

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the December 6, 2018 Board of Education

Organization Meeting

Board Approved 1-10-19

CALL TO ORDER:

The Organization meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on December 6, 2018 and called to order by Board Secretary, Susan Famularo, at 7:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Kelli George, followed by a moment of silence. The meeting was held in the Administrative Offices, 2233 Route 115, Brodheadsville, PA 18322.

Roll Call – School Board Recorder: Ms. Debra Duff

School Board members in attendance: Len Peeters, President, Sue Kresge, Vice President, Kenneth Cocuzzo, Treasurer, Delbert Zacharias, Dan Wunder, Donna Yozwiak, Laura Jecker, Bob Serfass, Russell Gould.

Administrative staff in attendance: David Piperato, Superintendent, Ken Newman, Assistant to the Superintendent, John Burrus, Director of Human Resources, Susan Famularo, Business Manager, Stacy Stair, Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager, Marcia Taylor, Accountant, Lee Lesisko, Director of Technology, Susan Mowrer Benda, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Shavonne Liddic, Mathematics Supervisor, Lori Hagerman, Reading Supervisor, Travis Serfass, Director of Buildings & Grounds, Alfred J. Kise, Director of Special Education, Angela Borealo, Secondary Supervisor of Special Education, Diane Siani, Elementary Supervisor of Special Education, Nelia Marcheski, ACCESS Coordinator.

Building Administrative staff in attendance: Matt Triolo, Bob Hines, Kelli George, Todd Breiner, Sabrina Albright.

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Student Government Representative in attendance: Ms. Megan Tims, Vice President

Notice of the Organization Meeting:

Ms. Famularo read the Notice of the Organization Meeting which was sent to the Board of Education on November 28, 2018. The Notice states that the Organization Meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education will be held on December 6, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the District Board Room at 2233 Route 115, Brodheadsville, PA, and that immediately following the Organization Meeting, the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held.

Solicitor, Mr. Fitzgerald, stated that in compliance with Section 404 of the School Code, School Districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are obligated to reorganize during the first week of December, in particular, to identify a president and vice president. Mr. Fitzgerald provided an opportunity for public comment on the specific issue of reorganization.

Pleasant Valley Citizens:

Ms. Sandy Bartashunas, Chestnuthill Township, thanked Mr. Peeters for his open and transparent approach as President of the School Board and commended him for his service this past year and years in the past.

Mr. Malcolm McKinsey, Polk Township resident, teacher, and member of PVEA, thanked the Board for their excellent work over the past year and commended Mr. Peeters for his hard work as President of the School Board. He provided lengthy comments expressing his opinion regarding legal matters and the handling of said matters by Mr. Peeters. He also commented on the recommendations presented by the District Attorney. On behalf of PVEA, he stated that he looks forward to working with the Board in the best interest of the students of the District.

Nominations and Election of Temporary President: Ms. Susan Famularo, Board Secretary – Ms. Famularo opened up nominations for the election of a Temporary President.

Ms. Yozwiak nominated Ms. Kresge as Temporary President. Ms. Kresge rejected the nomination. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there are no nominations for Temporary President; however, being Temporary President would not impact the ability to participate in running

for president or vice president. Ms. Kresge then accepted the nomination as Temporary President. There being no further nominations, Mr. Gould motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder, to close the nominations for Temporary President. An affirmation vote was taken by a show of hands, all in favor. Ms. Kresge was elected Temporary President.

Nominations and Election for President:

Ms. Kresge, Temporary President, opened up nominations for the election of President of the Board of Education.

Ms. Yozwiak nominated Mr. Peeters as Board President. Mr. Cocuzzo nominated Ms. Kresge as Board President.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Gould motioned, seconded by Ms. Jecker, to close the nominations for Board President. A vote was taken by a show of hands to close the nominations for Board President, all in favor.

Prior to a roll call vote for the election of Board President, Mr. Peeters expressed that he has done his best as Board President and would hope to continue the work he started in moving the District forward. Ms. Yozwiak stated that she is in favor of Mr. Peeters being re-elected in order for him to continue the work he started. Ms. Jecker expressed her appreciation for the leadership and guidance extended by Mr. Peeters and feels it would be in the best interest of the District to re-elect him. Mr. Wunder stated that considering the current state of the Board for reasons expressed this evening, he feels a change will bring the Board closer together.

A roll call vote was then taken in support of individual choice for Board President:
Voting for Sue Kresge: Ken Cocuzzo, Russ Gould, Sue Kresge, Bob Serfass, Dan Wunder.
Voting for Len Peeters: Laura Jecker, Donna Yozwiak, Delbert Zacharias, Len Peeters.

It is hereby recorded that Susan Kresge is elected as Board President of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education by a vote of 5-4.

Nominations and Election for Vice President:

President Susan Kresge opened up nominations for the election of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Cocuzzo nominated Ms. Yozwiak as Board Vice President. Mr. Serfass nominated Mr. Wunder as Board Vice President.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Gould motioned, seconded by Mr. Serfass, to close the nominations for Board Vice President. A vote was taken by a show of hands to close the nominations for Board Vice President, all in favor.

A roll call vote was then taken in support of individual choice for Board Vice President:
Voting for Donna Yozwiak: Len Peeters, Ken Cocuzzo, Laura Jecker, Donna Yozwiak, Delbert Zacharias.
Voting for Dan Wunder: Sue Kresge, Russ Gould, Bob Serfass, Dan Wunder.

It is hereby recorded that Donna Yozwiak is elected as Board Vice President of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education by a vote of 5-4.

President Sue Kresge, outlined the following appointments:

- MCTI JOC Representative (three-year term): Mr. Ken Cocuzzo (term expires December 2021). Mr. Cocuzzo joins Ms. Kresge whose term expires in December 2019 and Ms. Yozwiak whose term expires December 2020.
- MCTI JOC Representatives (one-year term for Alternates): All remaining Board members whose terms expire on November 30, 2019 or upon the convening of the 2019 organization meeting).
- Legislative Chairperson: Sue Kresge (term expires on November 30, 2019 or upon the convening of the 2019 organization meeting).
- PSBA Voting Delegates: Len Peeters and Sue Kresge (terms expire on November 30, 2019 or upon the convening of the 2019 organization meeting).

Ms. Yozwiak motioned, seconded by Ms. Jecker to approve the appointments as listed above.

VOICE VOTE: 9-0 CARRIED

Ms. Jecker motioned, seconded by Mr. Peeters to approve the appointment of Donna Yozwiak as Monroe County Vo-Tech School Authority Member whose term will expire in December 2023.

VOICE VOTE: 9-0 CARRIED

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mr. Cocuzzo stated that his vote for president and vice president is predicated on the conclusion that the best way to have effective governance is to have both sides represented in leadership positions. He further stated that we need to work together, not at odds for what is in the best interest of the Pleasant Valley School District as a whole. He stated that he made his decision as an independent director having no children or grandchildren in the District or having no family members employed by or seeking employment in the District and that his sole focus is in keeping Pleasant Valley moving forward as a 21st Century school district and for that, makes no apologies.

Mr. Wunder stated that he agrees with Mr. Cocuzzo's comments. He quoted comments made in a Pocono Record article relating to some Board members' preferences for questioning administrative actions being at odds with other Board members' preferences to act more autonomously. He stated that he has never had an issue with questions being asked. As to the understanding between the Board and administration acting autonomously, Mr. Wunder quoted from the PSBA School Board Guidelines - "...the school board's job is to focus on the ends while the superintendent focuses on the ways and means to attain those ends." He also referred to the grand jury reporting that the current administration is making strides although he said that we have a way to go to address issues. Mr. Wunder stated that he feels his vote this evening will move the District forward.

Superintendent Piperato thanked Mr. Peeters for his service as President of the School Board and stated that he appreciates his leadership, time and energy and has enjoyed working with him.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS:

Mr. Dave Weinman, Chestnuthill Township, posed a question unrelated to this Organization meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald informed him that he can comment during the next meeting taking place immediately following this meeting.

Ms. Kristin Wolf, a Polk Township resident, parent, and secretary of the PVEA, provided a lengthy statement expressing her opinions about this evening's vote for Board President. She stated that she feels as a result of the vote, instead of continuing on, the District will go backwards. Ms. Wolf said the Board has exercised their rights and she will do the same at election time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Yozwiak motioned, seconded by Ms. Jecker to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Famularo, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder