

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Brodheads ville, PA 18322

Minutes of the March 26, 2020 Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 4-9-2020

CALL TO ORDER:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on March 26, 2020 and called to order by President Donna Yozwiak at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Acting Superintendent Dr. Charlene Brennan, followed by a moment of silence. The meeting was held virtually in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roll Call – School Board Recorder: Mrs. Debra Duff

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

Administrative staff in attendance: Charlene Brennan, Acting Superintendent, John Burrus, Director of Human Resources, Joshua Ziatyk, Assistant to the Superintendent, Susan Famularo, Business Manager, Lee Lesisko, Director of Technology, Bill Gasper, Director of Operations.

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Notification of Executive Session: President Yozwiak announced that an executive session was held virtually on March 18, 2020 for the purpose of personnel matters and on March 26, 2020 immediately prior to the regularly scheduled meeting for purposes of personnel matters including, but not limited to, performance and/or discipline, negotiations and legal issues.

President Yozwiak read a Resolution as follows: Resolved that the Board of School Directors of Pleasant Valley School District approve the election of Dr. Lee J. Lesisko as Superintendent of Schools for a term beginning April 1, 2020 until June 30, 2023, and approve the employment contract for Dr. Lesisko for the same time period.

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jecker to approve Dr. Lee J. Lesisko as Superintendent of Schools for a term beginning April 1, 2020 until June 30, 2023; and to approve the employment contract for Dr. Lesisko for the same time period.

Prior to the roll call vote, Mr. Wunder expressed his decision to vote no on this motion. He stated that he will support Dr. Lesisko but expressed difficulty in reconciling with the conflict and definition of the role between the superintendent and the Board. Mr. Wunder wished Dr. Lesisko success in his role as Superintendent. Mrs. Kresge expressed her decision to vote no on this motion. She wished Dr. Lesisko well but expressed concerns experienced during the interview process. Mrs. Kresge also voiced her concerns with regard to certain aspects of the contract which she cannot support. She stated that she will support Dr. Lesisko as we move forward. Mrs. Jecker stated that she is happy and impressed with Dr. Lesisko. Mr. Burger expressed his decision on this motion. He stated that hopefully Dr. Lesisko will live up to his expectations as Superintendent and will reluctantly be voting yes.

President Yozwiak provided an opportunity for Pleasant Valley citizens to comment on this issue. There being none, the following action was taken:

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

Solicitor Mark Fitzgerald stated that there were Pleasant Valley citizens who wished to comment and asked that they be given an opportunity at this time to comment on the above motion. The following comments were made:

Mr. Martin Wierzba, Effort, commented that he would like to hear an explanation of why Board members vote no on items. Mr. Wunder and Mrs. Kresge explained their reasons for voting no on the above motion as stated previously.

A roll call vote was again taken on the above motion:

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

President Yozwiak announced the meeting procedures which were attached to the agenda.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Mrs. Susan Famularo, Board Secretary

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on March 12, 2020; approval of the March 26, 2020 Board Meeting Agenda with the amendment to remove Agenda items #7.L. – Intramural Advisors, and #11.B. – District Events.

VOICE VOTE: 9-0 CARRIED

TREASURER’S REPORT: Mrs. Laura Jecker

Mr. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mr. Peeters to approve Agenda item #3.A – Accounts Payable – March 26, 2020 as attached.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED
Abstained on Agenda item #3.A. Check No. 00227610: Mrs. Yozwiak 8-0-1 CARRIED; Check No. 00227602: Mr. Wunder 8-0-1 CARRIED; Check No. 00227522: Mrs. Jecker 8-0-1 CARRIED; Check No. 00227557: Mr. Peeters 8-0-1 CARRIED (Abstention Forms attached)

Agenda item #3.B. - The Accounts Payable approved at the March 12, 2020 Board of Education meeting was attached to the agenda for informational purposes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – Mr. Fitzgerald stated that a motion was passed at the last Board meeting authorizing the Board to hold a virtual meeting in the event of a state of emergency. He updated the Board on the Family First Coronavirus Relief Act and HB 751, the new school code bill and the implications of those new statutes on payment of employees, sick leave benefits, family medical leave, and changes to the school calendar for the remainder of the year. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that if the Board has questions on this legislation to contact him.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Yozwiak stated that there are no Committee reports this evening.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that due to an oversight, Pleasant Valley citizens were not given an opportunity to comment on agenda items. At this time, Mrs. Yozwiak provided an opportunity for Pleasant Valley citizens to comment on agenda items only with a three-minute time limit.

Ms. Maria Sontafori, Kunkletown, questioned about homeschooling curriculum. She was informed that this was not an agenda item and she will be given an opportunity at the second PV citizens’ portion of the agenda to make any comments on non-agenda items.

Ms. Kim Dalmas, Effort, questioned payment to First Student. She was informed that this was not an agenda item and she will be given an opportunity at the second PV citizens’ portion of the agenda to make any comments on non-agenda items.

Ms. Kim Kimmick, Brodheadsville, questioned a continuity plan. She was informed that this was not an agenda item and she will be given an opportunity at the second PV citizens’ portion of the agenda to make any comments on non-agenda items.

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT-REPORT/REQUESTS: Dr. Charlene Brennan

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #6: Approval of Agenda item #6.A. –The following policies as attached:

- Policy #222 Tobacco & Vaping – Pupils
- Policy #323 Tobacco & Vaping – Employees

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

HUMAN RESOURCES: Dr. John T. Burrus

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to approve Agenda item #7.A. – Personnel Items with the noted removal of Agenda item #7.L:

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

1.	Name:	Valerie Korsick
	Education Level:	BS Ed

Undergraduate School:	Kutztown University
Certificate:	Instructional I: English 7-12 Instructional I: Special Education 7-12
Salary:	\$110.00 per diem
Effective Date:	TBD

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

	Name	Position	Building	Salary	Effective Date	Replace
1.	Victoria Sherrard	Monitor	PVHS	\$10.59 per hour	TBD	Stephanie Havansky

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

	Name	Position	Salary	Effective Date
1.	William Calhoun	Substitute Custodian Summer Maintenance	\$10.38 per hour \$10.38 per hour	TBD
2.	Jessica Havansky	Substitute Custodian	\$10.38 per hour	TBD
3.	JohnPaul Korovich	Substitute Custodian	\$10.38 per hour	TBD

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

	Name	Position	Salary	Effective Date
1.	Stephanie Green	Substitute Custodian	\$10.38 per hour	March 27, 2020

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

	Name	Position	Building	Number of Days	Dates
1.	Karen Deppen	Health Room Technician	PVES	One and one-half (1½)	March 5, 2020 (1) and March 12, 2020 (½)
2.	India Johnson	Paraprofessional Associate	PVMS	Six and one-half (6½)	December 5, 2019, January 16, 2020, January 23, 2020, January 28, 2020, February 13, 2020 (½), February 26, 2020, February 27, 2020
3.	Debra Stewart	Teacher	PVHS	Sixty (60)	September 30, 2019 – October 18, 2019 and October 24, 2019 – January 9, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.G. – Leave Without Pay:

	Name	Position	Building	Number of Days	Dates
1.	Carol Bastos	Paraprofessional Associate (FT)	PVIS	Two (2)	February 7, 2020 and March 6, 2020
2.	Lucann Burke	Food Service Employee	PVES	Two (2)	March 2, 2020 and March 3, 2020
3.	Stephanie Green	Monitor	PVES	One (1)	February 26, 2020
4.	Amy Crilley	Paraprofessional Associate (PT)	PVES	Three (3)	February 21, 2020, March 10, 2020 and March 11, 2020
5.	Georgia Fernicola	Paraprofessional Associate (PT)	PVES	One (1)	March 12, 2020

6.	Lucia Figueiredo	Paraprofessional Associate (PT)	PVES	One (1)	February 28, 2020
7.	Evelyn Garced	Monitor	PVMS	Two (2)	April 3, 2020 and April 30, 2020
8.	Diana Graziano	Paraprofessional Associate (PT)	PVES	Three (3)	March 2, 2020 – March 4, 2020
9.	Samantha Hardy	Monitor	PVES	Three (3)	February 25, 2020, February 27, 2020 and March 6, 2020
10.	Kelly Heller	Food Service Employee	PVES	One (1)	March 3, 2020
11.	Wendy Heller	Monitor	PVES	One (1)	March 13, 2020
12.	Allison Hoak	Paraprofessional Associate (PT)	PVES	Nine and one-half (9½)	January 30, 2020 (½), February 5, 2020, February 20, 2020, February 24, 2020 – February 28, 2020, March 3, 2020 - March 4, 2020
13.	Debra Howell	Paraprofessional Associate (FT)	PVMS	Two (2)	February 28, 2020 and March 2, 2020
14.	Leslie Jacobson	Paraprofessional Associate (PT)	PVIS	One (1)	March 3, 2020
15.	Maritza Martely-Boasci	Monitor	PVIS	One (1)	March 6, 2020
16.	Brian Mucklin	Security (PT)	District	Two (2)	March 4, 2020 and March 6, 2020
17.	Melissa Schimminger	Paraprofessional Associate (PT)	PVES	One (1)	February 19, 2020
18.	Martha Smith	Paraprofessional Associate (PT)	PVIS	Three (3)	March 4, 2020 – March 6, 2020
19.	Jodi Swanson	Monitor	PVIS	Two (2)	March 9, 2020 and March 11, 2020
20.	Patricia Urban	Paraprofessional Associate (PT)	PVES	Seven (7)	April 30, 2020 – May 8, 2020
21.	Victoria Weaver	Food Service Employee	PVES	One-half (½)	February 21, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.H. – Retirement: PVESPA CBA 2018-2021 Article VII #24 and #25:

	Name	Position	Building
1.	Karen Deppen	Health Room Technician	PVES
2.	Janice Honey	Health Room Technician	PVIS

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

	Name	Position	Building	Effective Date
1.	Georgia Fernicola	Paraprofessional Associate	PVES	March 20, 2020
2.	Sonya Porter	Paraprofessional Associate	PVES	June 1, 2020
3.	Jared Rechenberger	Custodian	PVES	March 12, 2020

Approval of Agenda item #7.J. – Supplemental Contracts: Athletic Non-Coaching (pending receipt of required paperwork):

	Name	Sport	Position	Salary
1.	Dana West	Boys Basketball Girls Basketball	Jr. High Scorebook/Scorekeeper	\$25.00 (per event)
2.	Hillary Atkinson	Boys Basketball	Varsity Scorebook/Scorekeeper	\$40.00 (per event)

3.	Jenna Wernett	Wrestling	Varsity Scorebook/Scorekeeper	\$40.00 (per event)
4.	Bron Leupold	Boys Basketball	Varsity Scoreboard Operator	\$40.00 (per event)
5.	Bron Leupold	Boys Basketball	JV Scoreboard Operator	\$35.00 (per event)

Approval of Agenda item #7.K. – Supplemental Contracts: Salary Adjustment:

1.	Name:	Drew Dymond
	Position:	Softball Varsity Assistant
	Approved Salary:	L3: \$4,800.00
	Date Approved:	September 26, 2019
	Correct Salary:	L4: \$4,950.00

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

ADDENDUM: HUMAN RESOURCES: Dr. John T. Burrus

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

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

Dr. Charlene Brennan to receive compensation at her daily rate for the Fridays she worked in response to the COVID-19 situation. Dates include March 6, 2020, March 13, 2020, March 20, 2020 and March 27, 2020.

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

Acceptance of Dr. Charlene Brennan’s notice of resignation dated March 9, 2020 to be effective at the end of the day on March 31, 2020.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

CURRICULUM/STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Joshua Ziatyk – No report.

PUPIL SERVICES: – No report.

OPERATION SERVICES:

Agenda item #11.A. – Informational: Cafeteria Participation Report as attached.

Agenda item #11.B. – Informational – District Events: March 27, 2020 through April 9, 2020.

BUILDING REPORTS: (Agenda item #12) School Building reports were attached to the agenda for informational purposes for March 2020.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mrs. Susan Famularo

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Agenda item #13.A. – Business Management Items:

Approval of Agenda item #13.B. – Cafeteria Fund per attached.

Cafeteria Accounts Payable for March 26, 2020 – Total amount \$20,365.21.

Approval of Agenda item #13.C. – Contracts per attached:

1. Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21. Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Education Services for the 2020-2021 school year. S.I.T.I.E.S program cost: \$90.00 per student per day.
2. Coyle, Lynch & Company CLC Job Number 20-127 - Phase 1 not to exceed \$3,800.00.

Approval of Agenda item #13.D. – Advertisement of Sealed Bids for the following items: Winter Athletic Supplies and Equipment.

Approval of Agenda item #13.E. – Computer Services: Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit #16 computer service rate for 2020-2021 as attached for Fund Accounting, Payroll, Staff Portal and Personnel applications. Estimated cost to the school district for 2020-2021 school year is \$36,000.00.

Approval of Agenda item #13.F. – Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement: Authorization for Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 1260 Blue Mountain Circle in Ross Township and further identified as Parcel ID 15.9.1.18 setting the assessment of the property at \$1,310,000 for tax year 2020 (school tax year 2020-21) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property’s assessment pursuant to applicable law.

Approval of Agenda item #13.G. – Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement: Authorization for Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 1212 Burger Hollow Road in Chestnuthill Township and further identified as Parcel ID 02.13.1.33 setting the assessment of the property at \$1,000,000 for tax year 2020 (school tax year 2020-21) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property’s assessment pursuant to applicable law.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #13.H. – Informational: District Investment Report for February 29, 2020 per attached.

ADDENDUM – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Ms. Susan Famularo

Mrs. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Kresge to approve Addendum item #14.A.: Approval of Addendum item #14.B. – Approval of Payment: Due to the current suspension of the PIAA Spring Athletic Season, it is recommended to authorize the business office to pay the first installment of the Spring Athletic coaching stipend at 33% of the contracted amount.

ROLL CALL: 9-0 CARRIED

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

Dr. Brennan congratulated Dr. Lesisko on his election as Superintendent of the Pleasant Valley School District. She read a letter to the Board members, community, staff, and students and asked that it be placed into the record:

March 26, 2020

Dear Members of the Board, Community, Staff, and Students:

After retiring from Colonial IU 20 in June of last year, I didn’t anticipate becoming an acting superintendent, although I always thought if I were given the opportunity, I would enjoy getting back into the profession I love, if only to assist a district for a short time in bridging the gap between previous and new leadership – but getting back to work just 4 months out of retirement was not what I had expected.

As a great mentor of mine told me though, “Opportunity doesn’t always knock when you want it to.” And so, when given the opportunity to lead Pleasant Valley, I jumped in, and what an amazing and incredible experience I have had. I honestly never expected to connect so deeply with the community, the district and the people, but I knew I had connected deeply when I stopped referring to the district in my conversations as “you” and instead began using “we,” as if I had been at Pleasant Valley my whole life and career.

This is a really hard time to leave because I won’t get to visit classrooms or staff to thank everyone and saying good-bye virtually doesn’t seem adequate. However, it is not a cliché to say that no one does this job alone and at the risk of forgetting someone I want to offer a few specific thanks:

John Gesiskie and Jim Serfass for welcoming me and for our conversations and problem-solving; our support staff from custodians and maintenance staff who make our classrooms sparkle – something I immediately noticed when I came to Pleasant Valley – to secretaries and others, especially Beverly and our incredible food service staff, who have, despite uncertainty and a stay at home order from the Governor, come in every day to make sure our children have a breakfast and lunch; our amazing teaching staff – I don’t know how I can thank you enough for all you do for kids or how you welcomed me into your classrooms – To those of you I promised to visit and didn’t get out to see because of COVID-19 restrictions or budget, I hope our paths will cross in some way at a different time; Administration – principals, assistant principals, supervisors, too many to mention in this short time – If the community and even our other staff only knew the endless hours you have all put in since schools were closed to develop learning and plans for staff and students....there is no way we will ever be able to thank you all enough; my amazing cabinet team Josh, John, the two Susans, AJ, Lynn, Lee and Bill Gasper.... I would not have succeeded these past five months without all of you and your help and support... We became an incredible team in a short time, and I will miss each of you very much; Kathleen Franklin without you my days would have been more chaotic than they already were – You kept me organized and on track – thank you. And Mark Fitzgerald, thank you so much for your wise counsel through some very challenging times. Then, there are the amazing Pleasant Valley students! Tough on me on twitter sometimes but so welcoming when I visited with them. They represent the best of us.

Finally, of course, I want to thank the Board of Directors and the Pleasant Valley community for allowing me to serve in the important capacity of acting superintendent for its schools, staff, and community. I came to Pleasant Valley hoping to do some good work while I was here and I believe I was able to do that. While my time in the district has been short I have come to care greatly about Pleasant Valley, its staff, and especially its students, and I am so blessed to have worked with so many dedicated, competent, and caring people.

I confess I will not miss those early morning weather calls or COVID-19 issues, but I do know I will miss all of you. I am most blessed for having met each and every one of you. I am leaving Pleasant Valley a better person for having known you.

Sincerely,
Charlene M. Brennan, D.Ed.
Acting Superintendent

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mr. Wunder thanked Dr. Brennan for her leadership, integrity and long work hours.

Mrs. Kresge thanked Dr. Brennan for everything she has done for the district.

Mrs. Jecker thanked Dr. Brennan for the job she has done and working well with the Board and wished her well in her retirement. Mrs. Jecker also stated that she is looking forward to working with Dr. Lesisko.

Mr. Kresge expressed his appreciation to Dr. Brennan and thanked her for everything she has done.

Mr. Burger thanked Dr. Brennan for all she has done during unexpected difficult situations. He wished her well in her retirement.

Mr. Wunder thanked Karen Deppen, Health Room Technician, who has been a loyal employee. He wished her well in her retirement.

Mr. Peeters wished Karen Deppen the best in her retirement. He also stated that he looks forward to working with Dr. Lesisko.

Mr. Zacharias thanked Dr. Brennan for everything she has done for the district.

Mrs. Yozwiak expressed her gratitude, appreciation and admiration for Dr. Brennan stating that she did wonders for the district quickly, efficiently and always with a smile. The Board will make sure the gift for Dr. Brennan gets to her. Mrs. Yozwiak also stated that she looks forward to working with Dr. Lesisko.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS (non-agenda items):

Mr. Ronald Reynolds, Saylorsburg, thanked the Board for their support in challenging times. He questioned the process for moving forward relating to motions approved. He also expressed his appreciation for food services but expressed concern about issues relating to getting more information on menu items.

Ms. Kim Kimmick, Brodheadsville, questioned if a plan is in place for the students' preparedness for their return to school. Dr. Brennan addressed her concerns and also stated that a Connect-Ed call will be sent tomorrow.

Ms. Kim Dalmas, Effort, questioned the timeline for decisions on payment to bus drivers. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that any discussions with regard to what is going to occur will be with management and First Student. He pointed out that changes in the law have not yet been signed by Governor Wolf and we cannot act on anything until the law goes into effect and once that is done we will be reviewing the contract with First Student.

Ms. Diane Everett, Kunkletown, questioned enrolling in Cyber School for the remainder of the year and re-enrolling in the District for the next school year. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there are limitations on enrolling in Cyber School at this time based on legislation.

Mrs. Yozwiak again congratulated Dr. Lesisko and provided an opportunity for him to make any comments. Dr. Lesisko made the following statement:

"I want to thank the Board of Education for its support and confidence. I am very excited to begin the work necessary to transition into the position I believe that we will work well together and I look forward to meeting with each and every Board member to get us off to a good start.

I want to thank Dr. Brennan for her service to Pleasant Valley School District over the past five months and for conducting the interview and search.

I also want to thank faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members for assisting with the focus groups. They truly care about our school district. I am proud to be a BEAR and I will work very hard each day in the best interests of Pleasant Valley. Count on it."

Dr. Brennan thanked the 241 citizens who participated in this meeting. Mrs. Yozwiak reminded all of the next scheduled Board meeting is April 9th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Zacharias motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Famularo, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:
April 9, 2020 @ 7:00 PM