

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the April 14, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 4-28-16

CALL TO ORDER:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on April 14, 2016 and called to order by Russell Gould, President, at 8:04 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Len Peeters. Mr. Gould welcomed those present and referred to the meeting procedures that were attached to the agenda. 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: Russell Gould, President, Len Peeters, Vice President, Bob Serfass, Delbert Zacharias, Linda Micklos, Dan Wunder, Sue Kresge, Doug Wisser. Absent: Steve Borger.

Administrative staff in attendance: Carole Geary, Superintendent, Ken Newman, Assistant to the Superintendent, John Burrus, Director of Human Resources, Susan Famularo, Business Manager, Monica Kotzmann, Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager, Shavonne Liddic, Mathematics Supervisor, Josh Krebs, Director of Support Services, Keri Ramsay, Reading Supervisor.

Building Administrative staff in attendance: John Gress (8:34 PM), Roger Pomposello, Erica Greer, Cassandra Herr.

School Solicitor in attendance: Daniel Corveleyn, Esq.

Notification of Executive Session: Mr. Gould announced that an executive session was held on April 14, 2016 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. Mr. Gould also announced that the Board will have an executive session immediately following this meeting for the purposes of personnel matters including, but not limited to, performance and/or discipline; negotiations; and legal issues.

Good News – Pleasant Valley Art Department: Mr. George Boudman, head of the Art Department at the high school, stated that the Senior Art Show will be held in conjunction with the annual Academic Fair on April 25th. Several senior art students were present to share their art portfolios and what their plans are upon graduation. Rainey Supple, Devin Kagel, Kevin Wimmer, Emily Seda, and Mary Cerbone shared their AP concentrations and showed examples of their artwork. Ms. Geary stated that she has attended many Pocono Council Arts events and commended the students and Mr. Boudman for their successes. Mr. Boudman also stated that Catrina Stenger who was unable to attend this evening, won best of show and her artwork will be displayed at a future event in Stroudsburg.

Pleasant Valley Citizens: None.

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

Mr. Wunder motioned, seconded by Ms. Micklos to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on March 24, 2016 with correction of typo on page 4 – change “Mr.” to “Ms. Geary.”

CARRIED

TREASURER’S REPORT: Mr. Bob Serfass

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Ms. Kresge to approve agenda item #3 per attached, as follows:

Approval of #3.a. Accounts Payable – 3-1-16 to 3-31-16 (Manual Checks)

Approval of #3.b. Accounts Payable – 4-1-16 to 4-14-16

Approval of #3.c. Asset Cost Summary 3-31-16

Approval of #3.d. Trial Balance/Financial Statement 3-31-16

Approval of #3.e. Condensed Board Summary/Expenditures-Revenues 3-31-16

ROLL CALL: 6-0-2 CARRIED

Abstained on Item #3.a. (Check No. 00213296) and Item #3.b. (Check No. 00213791): Linda Micklos

Abstained on Item #3.b. (Check No. 00213843): Bob Serfass

Abstention Forms Attached

The Accounts Payable (#3.f.) approved at the March 24, 2016 Board meeting was provided and attached to the agenda for informational purposes.

OLD BUSINESS

Solicitor: Daniel Corveleyn, Esq. – No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Monroe Career & Technical Institute: Ms. Linda Micklos

Ms. Micklos reported on the monthly meeting which was held on Monday, April 4th:

- MCTI Art Show will be held on April 23rd at the Origin’s Gallery in Stroudsburg where student artwork and displays will be exhibited.
- The Occupational Advisory Committee meeting and Partners in Education Banquet will be held on April 26th.
- The NOCTI Performance Tests were completed by the end of March.
- The 2016-2017 budget was passed by all four sending school districts.
- The 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Excess Revenue, Option G, passed at all four sending school districts.

Ms. Micklos further stated that the next meeting will be held on May 2nd. She passed out information on the upcoming art show.

Colonial IU20: Mr. Daniel Wunder

Mr. Wunder reported on the meeting held on March 23, 2016. He stated that the Board set the calendar of IU meetings for the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Wunder said that routine business was conducted that approved sixteen appointments to positions including teachers, associate teachers, bus drivers, part-time teachers, and Occupational Therapy Assistant. In addition, leaves of absence, resignations and job status changes, supplemental contracts, and contracts for payment were approved as well as nine additions to the lists of substitute teachers, substitute associate teachers, and substitutes to transportation/monitor. Mr. Wunder stated that there was nothing covered at the meeting specifically relating to Pleasant Valley and also provided a copy of *The Twenty* newsletter.

PSBA Legislative Liaison Report: Ms. Susan Kresge – No report.

SUPERINTENDENT-REPORT/REQUESTS: Ms. Carole Geary

Agenda item #6.a. – The enrollment report as of April 5, 2016 was provided and attached to the agenda. Ms. Geary stated that there is an error in that report and an updated report will be provided at the next meeting.

Ms. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mr. Serfass to approve agenda item #6 as follows:

Approval of Agenda item #6.b. - Request of Homebound Instruction (per Board policy, re-evaluation will be done in ninety (90) days)

Student No.	Reason
HB103648-M	Medical, retroactive to 3-21-16
HB107012-E	Medical, retroactive to 3-30-16
HB102826-M	Medical, retroactive to 4-5-16
HB102826-M	Medical, retroactive to 3-8-16

Approval of item #6.c. – Expulsion Agreements:

- A. Request approval of the agreement for expulsion #102070-H
- B. Request approval of the agreement for expulsion #109884-H
- C. Request approval of the agreement for expulsion #103196-H

Approval of item #6.d. – The following policies:

- A. Policy No. 248. Unlawful Harassment
- B. Policy No. 249. Bullying
- C. Policy No. 250. Student Recruitment
- D. Policy No. 251. Homeless Students

ROLL CALL: 8-0 CARRIED

Agenda Item #6.e. – Other: Ms. Geary stated that FBLA students returned from Hershey and the seven students qualified for Nationals.

Ms. Geary thanked the parents of Roman Kaye for donating \$100 to the learning support department. She also read a letter which was addressed to the Pleasant Valley School District and sent anonymously. The letter expressed appreciation for what the school district has done for the daughter who is employed by the school district. From winning the Cash 5, this person has donated \$2500 to each school as well as the department of special education. The remaining \$2500 will be available on a first come first serve basis and this money must be used no later than June 30, 2016. Ms. Geary presented a check in the amount of \$15,000. The Board expressed their appreciation for the support of our schools.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Dr. John T. Burrus

Ms. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to approve agenda item #7 as follows:

Approval of #7.a. – Hiring of Personnel Regular appointment (pending receipt of all required paperwork):

	Name	Position	Salary	Location	Start Date
1.	James McFadden	Substitute Teacher - Physics 7-12/Earth & Space Science 7-12/General Science 7-12/All Areas	Per Board Policy		TBD
2.	Sarah LaBar	Substitute Paraprofessional Associate	Per Board Policy		TBD

Approval of #7.b. – The following leaves of absence, employees being responsible for benefit payments:

	Name	Position	Leave	Days	Dates
1.	Shannon Almond	Monitor, PVI	Leave without pay	Three (3)	March 15, 16, and 18, 2016
2.	Sue Bongiovanni	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVI	Leave without pay	Two (2)	March 31 and April 1, 2016
3.	Beverly Cascioli	Custodian, PVHS	Intermittent Family & Medical Leave	Four (4)	February 2, 10, 26 and March 18, 2016
4.	Linda Chiesa	Custodian, PVI	Intermittent Family & Medical Leave	One (1)	March 24, 2016
5.	George Curcio	Security	Family & Medical Leave	Four and one-half (4.5)	February 22 (.5), February 23 through 26 (full days) with a return to service date of February 29, 2016
6.	Janet Dooner	Monitor	Leave without pay	One (1)	April 1, 2016
7.	Susan Ferretti	Full-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVHS	Family & Medical Leave	Nine and one-half (9.5)	February 25, 2016 with a return to service date of March 9, 2016
8.	Kelly Frinzi	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVMS	Leave without pay	Two (2)	May 19 and 20, 2016
9.	Laraine Gartrell	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVI	Leave without pay	Two (2)	March 22 and 23, 2016
10.	Jenine Havens	Monitor, PVI	Leave without pay	Two (2)	March 18 and April 7, 2016
11.	Ludmila Healy	Monitor, PVI	Leave without pay	One (1)	March 31, 2016
12.	Ashley Hoffman	Teacher, PVI	Family & Medical Leave	Seventeen (17)	May 11, 2016 through the remainder of the 2015-16 school year
13.	Jalene Keiser	Head Cook, PVHS	Family & Medical	Thirty-six	March 7, 2016 with a

			Leave	(36)	return to service date of April 29, 2016
14.	Kim Liscinski	Teacher, PVI	Family & Medical Leave	Fifteen (15)	March 1-4, 2016 (full days), March 9, 14, 15, and 16, 2016 (.5 days), March 29 with a return to service date of April 11, 2016 (full days)
15.	Holly Lowe	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVI	Leave without pay	One (1)	March 16, 2016
16.	Tresa Malligo	Assistant Principal, PVHS	Family & Medical Leave	Twenty-four (24)	January 25 (full day), January 26, 27, 28, and 29 (half days), February 1 and 2 (full days), February 8-29 (full days), intermittent days March 4, 14, and 15, 2016 (full days)
17.	Sarrie Mattson	Monitor, PVMS	Leave without pay	Three (3)	March 21, 22, and 23, 2016
18.	MiChelle Palmer	Monitor, PVE	Leave without pay	One-half (.5)	March 11, 2016
19.	Caroline Paoella-Hochfeld	Long-Term Substitute Teacher, PVE	Leave without pay	One-half (.5)	March 14, 2016
20.	Mary Perloni	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVI	Leave without pay	Two (2)	March 21 and 22, 2016
21.	Carol Ring	Teacher, PVHS	Intermittent Family & Medical Leave	Six (6)	March 31, 2016
22.	Sabrina Roman	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVHS	Leave without pay	One (1)	March 11, 2016
23.	Kathleen Sadowski	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVI	Leave without pay	Thirty (30)	April 19 through June 1, 2016
24.	Ashley Smith	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVE	Leave without pay	One (1)	March 11, 2016
25.	Martha Smith	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVI	Leave without pay	One (1)	March 29, 2016
26.	Marie Sottile	Secretary, PVMS	Leave without pay	One (1)	April 6, 2016
27.	Rachel Voulo	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate, PVE	Leave without pay	One (1)	March 7, 2016
28.	Dolores Walsh	Monitor, PVE	Leave without pay	One (1)	March 15, 2016
29.	Ruthann Winders	Secretary, PVE	Intermittent Family & Medical Leave	Fifty-six (56)	February 1 through April 8, 2016 with a return to service date of April 11, 2016 and April 18 through April 29, 2016 with a return to service date of May 2, 2016.

Approval of #7.c. - Resignations:

1. Kim Bubak, monitor PVI, effective April 21, 2016.
2. Sarah LaBar, monitor PVHS, effective March 23, 2016. Ms. LaBar wishes to remain on the substitute list.

Approval of #7.d. –Retirements:

1. Barbara Farrington, Food Services employee PVI, effective June 10, 2016.
2. Walter Farrington, maintenance, effective July 1, 2016.

Approval of #7.e. – Transfer: Sarah Klein from German Teacher at Pleasant Valley High School to German Teacher at Pleasant Valley Middle School to cover C. Siekonic's leave. This transfer is effective April 4, 2016 until the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Approval of #7.f. – Sabbatical Leave of Absence: Joyce Berezna, teacher at Pleasant Valley Elementary School, effective the beginning of the 4th marking period of the 2015/2016 school year and concluding the end of the 1st marking period of the 2016/2017 school year.

Approval of #7.g. – Act 93 – Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Principal – Cassandra Herr as Principal of Pleasant Valley Intermediate School effective June 13, 2016 at a salary of \$92,000.00 prorated for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. The salary for the 2016-2017 school year will be \$92,000.00.

Approval of #7.h. – Addendum to School Operations Services Group Contract – The addition to Schedule A of the School Operations Services Group Contract approved on September 10, 2015: School Guidance Counselor at a rate of \$250.00 per day.

ROLL CALL: 8-0 CARRIED

CURRICULUM/STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Kenneth Newman

Agenda item #8.a. – Informational – Professional Development for Students who Struggle with Mathematics. A PowerPoint presentation was given by Ms. Liddic, Ms. Herr, and Ms. Greer to better inform the Board about further professional development in math. A copy of the presentation was attached to the agenda. They discussed PV's ongoing plan for professional development in math and the outcomes that have been met through the professional development. Plans on moving forward with this professional development through the use of the Ready to Learn Grant funds was also discussed. Continued needs for supporting professional development in math were indicated through math needs assessments, teacher surveys and student data. The strategies and techniques presented through professional development by Dr. Riccomini can be implemented with any type of mathematical curriculum and program and would be fully funded through the Ready to Learn Grant. Suggestions for future training topics were also addressed. Comments from teachers sharing their experiences working with Dr. Riccomini were also included in the presentation as well as a video showing the techniques learned. Several teachers were present and Kristin Wolf, PVE teacher, spoke of content scaffolding and expressed how successful her struggling students have been since she has used these strategies and techniques. She stated that the training by Dr. Riccomini has completely changed the way she teaches. Ms. Kresge questioned the high level learner relating to this training. Ms. Ramsay spoke about her experience with her two girls who are in 6th and 7th grade and how these strategies have made a difference in their learning.

Ms. Kresge motioned, seconded by Mr. Wunder to approve item #8. b.:

Approval for professional development provided by Dr. Paul Riccomini to train teachers in research based strategies that will assist struggling learners in Mathematics. The training will be provided to teachers as described in the attached proposal. The professional development meets state grant funding requirements.

Prior to the roll call vote, lengthy discussion was held. Mr. Wisser questioned if other school districts are using this professional development and if so, is it successful. He expressed concern that we do not have results to see if it is beneficial. Mr. Wisser said that in talking to other people, he has doubts about going forward with this professional development. Mr. Peeters stated that he supports professional development but does not know if this is the way to go considering the price increase and that not all teachers that he has spoken to have responded in a positive way. Mr. Peeters stated that he wants to make sure we are going in the right direction and, although he supports professional development, will not be supporting this proposal at this time. Mr. Wunder stated that he attended the meeting and he observed teachers being both anxious about getting help and excited to teach. He said that almost all agreed that this is something worth trying. Mr. Wunder further stated that the administration and teachers seem to feel good about these professional development strategies and feels we should give them what they need and that he will support the proposal presented. He feels any delay in providing this professional development will be harmful in terms of timing. Ms. Kresge stated that we must consider everything – new math core, new state standards, new PSSAs. Ms. Kresge stated that she asked the administration to add K-3 professional development which would increase the cost but feels it

is necessary. She also stated that at the time Mr. Krebs brought this professional development strategy to us, he had looked at other options and this is what was recommended. She said that she has personal knowledge about this professional development and that overall the strategies and techniques provided by Dr. Riccomini have been successful and can be used in the classroom immediately. Ms. Kresge stated that she will support the motion and that we need to try it and then re-evaluate in the next year. In follow up to Mr. Wunder's comments, Mr. Peeters stated that out of approximately 70 teachers and remedial math teachers, only 15 chose to be at the meeting. Ms. Micklos stated that she did not attend the meeting, but met with Ms. Liddic so that she would have a better understanding of the strategies and techniques provided by Dr. Riccomini. She said that it is a way to motivate teachers to teach children critical thinking and get the results that we want for our children. She expressed her concern about how long we will need to keep investing funds in this professional development and when we will be able to use our teachers to coach other teachers. Ms. Liddic explained the plan for continuing with these strategies and Ms. Geary summarized that we would continue this professional development for one more year, re-evaluate at the end of next year and if we see some success, look at one more year to insure that all strategies are taught and then look at teachers to coach new staff. In addition, Ms. Geary discussed the possibility of restructuring the strategies so not to overwhelm the teachers with all the strategies at once. Mr. Wisser questioned the research done on the success of Dr. Riccomini's strategies. Ms. Geary stated that research has been done on the strategies that we are implementing with our teachers and that they visited other school districts that are using these strategies. Mr. Krebs stated that the research is done in school districts around the country and he will provide that information if needed.

ROLL CALL: 3-2-3 NOT CARRIED

Voting No: Mr. Peeters, Mr. Wisser

Abstaining: Mr. Gould, Mr. Serfass, Mr. Zacharias (Abstention Forms Attached)

Agenda item #8.c. – Informational: Ms. Shavonne Liddic, Mathematics Supervisor, provided an informational report which was attached to the agenda.

SUPPORT SERVICES: Mr. Joshua Krebs

Mr. Serfass motioned, seconded by Mr. Wisser to approve Agenda Item #9 as follows:

Approval of #9.a. – 2015-2016 Intramural Advisors:

- A. PVHS/PVMS Boys Basketball Monday through Thursday, March 21, 2016 through June 3, 2016
5:00 -6:30pm – Advisor: Matthew Gould Co-Advisors: Paul McCrone, Drew Dymond, John Gilbert and Greg Duff
- B. PVHS/PVE Boys Lacrosse Monday, Tues, Thurs, Friday September 1, 2015 through March 4, 2016 – Advisor: Vincent Arezzi Co-Advisors: Rick Anglemyer and Eric Batstone
- C. PVE Field Hockey Wednesdays 6-9pm December 9, 2015 through March 2, 2016 – Advisor: Corine Ower Mohle (substitute for Angela Pachuta due to pregnancy)
- D. PVHS Summer Drama Camp Monday through Thursday June 13, 2016 to June 16, 2016 – Advisors: Marcie Mulligan and Dan Mulligan

Approval of #9.b. – Long Term Substantial Volunteers:

- A. Josephine Amrhein - PVE
- B. Keri DiAngelis - PVE

Approval of #9.c. – 2016-2017 Band Truck Equipment Drivers:

- A. Curtis Frantz
- B. Richard Hicks
- C. John C. Pepe
- D. James Serfass

Approval of #9.d. - 2016-2017 Fall Head/Assistant Coaching Positions:

- A. Jr. High Girls Soccer – Volunteer: Meldina Nikocecic
- B. Soccer – Boys Soccer: Chris Pachuta; Girls Soccer: Derek Strohl
- C. Golf: Steve Krechel
- D. Girls Volleyball: John Gesiskie
- E. Girls Tennis: Mark Allison
- F. Field Hockey: Angela Pachuta
- G. Cross Country: George Fair

Approval of #9.e. - 2015-2016 Fall Coaching Position: Softball -
Resignation of JV Assistant: Christine Konstantopoulos as of 3-12-16 (1/10th of pay)
Hiring of JV Assistant: Jordan Caffrey, retroactive to 3-14-16 (9/10th of pay)

Approval of #9.f. - 2016-2017 Athletic Directors:
Athletic Director: Jake Percey
Assistant Athletic Director (HS): Greg Bowman
Assistant Athletic Director (MS): Kris Meckes

Approval of #9.g. – **2016-2017 Marching Band/Jazz Band Director**
Marching Band Director: James DeVivo
Jazz Band Director (HS): James DeVivo
Jazz Band Director (MS): John DeVivo

ROLL CALL: 7-0-1CARRIED
Abstained on Item #9.a.A.: Russ Gould
(Abstention Form Attached)

Agenda item #9.h. – Informational: The Cafeteria Participation Report was provided and attached to the agenda.

Agenda item #9.i. – Informational: District Events from April 15, 2016 through April 28, 2016 was provided and included in the agenda.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Ms. Susan Famularo

Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mr. Serfass to approve agenda item #10 as follows:

Approval of #10.a. – Financial Statements – June 30, 2015 Financial Statements as prepared by Gorman & Associates, P.C.

Approval of #10.b. – Student Placements:

Student #012816NW – Northampton County Juvenile Detention & Treatment Center, effective 1-28-16.

Approval of #10.c – The following contracts:

- A. CSI. Cost: \$1,894.00. Installation of an IP dialer for the Fire Alarm system at Pleasant Valley Elementary School.
- B. Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21. 2016-2017 Special Education Services Agreement.

Approval of #10.d. – Amendment of 403 (b) Plan – Amendment to the Pleasant Valley School District 403(b) Plan as recommended by 3rd party TSA Consulting Group at no cost, per attached.

Approval of #10.e. – Advertisement for sealed bids for the following items: Winter Athletic Supplies & Equipment.

Approval of #10.f. - Roof Restoration at Pleasant Valley High School 2016 – Award of Phase 2 of the Roof Restoration at the Pleasant Valley High School to Tremco Roofing – Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$821,055.76 – Contract #K PN-201301-03B, to be paid from the 2006 Bond Fund.

Approval of #10.g. – Settlement Agreement: Student #041416TH – Effective 4-14-16.

ROLL CALL: 8-0 CARRIED

Ms. Geary took this opportunity to congratulate and welcome Ms. Cassandra Herr as Principal of the Pleasant Valley Intermediate School.

SOLICITOR: Daniel Corveleyn, Esq. – No report.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mr. Gould stated that he wants to do what is right and needs to do more research on the math professional development proposal presented. He suggested the possibility of a meeting on Monday night since he wasn't able to attend the meeting held during the day. He also clarified that the anonymous money donated must be disbursed by June 30th and asked that the Board be kept informed of the distribution of the funds.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS:

Ms. Wendy Frable, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her dissatisfaction about the negative vote regarding the professional development proposal presented this evening. She commended the teachers who were present and feels it is unfair to them that the teachers against the professional development were not present to express their views. She stated that professional development is valuable and urged the Board members to get educated on the proposal presented this evening and to reconsider.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Peeters motioned, seconded by Mr. Serfass to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Famularo, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting: April 28, 2016 @ 8:00 PM