valley is the largest sending district in the county currently at 16% of eligible students. In addition, Mr. Virga stated that MCTI will not need to keep the vocational subsidy this year. Mr. Virga thanked Mr. Triolo and his team at the high school for all their support. An opportunity was given to Board members for comment and/or questions. Mrs. Kresge stated that she has worked with MCTI for many years and thanked Mr. Virga and Ms. Serfass for their outstanding services. Mrs. Yozwiak stated that she has worked with MCTI for many years and expressed appreciation for their tremendous work with Pleasant Valley students in all program areas and hopes that Pleasant Valley students maintain the highest percentage of enrollment in the future.

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: None.

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

Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mr. Burger to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on February 11, 2021; and to approve the Board Meeting Agenda of February 25, 2021.

VOICE VOTE: 9-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #2.B. – Informational: The minutes of the Operations Workshop Meeting held on February 8, 2021 was provided.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Mrs. Laura Jecker

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Peeters to approve Agenda item #3.A. per attached: Approval of Agenda item #3.B. – Accounts Payable February 25, 2021.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #3.C. - The Accounts Payable approved at the February 11, 2021 Board of Education meeting was attached to the agenda for informational purposes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Yozwiak stated that the Committee Reports were attached to the agenda for informational purposes. Mrs. Yozwiak referred to the PSBA Legislative Liaison Report by Ms. Greggo and stated that PSBA is calling for charter school reform legislatively and reminded the Board to sign up online at myPSBA for the PSBA Advocacy Day scheduled for March 22, 2021.

Agenda item #5.I. – PVMS Synchronous Learning – Middle School Principal Jason Van Voorhis outlined the Flex Ed Model, a pilot program which, among other things, will help with students’ emotional and social development. He said that this option will be offered in the fourth quarter to one seventh grade and one eighth grade team as well as all cyber students. Mr. Van Voorhis stated that more information will be forthcoming and there will be information on the web site as well.

Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mr. Zacharias to approve the Flex Ed Model pilot program as outlined.

Mrs. Yozwiak provided an opportunity for Pleasant Valley Citizens to comment on the above motion.

Leia Leuthardt, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her opinion and concern about the program and stated that her children are having difficulties with virtual learning and that school should reopen.

Robert Mullin, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his opinion that money should be spent to return students to school and not on other programs.

Suzanne Jones, Chestnuthill Township, questioned parents opting out of the program. Mr. Van Voorhis stated that students choose to remain in the pilot and it is in addition to brick and mortar.

Mrs. Kresge questioned students’ choice to be in the program. Mr. Van Voorhis said that letters will be sent home explaining the model and families will have a choice.

Mrs. Jecker questioned total capacity for classrooms on the team. Mr. Van Voorhis stated it is limited to 15 students.

Mr. Burger questioned how the program will improve student learning and Mr. Van Voorhis stated that best practices research on why students are struggling with the hybrid model shows that connection with peers and teachers and taking part as a classroom group with more support and access to teachers will improve student learning.

There being no further comments, the following action was taken:

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

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

Dr. Lesisko made a statement recognizing that parents support the reopening of brick and mortar school to five days per week. He stated that Pleasant Valley School District has been providing in-person learning as a hybrid model since the start of the academic year and realizes that some are not satisfied with decisions made. Dr. Lesisko stated that the administration continues to have ongoing discussions about increasing in-person learning and will adhere to the recommendations of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and new CDC Guidelines. He said that the administration is hopeful that these organizations will provide school districts across the state further guidance in the near future so as to allow a relaxation of the 6-foot social distancing

recommendations. He said that we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 transmission rates in Monroe County, and we will follow the science in partnership with the experts at St. Luke's University Health Network. Dr. Lesisko provided information on our level of community transmission and stated that it is still at a substantial level and that the positivity rate needs to fall below 10% for two weeks in order to move to moderate. He also stated that the status and availability of COVID-19 vaccination supplies for our employees impacts their safety and well-being and that St. Luke's University Health Network tracks the vaccine and data and updates us on a regular basis. Dr. Lesisko stated that based on this data, our schools will remain in a hybrid learning model for now and will continue to monitor and adjust as needed. He said that plans are being devised for the 2021-2022 school year that will include different instructional models that families may choose.

Mr. Peeters stated that the Board has toured each building to see what we can realize for the number of students in the classroom while complying with the CDC social distancing guidelines. He stated that while he understands concerns, we must insure the safety of our staff and students and we look forward to having students back in school five days a week.

Dr. Lesisko introduced Dr. John Hauth, Senior Network Administrator, Sports Medicine Relations, St. Luke's Center for Sports Medicine, as well as Dr. Dianne Jacobetz, a medical doctor and full Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and is the Regional Medical Director of St. Luke's Pediatrics Group and Clinical Associate Professor at Temple St. Luke's University Health Network, and Dr. LindyLee Cibischino, a medical doctor from St. Luke's Pocono Pediatrics. Dr. Jacobetz shared data regarding COVID-19 as it pertains to children and adolescents and what has been learned through multiple studies regarding the return to in-person instruction as well as the risk of adverse effects that has been seen nationwide. She indicated that decisions to reopen schools are made by districts individually following CDC guidelines. Dr. Cibischino stated that she has seen many patients and expressed concern about the struggles including social isolation, anxiety, depression, obesity, and lack of exercise. Dr. Lesisko addressed the social distancing guidelines and the Attestation Agreement signed by the District for 6 ft. distance and mask wearing. Mrs. Yozwiak reiterated that if we do not follow the Attestation Agreement, there is the risk of going back to all virtual learning and cancellation of activities and athletics. Mrs. Kresge expressed her concern about not following the 6 ft. distance guideline relating to safety for staff. Mr. Wunder stated that schools are being placed in a difficult situation by trying to follow guidelines and if not, potentially being penalized, and parents wanting to go back to school. Dr. Cibischino and Dr. Jacobetz addressed the concerns expressed.

Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #6.A. – Superintendent items:

Approval of Agenda item #6.B. – 2021-2022 One Page Calendar, per attached.

Approval of Agenda item #6.C. – Final Reading of the following policies:

- Policy #309 Assignment and Transfer
- Policy #331 Job Related Expenses
- Policy #815.1 Use of Livestream Video on School District Property

Mrs. Kresge questioned the availability of the one page calendar to the public and if the teacher's union has reviewed it. Dr. Lesisko stated that it will be provided to the public after approval by the Board and has been seen by the union.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #6.D. – The following policy was provided for a first reading, per attached:

- Policy #229 Student Fundraising

Agenda item #6.E. – The following policies were provided for a second reading, per attached:

- Policy #103 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
- Policy #104 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
- Policy #247 Hazing
- Policy #249 Bullying
- Policy #252 Dating Violence

ADDENDUM: SUPERINTENDENT REPORT/REQUESTS: Dr. Lee J. Lesisko, Superintendent

Agenda item #7.A. – The following policies were provided for a first reading:

- Policy #625 Procurement Cards
- Policy #829.1 Whistleblowers (New policy)

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Jessica Tomon

Ms. Greggo motioned, seconded by Mr. Burger to approve Agenda item #8.A. – Personnel Items:

Approval of Agenda item #8.B. – Hiring of Long Term Substitute Professional Staff (pending receipt of required paperwork):

1.	Name:	Melissa Roberti
	Position:	LTS Part-Time Librarian
	Building:	PVES
	Education Level:	BA: Communications
	Undergraduate School:	Cedar Crest College
	Certificate:	Emergency Permit: Library Science PK-12 Emergency Permit: All Instructional Areas PK-12
	Experience:	2018-present: Pleasant Valley School District, Substitute Teacher
	Salary:	B, Step 1: \$45,067 (prorated)
	Effective Date:	February 16, 2021 - end of the 2020/2021 School Year
	Replace:	Sarah Jean Rottenberger

Approval of Agenda item #8.C. – Change of Assignments: 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	Old Position	New Position	Level	New Salary
1.	Jeremy Gigliotti	Baseball	Varsity Assistant	JV Assistant	4	\$4,950.00
2.	Joseph Anderton	Baseball	JV Assistant	Varsity Assistant	6	\$5,150.00

Approval of Agenda item #8.D. – Athletic Volunteers (pending receipt of required paperwork):

	Name	Sport
1.	Matt Pierce	Baseball
2.	Jordan Borger	Softball
3.	Steve Borger	Softball

Approval of Agenda item #8.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:	Preseason Track
	Advisor:	George Fair
	Advisor:	Amy Keller
	Advisor:	Kyle Bonser
	Dates:	February 1, 2021 – February 26, 2021
	Day(s):	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
	Times:	2:45 PM – 4:15 PM
	Building:	PVHS
	Received in HR Office:	February 12, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #8.F. – Family and Medical Leave:

	Name	Position	Building	Number of Days	Dates
1.	Danielle Staples	Teacher	PVES	One-half (½)	January 28, 2021

2.	Ronald Miller	School Police Officer	District	Eighteen (18)	November 25, 2020 – December 23, 2020
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Approval of Agenda item #8.G. – Leave Without Pay:

	Name	Position	Building	Number of Days	Dates
1.	Jessica Borger	Monitor	PVMS	One (1)	February 4, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #8.H. – Change of Current Assignment (pending Memorandum of Agreement):

1.	Name:	Deena Boyne
	Current Building:	Polk
	Current Position:	Administrative Secretary
	New Building:	Polk
	New Position:	Acting District Services Coordinator
	New Salary:	\$48,000 (prorated)
	Effective Date:	Upon execution of the Memorandum of Agreement
	Replace:	Viola Murphy

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

ADDENDUM: HUMAN RESOURCES: Ms. Jessica Tomon

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Ms. Greggo to approve Addendum item #9.A. – Addendum Personnel Items:

Approval of Addendum item #9.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 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.	Tristan Dorn	Boys Lacrosse	Varsity Assistant	2	\$2,325.00 (split stipend)
2.	Jeff Kaye	Boys Lacrosse	Varsity Assistant	1	\$2,275.00 (split stipend)

Approval of Addendum item #9.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 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.	Matt Pierce	Baseball	JV Scorebook/Scorekeeper	\$30.00 (per event)
2.	John Gesiskie	Track and Field	Jr. High Judge	\$35.00 (per event)

3.	Bobbi Shupp	Track and Field	Jr. High Timer	\$35.00 (per event)
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Approval of Addendum item #9.D. – Athletic Volunteers (pending receipt of required paperwork):

	Name	Sport
1.	Bill Power	Boys Lacrosse
2.	Don Miller	Boys Lacrosse
3.	John Smith	Boys Lacrosse

Approval of Addendum item #9.E. – Supplemental Contract: Non-Athletic:

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	Academic Remediation	Subjects	Level	Salary
1.	James Ward	Winter School	History	30 hr/1 credit course	\$1,687.50

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

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

Agenda item #10.A. – Student Data Survey Presentation: Dr. Susan Mowrer Benda provided information on the progress of the mitigation of learning loss. She stated that the goal of the Curriculum Department is to be in concert with the Superintendent’s goal to focus on student growth and achievement. She stated the importance of having the foundation for a strong instructional staff as well as a strong instructional program in our curriculum. Dr. Mowrer Benda shared data from the beginning of the year and middle of the year in math and reading for PVE, PVI, and PVMS. She stated that the high school data will be provided at a later time. In summary, Dr. Mowrer Benda stated that we have had marked growth in grades 1-6 mathematics and are continuing to monitor progress in K-8 ELA. She said that we will continue to support the programs and continue to support the strengths and needs of our students.

Mrs. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mr. Burger to approve Agenda item #10.B.: Ready Classroom Math for Grades 6-8 per attached: The purchase of the Ready Classroom Math program for grades 6-8 at a cost of \$184,638.75 (Curriculum Associates quote attached), to be paid using ESSER II Grant funds, and the terms of use, pending solicitor review.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Ms. Julie Harris –

Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mrs. Kresge to approve Agenda item #11.A. – Special Education items:

Approval of Agenda item #11.B. - Child Study Team Procedure K-12, per attached.

Approval of Agenda item #11.C. – Emotional Support Programming Grades 7-12, per attached. Estimated cost savings to the school district including transportation is \$700,000.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Ms. Greggo questioned the status of the dental program. Discussion was held regarding the contract relating to the name change which Ms. Harris and Dr. Hauth addressed. Dr. Lesisko stated that the contract will be given to the solicitor for review.

OPERATIONS SERVICES: Mr. Bill Gasper – No report.

BUILDING REPORTS: Mrs. Yozwiak stated that all building reports for February 2021 were attached to the agenda and provided for informational purposes. Ms. Greggo recognized and congratulated the High School Jazz Band which has reached 40 participants.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mrs. Tammy Smale/Mr. Joseph Surridge

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

Approval of Agenda item #14.B. – Cafeteria Fund per attached.

1. Cafeteria Accounts Payable for February 25, 2021.

Approval of Agenda item #14.C. – MCTI 2021-2022 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$9,927,843. Pleasant Valley's share of this budget will be \$1,971,353.

Approval of Agenda item #14.D. – Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 2021-2022 General Operating Proposed Budget in the amount of \$3,750,550. Pleasant Valley's contribution is not to exceed \$27,100.26.

Approval of Agenda item #14.E. – The following Fundraiser:

1. PVMS – MS SGA – Orange Dress Down Day for Schyler Strong Foundation on March 5, 2021.

Approval of Agenda item #14.F. – Student Placement: Student #1215200Z – Foundations Behavioral Health, effective December 15, 2020.

Approval of Agenda item #14.G. – Ground Lease Renewal Agreement: Five (5) year renewal of the Ground Lease Agreement between Pleasant Valley School District and J.R.M Borger Brother Farms. Rental Charge to Farmer: \$500.00 per year. The term of the agreement will be April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026.

Approval of Agenda item #14.H. – The June 30, 2020 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by Gorman & Associates, P.C., per attached.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Abstained on Agenda item #14.G.: Mr. Burger 8-0-1 CARRIED (Abstention form attached)

Agenda item #14.J. –Informational: District Investment Report for January 31, 2021, per attached.

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Ms. Greggo thanked Mr. Van Voorhis and Dr. Lesisko for the development of the Flex Education program at the middle school. She also addressed the K-12 proposal from the teachers association for PV Cyber Academy offering Pleasant Valley teachers to teach our students. She said that time frames have been presented and discussions have been held. Ms. Greggo asked about the status of the K-12 proposal and urged that the creation of the best cyber option be made before schedules are made for next year and encouraged ongoing communications. She requested an update of the proposal be included in Mr. Tomori's report. Dr. Lesisko stated that this is being looked into starting with a synchronous component. Mr. Wunder requested that updated information continue to be provided and Mrs. Kresge encouraged transparency.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS (non-agenda items):

Mitchel Costa, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his opinion about students returning to school while complying with CDC and Department of Health guidelines and questioned who to contact for a solution. He expressed his concern about synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Ashley Yelland, Eldred Township, expressed her appreciation for the medical professionals' presentation and also referred to a reopening plan she sent to Dr. Lesisko from another school district. She requested a plan for reopening and referred to an article about a social distancing proposal. Dr. Hauth addressed the social distancing guidelines and stated that we are looking to the Department of Health and other entities to examine the science and give school districts more flexibility and that each district's decisions are to be made based on weighing their district's factors.

Kristina Rodriguez, Ross Township, expressed concern about not reopening schools stating that the cons outweigh the pros and that other districts are sending students back. She

expressed concern about the health effects on families and said that based on the survey sent to parents, most want to return to school five days a week.

Teri Vanbritsom, Chestnuthill Township, thanked the Board members for doing the best they can under the circumstances. She expressed her opinion regarding the role of the school district and the role of parents in, among other things, limiting screen time and diet.

Erin Beers, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern that students are suffering, that the risks of transmission is low and students should return to school as soon as possible.

Jeremiah Santo, Polk Township, expressed his opinion that the numbers do not justify keeping students out of school. He expressed concern about the 6 ft. social distancing guideline and to be realistic.

Chris Enderes, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his opinion about the facts given this evening and thanked St. Luke's for their presentation. He questioned documentation about penalties imposed for not following CDC social distancing guidelines.

Robert Mullin, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his opinion about social distancing guidelines in the cafeteria and offered solutions.

Jeff Fors, Polk Township, expressed that students should be back in school five days a week and referred to the survey showing that most parents want to return to school. He addressed social distancing guidelines and budget concerns as well as plans for next year.

Leia Leuthardt, Chestnuthill Township, thanked Mr. Van Voorhis for the clarification about the Flex Ed pilot program. She addressed the presentation given by St. Luke's data relating to transmission between children. She expressed her frustration about activities and sports taking place and her children not in school and expressed her opinion about the 6 ft. guideline.

Suzanne Jones, Chestnuthill Township, stated that other county schools are going back five days a week and questioned what steps are being taken to get students back in school as well as questioning potential penalties if not following social distancing guidelines. She expressed concern about transparency and communication.

Janine Simone, Chestnuthill Township, expressed frustration stating that students need to be back in school. She expressed concern about her children struggling as well as the tax burden.

Victoria Brown, Ross Township, expressed that students should be back in school five days a week and said that her children are suffering. She expressed concern about the social, mental, and physical strain this is having on students and referred to the survey that showed most families want to return to school.

Ron Reynolds, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about transparency and in his opinion the community should be able to ask questions at Board meetings.

Renee Walter, Chestnuthill Township, said that surrounding districts have opened and questioned if we have been in contact with them to work together. She expressed concern that students are suffering.

Mitchel Costa, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his opinion that all subjects should be synchronous. He expressed concern about the seriousness of the mental health of students and that school should reopen which would have support of the community. He suggested contacting the Governor or other entities for solutions.

Adrienne Fors, Polk Township, expressed concern for working parents relating to synchronous learning and that 85% of parents want students to return to school. She also addressed vaccinations for teachers. Mr. Fors spoke about the percentage of parents who want to return to school. He addressed communication privileges and rights and the right to an education. Dr. Hauth provided an update on the access to vaccines for teachers and to contact the Governor or other entities for help in getting access to and distribution of vaccines.

Danielle Serfass, Eldred Township, expressed concern about graduates preparing for college and recognized Mr. Triolo and guidance counselors for doing a great job. She addressed potential penalties for not following CDC guidelines and questioned allowing activities and sports. She expressed concern about the bands not being recognized.

Teri Vanbritsom, Chestnuthill Township, stated that she is a member of a support program through the state and that vaccinations will be forthcoming. She recommended parent support programs to come together to help each other. She applauded the school district for all they are doing.

Dr. Lesisko addressed some concerns addressed this evening including social distancing guidelines, transmission rates and the positivity levels, reaching out to legislators, bringing students back safely, Board policy on public comment, communication with other superintendents, transparency, and complying with the Attestation Agreement.

Mr. Fitzgerald clarified the social distancing guidelines and stated that the major guiding factor for the Board is the Attestation Agreement that would allow for in-person school during substantial transmission in Monroe County and that the requirements are for 6 ft. spacing at lunch and when there are mask breaks. He said that separate from that are recommendations from the Department of Education surrounding 6 ft. for all other parts of delivery of instruction. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the 3ft. /6ft. issue is being debated in many parts of the state and for those school districts that do not have a county health department; relaxation of the 6 ft. recommendation would come from the Department of Education. Penalties would be imposed if there is a violation of the Attestation Agreement for 6 ft. in the cafeteria and for mask breaks. Dr. Lesisko stated that superintendents in Monroe, Northampton, and Lehigh Counties met with the Secretary of Education and they are going to work with the Department of Health in relaxing the 6 ft. distancing issue.

Mrs. Yozwiak gave a statement and expressed her experiences in working in education and her belief in data, research and science. She stated that after careful review of all comments and information she, along with the Board, support Dr. Lesisko's recommendation to remain in the Hybrid Model for now realizing it is a very difficult decision. She encouraged that all follow the science and overcome our frustrations as a community.

Mrs. Yozwiak informed all that the next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mr. Burger to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Smale, Assistant Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:
March 11, 2021 @ 7:00 PM