PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Bettendorf, LeClaire, Riverdale  

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, REGULAR MEETING, BELMONT ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
Monday, February 24, 2014 – 6:00 P.M. C.S.T.  

Regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Witters.  


Also present: Jim Spelhaug, Christine Harvey, Mike Clingingsmith, Brian Strusz, Sheri Coder, Harry and Susan Coin, Ron Johns, Stephanie Seier, and others.  

AGENDA APPROVED: Motion by Bullock, second by Cournoyer to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.  

Director Paulsen arrived at 6:02 p.m.  

COMMUNICATIONS: Susan and Harry Coin presented a petition regarding the calculation of academic honors and requesting that the subject be revisited and made more equitable with regards to honors recognition before the end of the semester.  

Dr. Spelhaug indicated that after an administrative review of this request, the board will be provided a summary and based on the administrative information and their own analysis, the board would decide if this will become an agenda item at some point in the future.  

Director Cournoyer congratulated wrestlers Travis Willers who was the state champion at 152, Brady Letney who placed 3rd at 170. Joe Pichiotti at 195 and Landon Carney at 285 placed 7th and Spencer Nevills at 126 who was a state participant. The team placed eighth overall at the state wrestling meet.  

She congratulated the two PV teams and their coaches, Matt Stutenberg and Audrey Holland who participated in the state First Tech Challenge and placed ninth and tenth out of forty-eight teams participating.  

She suggested that when the district has late starts for weather, the explanation behind the decision be included in the e-news.  

Mr. Strusz added that the district’s choral program has grown by over 200 students in the past five years, which includes the addition of the sixth grade choir program.  

Mr. Strusz congratulated the boys swimming, wrestling team and coaches for their successful season and participation at state. In swimming Nick Staver placed 2nd in the 100 Breaststroke and 4th in the Individual Medley. The 200 Free Style Relay of Brian Burke, Jack Stecker, Nick Staver and Henry Friedericks placed 7th while Brian Burke was 8th in the 100 Free and 9th in the 200 Free. Jack Stecker was also 10th in the 500 Free.  

Board Forum: A board forum will be held on March 31, 2014, 7:00 p.m., in the PVCHS Library. The purpose of the forum is to provide the public an opportunity to offer suggestions that tie into the district’s
five year comprehensive school improvement planning process. The forum will be moderated by Directors Cournoyer, Wagle, and President Witters.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Dickson, second by Isbell that the consent agenda be approved as presented. All ayes. Motion carried. The consent agenda consists of: the resignation of Clint Heitz as a language arts teacher/technology coordinator effective March 14, 2014, the employment of Jace Teed as a junior high school counselor for the 2014-15 schoolyear, the regular employment of Kimberly Schmidt as a special education aide at Hopewell and Aaron Shannon as the head cook at PVCHS, the extra-curricular add of Marchus Cavanagh as junior high track coach; four open enrollment applications from Bettendorf schools.

EXPENSES APPROVED: Motion by Wagle, second by Bullock that General Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $293,004.96 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Isbell, second by Dickson that Nutrition Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $27,588.91 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Bullock, second by Paulsen that Elementary/Junior High Activity Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $4,020.53 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dickson, second by Wagle that High School Activity Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $23,756.58 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Cournoyer, second by Isbell that PPEL Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $24,202.77 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Paulsen, second by Dickson that Trust Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $10,728.61 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 2014-2015 PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE: The board discussed the effects of various suggested property tax levy rate decreases on residential taxpayers and the district’s solvency ratio. Due to the increase in the residential rollback percentage, if the district’s current levy ($14.74093 per $1,000 taxable valuation) were to decrease by less than $0.43, district residential taxpayers would pay more school district related property taxes next year. The administration recommended decreasing the district property tax levy rate somewhere in the range of $0.25 to $0.35. To mitigate the impact of the rollback and to strengthen the district’s financial position, the board decided to decrease the district’s property tax levy rate for next year by $0.25 (rounded to the nearest penny). As a part of the discussion information about the levy, plans of the cities and county were discussed. None of the levy decisions were connected in any way to the recent renewal of the PPEL and ISL levies.

Motion by Wagle, second by Dickson that the Chief Financial Officer be directed to publish a proposed budget summary reflecting a tax levy rate not to exceed $14.49 per $1,000 taxable valuation and to establish a date and time of April 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. CST to hold the public hearing and adopt the certified budget for 2014-15. Roll call vote. Ayes – Wagle, Witters, Bullock, Cournoyer, Dickson, Isbell, Paulsen. Nays – none. Motion carried.

2014 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: Kindergarten registration will be held on February 28 at 9:00 a.m. at each elementary school. A kindergarten class is kept at no more than 22 students enrolled. Indications are that the district will be over-subscribed at the three (3) section level at Hopewell. It appears there will be sufficient room at Pleasant View and Riverdale Heights to accept
overflow students. The board reached consensus on the following recommended criteria as to who will move:

1. No open enrolled or tuition accepted at Hopewell kindergarten.
2. First priority to those who have a sibling currently enrolled at Hopewell.
3. Second priority goes to families who do not have a sibling currently enrolled at Hopewell but are in a walk zone.
4. Last priority goes to families who do not have a sibling currently enrolled at Hopewell and who are not in a walk zone.
5. After February 28, 2014, the last priority goes to those who register between March 1, 2014 and the start of school in August, regardless of where they live.

To the question as to when the district should consider adding another section at Hopewell, Dr. Spelhaug’s recommendation is that we should wait until the district enrollment at a grade level is within 10-15 students of capacity. (With Hopewell at three (3) sections at each grade our district capacity is as follows: K = 338; 1st – 3rd = 360; 4th – 6th = 375. Currently we believe our 2014-15 K enrollment will be around 275; 1st 290; 2nd 345; 3rd 340; 4th 330; 5th 345; 6th 310.)

REVIEW FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGETING PLAN: The board reviewed the five year capital project budgeting plan and projects contemplated by previous board. Dr. Spelhaug noted that the district has received permission from the city to add a second right turn exit out of the parking lot at Riverdale Heights (north of the current intersection). The Riverdale Heights parking lot, the junior high parking lot and high school baseball/softball fields project are the major projects that would need to move forward with bids. The district has also asked Missman to do design work on a new east parking lot at the high school.

Motion by Isbell, second by Bullock that the five year capital projects plan be approved as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes – Isbell, Paulsen, Wagle, Witters, Bullock, Cournoyer, Dickson. Nays – none. Motion carried.

2014-15 LUNCH PRICING-BREAKFAST PRICING: The federal government requires schools to raise their lunch prices on an annual basis until their average paid lunch price is equal to the difference between free meal and paid meal reimbursement (Section 205 Equity in School Lunch Pricing). As a result, Food Service Director, Andrea Mahler recommended increasing the price of lunches by $0.10 for the 2014-15 school year. Due to two new menu requirements (all grains must be whole grain and the serving of fruit/vegetable has increased to a full cup) for breakfasts, she recommended increasing the price of student breakfasts by $0.10.

Motion by Dickson, second by Cournoyer that the board approve the recommended increases of $0.10 for all lunches and for all student breakfasts for the 2014-15 school year. Roll call vote. Ayes – Dickson, Isbell, Paulsen, Wagle, Witters, Bullock, Cournoyer. Nays – none. Motion carried.

APRIL 28 BOARD MEETING MOVED TO APRIL 29, 2014, 6:00 P.M.: Due to conflicts with District Band Night and the PV Foundation’s Golf Event on April 28, the board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Paulsen, second by Dickson that the board move the board meeting scheduled on April 28 at 6:00 p.m. to April 29 at 6:00 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes – Paulsen, Wagle, Witters, Bullock, Cournoyer, Dickson, Isbell. Nays – none. Motion carried.
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS: Mr. Clingingsmith presented the monthly financial reports for January, 2014. Through January, General Fund revenue totaled $20,961,833 and expenses totaled $17,702,064. The fund balance in the General Fund at January 31, 2014 was $7,061,857. He also presented reports on the Management, PPEL, Capital Projects, Debt Service, Nutrition, Internal Service, and Activity Funds. There were no significant variances from projections in the financial reports.

Motion by Cournoyer, second by Wagle that the board accept the monthly financial reports for January as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes – Cournoyer, Dickson, Isbell, Paulsen, Wagle, Witters, Bullock. Nays – none. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

FUTURE DATES: Monday, March 10, 2014 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting, Belmont Administration Office, 525 Belmont Road, Bettendorf, IA 52722.

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OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment is the process by which a parent or guardian residing in an Iowa school district may enroll their child into a public school district other than the one in which they reside. The deadline for filing an Open Enrollment Application for students in grades 1-12 is March 1st prior to the school year of requested attendance. The deadline for filing an open enrollment request for an incoming kindergarten child is September 1st of the year open enrollment is first requested. For more information on Open Enrollment, please visit the district website at www.pleasval.k12.ia.us, email or call Kelly Hatler, hatlerk@pleasval.k12.ia.us at the Administration Center at (563)332-5550.