

**PEQUEA VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Committee Meeting**  
**December 3, 2024**

The monthly Committee meeting of the Pequea Valley School Board was called to order by President Bryant Ferris at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Michael Fisher, Fred Hertzler, Freida Huyard, Steve Riehl and Casey Rohrer. Mike Hartmann, Ben Ingles, and Steve Temple were absent. Also present were Erik Orndorff, John Bowden, Rich Eby, Cathy Koenig, Ashley Rednak, Doug Masser, Stephanie Herr, Robert Drummond, Seth Wentz, Jim Hocker, Larry Levato, Ellen Geisel, Tamara Wanner, Daniel Sauder, and Allyssa Miles.

Allyssa Miles spoke about the Little Braves Running Club.

**2023-2024 PA Future Ready Index Report** – Rich Eby shared an in-depth comprehensive presentation on the 2023-2024 PA Future Ready Index Report and how PV students and the district scored as a whole:

- Industry Based Learning percent 98.3% (state average 39.2)
- Elementary Math Dark Blue growth which means learners grew beyond the expected year of growth
- PVIS – All areas (ELA, math, science) Dark Blue growth which means learners grew beyond the expected year of growth
- School Performance Profile Data Highlights
  - Elementary 20<sup>th</sup> of 23 districts in Free and Reduced population – 16<sup>th</sup> of 23 in the SPP Score Ranking
  - PVIS 20<sup>th</sup> of 23 districts in Free and Reduced population – 6<sup>th</sup> of 23 in the SPP Score Ranking
  - PVHS 20<sup>th</sup> of 23 districts in Free and Reduced population – 10<sup>th</sup> of 23 in the SPP Score Ranking

**School Board Policy First Readings** – Cathy Koenig presented two new Board policies that are recommended by PSBA and eight revisions that PSBA recommends the Board approve. The following policies will be shared as a second reading on January 7, 2025:

- 236.1 Threat Assessment (new)
- 254 Educational Opportunity for Military Children (new)
- 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities (update)
- 113.2 Behavior Support (update)
- 202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students (update)
- 218 Student Discipline (update)
- 218.1 Weapons (update)
- 218.2 Terroristic Threats (update)
- 607 Tuition Income (update)
- 806 Child Abuse (update)

**Construction Update** – John Bowden introduced Fred Kendall who gave an update on the progress of the PV Secondary School.

Mr. Bowden presented the reasons to purchase Steinway Pianos for the auditorium and choral room, the purchase of keyboards for the keyboarding room, and finally the purchase of strength and conditioning equipment for the strength and conditioning room in the new building. He asked the Board if these items can be placed for approval on the December 12, 2024, Board agenda to avoid new year price increases.

Mr. Bowden spoke about Penn Medicine Health Works and explained how the district is self-funded for insurance. The district pays the first \$100,000 of every claim and tries to keep high-cost claims at a minimum. The district incorporated the addition of Penn Medicine Health Works into its healthcare mix for employees and their dependents. In the first year, the district experienced a \$150,000 decrease in total healthcare costs. Mr. Bowden noted that average health care costs increase between 12-15% a year. Robert Drummond from Penn Medicine Health Works reviewed the program and explained a lease-back program of placing a facility on site. He explained that the district would build out the site and Health Works would then lease it back.

Additionally, PV staff members, Doug Masser, Stephanie Herr, and Cathy Koenig spoke about their experiences with Health Works and the need to have a location local to the school. Michelle Rondinelli, a community member and business owner, also commented on the local need, not just for district staff, but staff of other local businesses and how this could really help the local business community.

*December 3, 2024, minutes continued ...*

Lastly, Mr. Bowden introduced Larry Levato from Crabtree Rohrbach Associates and Jim Hocker with Derck & Edson, who presented on Phase 2 of the building project and gave an updated cost estimate for the project. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$30,000,000 with the Health Works section costing approximately \$288,000, which would be paid off in seven years. The cost of the indoor turf was approximately an additional \$6,000,000. Mr. Bowden explained that the district presently has \$26,000,000 in cash on-hand to cover the cost of the project and should have an additional surplus in the current year that would make up the difference.

**Public Participation** – Tamara Wanner, Narvon, questioned the use of taxpayer dollars for a Health Works facility.

**Chief of Finance & Operation's Recommendations:**

On a motion by Mr. Fisher and a second by Mrs. Rohrer, the Board approved the following minutes, financial reports, and bills.

- November 14, 2024, regular meeting
- The Financial Reports for October 2024, as appearing on pages 124536-12536I of the Treasurer's Supplement.
- General Fund, totaling \$2,143,817.72 and appearing on pages 12504-12523
- Construction Payments, totaling \$2,592,749.06, and appearing on pages 12524-12525
- Capital Reserve, totaling \$37,610.00, and appearing on page 12526
- Food Service, totaling \$42,870.48, and appearing on page 12527-12535

Motion carried: Voting yes: Ferris, Fisher, Hertzler, Huyard, Riehl, Rohrer; No: 0; Absent: Hartmann, Ingles, Temple.

No further information was presented, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Bryant Ferris  
President

John A. Bowden  
Secretary