

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting
July 17, 2008

Board Approved August 7, 2008 Excellence in Education: A Community Commitment

The regular meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was called to order by President MiChelle Palmer, on Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 8:02p.m. President Palmer welcomed those present followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley High School Auditorium, Route 209, Brodheadsville, PA.

ROLL CALL:

Board Attendees:	President MiChelle Palmer	Harvey Frable	Ryan Hinton
	Vice-President Tom Murphy	H. Charles Hoffman	Russ Gould
	Treasurer Linda Micklos	Susan Kresge	John Sabia
Board Absentees:	None		
Administrative Attendees:	Dr. Arnold, Mr. Fadule, Ms. Les, Ms. Kotzmann, Mr. C. Fisher, Ms. Derr, Mr. Hines, Ms. McMasters, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Pierri, Mr. Scott, Mr. Seiler, Mr. Stefani, Ms. N. Marcheski		
Solicitor:	Mr. Daniel Corveleyn		

President MiChelle Palmer announced Notification of Executive Sessions as follows

- ▶ **July 5, 2008** – Negotiations
- ▶ **July 17, 2008** – Personnel – **Hiring of new and replacement staff and other issues; Negotiations; and Legal Issues**

MEETING PROCEDURES:

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

Presentation – First Student

Mr. Randy Williams, representative from First Student, provided an overview of the events that have taken place since the Board voted to approve the acceptance of First Student’s proposal to the school district. He stated that, on Friday, July 11th, there were two informational meetings conducted for all potential employees. Also, First Student was on site everyday this past week from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to give all employees the opportunity to fill out paperwork to begin the process for employment. Management from First Student was also on site to answer any questions. A third informational meeting was presented on Wednesday, July 16th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for all prospective employees.

Mr. Williams stated that First Student will be on site Tuesday, July 22nd through Friday, July 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. so staff interested in employment with First Student has an opportunity to continue with paperwork completion and/or to obtain answers to questions they may have for First Student. A mobile fingerprint lab will also be on site next Tuesday through Thursday to conduct the pre-employment fingerprint checks as required by federal law. On Friday, July 25th, a mobile drug test lab will be on site to conduct pre-employment drug screening, as required by law. Fingerprints and drug screenings are provided free-of-charge by First Student.

Mr. Williams stated that, thus far, there has been a good turnout from staff that came to listen to what was being offered and to apply for the positions that are being offered.

Mr. Williams also outlined the following items that are being offered by First Student to prospective employees:

- ▶ A 5% increase above the employee’s current pay rate;
- ▶ Healthcare, dental and vision care opportunities with a 70% employer contribution. Mr. Williams acknowledged concerns that have been expressed regarding potential difficulties with using the insurance provided by Aetna, especially since there may not be a preferred provider in Monroe County. First Student is looking into the possibility of a comparable plan with another company;
- ▶ A 401K plan is being offered to all employees;
- ▶ A performance plus bonus
 - A performance plus bonus system that could consist of an additional \$600 per employee per year;
 - Each month all employees would qualify for a \$30 bonus, if they show up for work each day, don’t have any collisions, and attend the mandatory safety meeting that month; and
 - If an employee qualifies all 10 months, they would receive an additional \$300 bonus;
- ▶ Employees will be able to collect unemployment for at least 10 weeks; and
- ▶ First Student offers many programs to insure safety for students and drivers.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS:

At this time, President Palmer stated that Board policy allows one (1) hour at the beginning of the meeting and one (1) hour at the end of the meeting for public comment. Each person will be allowed to speak for three (3)

minutes at a time. Each person can speak on one topic only. All questions must be directed to Ms. Palmer or Dr. Arnold.

1. Scott Carpenter, PSEA Uniserv Rep, asked the Board to rescind their vote to contract out transportation services and return to the negotiations table to work things out and to keep all services in-house. Reasons he gave for the Board to honor his request were quality of service, accountability, loss of control by the Board, and legal issues that are pending.
2. Peter Mehlreeter, resident of Chestnuthill Township and bus driver for Stroudsburg School District, commented on a 2007 class action suit that was filed against First Student in Ohio.
3. Kathleen Klapatch, Chestnuthill Township, commented on her support to keep the transportation department in-house and does not support outsourcing.
4. Ms. A. Cameron, Chestnuthill Township, commented that all staff, including Board members that have contact with teachers, staff and students should be subject to a criminal background check.
5. Lori Snyder, PV bus driver, commented that the medical insurance offered by Pleasant Valley will end for transportation employees on August 31st. The insurance offered by First Student will not take effect until October 1st, which leaves many families without medical coverage unless they pay for Cobra coverage for that period. She commented on how many families will not be able to afford the payments. In addition, Ms. Snyder commented on the loss of unused sick/personal days. President Palmer responded that employees should seek information from their union concerning these topics.
6. Gordwin Printoss, asked to speak, but was not a current PVSD taxpayer and was denied as per Board policy.
7. Susan LeFever, wife of a bus driver, commented that a few members of the Board do not have the welfare of the community or taxpayers in mind. She commented that the Board took this route because of certain difficult employees.
8. Kim Ward, Polk Township and a bus driver, commented that she will need to move from this area because she will not be able to afford to live here. She commented on the football field being more important to the Board than the welfare of the families that are losing their jobs and benefits.
9. Ed Larson, Eldred Township and a bus mechanic, commented on the price of purchasing the bus fleet. He commented that once the buses are sold, there is no turning back and that the Board did not have taxpayers in mind when they made this decision. He also provided the Board with a copy of a letter from Rep. John Siptroth.
10. Frank Krogstad, Polk Township, commented on the five year deal made with First Student and asked what will happen in the 6th year.
11. Dave Hall, Polk Township, commented on how, as “our brother’s keeper”, we need to take care of each other and not think of the dollar figures.
12. Julie Hynes, Chestnuthill Township, asked if First Student was going to offer transportation for all the extra curricular and athletic activities. She commented on the health insurance coverage that is being offered to the employees by First Student. She asked the Board to reconsider their decision.
13. Steve Russo, retired PVSD bus driver and resident of Chestnuthill Township, commented that the Board made an unfair decision and asked them to consider rescinding their decision and to keep negotiating.
14. Eileen Thierry, Saylorsburg resident and a bus driver, commented that Mr. Sabia stated that this was a “business decision”, but feels that this decision will cost the taxpayers. She commented that First Student has in the past neglected to have background checks on some employees.
15. Sandy Urash, Ross Township, asked about costs concerning the bus fleet after the five year contract has passed.
16. Carla Bush, Chestnuthill Township, was concerned for her special needs student communicating with the new bus drivers.
17. Marcy Cetnar, Ross Township and wife of a bus driver, commented on the Excellence in Education: A Community Commitment motto listed on school district letterhead. She asked how privatizing will affect the community.
18. Dorothy Townsend, Chestnuthill Township, commented on quality bus drivers and questioned what kind of quality we will be getting in return for outsourcing.
19. Emmett Forte, Chestnuthill Township, commented on the dedication of the bus drivers to the students.
20. Tracy Giambaluo, Polk Township, commented that she supports the bus drivers and is against outsourcing to a company from a foreign country.
21. Lyle Cetnar, Ross Township and a bus driver, commented that he never saw people make such an unfair decision that affects so many people. He commented on the negotiations offers that were made and that the Board did not give the drivers a chance. He commented on how unfair this decision is for the community and the taxpayers.
22. Bernadette Feliciano, Chestnuthill Township, commented that the Board’s decision has affected her child’s future and has taken away the future of the bus drivers.
23. Mary Plant, Ross Township, commented that this decision is a disgrace to the drivers and to our children.
24. Eileen Thierry, bus driver from Saylorsburg, commented on the changes this decision is making for her life and for the students. She commented and stated that she feels this was a personal decision, not a business decision. She stated that transportation has been, to some, a “pain in the neck”. She commented that all businesses in this community will be affected by this decision. She asked whether First Student would be using Borger’s Towing and expressed concern over Aetna insurance.

OTHER:

None

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Ms. Linda Zeliznik, Board Recorder

Harvey Frable motioned, seconded by John Sabia, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, June 26, 2008 as per the attached copy.

Roll Call: Voice Vote - Carried

TREASURER’S REPORT: Ms. Linda Micklos

H. Charles Hoffman motioned, seconded by Harvey Frable, to approve the Accounts Payable 6/27/08 – 6/30/08 on pages 12-16; Accounts Payable 6/1/08 – 6/30/08 (Manual Checks) on page 17; Accounts Payable 7/1/08 – 7/17/08 (separate document); and the Trial Balance/Financial Statement on pages 18-23 as per the attached copies:

Roll Call: 8-1 Carried Voting No: M. Palmer

The Asset Cost Summary on page 24 and the Revenues/Expenditures on pages 25-28 were included for information only.

OLD BUSINESS:

Solicitor: Mr. Daniel Corvelevn/Mr. Gerard Geiger

No report

OTHER

No reports

NEW BUSINESS:

Monroe Career and Technical Institute: Ms. Linda Micklos

Ms. Micklos reported:

- ▶ The monthly MCTI meeting was held on Monday, July 7th.
- ▶ Interviews were conducted for the Career and Technical Supervisor position and Dr. George Ebert was hired to fill the position.
- ▶ A tentative agreement was reached with the professional staff; the MCTI Business Manager and PSEA representative(s) are working at finalizing the language.
- ▶ The Hotel and Tourism Management program has received the Outstanding Career and Technical Program award from the state. The award was given at the PA Career and Technical Education Conference. Mrs. LaCompte, program instructor, accepted the award.

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20: Mr. Ryan Hinton

Mr. Hinton reported that there was no July meeting and the next meeting is scheduled for August.

PSBA Liaison Report: Ms. Susan Kresge

No report

Student Representative:

No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Dr. Douglas Arnold

Dr. Arnold referred to the District Enrollment Report on page 29.

John Sabia motioned, seconded by Ryan Hinton, to approve the following Board Policy revisions:

- Policy #121 – Field Trips
- Policy #210 – Use of Medications
- Policy #237 – Use of Communication Devices, Cellular Telephones and Other Devices

Roll Call: 8-1 Carried Voting No: M. Palmer

Other:

Susan Kresge motioned, seconded by Linda Micklos, to approve the request for Homebound Instruction:

Polk Elementary

Student I.D. #

103284

Reason

Medical, retroactive to 5/23/08

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried

Susan Kresge motioned, seconded by Russ Gould, to approve the District Goals for 2008-09 as per the attached copy.

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried

John Sabia motioned, seconded by Ryan Hinton, to approve the 2008-2009 PV K-12 Student/Parent Handbook

Roll Call: 8-1 Carried Voting No: M. Palmer

H. Charles Hoffman motioned, seconded by Linda Micklos, to approve the appointment of School District Physicians/Dentist as follows:

- ▶ Appointment of 2008-09 Grades K-12 School Dentist – Dr. David Pierce at a cost of \$4.00 per student
- ▶ Appointment of 2008-09 Grades K-9 School Physician – Dr. Narendra V. Ambani at a cost of \$17.00 per student
- ▶ Appointment of 2008-09 Grades 10-12 School Physician – Dr. Mary Ellen DeFranco at a cost of \$15.00 per student

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried

Dr. Arnold announced that the Denim Day held on June 6th raised over \$1,235 for Juvenile Diabetes research. Dr. Arnold received a letter of thanks from JDA.

Dr. Arnold acknowledged Ms. Shelley Franco for her continued work in the Growth component of the PA Inspired Leadership Program. She continues through the coursework and the school district has received a letter of commendation from the PA Department of Ed regarding her efforts.

Dr. Arnold presented Palmer a plaque from the March of Dimes to President Palmer. The plaque recognized PV for being the top fundraiser among school districts in Monroe County.

Personnel and General Administration: Mr. Anthony Fadule

John Sabia motioned; seconded by Susan Kresge to approve item #6.4.1- #6.4.3; item #6.4.1- #6.4.4 on addendum #1 and items #6.4.1-#6.4.2 on addendum #2 with the following revisions/additions noted: page 46, item # 6.4.2.1.1 leave is for 36 days, on or about October 20th; page one of Addendum #1, item #6.4.1.2.4 should list Reading and addendum #2 should include the following salary adjustment for David Heath, Assistant Principal at PVI and Shelly Franco, Assistant Principal at Middle School to reflect \$67,015 effective July 18, 2008; addition of Request for Diane Siani to the position of PVI Assistant Principal at a salary of \$62,500 prorated, replacement position for Amy Braxmeier, effective July 18, 2008.

Report is as follows:

6.4 Personnel and General Administration

July 17, 2008

- 6.4.1 Hiring of Personnel (The hiring of all personnel is pending receipt of all required paperwork)
 - 6.4.1.1 Support Staff
 - 6.4.1.1.1 Sherwood Butz was approved for a change of employment status from part-time to casual security officer, retroactive to July 1, 2008.
 - 6.4.1.1.2 Megan Sterenchock was approved for the position of summer computer technician, retroactive to June 30, 2008.
 - 6.4.1.1.3 Substitutes
 - a. Megan Sterenchock - Computer Technician
 - b. Eileen Thierry - Secretary, retroactive to 7-7-08
 - 6.4.1.2 Professional Staff
The following individuals were approved for hire effective the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year:
 - 6.4.1.2.1 Pleasant Valley Middle School
 - 6.4.1.2.1.1 James P. Ward was approved for a change of employment status from part-time to full-time social studies teacher, teacher. (New, additional part-time position).
 - 6.4.1.3 Administration
 - 6.4.1.3.1 Amy Braxmeier was approved for the position of Elementary Principal, effective July 18, 2008 at an annual salary of \$80,000, prorated. (Replacement position for Penny Derr).
- 6.4.2 Leaves of Absence
 - 6.4.2.1 Family and Medical Leave
 - 6.4.2.1.1 Nicole Composto, middle school mathematics coach, was approved for Family & Medical Leave, as per Board policy, for approximately thirty-six (36) days effective August 28, 2008 through on or about October 20, 2008.
 - 6.4.2.1.2 Valerie Eblin, literacy coach, was approved for Family & Medical Leave, as per Board policy, for approximately forty-five (45) days, effective August 28, 2008 through October 31, 2008.
 - 6.4.2.2 Leaves Without Pay (Employees are responsible for the payment of any benefits the district provides during the period of leave.):
 - 6.4.2.2.1 William Shiner, middle school custodian, was approved for unpaid leave for the following three (3) days: June 27, 30 and July 1, 2008.
- 6.4.3 Resignation
Approval was granted to accept the letter of resignation from the following employee:

6.4.3.1 Charbi Anne Webby, PVE teacher, effective August 24, 2008.

6.4 **Personnel and General Administration – Addendum #1** **July 17, 2008**

- 6.4.1 Hiring of Personnel (The hiring of all personnel is pending receipt of all required paperwork)
- 6.4.1.1 Support Staff
- 6.4.1.1.1 Substitute
- a. Talitha Graham - Custodian
- 6.4.1.2 Professional Staff
- 6.4.1.2.1 Department Head/Curriculum Leader for the 2008-2009 year:
Grades K-12 Department Head
Music - John DeVivo
- 6.4.1.2.2 High School Summer School
The following were approved for high school summer school:
- a. English – 1 credit course – 30 hours – Barbara Arroyo
- b. Science – 1 credit course – 30 hours – Pete Pappalardo
- c. Mathematics – 1 credit course – Two 30 hour sessions – Shavonne Liddic
- d. Mathematics – 1 credit course – Two 30 hour sessions – Robert Pipech
- e. Social Studies – 1 credit course – Two 30 hour sessions – Tim McCutchan
- f. Graduation Project/PSSA Reading/Math – .5 credit course – One 15 hour session; 1 credit course – One 30 hour session – Talitha Graham
- 6.4.1.2.3 Middle School Summer School
The following were approved for middle school summer school:
- a. Mathematics - Rollene Gougher
- b. Reading/Language Arts - Karen Catina
- 6.4.1.2.4 Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Summer School
The following was approved for PVI summer school:
- a. Reading-Kathleen Dekmar
- 6.4.1.3 Administration
- 6.4.1.3.1 Joseph Kondisko was approved for the position of Elementary Principal, effective September 16, 2008, or sooner, depending upon release, at an annual salary of \$80,000, prorated. (Replacement position for John Rushefski).
- 6.4.1.3.2 Ken Newman was approved for the position of K-12 Mathematics Supervisor, effective July 18, 2008, at an annual salary of \$70,000, prorated.
- 6.4.2 Leaves of Absence
- 6.4.2.1 Family and Medical Leave
- 6.4.2.1.1 Charles Chamberlain, mechanic, was approved for Family & Medical Leave, as per Board policy for fourteen (14) days, effective July 15 through August 1, 2008.
- 6.4.2.2 Leaves Without Pay (Employees are responsible for the payment of any benefits the district provides during the period of leave.):
- 6.4.2.2.1 Elliott Castillo, custodian, was approved for unpaid leave for four (4) days, effective July 22, through July 25, 2008.
- 6.4.3 Resignation
Approval was granted to accept the letters of resignation from the following employees:
- a. Daina Dexheimer, reading teacher, effective August 6, 2008.
- b. Kenneth Newman, mathematics teacher, effective July 17, 2008.
- 6.4.4 Retirement
Approval was granted to accept the letter of retirement from the following employee:
- a. John Field, reading teacher, effective June 24, 2008.

6.4 **Personnel and General Administration – Addendum #2** **July 17, 2008**

- 6.4.1 Hiring of Personnel (The hiring of all personnel is pending receipt of all required paperwork)
The following individuals were approved for hire effective the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year:
- 6.4.1.1 Administration
- 6.4.1.1.1 Tresa Malligo was approved for the position of assistant high school principal, effective September 16, 2008, or sooner, depending upon release, at an annual salary of \$68,500, prorated. (Replacement position for George Donadi.)
- 6.4.1.1.2 Effective July 18, 2008, the salaries of the following assistant principals were approved to be adjusted to \$67,015, prorated:
- a. David Heath, PVI
- b. Shelley Franco, Middle School

- 6.4.1.1.3 Diane Siani was approved for the position of PVI assistant principal, effective July 18, 2008, at an annual salary of \$62,500, prorated. (Replacement position for Amy Braxmeier.)
- 6.4.2 Resignation
 - Approval was granted to accept the letter of resignation from the following employee:
 - a. William Shiner, middle school custodian, effective July 30, 2008.

Roll Call: 7-2 Carried Voting No: T. Murphy, H. Frable

Asst. To The Superintendent For Professional /Support Personnel: Mr. Christopher Fisher

Susan Kresge motioned; seconded by John Sabia, to approve item #6.5.1 as follows:

6.5 Professional & Support Services

July 17, 2008

- 6.5.1 For Approval
 - 6.5.1.1 Approval was granted to contract with Coordinated Health Systems of the Lehigh Valley for athletic trainer services for school year 2008 – 2009.
 - 6.5.1.2 2008 – 2009 Co-curricular Advisor Positions
 - 6.5.1.2.1 High School Drama Advisor - Ms. Ramona Parsons
 - 6.5.1.2.2 SADD Co-advisor (split stipend)- Ms. Shannon Mackes
 - 6.5.1.2.3 SADD Co-advisor (split stipend)- Ms. Elaine Snow
 - 6.5.1.2.4 Science Olympiad Advisor - Ms. Shannon Mackes
 - 6.5.1.2.5 Stage Manager (High School) - Mr. Craig Morris

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried

Food Services: Ms. Bonnie Grammes

Participation reports were attached.

Transportation Services: Mr. Tony Pierri, Ms. Viola Murphy

No report

Custodial and Warehouse : Mr. Howard Scott

No report

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Mark Meinhart

No report

Technology Systems Coordinator: Mr. Rocco Seiler

No report

CURRICULUM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Carole Rissmiller

No Report

ELEMENTARY DIVISIONS:

No Report

SECONDARY DIVISIONS:

No Report

PLEASANT VALLEY CYBER ACADEMY: Mr. Robert Hines, Mr. Douglas Palmeiri

Susan Kresge motioned; seconded by Russ Gould, to approve the 2008-2009 PV Cyber Academy Student/Parent Handbook and the 2008-2009 PV Cyber Academy Program of Studies.

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried

Business Manager: Ms. Donna Les, Ms. Monica Kotzmann

Linda Micklos motioned; seconded by John Sabia is approve items #6.11.1-#6.11.4 and item #6.11.5.1-#6.11.5.4 as follows:

6.11 Business Management

July 17, 2008

- 6.11.1 Approval was granted for payment of the Cafeteria Accounts Payable for June 2008. Total amount: \$244,849.05.
- Approval was granted for payment of the Cafeteria Bills Payable for July 2008. Total amount: \$41,593.49.
- 6.11.2 Student Activity Accounts - for informational purposes

Beginning Balance, 6/1/08	\$226,941.52	
Revenue		26,406.94
Expenditures		26,331.78
Ending Balance, 6/30/08		\$227,106.58

- 6.11.3 District Investment Report – attached
- 6.11.4 The following invoices were approved for payment from the Bond Fund indicated:

2006 Bond Fund	
G. R. Noto Electrical Construction, Inc.	\$24,075.00
Middle School Project: Application #1	
Total	\$24,075.00

6.11 Business Management – Addendum #1 July 17, 2008

- 6.11.5 Supplement
 - 6.11.5.1 Approval was granted for the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education approves the termination of the district’s investment agreement with Arthurs, Lestrangle Investment Advisory, Inc., a service of Ferris, Baker Watts, Inc. Further, the Board of Education authorizes an Investment Management Agreement between the school district and Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. These changes shall be effective July 17, 2008.

- 6.11.5.2 The following payments were approved from the Pleasant Valley High School Courtyard Garden Fund:

Check #120	Kim Economy	\$173.87
	Bird seed, flowers, plants	
Check #121	West End Printing & Awards	\$159.00
	Plaques	
	Total	\$332.87

- 6.11.5.3 The following invoices were approved for payment from the Bond Funds indicated:

2006 Bond Fund	
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Quad Three Group		\$48,725.56
Middle School Project:	\$34,649.15	
Athletic Field Project:	\$14,076.41	
	Total	\$48,725.56

- 6.11.5.4 Informational: With reference to the 2008-2009 Agreement for Services between Pleasant Valley School District and PA Treatment & Health (Bethesda Day Treatment Center) approved April 10, 2008, the applicable per diem rate shall be \$57.28.

Roll Call: 9-0 Carried

Solicitor: Mr. Daniel Corveleyn/Mr. Gerard Geiger

Mr. Corveleyn reported that he attended the 2008 PSBA School Solicitors symposium on June 26th and June 27th at Penn State Conference Center in State College. The event was no cost for the school district.

Pleasant Valley School Directors:

- ▶ Ms. Kresge asked where our numbers are with the cyber school enrollment. Mr. Hines stated that we have five registrations and had nine parents attend the first open house.
- ▶ Mr. Murphy stated that he has been reviewing the draft contract and asked the representative from 1st Student if he could answer some questions. Mr. Williams stated that he did not have the contract with him but would try to answer the questions. Mr. Murphy asked, based on 107 routes and 178 days, how the \$5M dollar figures was determined. Mr. Williams stated he was not prepared to answer the question, not having the contract with him, and offered to answer the question at another time. Mr. Murphy asked who First Student gets their clearances through. Mr. Williams stated that the fingerprint checks come from the Board of Education, State Police and the FBI. Mr. Murphy asked if employees would be allowed to take buses home. Mr. Williams stated that, if that arrangement was something the district approved of, then it would be allowed if it makes sense financially for the route to start and end near their homes and if the district approves. Mr. Murphy asked if the district is responsible to remove the snow from the bus compound. Mr. Williams stated that it would be, because First Student is leasing the facility from the district. Mr. Murphy asked whether, when the buses are covered with snow, drivers will remove it. Mr. Williams stated that state laws requires, if the snow is an inch or more, it must be removed. If it is not at least an inch, then it does not have to be removed. Mr. Murphy stated that we pay mechanics and drivers who want to come in and earn extra money to clear those vehicles. They pull them out of their space, clear them, and then pull them back or we assign people to do that. Mr. Murphy asked if this would also be done on weekends and Mr. Williams replied that it would be, if needed. Mr. Murphy asked if there would be additional charge to the school district; Mr. Williams replied that there is no charge to the district for anything that we propose. Mr. Murphy asked for an explanation of the early dismissal/late starts. Mr. Williams stated that First Student does this everyday in Eastern Pa and has never had a delay because of clearing buses. If the roads are bad, First Student makes suggestions to the district, but they never have had school delayed because they did not have the buses ready to go.

Pleasant Valley Citizens:

1. J.R. Bobbitt, Chestnuthill Township, commented on taxes not being raised and the Board telling him that he will have to move. He asked for a guarantee that the Board would not raise taxes and commented that the Board does not care about the public and the taxpayers. He asked about negotiations. Attorney Corveleyn explained how negotiations and the law work in that respect, and that such information must be kept confidential.
2. Jeannette Parisi, Chestnuthill Township, stated that most parents do not have time to come to school district Board meetings and asked if it would be possible for the district to send out information at the beginning of the year on these issues so that the parents have a say on some of these decisions.
3. Kathleen Klapatch, Chestnuthill Township, expressed her opinion regarding Lyle Cetnar, bus driver, stating that he is a caring and kind person. She suggested that the district take the \$1.3 million savings and help the bus drivers get through these tough times.
4. Paul Kuehner, Eldred Township, commented that there is no management in the school district.
5. Kim Ward, Polk Township, commented on the United Way campaign and the bus drivers who contribute to it. She stated that they contribute because they care about the community. She stated that this decision was personal.
6. Quinton Sobers, Eldred Township, asked the Board how they would feel if they were told their jobs were over.
7. Susan LeFever, wife of a bus driver, commented that the people in this room have put faith in the Board, but they still have not heard from the Board. She asked if the Board could take a step back and listen to what the employees are saying and give people an opportunity by rescinding the vote to outsource.
8. Chuck Chamberlain, Towamensing Township and a PVSD mechanic, asked about how the budget gets approved. Ms. Les explained how the budget process begins in January, a presentation is done in May at a public meeting, and the final budget is approved in June. Mr. Chamberlain stated that this tells him that the Board already knew what they were going to do before the budget was approved.
9. Eileen Thierry, a PVSD bus driver from Saylorburg, commented that the decision was made to save the taxpayers \$1.3 million. She asked if the leasing agreement for the bus compound will increase in year two after the new bus compound is built and whether the district will have to maintain it. She commented on the football stadium and said that the taxpayers have a right to know where the rest of the money for the stadium is coming from and how much it will be. She thanked Ms. Palmer, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Hoffman for standing with the bus drivers. She asked the other six Board members who voted against them to reconsider. Dr. Arnold addressed her questions.
10. Jim Serfass, Chestnuthill Township, commented that no one present tonight has stated that they are for outsourcing. He referred to the district motto of excellence in education being a community commitment and asked the Board where their commitment to the community is. He commented that he supports the new football field and he asked the six Board members who voted to outsource the transportation department to consider an executive session to discuss rescinding their decision to outsource.
11. MariClair Hosking, Eldred Township, stated that she supports the decision for the turf field. She stated that she is disappointed in the six board members, who she considers friends, and asked them to reconsider.
12. Jeannette Parisi, Chestnuthill Township, asked if they could rescind their decision and let the taxpayers decide.
13. Scott Carpenter, PSEA Uniserv Representative, asked the Board to put their personal feelings for him aside and consider the bus drivers, community and the students.
14. Sue Rebori, Chestnuthill Township and bus driver, commented on the health insurance that is being offered by First Student. She stated that the drivers are willing to pay what they will have to pay with First Student and she asked where the big savings is coming from. She stated that the Board is not providing any answers and that she has no use for PSEA.
15. Sonya Porter, Polk Township, commented on the motto, Excellence in Education: A Community Commitment and that the Board is acting against its motto since the community is saying “no” to outsourcing.
16. William Oxforth, Ross Township, commented that there have never been any issues with drugs with our bus drivers, so why would the Board vote for the characters that are in the newspaper regarding drugs?
17. Anthony Verado, Ross Township, commented on his bus driver in elementary school being a great driver.
18. Stacey Correll, Eldred Township, commented on Mr. Williams not having the answers.
19. Carl Meese, Eldred Township, commented on background checks and asked if there was something in the contract so that we do not have a similar incident like has happened in other states.
20. Susan LeFever, wife of bus driver, asked if the bus drivers choosing to get rid of the union would get the Board more willing to re-negotiate. Mr. Corveleyn has advised the Board not to make any comments regarding negotiations. Ms. Lefever asked the Board again to take a step back and reconsider.
21. Julie Hynes, Chestnuthill Township, commented on negotiations.
22. Gail Cameron, Ross Township, commented that Pleasant Valley is the best school district in the area. She stated that she depends on the bus drivers to get her son to school.
23. Ellen Stecko, bus driver, commented on First Student history and asked how the Board or administration could make this decision if they have read all the facts on the website regarding the lawsuits and accidents.
24. Nick Romano, bus driver, not a resident, commented on the transportation department being outsourced.
25. Diane Cassarello, bus driver, asked how many bus drivers signed up for First Student. She has concerns for her granddaughter.

26. Stacey Correll, Eldred Township, asked why her personal information was given to First Student before she was asked to go with them.
27. Chuck Chamberlain, Ross Township, asked if the new company will be policing the drivers. Who would be punishing the drivers?

Mr. Murphy commented that he wanted to read a letter, to make it part of the record, that he received from John Siptroth, State Representative, indicating that he is disappointed in the Board's decision to outsource transportation. The letter has been attached to the minutes:

JOHN J. SIPTROTH, MEMBER
189TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

323 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P. O. BOX 202189
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2189
(717) 787-6492
FAX: (717) 772-2943

4 JAY PARK, DARTMOUTH DRIVE
P. O. BOX 1188
MARSHALLS CREEK, PA 18335-1188
(570) 223-2636
FAX: (570) 223-5694



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION,
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR ON AVIATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
MAJORITY POLICY, VICE CHAIR

CAUCUSES
NORTHEAST DELEGATION

July 11, 2008

Michelle Palmer, President
Pleasant Valley School Board
District Office
Route 115
Brodheads ville, PA 18322

Dear Ms. Palmer and School Board Members:

I am very disappointed in the recent actions taken by the board regarding the outsourcing of the Transportation Department. Many individuals, some which are residents of the district will lose their jobs. Children who attend school often form a bond with the driver of the route and a sense of trust is developed. This may be lost if drivers differ day to day. Children with special needs are even more at risk because they expect to see their regular driver and it can be disturbing to have a diversion in their daily routines.

Stroudsburg Area School District went through the same process and sure enough they converted back to school employed bus drivers. I will note that many of the districts around the Slate Belt have contracted with First Student with successful results.

It is not my intention to undermine the authority of the Board of Education but rather to offer my disappointment that an agreement with the union could not be successfully reached.

The good news regarding the budget is that Pleasant Valley will receive the dollars expected for the coming year. A 9.7% or \$1.8M increase over last year's basic education line item.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Siptroth".

JOHN J. SIPTROTH
State Representative
189th Legislative District
Representing Monroe & Pike Counties

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board, President MiChelle Palmer motioned, seconded by John Sabia to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:50 PM.

Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Les,
Board Secretary

Linda Zeliznik
Board Recorder

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting - September 11, 2008 at 8:00 pm, District Offices