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, Beth Marsoun, Darren Erickson (remotely), Valerie Tucker (remotely), and others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION: Motion by Hoskins, second by Brockmann that the Board hold a closed session as authorized by section 21.5(1)(a) of the open meetings law to review or discuss records which are required or authorized to be kept confidential. 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.

May is traditionally School Board Recognition Month. This year however, the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) encourages Boards to thank educators, administrators and district staff for incredible effort during this global crisis. Mr. Strusz also thanked board members - locally elected volunteers - who spend countless hours each month dedicated to board service.

Dr. Lewis congratulated Tate Sommer, 6th grade student at Riverdale Heights who placed in the top two at the National History Day competition at St. Ambrose University. At the state competition, she once again placed in the top two and will now move on to the national competition.

Ms. Nels congratulated the National PTA Reflections Award of Excellence winners from Pleasant Valley Junior High: Riley Rashka in Music and Tanya Rastogi in Literature.

Mr. Strusz thanked District personnel and families, the River Valley Optimist Club of LeClaire, LeClaire Presbyterian Church and others who are delivering meals, assembling food baskets and providing funds so that food challenged families in our district have a little extra nourishment to see them through the week as well as the weekend. If members of our community would like to assist in this effort, please submit donations to Pleasant Valley Community School District, 525 Belmont Road, Bettendorf IA 52722; attention Deborah Dayman.

CONSENT AGENDA, May 11, 2020: Motion by Ayers, second by Nels that the consent agenda be approved as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.
The May 11, 2020 consent agenda consists of the following:

- **MINUTES:** The approval of minutes of the April 27, 2020 Regular meeting and Executive Session.

- **PERSONNEL:**

  CERTIFIED: Kristy Carr is recommended for employment as a Mathematics teacher at Pleasant Valley High School starting the 2020-21 school year. Beth Thompson is recommended for employment as a Special Education Teacher at Pleasant Valley Junior High School starting the 2020-21 school year.

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR:**

**ADDS:**

- Holly Hoelting: PVJH Boys Basketball Coach
- Nicole Lenius: PVJH Student Council Advisor
- Alex Medenciy: PVHS Ceramics Club
- Scott Schoville: PVJH Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Scott Schoville: PVJH Track Coach

**DROPS:**

- Matt Gauss: PVJH Boys Basketball Coach
- Kalie Pillow: PVJH Volleyball Coach
- Jenny Wilson: PVJH Student Council Advisor

- **OPEN ENROLLMENT:** Three IN from Davenport 2020-21
- **COOPERATIVE TEACHING AGREEMENT** with Luther College
- **28E AGREEMENT PVCSD AND BETTENDORF CSD** - Shared Orchestra Teacher

**EXPENSES APPROVED:**

Motion by Dickson, second by Ayers that General Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $440,559.71 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hoskins, second by Anderson that Nutrition Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $4,383.21 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ayers, second by Dickson that Elementary/Junior High Activity Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $2,011.46 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nels, second by Brockmann that High School Activity Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $8,121.06 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dickson, second by Anderson that Capital Projects Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $1,700.00 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.
Motion by Brockmann, second by Ayers that PPEL Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $42,797.08 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Anderson, second by Hoskins that Debt Service Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $1,999,600.00 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dickson, second by Ayers that Internal Service Fund warrants 6088 through 6094 be issued in the total amount of $24,091.34 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nels, second by Brockmann that Trust Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of $3,900.00 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.

DISTRICT ONLINE ENGAGEMENT RATES: Through the conclusion of week 3 (May 1), 95% of district students were engaged in online learning.

GRADUATION: Each graduating senior who has chosen to participate in the District’s virtual graduation program is reporting to the high school theater by appointment - wearing their graduation gown - diplomas are being presented by a school board member and the principal, and each presentation is recorded. Beth Marsoun, District Director of Communications, will assemble the student presentations along with student speeches for a virtual PVHS Class of 2020 Commencement to be presented on social media sites and aired by KWQC at a time yet to be determined.

Each graduate will receive a yard sign in recognition of their accomplishment and Senior Spotlights are being featured on Facebook. A virtual National Letter of Intent signing took place Wednesday, May 6 and the Pleasant Valley Education Foundation scholarship presentations will be posted on Facebook as of May 13.

The Board recognizes that these activities are meager substitutes for typical senior celebrations. The Board also thanks students and families for their patience and understanding, and thanks district and community members working to recognize our seniors in uniquely memorable ways. The District has not ruled out a live graduation celebration at a later date if pandemic conditions allow.

READY TO LEARN / SCHOOL START DATE: All school districts in Iowa are required to submit by July 1, 2020 their Return to Learn plans to the Iowa Department of Education (IDOE). The plan is designed to help districts meet the challenges of the 2020-21 school year by

- Ensuring that remote learning options are available for all students;
- Planning to help students catch up for the learning they may have missed during school closures;
- Integrating public health strategies into Iowa’s schools;
- Enabling schools to move between on-site and remote learning as needed; and
- Helping the IDOE and our AEA partners understand how best to support schools.
The Governor has offered the option of starting school prior to August 24, but only if the instructional time is in excess of minimum required instructional time of 180 days or 1,080 hours.

The District is reviewing options and assembling teams to best address each requirement but at this time we do not anticipate the first day being prior to August 24th.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADING: 24 families have contacted the District regarding concerns over the district’s decision that high school students receive Pass/Fail grades instead of letter grades or student choice for the second semester 2019-20 due to the limitations COVID-19 has placed on teaching and delivery of educational resources to our students. Eight families attended the board of education meeting to share their concerns and it was stated an e-petition containing signatures of students and parents was initiated.

87% of public school districts in Iowa have selected the voluntary learning option of delivery for the current semester. The primary reason for those districts’ decision to select the voluntary option is that the district was unable to ensure equitable access for all students, including connectivity and the ability to meet individual learning needs. Pleasant Valley Community School District has implemented the required learning option for our high school students. As part of that decision, the Iowa Department of Education left grading up to local control for each public school district and non-public school to decide.

Reasons for implementing pass/fail grading at the high school include:

- Content, instruction and assessments are different online than in the classroom.
- Teachers are unable to address all course standards.
- Teachers are unable to deliver a second semester class which is identical to the first semester class
- Students’ online success can vary due to many factors (i.e. learning style, new format, organization, in-home factors).
- The timeframe for teachers to implement and students to adjust to online learning was extremely brief.
- Many universities have included a pass-fail option and the pass/fail option has been adjusted by the NCAA clearinghouse as of April 24, 2020.
- Giving students a choice between pass/fail or a letter grade may force them to have to explain that choice when it comes time for the college application process whereas, if a district made the decision, it would be understood the student did not have a choice and post-secondary institutes will look at the totality of the student’s transcript.
- PVHS counselors are willing to write a letter of support for any student who believes their GPA might have been above a certain cut point for a scholarship or recognition had they received letter grades during the 2019-2020 second semester.
- A designation will appear on each student’s transcript that will read: Due to COVID 19, district determined grading for the 2019-2020 second semester was pass/fail only.

Students and parents addressed the Board with their concerns which focused on pass/fail grades and their effect on a student’s grade point average, adverse effects pass/fail grades may have on a student’s ability to compete for scholarships, the impression that pass/fail grading reduces a student’s motivation, and the pass/fail grade doesn’t recognize grades earned prior to spring break. The Board appreciated hearing students’ perspectives, and district administrators will follow up with universities on students’ specific admissions and scholarship concerns. The high school guidance office has assured students that they will provide letters of recommendation/support during the college scholarship process.

No required motion.
ENROLLMENT UPDATE: The District is managing challenging enrollment situations in 2020-21 3rd grade and kindergarten. To accommodate district 3rd graders, 3rd grade class size will temporarily increase from 24 students to 25 students for the 2020-21 school year only. 3rd grade class size will return to 24 when Forest Grove Elementary School opens.

Kindergarten is oversubscribed at Pleasant View Elementary and Bridgeview Elementary. Hopewell kindergarten is at capacity. A fourth section of kindergarten will be added at Cody Elementary to help accommodate the incoming kindergarten class. At Pleasant View Elementary, incoming kindergarteners who do not currently have siblings at Pleasant View and reside within the future Forest Grove attendance area will be assigned to Cody Elementary until Forest Grove Elementary opens in 2021-2022. At Bridgeview, a list of incoming kindergarteners who do not currently have siblings at Bridgeview is being reviewed and some will be assigned to Cody Elementary.

In all cases, if the District assigns a student to a building other than their neighborhood elementary, the District provides bus transportation.

The District places tremendous value on small class size as an important component of student success and appreciates the patience of families during these challenging times of growth.

No required motion.

CLOSED SESSION - PERSONNEL - CODE OF IOWA, SECTION 21.5(1)(a): Closed session was called to order at 9:08 p.m. to discuss matters involving real estate. No motions were made during closed session. The Board re-entered open session at 9:35 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

FUTURE DATES:
Tuesday, May 26, 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.)

Monday, June 8, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
Closed session was called to order at 9:08 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.

**MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION:** Motion by Hoskins, second by Brockmann that the Board hold a closed session as authorized by section 21.5(1)(a) of the open meetings law to review or discuss records which are required or authorized to be kept confidential. Roll call vote. Ayes - Nels, Brockmann, Dickson, Wagle, Hoskins, Ayers, Anderson. Nays - none. Motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION:** The board met in closed session from 9:08 - 9:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters involving real estate. No motions were made during closed session.

The closed session adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

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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 Open Enrollment information and application, visit the district website at [www.pleasval.org / district / new student enrollment/open enrollment info](http://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