

PEQUEA VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD
Committee Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2026

The monthly Committee meeting of the Pequea Valley School Board was called to order by President Bryant Ferris at 7:18 p.m. Members present were Michael Fisher, Mike Hartmann, Fred Hertzler, Freida Huyard, Steve Riehl, Casey Rohrer, Steve Temple and Tamara Wanner. Also present were Erik Orndorff, Rich Eby, John Bowden, John Trovato, William Darras, Cathy Koenig, Dustin Russum, Ashley Bottiglieri, Larry Levato, Elysia Mikkelsen, Fred Kendall, Ellen Geisel, and Dan Sauder.

President Ferris announced an Executive Session was held on March 31, 2026 prior to the Committee Meeting for an Administration vacancy.

School Board Recognition – The following athletes were recognized for their achievements, Girl’s Basketball, Wrestling and Swimming. Pequea Valley was also presented a Baseball Sportsmanship Award.

Preliminary General Fund Budget Update – John Bowden presented the 2026-27 general fund budget. The budget had an increase on expenditures of 4.7% from the previous year. With the budget as presented, the district would require a 4.22% millage increase. The district is capped at 3.5% increase due to the Act 1 index, therefore the district would need to address the deficit of \$220,817.00 with either cuts or additional revenues. Mr. Bowden stated that he would work on reducing the expenditures to be below the Act 1 index.

Phase II Update – John Bowden gave an update on Phase II of the building project. He stated that bids were opened at 2:00 p.m. on March 31, 2026. There were 5 general contractor bids, 2 mechanical bids, 13 electrical bids and no plumbing bids. The district will need to rebid the plumbing portion of the packet. Mr. Bowden stated that the bids came within the expected range and that the district has the cash on hand to continue with the project. Additionally, he mentioned that the district is getting quotes for asbestos abatement which will be included on the April 9, 2026 Board meeting agenda for approval. Phase II bids will be included on the May 7, 2026 Board meeting agenda for approval.

IU 13 Budget 2026-2027 – Michael Fisher presented the IU 13 2025-26 budget. This budget will be included on the April 9, 2026 Board meeting agenda for approval.

New Board Policy – Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Ashley Bottiglieri presented the second reading of the proposed AI Board policy. Tamara Wanner inquired about the collection of student data through applications and whether such data collection can be disabled. Mrs. Bottiglieri explained that the district utilizes student ID numbers and that parents have the right to request that their child’s information be masked. This policy will be included on the April 9, 2026 Board meeting agenda for approval.

PV Secondary Auditorium Sound Upgrade – Dustin Russum and John Bowden presented an upgrade to the PV Secondary sound system for the auditorium. They explained that it was anticipated to bring equipment from the old auditorium to the new auditorium, however some of the equipment did not integrate with the new system. This new equipment is needed to get the sound system to where it was intended, therefore it will be placed on the April 9, 2026 Regular meeting agenda for approval.

Public Participation –Ellen Geisel, Honey Brook, commented on the new construction and the facilities and Amish coming through with steel wheels on the new black-top. She would like signs stating that no steel wheels are permitted.

Chief of Finance & Operation’s and Superintendent Recommendations:

On a motion by Mr. Hartmann and a second by Mr. Temple, approval was given for the following Consent Agenda Items A-D (rc):

- A. The purchase of the annual phone system support contract with Morefield in the amount of \$10,500.
- B. Personnel
Cale Hilbolt, Special Education Consultant, effective July 1, 2026.
Salary: \$98,072, (M, Step 19) and up to 10 additional days at per diem rate.
- C. ARM Geophysics to conduct a geophysical survey to identify drilling locations for a water well, at a fixed cost of \$8,000.

March 31, 2026, meeting minutes continued...

D. Approval of Minutes, Financial reports, and Bills as follows:

- March 5, 2026, regular meeting
- The Financial Reports for February 2026, as appearing on the Treasurer's Supplement.
- The February bills, as appearing in the Treasurer's Supplement.
- General Fund, totaling \$2,030,192.17.
- Capital Reserve totaling \$61,190.80.
- Construction Payments, totaling \$193,240.43.
- Food Service, totaling \$40,710.59.

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

No further information was presented, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Bryant Ferris
President

John A. Bowden
Secretary