

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the April 22, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 5-13-2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on April 22, 2021 and called to order by Vice President Len Peeters at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Lee Lesisko followed by a moment of silence. The meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley High School Auditorium, Route 209, Brodheadsville, PA 18322.

Roll Call – School Board Recorder: Mrs. Debra Duff

School Board members in attendance: Len Peeters, Vice President, Laura Jecker, Treasurer, Todd Kresge, Norm Burger, Sue Kresge, Teresa Greggo, Dan Wunder. Absent: Donna Yozwiak, President, Delbert Zacharias.

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, Bill Gasper, Director of Operations, Julie Harris, Director of Special Education, Susan Mowrer Benda, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Lynn Courtright, Chief of Security, Marcia Taylor, Accountant, Nelia Marcheski, ACCESS Coordinator, Fawn Meli, Special Education Supervisor.

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

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Notification of Executive Session: Vice President Peeters announced that an executive session was held on April 22, 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.

Vice President Peeters announced that the meeting procedures were attached to the agenda and posted online. He provided the opportunity for Pleasant Valley citizens to comment on agenda items with a three-minute time limit for duration of one hour.

Pleasant Valley Citizens:

Drew Dymond, PVEA President, expressed concern about the resolution for reduction in professional staff, teachers' plan, and costs for cyber charter schools.

Kristin Wolf, Polk Township, on behalf of PVEA, expressed concern about the impact on teachers caused by eliminating positions, district managed cyber school, and comparative costs relating to cyber school and furloughing staff.

Robert Serfass, Polk Township, expressed concern about possibly furloughing staff and the implementation of the 5-year plan and where we are today.

Jason Kish, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about the resolution for reduction in professional staff, graduation, and results of the survey as to future enrollment.

Ron Reynolds, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about possibly furloughing staff, plans for the future, and cyber charter issues.

Adrienne Fors, Polk Township, expressed her support for teachers and concern about the impact on the community with regard to reduction in staff.

Mitchel Costa, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about receiving information on the budget line by line and expressed his opinion about furloughing staff.

Leia Leuthardt, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concerns and opinions about the impact of furloughing staff as well as communication to the community.

Bob Serfass, Polk Township, requested reasons from the Board concerning their vote on the resolution.

Jessica Place, Eldred Township, expressed concerns about furloughed staff and the impact of those teachers that remain as well as communication to families regarding returning to PV.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mrs. Kathleen Franklin, Acting Board Secretary

Mr. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on April 8, 2021; and to approve the Board Meeting Agenda of April 22, 2021 with the addition of Addendum item 11.1 and the removal of Agenda item #14.C.1.

VOICE VOTE: 7-0 CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mrs. Laura Jecker

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mrs. Kresge to approve Agenda item #3.A. – Accounts Payable and Agenda item #3.C. – Financial Statements for March 2021, as attached:
Approval of Agenda item #3.B. – Accounts Payable – April 22, 2021.
Approval of Agenda item #3.D. – Trial Balance/Financial Statement March 2021.
Approval of Agenda item #3.E. – Asset Cost Summary March 2021.
Approval of Agenda item #3.F. – Condensed Board Summary II/Expenditures and Revenues March 2021.

ROLL CALL: 7-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #3.G. - The Accounts Payable approved at the April 8, 2021 Board of Education meeting was attached to the agenda for informational purposes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monroe Career & Technical Institute: – Mrs. Kresge shared good news from Director Virga that a \$2 million grant was received.

Colonial IU20: Mr. Daniel Wunder – No report.

PSBA Legislative Liaison Report: Ms. Teresa Greggo – Save the date: Ms. Greggo stated that the 2021 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference will be held Monday, September 27, 2021 to Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in the Pocono Mountains.

Education Committee: Ms. Susan Kresge – Mrs. Kresge questioned decisions made with regard to a recently held presentation by Apple and CDW, a Google Partner. Dr. Lesisko stated that they have surveyed the committee and are looking at Apple K-3 and Chrome books 4-12.

Finance Committee: Mr. Len Peeters – Mr. Peeters stated that the Committee met on April 19th and discussed the amended agreement with Talley Petroleum Enterprises relating to any remaining unpurchased gallons of fuel. He said that the budget is slated to be approved in June and Mr. Surridge is meeting with departments to finalize numbers.

Athletic Committee: Ms. Teresa Greggo – No report.

Policy Committee: – No report.

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

Dr. Lesisko stated that graduation will be held on June 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the high school stadium and each graduating senior will receive two tickets; however, if outdoor capacity guidelines change, more tickets will be provided. The graduation will be live streamed by BRC TV 13 for those who cannot attend. Dr. Lesisko addressed Agenda item #7.K. – Resolution for Reduction of Professional Staff due to economic reasons stating that the resolution is a procedural requirement under state law. He stated that Pleasant Valley is at a significant economic and structural crossroads and in order for Pleasant Valley to right itself fiscally, expenditures must be looked at and staff furloughs are necessary to protect the school district and to ensure that we are practicing sound fiscal responsibilities and remain solvent. Dr. Lesisko said that the Board will continue to look for substantive savings as well as advocating to Harrisburg for more funding.

Mrs. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to approve Agenda item #6 – Superintendent Report/Requests:

Approval of Agenda item #6.A. – The following policies:

1. Policy 112 Guidance Counseling
2. Policy 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information

ROLL CALL: 7-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #6.B. – The following policy was provided for a second reading:

1. Policy 116 Tutoring

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Jessica Tomon

Mrs. Tomon recommended approval of Agenda item #7.A. with a correction to Agenda item #7.F. to reflect an April 22, 2021 start date.

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

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

1.	Name:	Robin Rothrock
	Position:	Food Service Employee (3.5 hrs)
	Building:	PVES
	Salary:	\$12.20 per hour
	Effective Date:	TBD
	Replace:	Pamela Stanhope

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

1.	Name:	Eric Samson
	Current Position:	Part-Time Security
	New Position:	Casual Security
	Effective Date:	April 26, 2021
2.	Name:	Kelly Heller
	Building:	PVES
	Current Assignment:	Food Service Employee, 4.00 hrs
	New Assignment:	Food Service Employee, 4.50 hrs
	Replace	Lynn Roos
	Effective Date:	April 26, 2021

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

1.	Name:	Marcia Hansen
	Position:	Substitute Food Service Employee
	Salary:	\$10.14 per hour
	Effective Date:	April 12, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #7.E. – 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.	Tim Hinton	Girls Basketball	Varsity Secondary Clock Operator	\$40.00 (per event)
2.	Tim Hinton	Boys Basketball	Varsity Announcer	\$40.00 (per event)
3.	Dan Frable	Girls Softball	Jr. High Scorebook/Scorekeeper	\$25.00 (per event)

Approval of Agenda item #7.F. – Intramural Advisor:

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:	Weightlifting
	Advisor:	Christopher Hower
	Dates:	April 22, 2021 – end of school year

Day(s):	Tuesday and Thursdays
Times:	2:45 PM – 5:30 PM
Building:	PVMS and PVIS
Received in HR Office:	April 1, 2021

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

1.	Name:	Eileen Arnold
	Position:	Paraprofessional Associate
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	Ten (10)
	Dates:	April 7, 2021 – April 20, 2021
2.	Name:	Suzanne Burnett
	Position:	Teacher
	Building:	PVES
	Number of Days:	Two (2)
	Dates:	April 6, 2021 – April 7, 2021
3.	Name:	Kelsey DeLuise
	Position:	Teacher
	Building:	PVES
	Number of Days:	Twenty-nine (29)
	Dates:	April 26, 2021 – August 24, 2021
4.	Name:	India Johnson
	Position:	Paraprofessional Associate
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	One-half (½)
	Dates:	April 7, 2021
5.	Name:	Heather Kleinle
	Position:	Teacher
	Building:	PVIS
	Number of Days:	Eight (8)
	Dates:	April 22, 2021 – May 3, 2021
6.	Name:	Rachel Below
	Position:	School Counselor
	Building:	PVIS
	Number of Days:	Thirty-five (35)
	Dates:	May 28, 2021 – October 8, 2021
7.	Name:	Maureen O'Connor
	Position:	Paraprofessional Associate
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	Four (4)
	Dates:	March 22, 2021, March 31, 2021, April 8, 2021 and April 9, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #7.H. – Sabbatical Leave:

1.	Name:	Justine Curcio
	Position:	Spanish Teacher
	Building:	PVHS
	Semester(s):	1st and 2nd of the 2021-2022 School Year

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

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Dawn Cohen	Teacher	PVES	End of 2020/2021 School Year
2.	Linda Moschella	Paraprofessional Associate	PVMS	August 20, 2021
3.	Jeannine Saylor	Teacher	PVES	End of 2020/2021 School Year
4.	Dawn Wilson	Paraprofessional Associate	PVES	May 7, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #7.J. – Speech-Language Pathologist Contract: Board of Directors of Pleasant Valley School District ratify the contract for Speech-Language Pathologist, Jessica Gibbons at \$75.00 per hour.

Approval of Agenda item #7.K. – Resolution for Reduction of Professional Staff for reasons as articulated in Section 11-1124 of the Public School Code of 1949.

Prior to roll call, Solicitor Mark Fitzgerald stated that Agenda item #7.K. – Resolution for Reduction of Professional Staff, is a procedural requirement under Section 1124 of the School Code for reduction in professional employees not less than sixty days prior to the adoption of the fiscal budget. Mr. Fitzgerald said that this does not bind the District to any specific number. Mr. Wunder requested a change in the Resolution specifically referring to page numbers 9, 10, and 11 of the resolution, and to eliminate the predetermined number of people. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the law specifically requires a number connected to the percentage of staff and administration. Mrs. Kresge stated that she will be voting no on Agenda item #7.K. and cannot support it the way it is written and expressed concern about the impact academically, among other things. Mr. Burger stated that he will vote yes on Agenda #7.K. and that the Resolution sets a threshold in order to move forward to the final budget. Ms. Greggo stated that this procedure must be done now to move forward in making other decisions and she supports the approval of the Resolution. Mr. Peeters expressed his support for approval of the Resolution. Mrs. Jecker stated that she is in support of the Resolution in order for the District to move forward and will vote yes. Mrs. Jecker also referred to Agenda item #7.F. and stated that she will vote no due to procedures not being followed.

ROLL CALL: 7-0 CARRIED
Voting No on Agenda item #7.F.: Mrs. Jecker
6-1 CARRIED; Voting No on Agenda item
#7.K.: Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Wunder 5-2 CARRIED

ADDENDUM: HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Jessica Tomon

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

Approval of Addendum item #8.B. – Resignation:

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Jane Shevlin	Monitor	PVHS	March 24, 2021

ROLL CALL: 7-0 CARRIED

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

Building Principal Presentation: “We Give a Great Product...” – Dr. Howard stated that the principals will provide an update on the reopening of school as recommended by the Education Committee. PVE Principal Roger Pomposello, PVI Principal Todd Breiner, Middle School Principal Jason Van Voorhis, and High School Principal Matt Triolo, gave updates specific to their buildings on the reopening of school. They thanked the Board, faculty, staff, students, and families for their support. Mr. Pomposello stated that the PVE remote plan is up and running and going well. Mr. Breiner said that the live instruction is going well as is PSSAs. He also thanked the PTO for their support and encouraged families to return to Pleasant Valley. Mr. Van Voorhis stated that students are interacting and that the Flex Ed Program is receiving good reviews from parents. Mr. Triolo commended teachers and students during this difficult time and thanked all for their hard work. He spoke of the success of synchronous learning. He stated that there are 750 students in the building and lunches are being provided indoor and outdoor. He also spoke of the continuation of the School Climate Committee and the Student Mentor Program.

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

Mrs. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to approve Addendum item #10.:

Approval of Addendum item #10.A. – PV Cub Summer Academy 2021 Proposal requesting a nurse.

ROLL CALL: 7-0 CARRIED

Mrs. Jecker asked for clarification of the term right sizing the District and Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Resolution speaks to this and that there may be subsequent resolutions specific to declining enrollment and other structural issues and that justification will be detailed with regard to furloughed staff.

ADDENDUM – SPECIAL EDUCATION: Ms. Julie Harris –

Mr. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker to approve Addendum item #11.:

Approval of Addendum item #11.A. – Student Waiver #042221LK-HS.

ROLL CALL: 7-0 CARRIED

OPERATIONS SERVICES: Mr. Bill Gasper – No report.

BUILDING REPORTS – APRIL 2021

Building reports were attached to the Agenda for informational purposes.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mr. Joseph Surridge

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Ms. Greggo to approve Agenda item #14.A. – Business Management Items:

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

- 1. Cafeteria Accounts Payable for April 22, 2021
- 2. Cafeteria Fund – Asset Cost Summary – March 2021.

Approval of Agenda item #14.C. – The following contracts:

- 1. Item Removed
- 2. Blackboard Inc - Website and Content Management System Renewal Term: 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022 Cost - \$9,549.95 and ConnectEd Services Term: 5/1/2021 - 6/30/2022 Cost - \$8,633.53 Total Cost of Contract - \$18,183.48

Approval of Agenda item #14.D. –Payment from the 2018 Bond Fund - \$56.00.

Approval of Agenda item #14.E. – Municipal Statement of Revival - Approve to revive the Authority to incorporate the Monroe County Area Vocational-Technical School for an additional term not to exceed fifty (50) years.

Approval of Agenda item #14.F. – Self-Pay and Cobra Rates 2021-2022:Board of Education confirmation of the 2021-2022 monthly Self-Pay and *COBRA rates as adopted by the Employee Benefit Trust of Eastern PA (EBTEP) Board of Trustees for the Pleasant Valley School District as listed below:

Traditional:

- Single \$756.14
- Husband & Wife \$1,663.51
- Parent & Child \$1,361.05
- Family \$2,117.19
- Parent & Children \$1,587.89

PPO:

- Single \$737.25
- Husband & Wife \$1621.95
- Parent & Child \$1,327.05
- Family \$2,064.30
- Parent & Children \$1,548.22

PPO 500:

- Single \$686.90
- Husband & Wife \$1,511.18
- Parent & Child \$1,236.42
- Family \$1,923.32
- Parent & Children \$1,442.49

PPO 250

- Single \$712.66
- Husband & Wife \$1,567.85
- Parent & Child \$1,282.79
- Family \$1,995.44
- Parent & Children \$1,496.58

Dental:

- Single \$26.64
- Family \$81.58

Vision:

- Single \$1.77
- Family \$4.92

*A 2% surcharge will be added to the above rates for those individuals qualifying for purchase of insurance under COBRA rules.

Approval of Agenda item #14.G. – 2021-2022 Talley Petroleum Enterprises Fuel Agreement – Accept and approve the amended agreement for diesel for the 2020-2021 school year, carry over to the 2021-2022 school year with Talley Petroleum Enterprises.

Approval of Agenda item #14.H. – Advertisement of Sealed Bids for Winter Athletic Supplies and Equipment.

ROLL CALL: 7-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #14.I. – Informational: Student Activity Accounts, per attached:
Beginning Balance: March 1, 2021: \$217,924.01
Receipts: \$10,258.80
Expenditures: (\$2,903.56)
Ending Balance: March 31, 2021: \$225,279.25

Agenda item #14.J. – District Investment Report – March 31, 2021

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mr. Wunder suggested looking into sending school work and resources home for students over the summer.

Mrs. Kresge questioned the timeline for the staff survey. She also questioned staff attending in the building while it is closed due to COVID and should the health and safety plan be modified which Mr. Fitzgerald clarified that it should. In addition, Mrs. Kresge suggested looking into whether the Board meetings can be streamed live for the community.

Mr. Burger questioned Mr. Gasper about the status of the elementary school roof. Mr. Gasper said that an email was sent with the status and recommendations.

Mrs. Jecker expressed concern about not being able to hear everyone and requested that the sound system be looked into for these meetings.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS (non-agenda items):

Drew Dymond, PVEA President, asked the Board to commit to bringing back furloughed teachers as the percentage of students return.

Bob Serfass, Polk Township, expressed concern about high attorney’s fees as well as other expenditures including the business office audit, hiring of an engineering firm, the PVE roof, air conditioning at Polk, the maintenance building, and field turf. He also commented on replacing a technology position and the decision to furlough staff. He expressed his opinion on meetings being held virtually for the community as well as the need for a pandemic coordinator.

Jason Kish, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his thanks for clarification given about the procedural action taken on the Resolution for reduction of professional staff. He expressed his opinion about meetings being held virtually and expressed concern about the number of tickets that will be given to graduation families.

Ron Reynolds, Chestnuthill Township, expressed his opinion about the procedural Resolution and also expressed his concern about plans regarding enrollment.

Francesca Zeilkowski, Chestnuthill Township, shared her children’s experiences at Pleasant Valley and their subsequent accomplishments.

Christine Erhardt, Chestnuthill Township, requested that the fields be reopened for sports and expressed concern about the number of tickets being offered to families for graduation.

Leia Leuthardt, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about costs involved for sports and the need for activity for students.

Adrienne Fors, Polk Township, expressed the need to reopen fields.

Mitchel Costa, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about fields not being open for sports and to consider the mental stability of students.

Bob Serfass, Polk Township, expressed his opinion that fields be reopened.

Christine Erhardt, Chestnuthill Township, shared protocols taken by travel teams following guidelines and said fields should be reopened.

Dr. Lesisko stated that he will authorize the reopening of the fields so long as social distancing guidelines are followed according to safety plans.

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge, to authorize the reopening of the athletic fields throughout the District so long as it is consistent with any guidelines from the Department of Health, CDC, and District Health and Safety Plan.

ROLL CALL: 7-0 CARRIED

Mr. Peeters announced that the next Board of Education will be held on May 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Burger to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Franklin, Acting Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:
May 13, 2021 @ 7:00 PM