

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education Meeting  
July 19, 2007

**Board Approved August 9, 2007** Excellence in Education: A Community Commitment

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The regular meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was called to order by President Thomas Murphy, on Thursday, July 19, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. President Murphy welcomed those present followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley School District Offices, Brodheadsville, PA.

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>Board Attendees:</b>	President Thomas Murphy	H. Charles Hoffman	Ryan Hinton
	Vice-President John Sabia	MiChelle Palmer	Linda Micklos
	Treasurer Russ Gould	Susan Kresge	
<b>Board Absentees:</b>	Harvey Frable		
<b>Administrative Attendees:</b>	Dr. Arnold, Mr. Fadule, Ms. Rissmiller, Ms. Les, Ms. Zeliznik, Mr. C. Fisher, Ms. Kotzmann, Ms. Derr, Mr. Drake, Ms. Franco, Mr. Gress, Mr. Heath, Dr. Lesisko, Mr. Meinhart, Mr. Rushefski, Mr. Scott, Mr. Seiler, Mr. Stefani, Ms. Tartar and Mr. Wunder		
<b>Solicitor:</b>	Mr. Gerard Geiger		

President Thomas Murphy announced Notification of Executive Sessions as follows

- ▶ July 5, 2007 - Personnel, Negotiations, Legal Issues
- ▶ July 16, 2007 - Negotiations, Legal matters
- ▶ July 19, 2007 - Personnel - New and replacement staff; Legal - Grievances; Negotiations

**MEETING PROCEDURES:**

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

**PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS**

None

**OTHER:**

None

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

Ryan Hinton motioned; seconded by Linda Micklos to approve the minutes of the meetings as follows:

- ▶ Approval of the minutes of the meeting held June 28, 2007 (pages 1-11)
- ▶ Approval of the minutes of the special meeting held on July 5, 2007 (pages 12-14)

as per the attached copies

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**Roll Call: Voice Vote - 8-0 Carried**

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**TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Russ Gould**

John Sabia motioned; seconded by H. Charles Hoffman to approve the Accounts Payable 6/1/07 - 6/30/07 (Manual Checks) on page 15; Accounts Payable 6/29/07 - 6/29/07 on pages 16-18; Accounts Payable 7/1/07 - 7/19/07 on pages 19-23; and the Trial Balance / Financial Statement on pages 24-30 as per the attached copies.

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**Roll Call: 7-1 Carried Voting no: M. Palmer**

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The Asset Cost Summary on page 31 and the Revenues/Expenditures on pages 32-35 were included for information only.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Solicitor: Mr. Gerard Geiger, Mr. Daniel Corevelyn**

No report

**OTHER**

No reports

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Monroe Career and Technical Institute: Ms. Linda Micklos**

Ms. Micklos reported:

- ▶ Diesel Mechanic Teacher received the Outstanding Career and Technical Teacher In Pennsylvania for 2007. Award was given in June at the State Conference in Seven Springs
- ▶ Student Steve Gilboy, from Stroudsburg, placed third nationally in the Skills Competition that was held in Kansas City.

- ▶ An articulating agreement has been signed with Northampton Community College offering a fire fighting and safety course worth 5 credits. Approximately 27 students are registered.
- ▶ Negotiations are still ongoing
- ▶ Student built house had two open houses and one auction and has a deposit in the works.

**Colonial Intermediate Unit 20: Mr. Ryan Hinton**

Mr. Hinton reported:

- ▶ Next scheduled meeting will take place on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

**PSBA Liaison Report: Ms. Susan Kresge**

Ms. Kresge reported:

- ▶ 2007-08 State budget was approved at \$27.4 billion and everything that was in the education budget stayed in place.

**Student Representative: No representative**

No report

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Dr. Douglas Arnold**

**Policy Revisions - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

- ▶ Policy #235 - Student Rights/Surveys
- ▶ Policy #404 - Employment of Professional Employees
- ▶ Policy #504 - Employment of Classified Employees

Dr. Arnold stated that policies listed were distributed as a first reading. He briefly outlined the changes in each and asked the board to review for future approval at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

- ▶ Mr. Murphy asked how the students were informed about the laws stated in Policy #235. Dr. Arnold stated that open assemblies are provided by Administration periodically during the school year informing secondary students of the laws related to the policy. Mr. Gress confirmed those statements and added that meetings throughout the school year are held for this purpose of keeping students informed on issues such as weapons, drugs etc.

Susan Kresge motioned; seconded by Linda Micklos to approve the District Goals for 2007-2008 as recommended by Dr. Arnold.

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**Roll Call: Voice vote 8-0 Carried**

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**Other**

**2007 - 2008 Budget Update**

Dr. Arnold read a statement: "At the special board meeting on July 5, 2007 the school board voted to rescind the 2007-08 budget that had passed on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The opportunity to rescind the motion came to our attention on Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, when \$917,000 in revenues had become available, which could have potentially led to a reduction in millage for 2007-08. Once the motion was rescinded, the board reduced the millage for the 2007-2008 budget by 2.27 mills, approving a tax rate of 126.3 mills; an increase of 2.15 mills overall, or 1.7% tax increase.

The district trimmed a total of 5.66 mills from the initial proposed 7.91 millage increase. The board and administration are to be commended for their efforts in this regard."

**Personnel and General Administration: Mr. Anthony Fadule**

Russ Gould motioned; seconded by Susan Kresge to approve item #6.4.1- #6.4.3 on the personnel report; item #6.4.1- #6.4.3 on addendum #1; and item #6.4.1-#6.4.2 on addendum #2 with the following revisions noted: page 1 of addendum #1, item #6.4.1.1.3.1 assignment is PVE. Report is as follows:

- |           |  |                             |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|
| 6.4.1     | <b><u>Personnel and General Administration -</u></b>   | <b><u>July 19, 2007</u></b> |
| 6.4.1.1   | Hiring of Personnel (The hiring of all personnel is pending receipt of all required paperwork)   |                             |
|           | Support Staff  |                             |
| 6.4.1.1.1 | Security   |                             |
|           | a. Luis Fuentes, Jr. was approved for the position of casual security officer, effective July 2, 2007.   |                             |
| 6.4.2.1.1 | Jamile Ferrara was approved for the position of para-professional associate for ESEA Title 1 Summer School at PVE, effective July 12, 2007, at a salary of \$300 per week, prorated. |                             |
| 6.4.3.1.1 | Substitute   |                             |
|           | a. Joan Toolan - Secretary   |                             |
|           | Professional Staff   |                             |
| 6.4.1.1.1 | High School Summer School  |                             |

The following were approved for high school summer school:

- a. English – 1 credit course – 30 hours – William Kozicki
- b. Earth Science – 1 credit course – Two 30 hour sessions – Pete Pappalardo
- c. Mathematics – 1 credit course – One 30 hour session – Jillian Bruch
- d. Mathematics – 1 credit course – One 30 hour session – Robert Pipech
- e. Mathematics – 1 credit course – Two 30 hour sessions – Andrew Witinski
- f. Social Studies – 1 credit course – One 30 hour session – Jason Azarovich
- g. Social Studies – 1 credit course – Two 30 hour sessions – Jason Robbins
- h. Graduation Project – .5 credit course – One 15 hour session – William Kozicki

6.4.2.1.1 Middle School Summer School

The following were approved for middle school summer school:

- a. Mathematics – Rollene Gougher
- b. Reading/Language Arts- Karen Catina

6.4.3.1.1 Pleasant Valley Intermediate School

6.4.3.1.1.1 Ashley Rampulla was approved for a change of employment status from long-term substitute to temporary professional employee. (Replacement special education teacher for Alicia Kearns)

6.4.3.2.1.1 Barbara Boyle BS, Step 1  
BS, Education Salary=\$34,800  
College of Notre Dame of MD  
(Long-term substitute special education teacher for Tamar Ulmer)

6.4.1.2 Leaves of Absence

Family and Medical Leave

6.4.1.1.1 Beverly Cascioli, high school custodian, was approved for Family & Medical Leave, as per Board policy for six (6) days, effective July 24 through July 31, 2007.

6.4.2.1.1 Karen Koberlein, PVE speech teacher, was approved for Family & Medical Leave, as per Board policy for thirty-six (36) days, effective April 13 through June 8, 2007.

Leaves Without Pay (Employees are responsible for the payment of any benefits the district provides during the period of leave.):

6.4.1.1.1 RoseMarie Smale, PVI custodian, was approved for unpaid leave for one (1) day, effective June 29, 2007.

6.4.1.3 Resignation

Approval was granted to accept the letters of resignation from the following employees:

- a. Kristina Carone, middle school science teacher, effective August 29, 2007.
- b. Alicia Kearns, PVI special education teacher, effective August 29, 2007.

6.4

**Personnel and General Administration – Addendum #1 July 19, 2007**

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 2007- 2008 school year:

6.4.1.1 Professional Staff

6.4.1.1.1 Pleasant Valley Intermediate School

6.4.1.1.1.1 Mark Rodgers BS, Step 1  
BS, Music Education Salary=\$34,800  
Slippery Rock University  
(Replacement music teacher for Allen Frank)

6.4.1.1.2 Pleasant Valley Elementary School

6.4.1.1.2.1 Amy Boligitz BS + 8, Step 3  
BS, Music Education Salary=\$35,200  
West Chester University  
(Replacement music teacher for Dawn Loveland)

- 6.4.1.1.2.2 Jillian Kersteen BS, Step 4  
BS, Music Education Salary=\$35,400  
West Chester University  
(New music position)
- 6.4.1.1.3 Pleasant Valley Elementary School
  - 6.4.1.1.3.1 Morgan Rudelitch was approved for a change of employment status from part-time to full-time second grade elementary teacher. (Pat Birnbaum's assignment)
- 6.4.1.1.4 Polk/Eldred/Chestnuthill Elementary Schools
  - 6.4.1.1.4.1 Consetta Sabia was approved for a change of employment status from part-time to full-time art teacher. (New .5 position)
- 6.4.1.1.5 Pleasant Valley School District
  - 6.4.1.1.5.1 Jennifer Haberman MS, Step 13  
BS, Communication Salary=\$45,500  
Disorders  
MS, Speech  
Bloomsburg University  
(Replacement speech teacher for Krista Ytkin)
- 6.4.1.1.6 Pleasant Valley Middle School
  - 6.4.1.1.6.1 Drew Dymond was approved for a change of employment status from part-time to full-time social studies teacher. (Replacement position for Bret Witmer)
- 6.4.1.1.7 Transfers

NAME	FROM	TO
Kristine Meckes	PO/EL, Principal	PVE, Health & Phys. Ed. Teacher
Elizabeth Lyon	.5 High School & .5 Middle School, Mathematics	Full-Time Middle School Mathematics

6.4.1.2 Administration

- 6.4.1.2.1 Penny Derr was approved for the position of principal of Polk/Eldred Elementary Schools at an annual salary of \$72,500-prorated, effective August 30, 2007.

6.4.2 Resignations

Approval was granted to accept the letter of resignation from the following employee:

- a. Josephine Fields, Chestnuthill Elementary reading specialist, effective August 29, 2007.

6.4.3 Retirements

Approval was granted to accept the letter of retirement from the following employee:

- b. Edward Swinesburg, bus driver, effective August 29, 2007.

6.4.1 **Personnel and General Administration - Addendum #2** **July 19, 2007**

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 2007-2008 school year, unless otherwise noted:

6.4.1.1 Support Staff

6.4.1.1.1 Pleasant Valley Elementary School

- 6.4.1.1.1.1 Tracy Smith was approved for the position of secretary, effective July 23, 2007 at an annual salary of \$23,328, prorated. (Replacement position for Cheryl Petruzella)

- 6.4.1.1.1.2 Lillie Daddea was approved for the position of monitor, at an hourly wage of \$8.40, effective August 30, 2007. (Replacement position for Teresa Gregson)

6.4.1.1.2 Security

- 6.4.1.1.1.1 Approval was granted for the Pleasant Valley School District Security Department's Compensation Plan,

effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011.

- 6.4.1.2 Professional Staff
  - 6.4.1.2.1 Pleasant Valley Middle School
    - 6.4.1.2.1.1 Michele Confer BS + 21, Step 1  
BS, Earth & Space Science Salary=\$34,800  
Bloomsburg University  
(Replacement 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical science teacher for Kristina Carone)
  - 6.4.1.2.2 Pleasant Valley Elementary School
    - 6.4.1.2.2.1 Nicholas Farkas BS, Step 1  
BS, Elementary Salary=\$34,800  
ESU  
(Long-term substitute 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for Pat Birnbaum-Sean Crosby's assignment)
  - 6.4.1.2.3 Kristine Meckes, PVE health and physical education teacher, will be placed at MS + 48, step 17 at an annual salary of \$73,700.

6.4.2 Leaves of Absence

6.4.2.1 Family and Medical Leave

- 6.4.2.1.1 Rachel Goodwin-Brown, middle school secretary, was approved for an extension of her Family & Medical Leave for the following days: July 17, 2007 one-half (1.5) day, July 24, August 27, 28 and 29, 2007.

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**Roll Call: 6-2 Carried Abstaining from item #6.4.1.1.4.1 (Addendum #1) - John Sabia, item #6.4.1.2.1.1 (Addendum #2) - R. Hinton Abstention Memorandum's are attached**

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

Susan Kresge motioned; seconded by John Sabia to approve the following request for facility usage:

6.5.7 Facilities - Mr. Christopher Fisher, Mr. James Percey

Facility Use Requests:

- 6.5.7.1 Organization Hawthorne Caballeros Drum & Bugle Corp.
- Facility Requested High School Old Gym and Football Field
- Purpose Lodging and Rehearsal
- Dates/Times Friday, August 3, 2007, 6:00 PM to Sunday, August 5, 2007, 5:00 PM
- Requestor Joseph A. Sassano
- Attendance 100+
- Tuition None
- Fee by District Class 3, All Appropriate Custodial and Security Apply

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**Roll Call: 8-0 Carried**

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**Food Services: Ms. Bonnie Grammes**

No report

**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

**Mathematics: Mr. John Rushefski, Ms. Carole Rissmiller**

No report

**Reading Supervisor: Ms. Dora Tartar**

No report

**Special Education: Ms. Ellen McMasters, Ms. Cheryl Caines**

No report

**Technology: Dr. Lee Lesisko**

No report

**Pleasant Valley Intermediate: Mr. J. Storm, Mr. D. Heath, Ms. A. Braxmeier**

No report

**Pleasant Valley Elementary School: Mr. Dan Wunder, Ms. Lila Metz, Ms. Penny Derr**

No report

**Polk/Eldred Elementary: Ms. Kris Meckes**

No report

**Chestnuthill Elementary: Mr. John Rushefski**

No report

**Pleasant Valley Middle School: Mr. Howard Drake, Mr. Michael Kello, Ms. Shelley Franco**

No report

**Pleasant Valley High School: Mr. John Gress, Mr. R. Hines, Mr. D. Stefani, Mr. G. Donadi**

No report

**Business Manager: Ms. Donna Les**

John Sabia motioned; seconded by H. Charles Hoffman to approve items #6.10.1-#6.10.7 and item #6.10.8.1-#6.10.8.3 on addendum #1 as follows:

**6.10 Business Management July 19, 2007**

- 6.10.1 Approval was granted for the Cafeteria Accounts Payable for June 2007 be approved for payment. Total amount: \$184,626.49  
  
Approval was granted for the Cafeteria Bills Payable for July 2007 be approved. Total amount: \$10,111.10.
- 6.10.2 Student Activity Accounts - for informational review
 

Beginning Balance, June 1, 2007	\$266,868.86
Revenue	19,579.50
Expenditures	22,437.84
Ending Balance, May 31, 2007	\$264,010.52
- 6.10.3 District Investment Report -- attachment
- 6.10.4 Approval was granted for the following educational contracts with Shawnee Academy Licensed Private Academic School for the 2007-2008 school year:
 

Alternative Education, 15-seat classroom	\$117,000.00
Alternative Education, fee per day	\$75.00
Special Education, fee per day	\$100.00
Intensive Special Education, fee per day	\$125.00
- 6.10.5 Approval was granted to renew the contract with Portnoff Law Associates for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009 for the collection of delinquent real estate taxes. The approval is contingent upon the review of the contract document by the school district solicitor. Should any changes in the laws governing the collection of delinquent real estate taxes occur, this contract may be subject to review and modification and/or termination.
- 6.10.6 Approval was granted to utilize Michael I. Levin, Levin Legal Group, for specialized legal services. The fee structure is as follows:
 

\$170.00/hr.	Michael I. Levin
\$160.00/hr.	Anne Hendricks, Glenna Hazeltine, Andria Saia
\$150.00/hr.	Allison Petersen, Paul Lalley, Stacy Smith
\$140.00/hr.	Lisa Kane

Out-of-pocket expenses will be billed separately and may include such things as filing fees, overnight or express mail, witness fees, expert fees, overnight travel, in-house copying at the rate of \$.10 per page, large copying jobs performed outside the firm, courier services, computer-assisted legal research that is not included in their comprehensive basic plan and court stenographers. Fees are charged "portal-to-portal".

- 6.10.7 Approval was granted to issue Requests for Proposals for food services and pupil transportation for the 2008-2009 contract year.

**6.10 Business Management - Addendum July 19, 2007**

- 6.10.8 Supplement
- 6.10.8.1 Approval was granted to authorize the resolution for application of the 20-year exemption for the Middle School project.
- 6.10.8.2 Approval was granted to solicit construction bids for the Middle School project.
- 6.10.8.3 Approval was granted for the submission of PlanCon Part F - Construction Documents, for the Middle School project.

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**Roll Call: 7-1 Carried Voting no: M. Palmer**

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Ms. Les distributed a document concerning a summary of the Bond Funds and also a document showing the state budget and the education funding. The document had a breakdown of the 07-08 state budget showing Pleasant Valley's funding. The numbers showed an approx. \$13,000 increase from what was budgeted and what was state approved.

**Solicitor: Mr. Daniel Corveleyn, Mr. Gerard Geiger**

No report

**Pleasant Valley School Directors:**

Susan Kresge asked Mr. Gress what happens if a student does not complete the summer reading. Mr. Gress student that is it treated as a test grade and either a "0" or "I" is given. A notification was sent out to the students.

**Pleasant Valley Citizens:**

A Boy Scout, Jonas, asked President Murphy what the most important issue for the PVSD was at this time. President Murphy responded by stating that several issues are important such as school security, special education and increasing student test scores.

Dr. Arnold announced that the Buildings and Grounds workshop will be moved to Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:**

President Thomas Murphy indicated that, there being no further business to come before the Board, Charles Hoffman motioned, seconded by Ryan Hinton and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:21 PM.

Carried

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: August 9, 2007 AT 8:00 PM, District Office**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Les  
Board Secretary

Linda Zeliznik  
Board Recorder