

PEQUEA VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD
Committee Meeting
March 2, 2021

An Executive Session took place at 6:30 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

The monthly Committee meeting of the Pequea Valley School Board was called to order by President Bryant Ferris at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom. Members present were Christian Brackbill, Mike Hartmann, Fred Hertzler, Jane Horst, Tim Malloy, Steve Riehl, Michael Sage, and Steve Temple. Also present were Erik Orndorff, John Bowden, Cathy Koenig, Ashley Rednak, Jim Hocker, Seth Wentz, Larry Levato (via Zoom), Damon Greathouse, as well as staff and community members via the virtual link.

Building Project Update and Timeline – John Bowden introduced Seth Wentz and Larry Levato from Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates to present an update on the high school/middle school construction project. Mr. Wentz reviewed the schedule and meetings that occurred between the last meeting and now. There was a discussion about the location of the baseball field which was tabled to next meeting. The Board reviewed the three building plans that were presented by Mr. Wentz and agreed that option 3, a more condensed building layout with a larger second floor, was the direction to proceed. A formal vote will be taken at the March 11, 2021, Board meeting. Additionally, costs were presented regarding connecting to public water and sewer. Mr. Brackbill asked if Mr. Bowden knows where the line would run and connect to the Leacock Township line. Mr. Bowden stated that he does not have specifics currently, but will share in an upcoming Board Update. A formal vote approving the connection to public water and sewer will be held at the March 11, 2021, Board meeting.

It was announced that the steering committee will be headed to Penn Manor School District on Wednesday afternoon (March 3) to meet with staff and administrators and also view some of the features at their high school that are also being proposed for the IS/HS building at Pequea Valley.

Board Policy Update – Cathy Koenig asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the second reading for Board policies 805, Emergency Preparedness and Response and policy 805.1, Relations with law Enforcement Agencies. Hearing none, the Board will vote on March 11, 2021.

Preliminary General Fund Budget Update – John Bowden presented the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget which anticipates a 2.5% increase in expenditures. A 2.6% increase in the millage rate and the use of \$387,759 in fund balance will be needed in order to balance the budget. Mr. Bowden explained that further adjustments will be made to both the revenue and the expense side of the budget which will change these numbers over the next two months. Mr. Bowden also explained that the Board will need to adopt the Preliminary Budget in May and then 30 days or more later, adopt the Final Budget in June, no later than June 30.

Mr. Hartmann asked that every effort be made to have a zero increase in millage this year. He suggested that all non-contracted staff take a voluntary pay freeze to help with the budget. A few Board members expressed caution in calling for a zero percent millage increase. They explained that when the district did that in the past, the following year had a much larger increase. Mr. Bowden stated that he would continue to work on limiting the amount of the millage increase as much as possible. Another General Fund Budget update will be presented at the April 6 Committee Meeting.

Public Participation – Jesse Knaub commented on the building project and remarked on the number of athletic facilities, and suggested other disciplines such as ecology centers and an outside performing arts center (amphitheater).

Chief of Finance & Operation's Recommendations:

Minutes/Financial Reports/Bills

On a motion by Mr. Hartmann and a second by Mr. Temple, the Board approved the following minutes, financial reports, and bills. (rc)

- February 11, 2021, Regular Meeting
- The Financial Reports for January 2021, as appearing on pages 11288-11288I of the Treasurer's Supplement.
- The January bills, as appearing in the Treasurer's Supplement:
 - General Fund, totaling \$1,642,092.43 and appearing on pages 11264-11277
 - Capital Reserve, totaling \$10,370.00, and appearing on pages 1128-11279
 - Food Service, totaling \$16,376.43, and appearing on page 11280-11286
 - Student Activity Report, totaling \$54,027.69, and appearing on page 11287

Motion carried: Voting yes: Brackbill, Ferris, Hartmann, Hertzler, Horst, Malloy, Riehl, Sage, Temple; No: 0; Absent: 0.

No further information was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Bryant J. Ferris
President

John A. Bowden
Secretary