

**PEQUEA VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Committee Meeting**  
**September 1, 2020**

Due to the current disaster emergency declared by Governor Wolf by Proclamation dated March 16, 2020, and in consideration of the health and safety of the school community, a meeting of the Pequea Valley School District School Board convened virtually for community members on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Bryant Ferris at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Christian Brackbill, Mike Hartmann, Fred Hertzler, Jane Horst, Tim Malloy, Steve Riehl, Mike Sage, and Steve Temple. Also present were Erik Orndorff, John Bowden, Rich Eby, Ashley Rednak, and Cathy Koenig, as well as numerous facilitators and community members via the virtual link.

**Procedure for In-Person Board Meetings** – Ashley Rednak reviewed the proposed procedure to allow the public to attend Board meetings in person. All public participation will happen in person. Meetings will still be streamed via Zoom for viewing. Masks, temperature checks, and symptom screening will be required for those attending in person. The Board chose to have participation both in-person and on-line.

**Summary of 2020-2021 School Reopening** – Erik Orndorff presented on our traditional learning plan. The plan was highlighted by safety procedures, different learning environments, and different instructional strategies. Rich Eby presented on the status of the PV Online learning module creation and the percent presently enrolled: Grades K-6 brick and mortar are between 60-70% and grades 7-12 range between 64% and 74%. Some have filtered back due to the challenges of supporting PV Online.

**Tax Break** – John Bowden questioned the Board about extending the base period for real estate taxes. He stated that the 2% discount period ended on August 31, and as of that time about 70% of the tax payers had already taken advantage of the savings. John gave some statistics of the last two years: In 2018-2019, 75.78% paid in discount, with 20.72% paying in the base period or installment, 1.56% paying in penalty, and 1.94% being turned over to collection. In 2019-2020, 76.96% paid in discount, 18.51% paid in base or installment, 2.87% paid in penalty, and 1.66% was turned over to collection.

**Building Project** – John Bowden began his presentation by reviewing the process for a comprehensive feasibility study which began in April 2019 by Crabtree Rohrerbaugh Architects. He noted that not only did they evaluate the deterioration of the intermediate and high school, but they also evaluated the educational programming and how it has evolved and changed and the various physical needs that the current layout of the two buildings do not meet. Mr. Bowden also noted that the proposed designs were from a 10,000-foot view to give the administration and Board ideas as to what they could expect in three separate options. Mr. Bowden further explained that existing funds (debt service) would be able to be used should the Board decide to proceed with the project, and it would not add any additional taxes in order to complete the project. He further stated that with interest rates at historic lows, now would be the time to consider looking at borrowing and hedging our rates for possible future increases. The Board would like to bring back both the architects and bond counsel and continue the discussion.

**Public Participation** –

- Christy Fieldsa, Paradise: Thanked the Board for allowing the public to speak. She addresses the Board about the building project and elementary on-line learning.
- Jessie Knaub, Leacock: Thanked the Board for allowing public to participate over Zoom. Also addressed some issues with the platform, but gave a shout out to our facilitators and the great job they are doing. He also addressed the building project.
- Melody Infantolino, Paradise: Experiencing issues with Schoology and getting more modules. Would like modules for parents and students and how to navigate through the system.
- Ellen Geisel, Honey Brook: Advised the Board not to do Zoom meetings and have the meetings in person.

**Approval of Minutes and Financial Reports**

- A. On a motion by Mr. Sage and a second by Mr. Riehl, the Board approved the following minutes, financial reports, and bills. (rc)
- August 13, 2020, regular meeting minutes
  - The Financial Reports for July 2020, as appearing on pages 11141-11141I of the Treasurer's Supplement.
  - The July bills, as appearing in the Treasurer's Supplement:
    - General Fund, totaling \$1,715,025.52 and appearing on pages 11125-11135
    - Capital Reserve, totaling \$31,100.00, and appearing on pages 11136-11137
    - Food Service, totaling \$797.89, and appearing on page 11138-11139
    - Student Activity Report, totaling \$58,456.11, and appearing on page 11140

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 8:09 p.m.

Bryant J. Ferris  
President

John A. Bowden  
Secretary