

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the June 14, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting

**Board Approved 6-24-2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A special meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on June 14, 2021 via Zoom and called to order by President Donna Yozwiak at 7:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Charlene Brennan followed by a moment of silence. The Administrative Offices are located at 2233 Route 115, Brodheadsville, PA 18322. 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:** Charlene Brennan, Acting Superintendent, Rae Lin Howard, Assistant to the Superintendent, Jessica Tomon, Director of Human Resources, Joseph Surridge, Acting Business Manager, Bill Gasper, Director of Operations, Tammy Smale, Assistant Business Manager, Kathleen Franklin, Administrative Secretary, Julie Harris, Director of Special Education, Lynn Courtright, Chief of Police.

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:** None.

**OPERATIONS: Mr. William Gasper**

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to award the Student Transportation Bid to First Student, Inc. for a five (5) Year term 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2026, subject to entering into a service contract with First Student and is further subject to final review and approval of the terms by the Solicitor, at the following pricing:

2021-2022	-	\$7,431,845
2022-2023	-	\$8,238,219
2023-2024	-	\$8,592,476
2024-2025	-	\$8,962,022
2025-2026	-	\$9,347,379

Prior to roll call, Mrs. Jecker expressed concern about discrepancies within the presentations with regard to elimination of routes which would garner no savings. Mr. Gasper addressed the issue and lengthy discussion was held about this issue as well as many other concerns about entering into this service contract with First Student. Mrs. Kresge expressed concern about the routing analysis; Mrs. Jecker, Mr. Kresge, and Mr. Zacharias would prefer a 3-year contract; Mrs. Yozwiak wants the routing analysis to include MCTI; Mr. Burger addressed the number of parents driving their students which would reduce the number of routes needed and expressed concern that eliminating routes would not reduce costs. Mr. Kresge spoke about fixed costs in the proposal and suggested an outside vendor be used for additional routes if needed. Mr. Burger suggested that the routing analysis be done by an independent company. He also discussed the option of buying back buses which the new proposal does not address and which he would want in the new contract. Mr. Zacharias suggested that First Student vacate our bus compound which could then be used for maintenance. Ms. Greggo agrees with an outside company doing a routing analysis. Mr. Gasper stated that Mr. Fitzgerald will work on the contract with regard to routing concerns and negotiate other issues in order to bring the costs down. Dr. Brennan offered an explanation about the elimination of routes and reduction of costs. She also addressed the RFP process and suggested starting the process at the 3-1/2 year mark in order to issue it in the 4<sup>th</sup> year. Dr. Brennan addressed the routing analysis being done in-house and suggested that it is a complicated process and she will look into a company to support an independent analysis. Dr. Brennan stated that having reviewed all the documentation associated with this proposal, she recommends that it be approved which would allow Mr. Fitzgerald to start negotiations.

ROLL CALL: 5-4 CARRIED

Voting No: Mrs. Jecker, Mr. Zacharias, Mr. Kresge, Mr. Burger

Mrs. Yozwiak stated that this recorded meeting will be made available to Solicitor, Mr. Fitzgerald.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Smale, Assistant Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:  
June 24, 2021 @ 7:00 PM