

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting

January 23, 2014

Board Approved February 27, 2014 Excellence in Education: A Community Commitment

The regular meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was called to order by President Russ Gould, on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 8:06 p.m. President Gould welcomed those present followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley School District Administration Offices, Brodheadsville, PA.

1. CALL TO ORDER

School Board	Russell Gould, President	Susan Kresge	Dominick Sacci
Attendees	Steve Borger, Vice President	Linda Micklos	Robert Serfass
	H. Charles Hoffman, Treasurer	Len Peeters	Dan Wunder
Absentees			
Administration	Ms. Geary, Mr. Newman, Ms. Famularo, Mr. C. Fisher, Ms. Kotzmann,		
Attendees	Ms. Zeliznik, Ms. Greer, Mr. Gress, Mr. Hines, Mr. Krebs, Ms. Malligo, Mr. Pomposello Mr. Seiler, Mr. T. VanNortwick		
School Solicitor	Mr. Daniel Corveleyn		

1.5 Notification of Executive Session

- January 23, 2014 - Personnel issues including, but not limited to, performance and/or discipline; negotiations; legal issues

1.6 Meeting Procedures

President Gould referred to the agenda that was available to everyone present and to the meeting procedures that were attached.

1.7 Good News

A. Polk Elementary School - Bulletin Board

Ms. Greer stated that the students and staff at Polk decorated the bulletin board for January and also created posters that were displayed.

B. Presentation of grant money by Mr. Patrick McGinley, Exxon Mobile

Ms. Greer explained that Polk applied for a grant from Exxon Mobile. Mr. McGinley presented a check for \$500 to Polk Elementary which will be used for the Positive Behavioral program.

1.8 JANUARY IS SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH

A. PSBA Resolution - Ms. Geary

Ms. Geary stated that the resolution is available for anyone who is interested in receiving a copy of the resolution.

B. School Director Appreciation Month - School Presentations

Ms. Geary announced that January is School Board Recognition month. She presented the school board members with certificates provided by PSBA. She thanked the school board members for their support and all they volunteer to do for the district, staff and students of Pleasant Valley.

The building administration took the opportunity to thank the school board members for all the things they do; posters were displayed and treats were presented to the school board members.

The Middle School student council members Kalleigh West, 8th grade President, DJ Greenweig, Vice President and Elizabeth Lucchese, Secretary all gave small speeches thanking the school board members for their volunteer work and presented a quote book of positive statements that the middle school students prepared.

Senior Class President, Kelci Jones, Junior Class President Elizabeth Heron, Sophomore Class President Steven Nale and Freshman Class President Alexa DeLuzio, representing the students, gave speeches thanking the school board for their behind the scenes contributions toward their educational needs and keeping our schools safe.

1.9 Pleasant Valley Citizens – None

1.10 Other

2. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Ms. Linda Zeliznik, School Board Recorder

Len Peeters motioned; seconded by Bob Serfass, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 9, 2014 per the attached copy:

Voice Vote 9-0 Carried

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Charles Hoffman

Susan Kresge motioned; seconded by Dominick Sacci, to approve the following items:

3.1 For Approval – Accounts Payable 1-10-14 to 01-23-14

3.2 Informational – Accounts Payable Approved 1-9-14

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried Abstaining from vote on check #00205767 – S. Kresge Reason: Relative Abstention Memorandum is attached

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Solicitor: Mr. Daniel Corveleyn/Mr. Gerard Geiger – No report

4.2 Other

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Monroe Career & Technical Institute: Mr. Dominick Sacci

Mr. Sacci reported:

- The last meeting of the MCTI Joint Operating Committee was held on Monday, January 20, 2014 and had been rescheduled from January 6th due to inclement weather. The meeting was the JOC's reorganization meeting and Rusty Johnson Pocono Mountain of was elected as Vice president, and yours truly the Chairman.
- Student Representative, Ms. Miah Brooks reported that MCTI students collected 848 canned good for Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network, \$1,175 & a box of new toys for Toys for Tots, and 64 students will attend the Skills USA Competition in Allentown on January 29th. As part of Ms. Brooks report, the JOC was treated to a video from the students of MCTI thanking the JOC for their/our support. It was awesome.
- Mr. Lazarchak detailed that he was scheduling a meeting with Mary Frances Postupack of East Stroudsburg University to explore partnership activities related to their innovation Center and entrepreneurial studies at MCTI. Mr. Lazarchaks General Advisory Committee identified that the biggest challenge facing employers today is finding & retaining quality workers. Technical skills was not the issue, individuals lack the "employability" & "Soft" skills necessary. He will be working with the GAC and local business and industry partners to create a certification program related to this area for the students. The Director also announced a PR initiative that stems with the students of MCTI to relay the message of all the good things happening at the school and the benefits of students that attend MCTI.
- Mr. Brown relayed that the disciplinary rates were down in December from 165 to 42, a decline of 75%.
- Mrs. Sitroon reported that MCTI is getting closer to opening our second GED training location at Wilkes College in Bartonsville. She announced that the actual test has been changed in 2014 to closer mirror the common core and stressing critical thinking. She advised that 95,000 adult citizens in Monroe County did not have a high school diploma.
- The JOC scheduled a presentation from Conrad Seigel on the Healthcare reform on February 17th at 6pm with a snow day on February 20th.
- Mr. Johnson initiated a conversation and much time was spent on the potential establishment of a Comprehensive Program at MCTI. The JOC was given a handout of talking points and at the next JOC meeting a committee will be formed to move the discussion forward.

5.2 Colonial IU #20: Mr. Daniel Wunder

- Mr. Wunder reported that the last meeting was on Wednesday, January 22nd.
- The IU 20 Board of Director's Meeting was largely routine and lasted only 18 minutes.
- The actions taken addressed accepting resignations, changing job status' of employees, hiring, and leaves of absence, additions to the substitute list, and service contracts.
- The Board approved the internship for Danielle Haines, an undergraduate student at East Stroudsburg University. Ms. Haines requested, and was granted permission, to begin an internship on January 23, 2014 extending through June 2014, under the supervision of MaryAnn Tarantino a Mental Health Treatment specialist at the Pleasant Valley High School Partial Hospitalization Program. There was no stipend awarded for the internship.
- The board accepted the resignation of Thomas Bailey, the IU 20 Director of Technology.
- Also, approximately 120-150 members of the professional and support staff came to the meeting as an act of solidarity in support the continuing the current contract negotiations with the IU.

They were respectful in having only the professional staff negotiator address the board in what was a one or two sentence request for the current contract discussions to move forward. The group was well received by the Board. Dr. Brennan intended to have an informative ‘open letter’ posted on the IU website on January 23, 2014, that addressed the current history and status of the present negotiations. The IU website is: www.ciu20.org.

- Attached is a copy of the current **Your Investment at Work** from Dr. Brennan and her staff for each of you.

5.3 PSBA Legislative Liaison Report: Ms. Susan Kresge

Ms. Kresge reported:

- On February 4th, Governor Tom Corbett will present his 2014-2015 state budget proposal before a joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives.
- Acting Secretary of Education Carolyn Dumaesq will be at the PSBA Conference Center on Feb. 5th at 2 pm to present an overview of the proposed state budget for education. Members are invited to attend via WebEx.
- On Friday, Feb 7th at noon, PSBA will offer a complementary web conference providing its analysis of the budget and potential impact for districts if approved as proposed by the Governor in his Feb 4th budget address.
- Athletic reporting requirements are extensive and expensive for school districts under Act 82 of 2012. There is an amendment to the bill that could relieve some of these costs for preparing this reporting.
- PSBA supports a bill passed by the House to examine basic education funding. HB#1738 was sponsored by Bernie O’Neill from Bucks County.
- PSBA continues discussion with legislators, stakeholders on charter reform. HB618 and Senate Bill 1085.
- A joint letter was sent to the General Assembly from PSBA urging legislators to focus their efforts on charter school funding formula as well as increased accountability requirements and asked for support of HB 618.
- The House of Representatives passed bills of interest to school officials: HB1741 requires school boards to provide at least 48 hours public notice before voting on a collective bargaining contract or professional educator employment contract for a professional educator who is not a member of an employee organization/

5.4 Student Government President – Stephanie Palmer

Ms. Palmer reported:

- The semester will end on January 31. Please no more snow days.
- Plans are underway for a Winter PV Spirit Week Celebration to be held during the week of February 3.
- The National Honor Society will hold its Induction Ceremony, on Wednesday, January 29. Congratulations to the 35 new members being inducted this year.
- A Financial Aid Night has been scheduled for Thursday, February 20. Information will be provided as to available financial aid for post - secondary education.
- Congratulations to Kristen Eberhart on her Honorable Mention in the Martin Luther King - Julianna V. Bolt Art Competition. Kristen was recognized at the Martin Luther King Breakfast Recognition held at East Stroudsburg University on January 20.
- Good luck to the 36 MCTI students who qualified to compete at the SkillsUSA District 11 Competition on Wednesday, January 29 in Allentown.
- Students and staff are planning student HOPE visits to PVM, PVI, and PVE on February 3, 7, 14 and 21.
- The PV Cheerleading squad will be competing this Friday, January 24th at the state competition.
- Congratulations to Justina Hnawicz, junior on winning the school wide Poetry Out Loud competition. Justina recited "I Am Learning to Abandon the World" by Linda Pastan and "Immortal Sails" by Alfred Noyes. Justina moves on to the regional competition at the Allentown Art Museum in February.
- Scholastic Scrimmage has advanced to MVC finals for the first time in four years.

6. SUPERINTENDENT-REPORT/REQUESTS: Ms. Carole Geary

6.1 Enrollment

Ms. Geary referred to the enrollment report and stated that student enrollment is down 17 students from last month.

6.2 Homebound Instruction

Dominick Sacci motioned; seconded by Linda Micklos, to approve the homebound instruction (per board policy, re-evaluation will be done in 90 days):

Student No.	Reason
HB010814BD-M	Medical, retroactive to January 8, 2014

HB011414GV-M	Medical, retroactive to January 14, 2014
HB121313VAJ-H	Medical, retroactive to December 13, 2013
HB121313HJ-H	Medical, retroactive to December 13, 2013

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried

6.3 Board Treasurer Stipend

Linda Micklos motioned; seconded by Bob Serfass, to approve a \$650.00 annual stipend for the Board Treasurer retroactive to December 5, 2013 prorated. The term expires June 30, 2014.

**Roll Call: 8-0-1 Carried Abstaining from vote: C. Hoffman Reason: Self
Abstention Memorandum is attached**

6.4 Policy Revisions - Second Reading

- A. Policy No. 913. Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals
- B. Policy No. 405. Employment of Substitute Professional Employees

6.5 Policy Revisions - First Reading

- A. Policy No. 439.1. Child Bearing/Child Rearing Leave

6.6 Substitute Rates – Discussion occurred regarding the substitute rates and how to proceed on the issue of obtaining substitutes in all areas. Ms. Geary provided the board with 2 documents: Document #1: the fill rates for Pleasant Valley; Document #2: Pocono Mountain School District shared their fill rates with Ms. Geary. She asked the board members to review the documents for future discussion. Ms. Geary stated that Mr. Fisher and Mr. Newman will be attending an HR meeting at IU20 and would be receiving additional information. Ms. Geary also stated that the district administration is planning on added additional Act 80 Days next school year help with this problem.

- Ms. Kresge asked Mr. Krebs who spoke for the Elementary division, for a better view of the situation. He stated that because of the trainings that are going on across the district, there are days were we have to pull remedial teachers to cover classrooms which results in the students missing out on that support from that teacher for that day. He stated that even when there aren't trainings going on, there is still a daily shortage of sub teachers and support staff.
- Mr. Gress, Ms. Greer and Mr. Seiler also agreed the situation is the same in their buildings. Mr. Seiler added that the building's try to coordinate the training schedule so that they are spread out more evenly so subs can be used where they are needed that day.
- Mr. Peeters suggested raising the substitute teacher rate to \$100 - \$105 and removing the \$500 bonus that is issued after a sub teacher works 30 consecutive days, would make PV one of the highest payers in the area. Mr. Peeters suggested using this approach first to see if that solves our problem and if not, then we go to Plan B.
- Ms. Micklos asked when this problem started. Ms. Geary stated about three years ago. Ms. Micklos asked if that was around the same time we instituted the usage of our AESOP system and indicated that this may be contributing to the problem. She stated that she pulled some information from the internet on other districts across many Intermediate Units in the state and it seems that we are within the range of pay for most districts but there seems to be another piece that is causing this issue which may be AESOP.
- Ms. Geary stated we removed the rule that a sub could not substitute more than 3 days in a row.

7. OTHER

Ms. Geary announced that Turkey Hill Mini Marts donated 250 Kids Kups coupons to our elementary school.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES: Mr. Kenneth Newman

Susan Kresge motioned; seconded by Charles Hoffman, to approve items #8.1 - #8.5 as per the attached copy:

8.1 Hiring of Personnel

Hiring of Personnel - The hiring of all personnel is pending receipt of all required paperwork.

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP/ CREDITS	OPENING
1. Charissa Derr	Substitute Paraprofessional Associate/Secretary	As per Board policy	
2. Leticia Dipipi	Long-term substitute	\$40,900 Prorated	PVI To continue in the

	Reading Specialist		current assignment through the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year
3. Kristen McCree	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate/Substitute Paraprofessional Associate	\$20,331 Prorated	PVMS Replacement position effective January 24, 2014
4. Jason R. Smith	Long-term substitute 5th grade teacher	\$40,900 Prorated	PVI To continue in the current assignment through the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year
5. Nancy Gehr	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate/Substitute Paraprofessional Associate/Substitute Teacher	\$ 20,331 Prorated	PVI Replacement position effective February 3, 2014
6. MiChelle Palmer	Monitor/Substitute Monitor/Substitute Custodian	As per Board policy	PVE Replacement position effective January 27, 2014
7. Christal Smith	Part-time Paraprofessional Associate/Substitute Paraprofessional Associate/Substitute Teacher	\$ 20,331 Prorated	PVI Replacement position effective January 27, 2014
8. Katie Monahan	Long-term Substitute 1st grade teacher	\$40,900 Prorated	Polk Elementary School for Christie Borger's assignment, effective January 29, 2014

8.2 Leaves of Absence

Leaves of Absence: Leave without Pay (Employees are responsible for the payment of any benefits the District provides during this period of leave.):

NAME	LEAVE	DAYS	DATES
1. Kristina Bowerman	Extension of Child Rearing Leave		Effective through the end of the 3rd marking period of the 2013-2014 school year
2. Patricia Cambria	Leave without pay	Twenty-six (26) as Food Service Employee and Twenty-six (26) as Monitor	December 11, 2013 through February 5, 2014
3. Robin Costenbader	Leave without pay	Five (5)	March 31, April 1 through 4, 2014
4. Diane DeBarry	Leave without pay	Two (2)	February 21, 2014 and June 13, 2014
5. Diane DiBella	Leave without pay		January 2, 2014 through February 28, 2014
6. Barbara Farrington	Leave without pay	Five (5)	February 24, 2014 through February 28, 2014
7. Stephanie Havansky	Leave without pay	One (1)	January 14, 2014
8. Sandra Kaspszyk	Leave without pay	Two (2)	February 13 and 14, 2014
9. Troy Margeson	Family and Medical Leave and Extension	Eleven (11) and Ten (10)	December 20, 2013 through February 3, 2014
10. Matthew Triolo	Family and Medical Leave	Five (5)	January 2, 2014 through January 10, 2014
11. Patricia Wuebber	Leave without pay	Three (3)	January 22, 23 and 24, 2014
12. Ethel Acevedo	Leave without pay	Three (3)	January 23, 28 and 30, 2014
13. Lorraine Danny	Leave without pay	One (1)	January 13, 2014
14. James Igoe	Family & Medical Leave	Ten (10)	January 2, 2014 through

			January 21, 2014
15. Stacy Meckes	Family & Medical Leave	Thirty-nine (39)	January 14, 2014 through March 11, 2014

8.3 Resignations

1. Jane Cumberland, PVE part-time paraprofessional associate, effective January 17, 2014. Ms. Cumberland wishes to remain on the substitute paraprofessional associate list.
2. Brittany Angelica, PVE part-time paraprofessional associate, effective January 24, 2014.

8.4 Business Manager Contract

Approval was granted for the Agreement between the PVSD Board of Directors and Susan H. Famularo, Business Manager, for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2017

8.5 Change of Title

PVE - Roger Pomposello from Assistant to the Principal to Assistant Principal

**Roll Call: 9-0 Carried on items #8.4. & #8.5
8-1 Carried on items #8.1 - #8.3 Voting 'NO': L. Micklos**

9. PROFESSIONAL, SUPPORT & PUPIL PERSONNEL: Mr. Christopher J. Fisher

Len Peeters motioned; seconded by Linda Micklos, to approve items #9.1 - #9.7 as follows:

9.1 Ground Lease Agreement

- A. Approval was granted for a one (1) year renewal of the Ground Lease Agreement between Pleasant Valley School District and JRM Borger Brother Farms. The term of the agreement will be April 1, 2014 to March 30, 2015.

9.2 Combustion Services Contract

- A. Approval was granted for the Combustion Services Contract at a cost of \$10,000.

9.3 German American Partnership Program Field Trip Request

- A. Grade/Organization: German American Partnership Program, grades 9-12
Teacher(s) Involved: Ms. Miranda Ford
Destination of Trip: Kaiserslautern, Germany
Purpose of Trip: Authentic real-life experience
Date of Trip: June 28-July 14, 2014
District Buses Needed: No
Cost per Student: \$1,200-\$1,500

9.4 Assistant Coaches

- A. Girls' Soccer: Jr. High (7th Grade) - Mr. Jim Shoopack
- B. Track: Jr. High - Mr. Greg Duff
- C. Track: Jr. High - Ms. Dawn Larkin

9.5 Intramural Advisors

- A. Boys' Soccer: Mr. Chad Friend
Mr. Chris Pachuta
Mr. Alex Wunder
- B. Volleyball: Ms. Kathleen Gesiskie
Ms. Nicole Gesiskie
Ms. Jenny Kuntz
- C. Weight Lifting - Middle School: Mr. Levi Bieber
Mr. Dan Frable
Mr. Jake Jacobs
Mr. Greg Munch
- D. Weight Lifting - High School: Mr. David Bieber
Mr. Dave Pacchioni
Mr. Jim Terwilliger
Mr. James Ward

9.6 Volunteer Coaches

- A. Baseball: Varsity - Mr. Jeremy Gigliotti
- B. Softball: Varsity - Mr. Steve Borger
- C. Track: Varsity - Ms. Sandi Kaspszyk

9.7 Parent Volunteer

- A. PVE Homeroom Parent Volunteer - Ms. Jodie Santore

**Roll Call: 8-1 Carried item #9.6B Voting 'NO': S. Kresge
9-0 Carried items #9.1 - #9.6A, #9.6C #9.7**

Abstaining from vote on item #9.1- S. Borger	Reason: Relative
Abstaining from vote on item #9.5A – D. Wunder	Reason: Relative
Abstention Memorandum's are attached	

9.8 Informational - Field Trips

- A. Ms. Shannon Mackes and Mr. Patrick Murphy will be accompanying the Science Olympiad students, grades 9-12, to Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus, to a competition on March 12, 2014.
- B. Ms. Shannon Mackes will accompany the high school Science Club students to Northampton Community College to compete in the MVC/LVC Science Olympiad on February 28, 2014.

9.9 Informational - District Events

9.10 Informational - Cafeteria Participation Report

10. CURRICULUM/STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Kenneth Newman - No report

11. BUILDING REPORTS

11.1 Polk Elementary School - Informational

11.2 Pleasant Valley Elementary School - Informational

11.3 Pleasant Valley Intermediate School - Informational

11.4 Pleasant Valley Middle School - Informational

11.5 Pleasant Valley High School – Informational

12. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Ms. Susan Famularo

Susan Kresge motioned; seconded by Dan Wunder, to approve items #12.1 as follows:

12.1 2014-2015 Preliminary Budget

Approval was granted for the 2014-2015 Preliminary Budget be approved. The Preliminary Budget has appropriations in the amount of \$99,687,702 with a millage rate of 153.6810 mills.

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried

Dominick Sacci motioned; seconded by Charles Hoffman, to approve items #12.2 - #12.9 as follows:

12.2 Advertise the intent to file for referendum exceptions

Approval was granted to advertise the intent to file for referendum exceptions under Act 1 for the 2014-2015 Budget. The school district will be filing for all exceptions for which we qualify.

12.3 Cafeteria Accounts Payable

Cafeteria accounts payable for December 2013.

Total amount: \$239,488.62

Bills payable for December 2013.

Total amount: \$45,616.67

12.4 Advertisement of sealed bids

Approval was granted to advertise for sealed bids for the following items:

- Janitorial Supplies and Equipment
- General Supplies
- Office and Classroom Furniture
- Audio Visual Supplies and Equipment
- Anthracite Coal
- Musical Instruments

12.5 Student Placements

- Student #122013RM - Youth Services Agency - Effective 12/20/13
- Student #111113AT - Northampton County Juvenile Detention & Treatment Center - Effective 11/11/13
- Student #110413JL - Northampton County Juvenile Detention & Treatment Center - Effective 11/4/13
- Student #102813GR - Northampton County Juvenile Detention & Treatment Center - Effective 10/28/13

12.6 Payments from Bond Fund

2006 Bond Fund as per attached \$8,243.64

12.7 Contracts

A. Gifts 'N Things, Inc. (Arcraft). Fundraiser for Pleasant Valley High School Bear Facts. Sale Dates January 21, 2014 to February 4, 2014.

B. Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. Fundraiser for Pleasant Valley High School FBLA. Sale Date February 13, 2014.

12.8 Purchase Order

Approval was granted for a purchase order to Wholesale Folding Tables and Chairs A Division of Hospitality Marketing Services, Inc. of 500 basic metal folding chairs, blue with 10 year frame warranty at a cost of \$6,750.00, 3 double-tier hanging chair trucks at a cost of \$867.00 plus \$575.00 shipping and handling for a total cost of \$8,192.00.

12.9 Informational - Student Activity Accounts; District Investment Report

A. Student Activity Accounts

Beginning Balance, December 1, 2013: \$251,007.68

Receipts: \$10,286.87

Expenditures: \$12,122.35

Ending Balance, December 31, 2013: \$249,172.20

B. District Investment Report for December 31, 2013

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried

13. SOLICITOR – Mr. Daniel Corveleyn/Mr. Gerard Geiger - No report

14. PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS

- Ms. Kresge stated that she recently spoke with a paraprofessional who works at the Middle School who stated how much the morale and atmosphere has changed since Mr. Seiler became Principal.
- Ms. Kresge also commented on the wall of positive quotes the students created.
- Mr. Wunder stated how much pride he felt when the students gave their speeches this evening.

15. PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS - None

16. OTHER

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Gould asked for a motion to adjourn.

H. Charles Hoffman motioned; seconded by Len Peeters, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:26 PM.

Voice Vote Unanimously Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Famularo, Board Secretary _____

Linda Zeliznik, Board Recorder _____

Next School Board Meeting:

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2014

Time: 8:00 P.M.

Location: PVSD District Administration Offices