

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brodheads ville, PA 18322

Minutes of the January 9, 2025

Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 1-23-2025

CALL TO ORDER:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on January 9, 2025 and called to order by President Sue Kresge at 7:00 PM. Mrs. Kresge asked all to pray for those effected by the California fires. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Robert Clark followed by a moment of silence. The meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley School District Conference Room, 2233 Route 115, Brodheads ville, PA 18322.

Roll Call – School Board Recorder: Ms. Debra Duff

School Board members in attendance: Mrs. Susan Kresge, Mr. Ryan O’Keefe, Mr. Michael Galler, Mrs. Diane Serfass, Mr. Matthew Walters, Mr. John Gesiskie, Mrs. Melanie Zipp, Mr. Robert Clark. Absent: Mr. Norm Burger.

Administrative staff in attendance: Dr. James Konrad, Superintendent, Dr. Rae Lin Howard, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Lori Fulmer, Director of Human Resources, Mrs. Tammy Smale, Business Manager, Ms. Leann Sites, Assistant Business Manager, Mrs. Kathleen Franklin, Assistant Board Secretary, Mr. Jason Van Voorhis, Director of Instructional Technology & Innovation, Ms. Julie Harris, Director of Special Education, Mr. Randy Smale, Director of Operations, Ms. Bernadette Fierro, Curriculum Supervisor, Mr. Jonathan Ayre, Curriculum Supervisor, Ms. Deena Boyne, Supervisor of Transportation, Mr. James Korcienski, Director of Athletics.

Building Administrative staff in attendance: Ms. Lauryn Bencker, Ms. Sarah Adams, Mr. Brian Boylan, Mr. Tim McCutchan, Mr. Ramon Rodridguez.

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Notification of Executive Session:

President Sue Kresge announced that an executive session was held on January 9, 2025 immediately prior to the regularly scheduled meeting for the purposes of personnel matters including, but not limited to, performance and/or discipline; negotiations; and legal issues.

Student Highlights – Board Appreciation – Dr. Konrad thanked the Board of Education members for all they do for the school district. Ms. Lauryn Bencker, PVI Assistant Principal, and Ms. Sarah Adams, PVE Assistant Principal, thanked the Board for all they do for staff and students. A video was shown where students expressed their gratitude to the Board for their leadership and dedication to the school district.

Superintendent’s Response to Community Questions – Dr. Konrad addressed five community questions. The question from Kevin Bilski from Polk Township concerning the athletic department was referred to the Athletic Department. Ms. Denise Hopely submitted four questions regarding Board input in renovation bids and budgets; funds for courses in STEM areas; hiring of additional staff and the effect on the tax base; and Board member input regarding renovations. Dr. Konrad stated that the bids were discussed with all Board members and voted on in December 2024. With regard to the second question, Dr. Konrad stated that we do have teachers with certifications in STEM areas and as we look ahead our District is working towards infusing additional STEM opportunities for our students. He also addressed the third question and stated that there is currently no plan to add additional administrators and teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. He said that negotiations have not started and teachers are hired based on the needs of our students. Lastly, Dr. Konrad stated that Board members have input regarding the renovations.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Mrs. Tammy Smale, Board Secretary

Mr. Gesiskie motioned, seconded by Mrs. Zipp to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on December 5, 2024 and approval of the minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting held on December 16, 2024; approval of the Board Meeting Agenda of January 9, 2025.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

President Sue Kresge announced the meeting procedures and an opportunity was given for Pleasant Valley citizens to address the Board on agenda items:

Pleasant Valley Citizens – (Agenda items): Ms. Jenna Rudolf, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about items contained in the Treasurer’s report accounts payable; negotiations.

Ms. Evelyn DiNovo, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about items contained in the Treasurer’s report accounts payable; procurement cards.

Mr. Michael Keating, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about costs of Cyber School.

Ms. Denise Hopely, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about financial statements; negotiations; grievances, conflict resolutions; legal fees; costs for outside teachers.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Mrs. Diane Serfass

Mr. Gesiskie motioned, seconded by Mrs. Zipp to approve Agenda item #4.A. – Accounts Payable, as attached:

Approval of Agenda item #4.B. – Manual Checks December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Approval of Agenda item #4.C. – Manual Checks December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 – PSDLAF.

Approval of Agenda item #4.D. – Accounts Payable December 20, 2024.

Approval of Agenda item #4.E. – Accounts Payable January 9, 2025.

Approval of Agenda item #4.F. – Trial Balance/Financial Statement November 2024.

Approval of Agenda item #4.G. – Asset Cost Summary November 2024.

Approval of Agenda item #4.H. – Condensed Board Summary II/Expenditures and Revenues November 2024.

Prior to the call for the vote, Mr. Gesiskie addressed legal fees and brief discussion was held about areas covered by legal counsel.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED
Abstained on Agenda item #4.E. Check No. 242746: Mr. Clark 7-0-1 CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monroe Career & Technical Institute – Mrs. Diane Serfass: An informational report was attached. Mrs. Serfass stated that an update will be given on the budget and renovations at the February 3rd meeting.

Colonial IU20 – Mr. Michael Galler: An informational report was provided.

PSBA Legislative Liaison Report – Mrs. Zipp: No report.

Education Committee – Mrs. Susan Kresge: A curriculum overview presentation as well as discussion about the 2025-2026 Program of Studies for both high school and middle school will be given at the Work Session following this meeting.

Finance Committee – Mrs. Diane Serfass: Finances will be discussed later on in the agenda.

Athletic Committee – Mr. Ryan O’Keefe: An informational report was attached including an update on the PV boys wrestling team and the PV Varsity Cheer Team:

- On Saturday, December 28, 2024 PV boys wrestling did an outstanding job at the 2024 Frank Wada tournament in Tunkhannock, with 9 individual place winners and 2nd place overall as a team.
- On Saturday, January 4, 2025, PV boys wrestling were awarded Team Champs at the South Williamsport wrestling tournament, with 10 individual place winners and 7 medalists!
- On Saturday January 4, 2025, the PV Varsity Cheer Team placed 2nd at the District XI Cheer Championship AND earned a bid to STATES! States are scheduled for January 30th and 31st, 2025, in Reading, PA!

Mr. O’Keefe also recognized the Nazareth Cheer team and coaching staff for working with our team in preparation for the District XI Championships. In addition, he recognized and congratulated two Lehigh Scholar athletes for 2024-2025.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Zipp: Two policies are on the agenda for a first reading.

Capital Improvement Plan Report – No report.

Technology Report – Mr. Robert Clark: No report.

Security Report – Mr. Matthew Walters: Mr. Walters stated that the two vehicles approved and purchased have been picked up.

SUPERINTENDENT-REPORT/REQUESTS: Dr. James Konrad

Agenda item #7.D. – Informational: Policies for a First Reading as provided:

- 1. Policy 204 Attendance
- 2. Policy 335 Family and Medical Leave

Agenda item #7.E. – Informational: The January Enrollment Report was provided.

Mr. Gesiskie commented on the consistency of brick and mortar enrollment numbers.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Lori Fulmer

Mr. Walters motioned, seconded by Mr. Clark to approve Agenda item #8.A. – Personnel Items: Approval of Agenda item #8.B. – Hiring of Professional Staff:

1.	Name:	Emma Held
	Position:	Grade 3 Teacher
	Building:	PVIS
	Salary:	B, Step 1: \$52,642
	Contract:	TPE
	Effective Date:	January 2, 2025
	Replace:	Samantha Curry (change of assignment)
2.	Name:	Sydney Christman
	Position:	Kindergarten Teacher
	Building:	PVES
	Salary:	B, Step 1: \$52,642
	Contract:	TPE
	Effective Date:	January 2, 2025
	Replace:	New Position
3.	Name:	Michelle Lawrence
	Position:	Mid-Level Mathematics
	Building:	PVMS
	Salary:	M/6, Step 6: \$62,042
	Contract:	PE
	Effective Date:	TBD
	Replace:	New Position

Approval of Agenda item #8.C. – Supplemental Contracts – Athletic:

1.	Name:	Jillian Janotti
	Sport:	Cheerleading
	Position:	Interim Head Coach
	Prorated Salary:	\$2,347.00
	Effective Date:	December 12, 2024 until the end of the 2024-2025 season
2.	Name:	Mark Getz
	Sport:	Girls Lacrosse
	Position:	Jr. High Assistant
	Step:	1
	Salary:	\$2,800.00
3.	Name:	Allison Hoak
	Sport:	Track and Field
	Position:	Jr. High Assistant
	Step:	2
	Salary:	\$3,537.00
4.	Name:	Christopher Frable
	Sport:	Baseball
	Position:	Jr. High Assistant

	Step:	1
	Salary:	\$3,485.00

Approval of Agenda item #8.D. – Supplemental Contracts – Non-Coaching:

	Name	Season	Level	Salary
1.	Jody Berube	Fall	Varsity	\$45.00
2.	Vanessa Fego	Fall	Varsity	\$45.00
3.	Lisa Maderic	Fall	Varsity	\$45.00
4.	Ashley Thompson	Fall	Varsity	\$45.00
5.	Jennifer O'Keefe	Spring	Varsity	\$45.00
6.	Jennifer O'Keefe	Spring	JV	\$40.00
7.	Jennifer O'Keefe	Spring	Jr. High	\$35.00
8.	Jennifer O'Keefe	Substitute for all seasons for 2024-2025 school year	Substitute for all levels for 2024-2025 school year	

Approval of Agenda item #8.E. – Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic:

1.	Position:	After-School Tutor
	Position:	Alexandria Gibb
	Building:	PVMS
	Salary:	\$35.00 per hour
2.	Club/Activity:	Pep Band
	Advisor:	Willow Krechel
	Dates:	January 2, 2025 - February 15, 2025
	Day(s):	Monday - Friday
	Times:	4:00 PM - 9:00 PM
	Building:	PVHS
	Salary:	\$1,500.00

Approval of Agenda item #8.F. – Leave Without Pay:

1.	Name:	Christine Abrams
	Position:	Monitor
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	Five (5)
	Dates:	November 18, 2024 - November 22, 2024
2.	Name:	Sharon Wawrzeniak
	Position:	Monitor
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	Three (3)
	Dates:	November 6, 2024 - November 8, 2024
3.	Name:	Sabreena Tichy
	Position:	School Nurse
	Building:	PVES
	Number of Days:	Three (3)
	Dates:	January 15, 2025 - January 17, 2025

Approval of Agenda item #8.G. – Retirement and Release Agreement with employee #2875.

Approval of Agenda item #8.H. – Memorandum of Understanding between Pleasant Valley School District and Pleasant Valley Educational Support Professionals Association (27 pay periods for 2025-2026) as provided.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED
 Abstained on Agenda item #8.D.5, 6, 7, 8:
 Mr. O'Keefe 7-0-1 CARRIED

Agenda item #8.I. – Informational: Family and Medical Leave:

1.	Employee ID:	962
	Position:	Custodian
	Building:	PVIS
	Number of Days:	Twenty-Nine (29)
	Dates:	October 21, 2024 - December 4, 2024

2.	Employee ID:	4839
	Position:	Bookkeeper
	Building:	Admin
	Intermittent Dates:	November 14, 2024 - November 13, 2025
3.	Employee ID:	4499
	Position:	Paraprofessional Associate
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	Nine (9)
	Dates:	December 12, 2024 - January 4, 2025
	Intermittent Dates:	January 5, 2025 - December 11, 2025
4.	Employee ID:	5060
	Position:	Teacher
	Building:	PVHS
	Intermittent Dates:	January 2, 2025 - February 16, 2025
	Number of Days:	Thirty-nine (39)
	Dates:	February 17, 2025 - April 10, 2025
5.	Employee ID:	634
	Position:	Paraprofessional Associate
	Building:	PVMS
	Intermittent Dates:	January 2, 2025 - January 1, 2026

Agenda item #8.J. – Informational: Rescind Family and Medical Leave:

1.	Employee ID:	634
	Previously Approved:	January 11, 2024
	Intermittent Dates Approved:	February 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025

Agenda item #8.K. – Informational: Resignations:

1.	Name:	James Long
	Position:	Biology and Chemistry Teacher
	Building:	PVHS
	Effective Date:	February 4, 2025

Agenda item #8.L. – Informational: Volunteers:

1. Robert Butler
2. Sharon Schwar
3. Harold Johns, Jr.
4. Kyleigh Youpa
5. Julie Schwarz
6. Kristina Kessler
7. Stephanie Carty
8. Kim Donion
9. Melanie Walters
10. Lina Safi
11. Hailey Shoemaker
12. Shawn Flaherty

ADDENDUM – HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Lori Fulmer

Mrs. Serfass motioned, seconded by Mr. Galler to approve Agenda item #9.A. – Personnel Addendum Items:

Approval of Addendum item #9.B. – Hiring of Support Staff (pending receipt of required paperwork):

1.	Name:	Dalton Marsh
	Position:	Biology Teacher
	Building:	PVHS
	Salary:	B, Step 3: \$53,542
	Contract:	TPE
	Effective Date:	on or before March 12, 2025
	Replace:	Moriah Flyte

Approval of Addendum item #9.C. – Hiring of Professional Staff – Long Term Substitute (pending receipt of required paperwork):

1.	Name:	Lance Soodeen
	Position:	Technology Education Teacher
	Building:	PVMS
	Salary:	B, Step 1: \$52,642
	Effective Date:	January 21, 2025 – End of 2024-2025 school year
	Replace:	Employee 1169

Approval of Addendum item #9.D. – Affiliation Agreements, as provided:

- 1. Chamberlain University
- 2. The Pennsylvania State University

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #9.E. – Informational: Volunteer: Mark Giunta

CURRICULUM & STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Dr. Rae Lin Howard –

Mr. Gesiskie motioned, seconded by Mr. Walters to approve Agenda item #10. – Curriculum & Staff Development Items:

Approval of Agenda item #10.B. – Field Trips – FBLA (retroactive):

1.	Organization/Grade	HS - FBLA
	Teacher(s) Involved	Dr. Susanne Rasely Philipps
	Destination	Palmerton HS
	Purpose	Performance & Competition
	Date(s)	12/16/2024 (3:00 PM – 7:00 PM)
	District Buses Needed (#)	1
	Cost for Buses	\$257.84
	Cost per Student	0
	Cost for District	0
	Budgeted	FBLA Account
2.	Organization/Grade	HS - FBLA
	Teacher(s) Involved	Amanda Giunta/Dr.Susanne Rasely Philipps
	Destination	Palmerton HS
	Purpose	Awards Ceremony
	Date(s)	1/2/2025 (3:00 PM - 6:30 PM)
	District Buses Needed (#)	1
	Cost for Buses	\$225.61
	Cost per Student	0
	Cost for District	0
	Budgeted	FBLA Account

Prior to the call for a vote, Mr. Galler questioned the Awards ceremony for which Dr. Konrad stated that they are forthcoming.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

ADDENDUM – CURRICULUM & STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Dr. Rae Lin Howard –

Mr. Galler motioned, seconded by Mrs. Zipp to approve Agenda item #11. – Curriculum & Staff Development Addendum Items:

Approval of Addendum item #11.A. – Vape Addendum item to the PVH/PVM Student Handbook- Student Code of Conduct, as provided.

Prior to the call for a vote, Mr. Gesiskie asked for an explanation of the change in the Student Code of Conduct which Dr. Howard addressed. Mr. O’Keefe discussed signs possibly being placed in our bathrooms about the premises being monitored. Brief discussion was held.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

OPERATIONS SERVICES: Mr. Randy Smale –

Mr. Galler motioned, seconded by Mr. Walters to approve Agenda item #12. – Operations Items:

Approval of Agenda item #12.A. – Facility Usage items pending resolution and notification of any conflicting scheduling as recommended by the Director of Operations:

A.	Organization	PV Grizzlies Youth Wrestling
	Schedule ID Number	14402, 14403, 14404
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Auxiliary Gym

	Purpose	PV Grizzlies Youth Wrestling Practice
	Dates/Times	January 10, 2025 through March 26, 2025 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM January Dates: 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 February Dates: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 March Dates: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26
	Requestor	Aaron Ross
	Attendance	40
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
B.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Boys Soccer
	Schedule ID Number	14407, 14409
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Parking Lot
	Purpose	Boys Soccer Car Wash Fundraiser
	Dates/Times	July 12, 2025 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM July 19, 2025 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Rain date
	Requestor	Anne Morton
	Attendance	40
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
C.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Boys Soccer
	Schedule ID Number	14408
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Stadium, Stadium Track, Field
	Purpose	PV Boys Soccer Booster Youth Camp
	Dates/Times	August 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 14, 2025 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	Requestor	Anne Morton
	Attendance	75
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
D.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Boys Soccer
	Schedule ID Number	14410
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Stadium, Stadium Track, Field
	Purpose	PV Boys Soccer Alumni Game
	Dates/Times	November 28, 2025 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
	Requestor	Anne Morton
	Attendance	75
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
E.	Organization	Girls on the Run Pocono
	Schedule ID Number	14412
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Library
	Purpose	After School Programming for Girls on the Run PVI Team
	Dates/Times	March 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27, 2025 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
	Requestor	Liz Fones
	Attendance	27
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
F.	Organization	Girls on the Run Pocono
	Schedule ID Number	14413
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Auxiliary Gym
	Purpose	After School Programming for 3 rd – 5 th Graders
	Date/Times	April 1, 2025 through May 8, 2025 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

		April Dates: 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 May Dates: 1, 6, 8
	Requestor	Liz Fones
	Attendance	25
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
G.	Organization	PVYA
	Schedule ID Number	14424
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Elementary School Gym
	Purpose	PVYA Basketball
	Dates/Times	January 11, through February 1, 2025 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM January Dates: 11, 18, 25 February Date: 1
	Requestor	Danielle Henry
	Attendance	50
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mrs. Tammy Smale –

Mrs. Serfass motioned, seconded by Mr. Gesiskie to approve Agenda item #13.A. – Business Management Items:

Approval of Agenda item #13.B. – Cafeteria Fund as provided.

1. Cafeteria Accounts Payable for January 09, 2025
2. Cafeteria Fund - Asset Cost Summary – November 2024

Approval of Agenda item #13.C. - The following contracts as provided:

1. Boundless Federal Funding - To assist with the Federal E-Rate Program application process for funding year 2024-2025. Cost: Category 1 application is \$1,600.00 and Category 2 applications will be 3% of committed funding, minimum admin fee of \$2,000.00 not to exceed \$11,000.00.
2. Finalsite - Website Platform. Terms: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030 Total Cost: \$15,312.00 plus yearly increase.
3. PA CareerLink - Work Experience Program - October 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025
4. Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. - Agreement Home Health Aide Services for 01/02/2025 to 6/30/2025 - Cost: Home Health Aide - \$65.00/hour

Approval of Agenda item #13.D. – Act I Taxpayer Relief Resolution indicating that the district will not raise the rate of taxes for the 2025-2026 school district budget above the state approved 5.5% index, as provided.

Approval of Agenda item #13.E. – Ready to Learn Tax Equity Supplement Resolution, as provided, indicating that the district will use the funds for the specified purpose of – Maintaining a program provided by the school district that supplements the rebates provided under Chapter 13 of the Taxpayer Relief Act and the Reduction of Debt.

Approval of Agenda item #13.F. – Advertisement for Bids:

- Spring Athletic Equipment and Supplies for the 2024-2025 School Year
- Fall Athletic Equipment and Supplies for the 2025-2026 School Year

Approval of Agenda item #13.G. – Student Placements:

1. Student 24-25 L-14 – Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13
2. Student 24-25 C-15 – Cornell Abraxas|Arlene Lissner
3. Student 24-25 C-16 – Cornell Abraxas|Arlene Lissner

Approval of Agenda item #13.H. – Payment from Bond Fund, as provided.

Approval of Agenda item #13.I. – Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement: Proposals received from appraisal firm Coyle, Lynch & Company to review the following matters on behalf of the School District in connection with the following assessment appeals initiated by the taxpayers and pending before the Monroe County Court of Common Pleas:

Property owner	Address(es)	Parcel(s)	Docket number(s)	Date of proposal from Coyle, Lynch & Company
Diamond Healthcare at Brookmont Holdings, LLC	225 Marsh Way in Chestnuthill Township and 510 Brookmont Drive in Chestnuthill Township	02.9.1.26 and 02.9.1.26-7	7141 CV 2024 and 7143 CV 2024	December 16, 2024
2023 Verma Inc.	2023 Route 209 in Chestnuthill Township	02.2.1.17	7189 CV 2024	December 16, 2024
Brodheadsville Realty LP	113 Erin Lane in Chestnuthill Township	02.3.1.26	6933 CV 2024	December 13, 2024
AIN11PA Effort, LLC	3192 Route 115 in Chestnuthill Township	02.94792	6931 CV 2024	December 13, 2024

Prior to the call for a vote, Mr. Gesiskie questioned the Boundless Federal Funding contract which Dr. Howard addressed. He also questioned the Finalsite – Website Platform contract which Mr. Van Voorhis addressed.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

Agenda item #13.J. – Informational: Student Activities Report, as provided.

Agenda item #13.K. – Informational: District Investment Report, as provided.

ADDENDUM – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mrs. Tammy Smale –

Mrs. Serfass motioned, seconded by Mr. Gesiskie to approve Agenda item #14.A. – Business Management Addendum Items:

Approval of Addendum item #14.B. – Contract:

1. CDW - Google Gemini Education Premium. Terms - 02/14/2025 - 02/13/2026. Total Cost: \$42,390.00 to be paid from Title IV and Technology.

Prior to the call for a vote, Mr. Gesiskie questioned the contract which Mr. Van Voorhis addressed. Lengthy discussion was held and Mrs. Kresge motioned to table the item, seconded by Mr. Gesiskie. Vote on motion to table Addendum item #14.B.:

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – Mr. Fitzgerald updated all on Title IX regulations that went into effect in August which were followed by many law suits. He stated that a federal judge has issued a nationwide injunction on the rule and therefore the regulations from August are no longer applicable.

PLEASANT VALLEY CITIZENS – Agenda items/Non-Agenda items:

Ms. Ann Gravell, Polk Township, expressed concern about tax increases and the impact on taxpayers.

Ms. Denise Hopely, Chestnuthill Township, expressed opinion about Mr. Fitzgerald’s role; expressed concerns and opinions about grievances; conflict resolution; negotiations.

Ms. Jenna Rudolph, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about math programs; flex time for staff; LRO; and the forming of a community committee.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mr. Gesiskie questioned dual enrollment numbers which Dr. Howard addressed. He raised the issue of substitutes and math and reading specialists which Ms. Fierro and Ms. Bencker addressed and discussion was held. Mr. Gesiskie also questioned the closing of gyms during renovation project which Mr. Korcienski addressed and brief discussion was held.

Mr. Galler addressed past tax percentages and spoke about tax increases and the impact that contractual obligations and PSERS contributions have on increase in taxes.

Mrs. Zipp addressed comparable districts and their tax increase percentages; awareness and involvement by Board members with regard to the renovation project; and comp time for administrators and teachers which are covered under two different contracts.

Mr. Walters expressed condolences to families of former employees of the District, Claudia Mickey and Alison Sizemore who recently passed away.

SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS:

Dr. Konrad congratulated high school varsity cheerleaders who placed 2nd at districts and will move on to states. He also congratulated the PVHS MCTI students Ryan Fiduccia for the winning pin design for SKILLS USA competition, and Kayleigh Klinger for designing the winning cover for the SKILLS USA publication. The competition will take place on January 22nd. In addition, Dr. Konrad addressed the nationwide data breach involving PowerSchool, a third-party vendor that provides the database for our student information system. We were notified of this breach today, January 9, 2025, and it has impacted school districts across the United States.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Galler motioned, seconded by Mr. Clark to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Smale, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting:
January 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM