

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Minutes of the February 13, 2025

Board of Education Meeting

Board Approved 2-27-2025

CALL TO ORDER:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Education was held on February 13, 2025 and called to order by President Sue Kresge at 7:00 PM. Mrs. Kresge said that a middle school staff member has passed away and asked for prayers for the Pleasant Valley community as well as prayers for the family of Diane Serfass. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Bernadette Fierro followed by a moment of silence. The meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley School District Conference Room, 2233 Route 115, Brodheadsville, PA 18322.

Roll Call – School Board Recorder: Ms. Debra Duff

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

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, Mrs. Kathleen Franklin, Assistant Board Secretary, Mr. Jason Van Voorhis, Director of Instructional Technology & Innovation, Mr. Randy Smale, Director of Operations, Ms. Julie Harris, Director of Special Education, Ms. Bernadette Fierro, Curriculum Supervisor, Mr. Jonathan Ayre, Curriculum Supervisor, Mr. Robert Miller, Chief of School Police/Security.

Building Administrative staff in attendance: Ms. Sarah Adams, Mr. Tim McCutchan, Mr. Brian Boylan, Mr. Jeremy Byrd, Ms. Amber Chiafulio, Ms. Lauryn Bencker.

School Solicitor in attendance: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. (Virtual)

Notification of Executive Session:

President Sue Kresge announced that an executive session was held on February 13, 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.

2025-2026 MCTI Budget Presentation: Dr. Dennis Virga

Monroe Career & Technical Institute Director, Dr. Dennis Virga, and Business Manager, Josh Bruch presented the 2025-2026 budget for the next school year. Dr. Virga said that MCTI’s 2025-2026 operating budget total is \$9,470,892.82 and Pleasant Valley’s portion is \$1,993,787.90, which is an increase of \$63,943.90 when compared to last year’s budget. Dr. Virga also stated that Pleasant Valley continues to have the highest district enrollment percentage at MCTI. He also reviewed the ongoing capital improvement projects. The Board was given an opportunity to ask questions which Dr. Virga addressed. Mrs. Kresge said that this item will be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting for approval.

Student Highlights: Pleasant Valley High School

Principal Brian Boylan stated that students were given an opportunity to provide feedback regarding events and suggested ways for improvement. He said a winter pep rally was instituted as a result. Mr. Boylan presented a video highlighting events and activities held during the first half of the school year at the high school.

Superintendent’s Response to Community Questions – Dr. Konrad responded to two questions submitted by Mr. Jordan O’Neal from Ross Township. The first was questioning if the Board reviews community questions. Dr. Konrad said that questions are posed to him which he then addresses publicly and that there is also time during the working session meetings to ask questions of the Board. The second question was regarding public participation in Board meetings. Dr. Konrad said that Policy 903 is attached to Board agendas and meetings are also recorded and on our website. He said that the Board has and continues to follow Roberts Rules of Order which outlines how the meetings are run and clarified that the Board meetings are not an open forum for questions and answers. Ms. Jenna Rudolf from Chestnuthill Township questioned German 1 and 2 offerings. Dr. Konrad stated a certified teacher for German has not been hired and these courses are offered virtually. He said that four years of Spanish will continue and French will be added to the curriculum for next year and a teacher for that course is on the agenda this evening. Ms. Rudolf also questioned comp time for administrators. Dr. Konrad stated that employees who put in several hours beyond the regular work day may be

provided flexibility which is determined by their immediate supervisor. He said that no individual has earned extra financial compensation as a result of being provided this benefit.

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

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Walters to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on January 23, 2025; approval of the Board Meeting Agenda of February 13, 2025 with the following correction due to a mathematical error: Agenda item #13.B – Pyramid, should be \$1,476.29, not \$2,047.89 which changes the total to \$13,880.66 from \$14,452.26.

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): There were no community members wishing to comment.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Matthew Walters

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

Approval of Agenda item #4.B. – Manual Checks January 1, 2025 through January 31, 2025

Approval of Agenda item #4.C. – Manual Checks January 1, 2025 through January 31, 2025
PSDLAF

Approval of Agenda item #4.D. – Accounts Payable February 13, 2025

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Monroe Career & Technical Institute – An informational report was provided. An update on the construction project was provided and pictures of the progress were displayed.

B. Colonial IU20 – Mr. Michael Galler: No report.

C. PSBA Legislative Liaison Report – Mrs. Melanie Zipp: An informational report was provided.

D. Education Committee – Mrs. Susan Kresge: Mrs. Kresge questioned visits to school districts for ELA. Dr. Howard said that an update will be given and approval will be sought at the next Board meeting.

E. Finance Committee – No report.

F. Athletic Committee – Mr. Ryan O'Keefe: An informational report was provided. Mr. O'Keefe highlighted the PV Girls Wrestling competition, the PV Varsity Cheer competition, and the PV Boys basketball season. He also congratulated Zac Prator who made the Boys EPC Basketball 2nd team for the 2024-2025. The Coaches Winter Update was also provided.

G. Policy Committee – Mrs. Melanie Zipp: Mrs. Zipp stated that one policy is on the agenda for a first reading this evening.

H. Capital Improvement Plan Report – Mr. Norm Burger: Mr. Burger reminded everyone to always check when requesting use of facilities for availability of space during the renovation project.

I. Technology Report – Mr. Robert Clark: An informational report was provided.

J. Security Report – Mr. Matthew Walters: No report.

SUPERINTENDENT-REPORT/REQUESTS – Dr. James Konrad:

Agenda item #7.A. – Informational: Policy for a First Reading as provided:

- Policy 905 Citizen Advisory Committees

Mrs. Kresge opened up discussion on Policy 905 – Citizen Advisory Committees. Board members agreed with the policy and approval will be sought at the next Board meeting. Lengthy discussion was held regarding items that should be addressed in implementing the committee, including but not limited to topics of discussion, Board member volunteers, community members and their expertise. Dr. Konrad stated that he is working on an AR which will address specific areas which were discussed.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Lori Fulmer

Mr. Walters motioned, seconded by Mr. Galler to approve Agenda item #8.A. – Personnel Items:

Approval of Agenda item #8.B. – Hiring of Professional Staff (pending receipt of required paperwork):

1.	Name:	Pace Abrams
	Position:	Biology Teacher
	Building:	PVHS
	Salary:	M, Step 2: \$57,242
	Contract:	TPE
	Effective Date:	February 18, 2025
	Replace:	James Long
2.	Name:	Sakura Shinjo
	Position:	French Teacher
	Building:	PVHS
	Salary:	M/30, Step 1: \$66,842
	Contract:	TPE
	Effective Date:	March 3, 2025
	Replace:	Cindy Siekonic

Approval of Agenda item #8.C. Intramural Advisors:

If the intramural runs at least 9 weeks and a total of 54 hours, one stipend of \$1,270.00 will be distributed. In the event the intramural does not meet the 54-hour requirement, payment will be distributed using the hourly intramural rate of \$21.00 per hour per the Supplemental Contract.

1.	Club/Activity:	Golf
	Advisor:	Steve Krechel
	Dates:	March 1, 2025 - May 30, 2025
	Day(s):	Varies depending on tee times
	Times:	Varies depending on tee times
	Building:	PVHS

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

1.	Name:	Christine Abrams
	Position:	Monitor
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	Two (2)
	Dates:	December 16, 2024 - December 17, 2024
2.	Name:	Desiree Kresge
	Position:	Teacher
	Building:	PVES
	Number of Days:	One-half (1/2)
	Dates:	January 15, 2025
3.	Name:	Joan Mattson
	Position:	Monitor
	Building:	PVMS
	Number of Days:	One-half (1/2)
	Dates:	January 6, 2025
4.	Name:	Kristina Singer
	Position:	Monitor
	Building:	PVES
	Number of Days:	One (1)
	Dates:	January 2, 2025
5.	Name:	Dana Varone
	Position:	Monitor
	Building:	PVES

	Number of Days:	Two (2)
	Dates:	December 3, 2024 and December 18, 2024

Approval of Agenda item #8.E. – Workers Compensation Resignation and Release Agreement with Employee #5030, as provided.

Mr. O’Keefe commented about online classes. Discussion was held and Mrs. Fulmer addressed the concerns expressed.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED
Abstained on Agenda item #8.D.2.: Mrs. Kresge 7-0-1 CARRIED

Agenda item #8.F. – Informational: Family & Medical Leave:

1.	Employee ID:	3825
	Position:	Teacher
	Building:	PVIS
	Intermittent Dates:	January 6, 2025 – January 5, 2026

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

- 1. Klaudia Donaghy
- 2. Leah Freeman
- 3. Chad Heller
- 4. Samantha Heller
- 5. Vincent Rufo
- 6. Cybil Whitby

ADDENDUM – HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Lori Fulmer

Mr. Gesiskie motioned, seconded by Mr. Walters to approve Addendum item #9.A. – Personnel Addendum Items:

Approval of Addendum item #9.B. – Supplemental Contracts – Athletic:

1.	Name:	Christopher Beck
	Sport:	Baseball
	Position:	JV Assistant
	Level:	1
	Salary:	\$2,332.00 (split stipend)
2.	Name:	Kathleen Keiper
	Sport:	Softball
	Position:	MS Assistant
	Level:	1
	Salary:	\$3,485.00

Approval of Addendum item #9.C. – Intramural Advisors:

If the intramural runs at least 9 weeks and a total of 54 hours, one stipend of \$1,270.00 will be distributed. In the event the intramural does not meet the 54-hour requirement, payment will be distributed using the hourly intramural rate of \$21.00 per hour per the Supplemental Contract.

1.	Club/Activity:	Football
	Advisor:	Kyle DeVatt
	Dates:	March 10, 2025 - July 31, 2025
	Day(s):	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
	Times:	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
	Building:	PVMS

Approval of Addendum item #9.D. – Affiliation Agreement – Western Governors University, as provided.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

Addendum item #9.E. – Informational: Family and Medical Leave - Correction:

1.	Employee ID:	5060
	Position:	Teacher
	Building:	PVHS
	Dates:	January 27, 2025 through March 3, 2025 and April 21, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year
	Previously Approved:	January 9, 2025

CURRICULUM & STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Dr. Rae Lin Howard –

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

Approval of Agenda item #10.A. – High School Program of Studies Addendum, as provided.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

OPERATIONS: Mr. Randy Smale –

Mr. Galler motioned, seconded by Mr. O’Keefe to approve Agenda item #11– Operations Items:

Approval of Agenda item #11.A. – Facility Usage Request, pending resolution and notification of any conflicting scheduling as recommended by the Director of Operations:

A.	Organization	PV Bruins Wrestling
	Schedule ID Number	14465
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Elementary School Cafeteria
	Purpose	PV Bruins End of Year Banquet
	Dates/Times	March 7, 2025 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	Requestor	Trista Vanderah
	Attendance	300
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
B.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Football
	Schedule ID Number	14469
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Stadium
	Purpose	Graduation Fundraiser Selling Drinks, Snacks and Flowers
	Dates/Times	May 30, 2025 4:30 PM – 10:00 PM
	Requestor	Erica Smith
	Attendance	60
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
C.	Organization	Extreme Flag Football League
	Schedule ID Number	14470
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Lower Athletic Field
	Purpose	Speed and Agility Training
	Dates/Times	April 3, 2025 through July 26, 2025 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM April Dates: 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 May Dates: 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 June Dates: 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 July Dates: 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26
	Requestor	Christopher Fairbanks
	Attendance	15
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 4, All Appropriate Fees Apply
D.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Girls Lacrosse
	Schedule ID Number	14476
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Stadium, Field and Track
	Purpose	Summer Slam Girls Lacrosse Clinic
	Dates/Times	June 9, 2025 through June 12, 2025 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
	Requestor	Mary Palmieri
	Attendance	65
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
E.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Girls Lacrosse
	Schedule ID Number	14478
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Cafeteria

	Purpose	Girls Lacrosse Team Bonding Lunch
	Dates/Times	March 1, 2025 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
	Requestor	Mary Palmieri
	Attendance	40
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
F.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Girls Lacrosse
	Schedule ID Number	14481
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Cafeteria
	Purpose	Girls Lacrosse Team Diner
	Date/Times	March 7, 2025 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM March 25, 2025 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM April 8, 2025 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM April 29, 2025 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	Requestor	Mary Palmieri
	Attendance	45
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
G.	Organization	WESL Indoor Travel Practice
	Schedule ID Number	14490
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley Elementary School Gym
	Purpose	WESL Indoor Travel Practice
	Dates/Times	February 26, 2025, March 5, 2025, March 12, 2025, March 19, 2025, March 26, 2025 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM
	Requestor	Marcia Hansen
	Attendance	25
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
H.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Girls Soccer
	Schedule ID Number	14491
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Stadium, Field
	Purpose	Just Kickin it Clinic to Help Coach Younger Players
	Dates/Times	June 23, 2025 through June 26, 2025 5:00 PM – 8:30 PM
	Requestor	Elizabeth Foder
	Attendance	100
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
I.	Organization	Monroe Career Technical Institute
	Schedule ID Number	14497
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Stadium and New Gym
	Purpose	MCTI 2025 Senior Awards Ceremony
	Dates/Times	May 28, 2025 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
	Requestor	Amy Thomas
	Attendance	5000
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
J.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Football
	Schedule ID Number	14516,14517
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Cafeteria
	Purpose	Football Letter Campaign
	Dates/Times	May 20, 2025 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM May 22, 2025 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

	Requestor	Erica Smith
	Attendance	77
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply
K.	Organization	Pleasant Valley Football
	Schedule ID Number	14518
	Facility Requested	Pleasant Valley High School Cafeteria
	Purpose	Pancake Breakfast
	Dates/Times	May 10, 2025 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
	Requestor	Erica Smith
	Attendance	260
	Tuition	None
	Fee by District	Class 3, All Appropriate Fees Apply

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mrs. Tammy Smale

Mr. Burger motioned, seconded by Mr. Gesiskie to approve Agenda item #12.A. – Business Management Items:

Approval of Agenda item #12.B. – Cafeteria Fund Account Summary, as provided.

Approval of Agenda item #12.C. – The following contracts, as provided:

1. IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreement between Pleasant Valley School District and Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 for the July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025.
2. Colonial Intermediate Unit # 20 – Small group Job Coaching services for a PVSD Student #8. Total Cost: \$68.67 per hour for 85 hours, not to exceed \$4,986.95 Terms: February 3, 2025 through May 30, 2025.
3. Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 - RWAN Internet Access Terms: 7/1/25 - 6/30/27 and Cloud based DDoS filtering Terms: 7/1/25 - 6/30/28. Combined Annual Cost: \$15,388.61.
4. Frontline – Learning & Collaboration Resource and Professional Learning Management – Term: 5/30/2025 -6/30/2025 Pro-rated Initial Cost: \$3,800.91 plus one time Implementation Fee - \$10,455.00. Term: 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026 Annual Fee: \$43,354.25.
5. Engle-Hambright & Davies, Inc. - Student Helper Accident Renewal Policy. Effective 2/9/2025 - 2/9/2026. Total Cost: \$499.25.

Approval of Agenda item #12.D. – Payment from Bond Fund, as provided.

Approval of Agenda item #12.E. – Payment from Capital Reserve, as provided.

Approval of Agenda item #12.F. – Participation in the Department of General Services Costars Contract for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Approval of Agenda item #12.G. – Settlement Agreements and Release:

1. Settlement and Release Agreement 24-25 SA-18
2. Settlement and Release Agreement 24-25 SA-19

Approval of Agenda item #12.H. – PennDOT Settlement Agreement.

Mr. Gesiskie questioned the Frontline contract which Mrs. Fulmer addressed.

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

ADDENDUM - BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Mrs. Tammy Smale

Mr. Galler motioned, seconded by Mr. Clark to approve Addendum item #13.A. – Business Management Addendum Items:

Approval of Addendum item #13.B. – 2024-2025 Spring Athletic Supplies and Equipment Bid: The following bid awards are recommended. A breakdown by sport was provided.

BSN Sports.....	\$ 5,342.03
MFAC.....	\$ 0.00
Pyramid.....	\$ 1,476.29
Riddell.....	\$ 315.00
Sportsmans.....	\$ 4,990.84
Triple Crown Sports.....	\$ 1,756.50

Spring 2024-2025 Athletic Bid Total... \$13,880.66

VOICE VOTE: 8-0 CARRIED

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq. – Mr. Fitzgerald referred to various orders that came out of the new administration in Washington DC including Title IX regulations and anticipates new regulations will be forthcoming as we get into the spring.

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

Ms. Ali Rundle, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about online classes; outside agency teachers; costs involved; lack of teachers; turnover of teachers.

Ms. Jodi Kresge, Polk Township, expressed concern about German classes; online classes.

Ms. Wanda Green, Ross Township, expressed concern about plan for shortage of teachers; online classes.

Ms. Rosemarie Altemose, Chestnuthill Township, expressed concern about her son not being able to participate in sports due to his attending an outside school.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Mr. Gesiskie questioned the anticipated construction at the high school. Lengthy discussion was held.

Mr. O’Keefe addressed concerns about students attending outside schools and participating in sports at Pleasant Valley followed by brief discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS:

Dr. Konrad addressed the teacher shortage and online learning. He also stated that there are updates to the 2024-2025 school calendar and that all remote instruction days for the school year and one snow day have been used. The last day for students is currently Monday, June 2nd and any additional closings will be added to the end of the school year.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Galler motioned, seconded by Mr. Clark to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Smale, Board Secretary

Debra L. Duff, Board Recorder

Board of Education Reorganization meeting:
February 27, 2025 at 7:00 PM