

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the June 29, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 7-15-2021

CALL TO ORDER:

A special meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on June 29, 2021 via Zoom and called to order by President Donna Yozwiak at 7:08 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Laura Jecker 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, 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 Security, Chuck Tomori, Director of Technology, Marcia Taylor, Accountant, Susan Mowrer Benda, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Beverly Hendricks, Food Services Director.

President Yozwiak announced that an executive session was held on June 29, 2021 immediately prior to this Special Meeting for the purposes of personnel matters including, but not limited to, performance and/or discipline, legal issues, and negotiations.

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 for one hour duration.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS: None.

Approval of Special Board Meeting Agenda:

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to approve the Special Board Meeting Agenda for June 29, 2021.

VOICE VOTE: 9-0 CARRIED

Dr. Charlene Brennan, Acting Superintendent, thanked all for the opportunity to serve the District as Acting Superintendent. She stated that as of yesterday, the mask mandate was lifted by the Governor; however, school districts and school boards have local authority to make the determination regarding the health and safety of students. Dr. Brennan said that the Health and Safety Plan is being reviewed and will be placed on the July 15, 2021 Board meeting agenda for approval. She stated that at this point in time, it will be her recommendation that the Health and Safety Plan will provide for masks to be optional for students and staff for the start of the 2021-2022 school year except on school buses which is still federally mandated. She said that in the event recommendations and/or guidelines change, the plan would need to be re-examined. In addition, Dr. Brennan stated that with regard to the summer programs, masks will not be required but will be optional with mitigation efforts such as hand sanitizing and social distancing continuing. She said that she will communicate with the community via Connect Ed. Mr. Kresge questioned the recommendation for the cafeteria regarding social distancing. Dr. Brennan stated that she does not have a recommendation at this time but it will be part of the Health and Safety Plan review.

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

Mr. Surridge thanked the Board, administration, and staff for their input and commitment in the preparation of this budget. He outlined the two options presented to the Board for consideration – Option 1 calling for an increase of 2.75% and Option 2 calling for an increase of 3%.

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #3.A. - 2021-2022 General Fund Budget:

Option 1:

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget be approved, calling for a tax levy of 23.5481 mills in property tax and the Act 511 Earned Income Tax of .5% and Real Estate Transfer Tax of .5% (this represents a .6302 mill, 2.75% increase from last year's budget) as attached.

Prior to roll call, an opportunity was given for public comment:

Leia Leuthardt, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her disappointment and opinions on a tax increase.

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

ROLL CALL: 7-2 CARRIED
Voting No: Mr. Wunder, Mr. Zacharias

Mr. Surrudge requested approval of Agenda item #3.B. (#3.C., #3.D., #3.E., #3.F.). He stated that Agenda item #3.E. is based on Option 1 which corresponds to Option 1 of the above Budget approval.

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker to approve Agenda item #3.B. – Business Management Items:
Approval of Agenda item #3.C. – Food Service Budget for the 2021-2022 school year with expenditures in the amount of \$1,856,915.00.

Approval of Agenda item #3.D. – Lunch Prices for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Breakfast - Paid Daily - \$1.60
- Breakfast - Reduced - \$0.30
- Breakfast - Adult - \$3.15
- Milk Only - \$0.50
- Elementary Lunch - Paid Daily - \$2.85
- Elementary Lunch - Reduced - \$0.40
- Secondary Lunch - Paid Daily - \$2.95
- Secondary Lunch - Reduced - \$0.40
- Adult Lunch - \$4.85

Approval of Agenda item #3.E. - 2021 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolutions:
Option 1:

The maximum homestead assessment exclusion will be \$21,717. The maximum farmstead assessment exclusion will be \$21,717. The maximum homestead tax exclusion will be \$511.39. The maximum farmstead tax exclusion will be \$511.39.

Approval of Agenda item #3.F. - PPL Grant Right of Way at no cost to the District to install an anchor guy onto an existing electrical pole to maintain its electric and communication facilities.

Prior to roll call, Mrs. Jecker stated that she would like to see the tax exclusions for seniors increased for next year.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Mr. Zacharias motioned seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #4.A. – Personnel Items:
Approval of Agenda item #4.B. - Contract extension for Acting Business Manager Mr. Joseph Surrudge from July 1, 2021 through August 6, 2021.

Approval of Agenda item #4.C. – 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:	Boys Lacrosse
	Advisor:	Robert VanDerheyden
	Advisor:	Tristan Dorn
	Dates:	July 1, 2021 – September 3, 2021
	Day(s):	Tuesday, Thursday
	Times:	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
	Building:	Athletic Fields
	Received in HR Office:	June 22, 2021

Approval of Agenda item #4.D. – Athletic Volunteer:

	Name	Sport
1.	Dana West	Boys Lacrosse

Approval of Agenda item #4.E. – Elimination of Administrative Position

Prior to roll call, Mrs. Jecker requested that Agenda items #4.B. through #4.D. be separate from Agenda item #4.E. as a friendly amendment to the original motion. It was agreed that Agenda items #4.B. through #4.D. be approved and the following action was taken:

ROLL CALL 9-0 CARRIED

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Peeters to approve Agenda item #4.E.: Approval of Agenda item #4.E. – Elimination of Administrative Position per the attached Resolution for dissolving the Supervisor of Transportation and Administrative Services Position as of June 30, 2021.

Prior to roll call vote on Agenda item #4.E., Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Mrs. Kresge to amend the Resolution as outlined by Solicitor, Mark Fitzgerald: Wherein the amendment would approve the proposed Resolution and realignment proposal of the Acting Superintendent surrounding the elimination of the Supervisor of Transportation position with the following modifications to the original motion:

1. The administration shall so offer the impacted employee, Mr. Doug Palmieri, a position within the PVEA in which he holds a current and valid certification.
2. Should he not accept the offer the employee shall be laid off effective immediately consistent with the original motion.
3. By approving this motion Mr. Palmieri shall no longer be a member of the Act 93 group or plan effective immediately.

An opportunity was given for public comment on the amendment. There being none, the following action was taken:

ROLL CALL: 5-4 CARRIED
Voting No: Mrs. Yozwiak, Mrs. Jecker, Mr. Peeters, Mr. Zacharias

The following action was taken on the underlying motion with amendments as outlined above:

ROLL CALL: 6-3 CARRIED
Voting No: Mrs. Yozwiak, Mr. Peeters, Mr. Zacharias

SOLICITOR: Mr. Mark Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald echoed comments made by Dr. Brennan concerning mask wearing recommendations and stated that there is likely to be additional guidance between now and the opening of school.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mrs. Jecker expressed her concern about grouping Agenda items together for approval.

Mrs. Yozwiak thanked all involved for their hard work in finalizing the budget expressing her appreciation.

Mr. Wunder welcomed Dr. Brennan and thanked her for her service to the District.

Mrs. Yozwiak stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 2021 and will be held in the High School Auditorium at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Smale, Assistant Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:
July 15, 2021 @ 7:00 PM