

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) 6:30-8:00

Attendees^P_{SEP} School Board

John Gesiskie, Chairperson, Susan Kresge (**Matt Walters**), Diane Serfass,
Board in the Public Audience: Denise Hopely, Janet Dooner, Ryan O'Keefe

Attendees-Administration

Dr. Konrad Tammy Smale Randy Smale Lori Fulmer Kathleen Franklin

Attendees-Community (8 out of 15) Red members were absent

Eldred

Timothy Hatcher
Mariclaire Hosking

Polk

Antoinette Gravel Frank Saffioti
Kristen Rudelitch **Jolene Pioli (alt)**

Marsha Overpeck (alt)

Ross

Sandra Perry
Jennifer Rufo

Chestnuthill

Alison Fennell **Lindsey Miller** Amanda Pagano
Taisha Garcia **Nicole Serrano** Jeremy Livingston

Purpose of meeting: Superintendent: Reflections of past concerns and actions taken to address concerns

- a. Reflections
- b. Progress Updates
- c. Future Vision
- d. Open Dialogue

Superintendent Reflections

-always an opportunity to have community engagement. This committee is very valuable and his door is always open or phone line available to any community member, parent, or taxpayer.

-Financial Crisis-6 million deficit. It was very hard to have to do furloughs but it was necessary to gain financial stability. Things have turned around greatly and we now have employees wanting to be part of PV staff in all areas. As well as hired back employees when financially or academically necessary.

-Aging infrastructure-out dated-The high school renovation is a great way to showcase our district. This project is to be fully funded by 2027. Total cost is anticipated at 88 million. That is a great achievement while most districts are struggling from years of 0 tax increases

We have also done \$15 million in other renovations throughout the district. We also purchased new furniture enhancements replacing 20-30 year old furniture and carpets.

-Leadership inconsistency-need consistency for ground work to continue to move a district forward. P is at a good spot right now and it shows in many areas.

-Trust deficit- a lack of communication was evident and staff and taxpayers were angry about many things. The constant turnover in admin was a problem as well

-Compliance issues in state required staff trainings and outdated district policies

-contractual strains-600 employees without contracts settled. One of his first worries. He started to build a foundation to get the contracts settled and bring the staff together. We now have competitive contracts across the board.

Transformed the cafeteria with an outside vendor which rebuilt the reserves verses a large deficit each year. Also participated in the free breakfast and lunch program offered by the Federal and state governments.

Superintendent Progress Updates, Prioritizing student safety

Increased police presence in every building, hand picked staff and in compliance with all trainings and state mandates

Surveillance has been updated in all buildings as well.

Increase access controls in each building to make sure our buildings stay safe. E hall pass was implemented. We did have some growing pains in implementation but we have worked most of those out.

Check the progress updates on the attachment. Too many accomplishments to add here.

5. Committee members questions

A question about changing systems every other year and what is the long-term plan moving forward? Long term goal is stability and now we have continuity. We are also aware of costs and the strain on the staff with too many changes at one time. The goal is to continue with Power school and not introduce anything new at this time.

Why do you have so many administrators with less students? Our administrators are multi-tasked. We have many social problems that administrators have to deal with. His mindset is to not just add an administrator without the data to back it up.

Has the district ever considered bringing the transportation back in house. It would be no return on investment to do that. Grievances have been greatly reduced with an outside vendor.

6. Community Questions

None at this point

Chair-commented on the cost savings with all the renovations that were completed

Meals-everyone gets free breakfast and lunch

Safety measures have greatly improved. It's a safe place to come

7. Superintendent: Future vision and goals moving forward

Academic excellence-boosting graduation rates and academic achievement. You do this with resources and find out what the barriers are. The answer is not always to hire more staff but to focus on what we can change to make it better.

Open Dialogue-transparency is a major objective. Community forums are also a great achievement.

Stability & Equity-You need this to have a vision to make modifications to move PV forward. We set the bar really high and expect high achievement

Enhanced and Focused Curriculum-taking a step back to look at PV curriculum. Looking at schedule timing and classroom education times. Where can we change what we are doing to make it better. He always wants to be fiscally responsible.

Focus on Reading, Science, and Math-we need to look at how everyone is spending their time and what is our return on investment. As new programs are implemented, we need to be mindful of the duties on the teachers. So we need to spread these programs out over time.

Provide opportunities for collaboration-MTIS or multi-tiered instruction support. We need to replace passive instruction with high-impact collaboration to ensure every student is an active participant in their own learning.

Future Vision

Student centered

Problem Centric

Methods

Goals

Take a look at the data slides in the attachment

8. Committee members questions

What about accountability in the area of teachers? What are you doing as a district?

Admin is checking in each room and we are there to give people feedback.

What is the frequency of teachers not fully engaging with their students? Admin keeps track of these incidents and we move forward in an HR perspective if needed. Sometimes it can lead to a dismissal of

a teacher or that teacher is put on a needs improvement plan and monitored. That kind of passive education is not the goal at PV.

Are students purely on the computer or is there data to show that is not happening?

Dr. Konrad will check with his team in this area.

A question on the diploma of special education students being that same as a regular student's diploma. They graduate on the specifics of their IEP's.

How are students grouped in kindergarten? It is based on the data of a team of administrators and teachers to make sure the student is where they are suppose to be based on an assessment.

9. Community Questions

Hiring or training which option do you use for reading specialists? Maybe you can use both!

10. Final remarks

Thank you to everyone for their participation and input

April meeting :TBD

Building our District's Future

A Roadmap Rooted in Transparency, Collaboration, and Growth





"My commitment to Pleasant Valley remains rooted in fostering a culture of transparency, collaboration, and growth.

By working as a unified community, we continue to turn challenges into a foundation for success."

James R. Konrad Ed.D, MBA

Part 1: Reflections - From a “Not So Distant Past”

District Realities 2020-2021

Financial Crisis

Navigating a **\$6 million deficit**

Aging Infrastructure

Facing **aging facilities**, outdated mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and **significant security concerns**

Leadership Inconsistency

Distrust fueled by **inconsistency**, the district had seen *four superintendents in just three years* before I arrived

Part 1: Reflections - From a “Not So Distant Past”

District Realities 2020-2021

Trust Deficit

A profound lack of communication and trust between staff, administration, parents, and tax payers

Constant Building Administrative Turnover, lack of consistency

Compliance Issues

Non-compliance with state-required staff trainings and outdated district policies

Contractual Strain

Over 600 employees without **competitive** and long-term employment agreements

Part 2: Progress Updates – *Fiscal Stabilization & Growth*

\$6M

Deficit Eliminated

- **Balanced school budgets achieved with low annual tax increases**
- **Secured “competitive” multi-year contracts for 600+ employees**
- **Transformed \$200K in annual cafeteria fund losses into \$600K annual profit while enhancing food quality.**
- **Rebuilding reserves while investing in student programs, curriculum, and school infrastructure**

Part 2: Progress Updates

Prioritizing Student Safety

District Armed Officers: Increased Police presence in every building

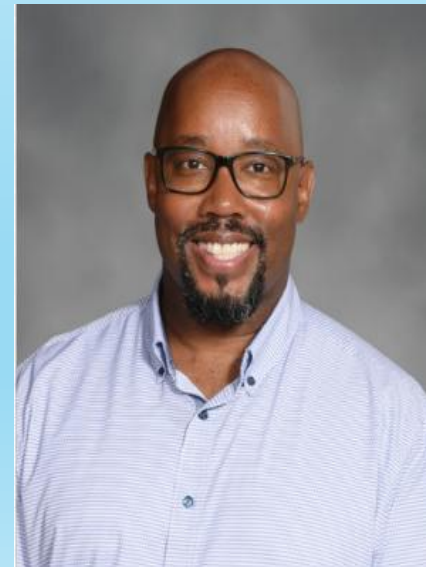
Collaboration with PSP: Strong relationship and effective coordination with the state police

Surveillance: Improved upgrades to district-wide camera systems

Access Control: Implemented modern visitor management systems

Detection: Implemented weapons detection systems and vape detectors in high-need areas.

System improvement: Implemented e-hall pass at the middle school and high school to reduce hallway traffic and increase instructional time (security has iPads for verification)



Part 2: Progress Updates – *Modernizing the Learning Environment*



Infrastructure

\$87 Million: High School renovation project fully funded by 2027

\$15 Million: Completed district-wide renovations and mechanical upgrades

Classroom: District-wide furniture enhancements replacing 20 – 30 year old furniture and carpets

Technology

1-to-1 Initiative: Chromebooks provided for every student

PowerSchool: Transitioned to a modern, robust Student Information System

Website and Facebook: Enhanced communication regarding our district and enhanced the Parent Resource page

PART 2: PROGRESS UPDATES

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER

- Investment in OUR community – Partnership with PV Educational Foundation, volunteering at West End Food Pantry
- 3 Excellence in Education Awards through Colonial Intermediate Unit 20
- Implementing first district-wide 1:1 Chromebook initiative.
- Developed our first “in house” K-5 cyber academy – Bears Academy
- Earned “Great PA School” designation
- Monthly 1 on 1 meetings with staff
- Implemented a Student Advisory Committee
- Weekly parent updates from building principals
- District-wide grade level reconfiguration
- Partnered with Rachel’s Challenge to champion kindness
- Offer 30 college credits and 17 AP courses
- Updated and enhanced “Crisis Response” Manual
- Improved transportation and generated cost savings through reducing routes and cluster stops
- Optimized staff professional development and expanded rigorous and relevant opportunities district-wide
- School district provides school supplies for students
- Recently provided every teacher with \$700 to enhance their classrooms and we provide \$750 to new teachers
- Hosted Special Olympics at PV for first time in 10 years
- Developed Denim Day Opportunities generating over \$29K to support local community resources and organizations
- Implemented “Hometown Heroes” honoring veterans at home football games
- Added Girls wrestling and middle school lacrosse

Part 3: Future Vision – 3 Core Strategic Objectives that will have a PROFOUND impact on our district's FUTURE



Academic Excellence

Boosting achievement and graduation rates while expanding post-secondary and college-credit opportunities



Open Dialogue

Commitment to constant, transparent communication and strengthening relationships with all stakeholders



Stability & Equity

Maintaining financial stability while ensuring fair, equitable salaries and a positive culture for our staff

Part 3: Future Vision – 3 Core Strategic Objectives that will have a PROFOUND impact on STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Enhanced and Focused Curriculum

Provide enhanced curriculum and supports to ensure student learning and growth

We will implement a rigorous and relevant, evidence-based curriculum with fidelity

Increase instructional minutes in the middle school and high school



Focus on Reading, Science, and Math

Continue to focus on Reading across all content areas through enhanced coaching opportunities

Use NWEA data to remediate and accelerate learning

New Science curriculum starting 2026 – 2027

Future plans for math curricular enhancements



Provide opportunities for collaboration

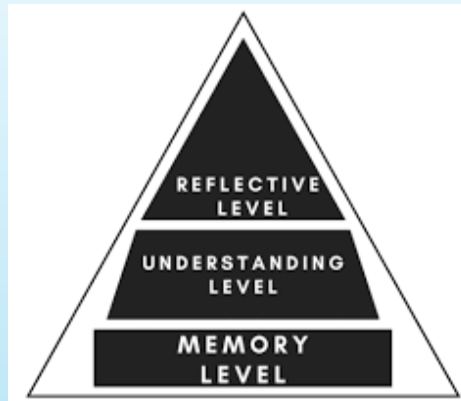
Staff members will continue to collaborate daily with grade level and content specific teams

Implement an MTSS system to identify supports that will help student overcome barriers to learning

Replace passive instruction with high-impact collaboration to ensure every student is an active participant in their own learning



Part 3: Future Vision – Focus on Academic Excellence – Reflective Level of Teaching – Providing Collaborative opportunities in school each day



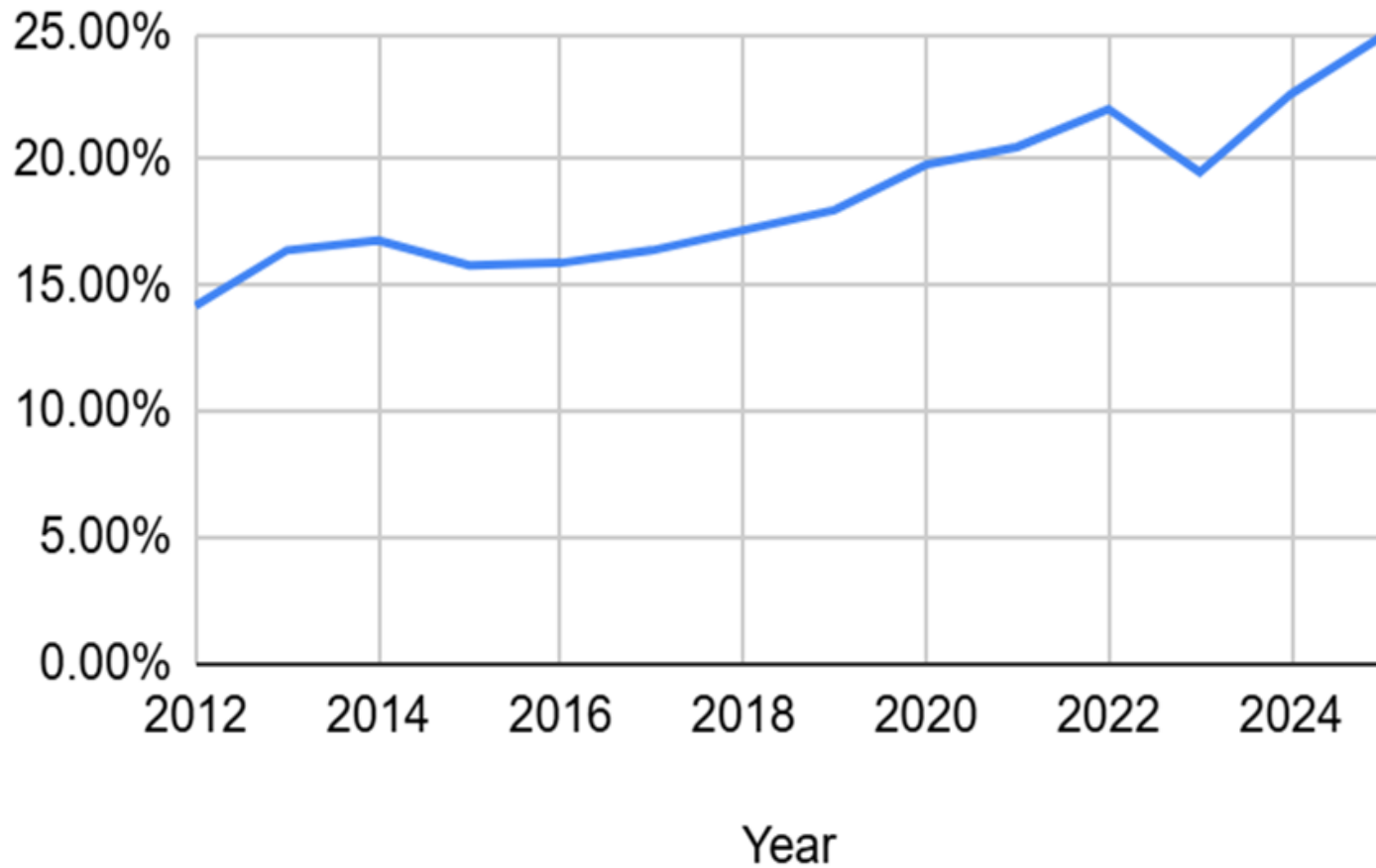
The highest level of teaching is the ***Reflective Level***, which focuses on developing critical thinking, independent problem-solving, and self-directed learning in students. It moves beyond rote memorization (Memory Level) and conceptual understanding (Understanding Level) to foster creativity and the ability to **apply knowledge** to new, complex situations both **independently and collaboratively**.

Key Aspects of Reflective Teaching:

- **Student-Centered:** The learner takes an active, central role, while the teacher acts as a guide or facilitator.
- **Problem-Centric:** Focuses on solving real-world, complex, or abstract problems.
- **Methods:** Utilizes research projects, case studies, debates, and critical analysis.
- **Goal:** To create independent thinkers and lifelong learners who can analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information.

DATA POINTS – SPECIAL EDUCATION

Percentage of Special Ed Students in PVSD



2012-	14.2%
2013-	16.4%
2014-	16.8%
2015-	15.8%
2016-	15.9%
2017-	16.4%
2018-	17.2%
2019-	18%
2020-	19.8%
2021-	20.5%
2022-	22%
2023-	19.5%
2024-	22.6%
2025-	24.9% (Projected)



DATA POINTS – ATTENDANCE

NUMBERS IN **RED** SHOW ATTENDANCE DATA **BELOW STATE AVERAGE**

School Year	PVH	PVM	PVI	PVE
2018-2019	67.7	78.4%	90.1%	86.2%
2019-2020	61.1	76.9%	84.9%	76.4%
2020-2021	56.6	76.9%	87.5%	84.8%
2021-2022	60.4	63.6%	71.0%	67.9%
2022-2023	68.6	72.8%	86.5%	77.0%
2023-2024	86.7	95.4%	99.0%	97.9%
2024 - 2025*	<i>Lagging Data – 1 YR Behind</i>	<i>Lagging Data – 1 YR Behind</i>	<i>Lagging Data – 1 YR Behind</i>	<i>Lagging Data – 1 YR Behind</i>



DATA POINTS — GRADUATION RATES

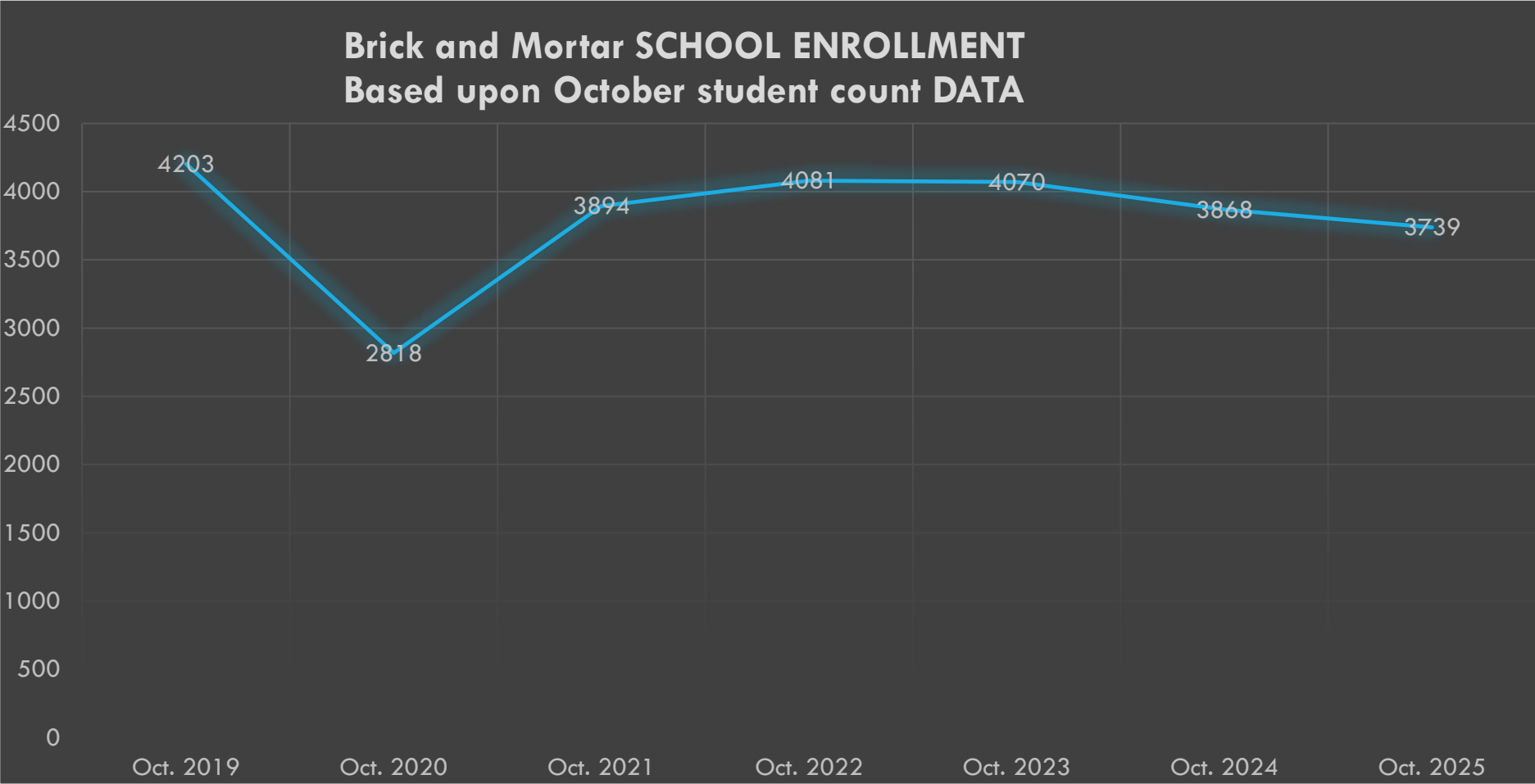
Graduating class	Graduation Percentage
2019	87%
2020	90% (COVID)
2021	87%
2022	87%
2023	89%
2024	90%
2025	91%



DATA POINTS - SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduating class	Total scholarships earned	Number of students who earned scholarships
2019	\$1.8 million	74
2020	\$2.8 million	74
2021	\$2.7 million	67
2022	\$2.5 million	49
2023	\$3.8 million	86
2024	\$7.6 million	111
2025	\$7.3 million	103

DATA POINTS — PV BRICK AND MORTAR ENROLLMENT





DATA POINTS — CYBER CHARTER ENROLLMENT

OUTSIDE CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
BASED UPON OCTOBER STUDENT COUNT DATA

