PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bettendorf, LeClaire, Riverdale
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
BELMONT ADMINISTRATION CENTER
Monday, April 27, 2020; 6:00 P.M. C.D.T.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenel Nels, Molly Brockmann, Jean Dickson, Nikhil Wagle, Jodi Hoskins, Brent Ayers, Tina Anderson. Absent – none. Also present: Brian Strusz, Mike Zimmer, Cindy Lewis (remotely), Mike Clingingsmith, Deborah Dayman, Leland Zenk (remotely), Darren Erickson (remotely), Kara Sturdevant, James Feeney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVED: Motion by Dickson, second by Anderson that the agenda be approved as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Dickson, second by Anderson that the Board hold a closed session as provided in Section 21.5(1)(i) of the open meetings law to evaluate the professional competency of individuals whose performance is being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to those individuals’ reputations, as those individuals have requested a closed session. Roll call vote. Ayes - Nels, Brockmann, Dickson, Wagle, Hoskins, Ayers, Anderson. Nays - none. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: President Wagle welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the vision of the District: It is the vision of the Pleasant Valley Community School District that we shall provide the finest academic and extra-curricular programs in the state – not in some things, but in everything; not for some students, but for every student.

Mr. Zimmer shared the following student recognition:
Cole Clausen, PVHS senior, has participated in ag coursework at North Scott High School and earned his FFA Iowa Degree.

The Iowa High School Press Association announced 2020 Spring Journalism Contest Winners. Schools are awarded points in 34 categories. PV earned 236 points, the most of any school in the state.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS: Maria Vaaler was named 1st place Writer of the Year in the state. Grace Halupnik, Sam Rothbardt, Hannah Lederman and Caitlin Crome were named IHSPA Scholars, an honor awarded to only 19 seniors in the state. Alyce Brown, Ella Litchfield and Ingrid Hofmann were finalists for the Emerging Journalist award.

FIRST PLACE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS: Maddy Licea for her work with advertising; Roger Pavve for his "Gen Z" cover; Caitlin Crome for her in-depth news story, "King of Iowa"; Grace Halupnik & Caitlin Crome for their multimedia piece and for their podcast "Tap on that"; Preksha Kedilaya for her photo slideshow on district choral fest; Margaret Huang for her review, "An unintentional portrait of Gen Z romance"; Sakshi & Eesha Lawande for their video story, "QC organization shines light on making new tradition".

SECOND PLACE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS: Maddy Licea and Carly Lundry for their opinion piece "Why is your AK-47 in my lecture?"; Grace Halupnik for her Valentine’s Day back cover; Caitlin Crome for her feature story "Promise heard Nationwide: How one organization is changing the discussion on school shooting";
Maria Vaaler, Sakshi & Eesha Lawande for their multimedia piece "Carrie: The Musical"; Sakshi Lawande for her sports multimedia feature "From JV to State Champ"; Sam Rothbardt and Grace Halupnik for their cover story "New Century, Same Story"; Jimmy Feeney for his photo slideshow on girls' basketball; Nate Martell for his photo story on girls' swimming; Taylor English & Will Sharis for their video story, "Road to the Olympics".

THIRD PLACE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS: Maya Johnson for her feature story "Wielding women empowerment by welding"; Sakshi Lawander for her feature "Filled with Philanthropy"; Roger Pavey for his 2010s cover story design; Grace Halupnik for her new story "Hungry for More"; Sam Rothbardt for his personality profile "A walk to self-discovery"; Alyce Brown for her review "The candy-colored satire of 'The Politician"; Nate Martell and Jackson Schou for their video story on Deputy Fah.

Additionally, Alyce Brown received honorable mention on the NEW YORK TIMES website for her work in making a connection between an article posted on the Times' website and her learning at PV.

IOWA ALL STATE ART: Sophie Curtis (8th place) and Kyle Knedler (10th place) placed among the top 20% of participating high school artists across the state of Iowa, and are ranked in the top 10 in 4A.

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT HIGH SCHOOL RANKINGS: Again this year, PVHS is ranked 1,297th in the nation and 4th in state by US News and World Report. Read the summary here.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Pleasant Valley Community School District has received the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting in recognition of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. Mr. Strusz thanked CFO Mike Clinglingsmith, district accountant Lorrie Wakeland, payroll specialist Kelly Hatler and district bookkeeper Lisa Paper.

On behalf of the District, Mr. Strusz thanked Cody Elementary Nurse Ann Harris for 21 years’ service to the students of Cody Elementary. Mrs. Harris has submitted her request for retirement effective December 31, 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA, April 27, 2020: Motion by Hoskins, second by Nels that the consent agenda be approved as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

The April 27, 2020 consent agenda consists of the following:

- MINUTES: The approval of minutes of the April 13, 2020 Regular meeting.
- STUDENT TEACHING AGREEMENT with Iowa Wesleyan University
- PERSONNEL:

CERTIFIED: Megan Bildner, Chemistry Teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, has submitted her resignation effective the end of the 2019-20 school year. Natasha Dolan is recommended for employment as the Hopewell Elementary Guidance Counselor starting the 2020-21 school year. Ann Harris, Cody Elementary Building Nurse, has submitted notice of her retirement effective December 31, 2020.
Matthew Hennes is recommended for employment as a Science Teacher at Pleasant Valley High School starting the 2020-21 school year. Janene Murphy is recommended for employment as a Business Teacher at Pleasant Valley High School starting the 2020-21 school year. Robyn Samuelson is recommended for employment as an English Teacher at Pleasant Valley High School starting the 2020-21 school year. Scott Schoville is recommended for employment as an Art Teacher at Cody Elementary and Pleasant Valley Junior High School starting the 2020-21 school year. Hope Staker is recommended for employment as a Kindergarten Teacher at Hopewell Elementary starting the 2020-21 school year. Tia Hicks is recommended for employment as Pleasant Valley Junior High School Dean of Students starting the 2020-21 school year. Colin Wikan is recommended for employment as Pleasant Valley Junior High School Dean of Students starting the 2020-21 school year.

CLASSIFIED: Allyson Schmidt, Pleasant Valley High School Special Education Aide, has completed her probationary period and is recommended for regular employment starting May 1, 2020.

CLASSIFIED (information only): Casey Berry is recommended for probationary employment as a district Building Mechanic starting May 12, 2020.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

ADDs: Rachel Hart Spartan Assembly Co-Advisor
      Madison Glatz PVHS Head Freshman Volleyball Coach

DROPS: Bill Myatt Director of Theatre
       Co-Technical Director
       Thespian Society Advisor
       Drama Club Advisor
       Large Group Speech Advisor
       Individual Group Speech Advisor
      Ryan Pillow PVJH Assistant Track Coach

EXPENSES APPROVED:

Motion by Anderson, second by Brockmann that General Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $101,655.18 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dickson, second by Hoskins that Nutrition Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $6,549.01 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hoskins, second by Ayers that Elementary/Junior High Activity Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $15,142.46 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dickson, second by Brockmann that High School Activity Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $13,190.45 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nels, second by Hoskins that Capital Projects Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $829,614.73 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.
Moon by Ayers, second by Anderson that PPEL Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $45,862.37 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Brockmann, second by Dickson that Internal Service Fund warrants 6083 through 6087 be issued in the total amount of $378,980.09 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dickson, second by Hoskins that Trust Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $529.64 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING and COVID-19 UPDATE: Mr. Strusz, Mr. Zimmer, Dr. Lewis and Mr. Erickson updated the Board on a number of topics related to the COVID-19 interruption.

Continuous Learning: The district-wide student engagement rate in online learning after week one is approximately 96%. Teachers have connected with all students who have not participated to determine and work to eliminate barriers to participation. The district continues to receive requests for devices and connectivity assistance and to date more than 500 devices and 56 hotspots have been distributed.

The Iowa Department of Education has asked if Pleasant Valley’s Continuous Learning model could be shared with the Governor’s office as an exemplar model for learning during the extended school closure.

Return to Learn and School Start Date Waiver: Governor Reynolds has waived the August 23rd school start date, and districts in Iowa are required to submit Return to Learn plans to the Iowa Department of Education by July 1. District administrators and the Board began discussing an earlier school start date and how the academic and social-emotional-behavioral and mental health needs of our students might best be addressed by a revised school calendar. Additional guidance from the Iowa Department of Education is forthcoming and the Board will discuss further an amended 2020-21 calendar to best meet the learning needs of all students.

High School Required Learning and Grading: Service Learning expectations have been revised in light of the COVID-19 crisis. Students should contact their guidance counselor or Emily Jepsen, Service Learning Coordinator, for assistance in understanding and fulfilling outstanding requirements.

The Board discussed at length second semester grading due to online learning. When the district ventured into online learning on Monday, April 13th, Pleasant Valley High School believed we would continue to give letter grades for work completed online until our anticipated return on Friday, May 1st. The goal was to provide as much stability for our students upon their return as well as supporting students as they transitioned to post-secondary education. Initially, many colleges, universities and vocational schools were using letter-based grading in their application process. As school closures were extended, those institutions have determined that letter grades might not be possible at this time and have approved the Pass/Fail option for high school students.

After careful consideration and research, second semester grades for the 2019-20 school year will be given as Pass/Fail at Pleasant Valley High School. The decision was based on this new information from post-secondary institutions along with feedback from PVHS administrators, counselors, and teachers and what they are seeing in their online classrooms. Furthermore, the introduction of a online learning
platform on top of changes in work status for families, parents and students supporting younger siblings, and family access to technology throughout the day are causing additional stress and anxiety for families.

This decision and adjustment is not unique to Pleasant Valley High School students. Across Iowa and the nation, high schools and post-secondary institutes are choosing Pass (S)/Fail to address their emergency learning plans.

2020 Commencement: It is of utmost importance to the District and the Board that the class of 2020 receive the honor and recognition they’ve earned and deserve. Survey data was collected from parents and students exploring commencement ceremony preferences. Students, parents and the district alike prefer the “traditional” live ceremony at the TaxSlayer center, but since that is not a possibility for May 31 under current restrictions, other options are being considered. The most likely is a staged and filmed version which will be broadcast by KWQC. Seniors will be filmed receiving their diploma in the high school theater; all film clips will be combined into a single presentation. Presentation of diplomas will be scheduled so as to adhere to room capacity and social distancing requirements. Additionally, a live event may occur between June 14 and August 2 depending on venue availability and CDC guidelines for group size and social distancing.

Elementary Information: While participation in instruction is “voluntary” at the elementary level, it is the expectation of the District that every student will be engaged in online learning. Teachers are following up with students and families in efforts to guarantee equity and access to instruction for all students. Valuable and beneficial learning is taking place every day. May 7 and May 8 have been designated as the two days for families to retrieve students’ belongings from their elementary buildings. Principals will be communicating the process to all families this week.

Junior High students will not receive their traditional letter grades for the third and fourth quarter unless they are an 8th grader who is enrolled in a high school course. However, participation in online instruction is expected, monitored and feedback is provided to all students as valuable and beneficial learning is taking place every day. This will be noted by a “G” designation on their report cards. Students who have not yet retrieved personal items should leave a message at thePVJH office.

Families of students at all levels are encouraged to contact teachers or principals with difficulties or concerns. Although buildings are closed, teaching and learning continues.

No required motion.

Mr. Peakin, Mr. Wikan and Ms. Hicks joined the meeting remotely.

COVID 19 RESOLUTION UPDATES: The Pandemic Response and Emergency Suspension of Policy Resolution, originally approved at the March 24 Board of Education meeting, has been revised to reflect extended building closure dates.

Motion by Dickson, second by Ayers that the Board approve updates to the COVID 19 resolution as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes - Nels, Brockmann, Dickson, Wagle, Hoskins, Ayers, Anderson. Nays - none. Motion carried.
2019-20 CERTIFIED BUDGET AMENDMENT PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING: Mr. Clingingsmith reviewed the proposed budget amendment for 2019-20 and requested approval to amend the current 2019-20 budget as presented. This routine procedure amends the budget to reflect spending of miscellaneous income received during the year, which was not included in the original certified budget for the year, and reflects spending in all districts fund balances to a zero balance at the end of the fiscal year. The amended budget reflects the maximum expenditures the district could incur and pay during the fiscal year. This practice is only a safety procedure to ensure the district does not violate state law. It does not reflect a plan to spend the additional money.

Dr. Wagle convened the public hearing at 8:13 p.m. Hearing no comments, the public hearing concluded at 8:14 p.m.


HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL PERMANENT WALL/BULKHEAD PROJECT: As previously communicated during our Five Year Capital Projects planning discussions, the District has been working with Bush Construction on the design of a permanent wall/bulkhead in the shallow end of the pool to convert our 25 meter length to 25 yards. Leland Zenk went over the design, anticipated timeline, anticipated costs and District management of the project.

No required motion.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS: Mr. Clingingsmith presented the monthly financial reports for March 2020. Through March, General Fund revenue totaled $35,933,763 and expenses totaled $33,126,330. The fund balance in the General Fund on March 31, 2020 was $9,861,440. Also presented were Management, PPEL, Capital Projects, and Debt Service, Nutrition, Internal Service, and Activity Funds reports. No significant variances from projections were noted.

Motion by Dickson, second by Brockmann that the Board accept the monthly financial reports for March as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes - Nels, Brockmann, Dickson, Wagle, Hoskins, Ayers, Anderson. Nays - none. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL - COD OF IOWA, SECTION 21.5(1)(i): Executive session was called to order at 8:33 p.m. Mr. Strusz described the interview process and presented to the Board the recommended candidates for the open and the newly added Dean of Students positions at Pleasant Valley Junior High. Tia Stevens-Hicks and Colin Wikan were introduced to the Board. No motions were made during the closed session. The Board re-entered the open session at 9:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

FUTURE DATES:

Monday, May 11, 2020  Regular School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
(The meeting will be conducted in adherence to all COVID-19 room capacity and social distancing requirements. Guests are welcome to participate remotely in the Belmont Administration Center's technology training room should room capacity be reached in the boardroom. Board Members and guests will be asked to wear masks.)

Tuesday, May 26, 2020  Regular School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

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PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLEASANT VALLEY, IOWA
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EXECUTIVE SESSION, BELMONT ADMINISTRATION CENTER
Monday, April 27, 2020; 8:33 P.M. C.D.T.

Executive session was called to order at 8:33 p.m. by President Wagle.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenel Nels, Molly Brockmann, Jean Dickson, Nikhil Wagle, Jodi Hoskins, Brent Ayers, Tina Anderson. Absent – none. Also present: Brian Strusz, Mike Zimmer, Cindy Lewis (remotely), Mike Clingingsmith, Deborah Dayman, Mike Peakin, Tia Hicks, Colin Wikan.

AGENDA APPROVED: Motion by Dickson, second by Anderson that the Board hold a closed session as provided in Section 21.5(1)(i) of the open meetings law to evaluate the professional competency of individuals whose performance is being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to those individuals’ reputations, as those individuals have requested a closed session. Roll call vote. Ayes - Nels, Brockmann, Dickson, Wagle, Hoskins, Ayers, Anderson. Nays - none. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL: The board met in executive session from 8:33 - 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Dean of Students positions at Pleasant Valley Junior High School. No motions were made during closed session.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENTS OR GUARDIANS WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Per Iowa Code Section 285.3, in order to qualify for parental reimbursement, a parent or guardian of a student attending an accredited nonpublic school who furnishes transportation for the student in accordance with this section, shall submit a notice of nonpublic school attendance to the resident public school district, notifying the district that the student is enrolled in and will attend an accredited nonpublic school during the period for which parental reimbursement is being requested. The notice shall be filed with the resident public school district not later than December 1 for the first semester claim and May 1 for the second semester claim each year. Forms which must be filled out in order to qualify for this parental reimbursement are available at the Belmont Administration Center, 525 Belmont Road, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 and on the district website at http://www.pleasval.k12.ia.us. Information needed to complete the form includes the parent or guardian’s name and address, the name, age, and grade level of the student, the name of the nonpublic school and its location and the number of miles one way to transport the child from home to school. Iowa Code Section 285.1, subsection 3, limits the number of students that may be eligible for parent reimbursement to a maximum of three (3) elementary students and one (1) high school student per family.

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 Open Enrollment information and application, visit the district website at www.pleasval.org/district/new student enrollment/open enrollment info or contact Deborah Dayman daymandeborah@pleasval.org (563)332-5550.
JULY 2019

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Pleasant Valley Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. Further, the board affirms the right of all students and staff to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm and harassment.

The district requires all persons, agencies, vendors, contractors and other persons and organizations doing business with or performing services for the school district to subscribe to all applicable federal and state laws, executive orders, rules and regulations pertaining to contract compliance and equal opportunity.

The district is committed to the policy that no otherwise qualified person will be excluded on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, or age. Further, the board affirms the right of all students and staff to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm and harassment.

Inquiries concerning the application of federal and state nondiscrimination statutes and the implementing regulations to the district may be referred to Mike Zimmer, who has been designated by the district as Educational Equity Coordinator, or to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of HEW, and Washington, D.C. Mr. Zimmer’s office is at Pleasant Valley Administration Center, 525 Belmont Rd., Bettendorf, Iowa 52722; telephone (563) 332-5550.

Brian Strusz
Superintendent