

PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bettendorf, LeClaire, Riverdale

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION, REGULAR MEETING, BELMONT ADMINISTRATION CENTER

Monday, February 9, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.

C.S.T.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bullock, Cournoyer, Dickson, Isbell, Wagle, Witters. Absent – Paulsen.

Also present: Jim Spelhaug, Brian Strusz, Mike Clingingsmith, Stephanie Judkins, Christine Harvey, Beth Marsoun and Jack Cullen.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: President Witters welcomed everyone, and read the mission of the district: The mission of the Pleasant Valley Community School District, as a premier innovative district in the Midwest, is to prepare students to succeed in diverse, global society by providing superior quality opportunities in a safe environment for each student to become a life-long learner and by continuously improving and customizing the educational experience.

Mrs. Cournoyer thanked Director Dickson for donating a cake on behalf of the Board to the cake auction.

Mr. Strusz thanked Mrs. Cournoyer for her work in acquiring two grants for the PV Trap Team; one for \$2,500 and one for \$13,500. The trap team has grown to 50 members currently.

Mr. Strusz informed the board that the High School Honor Roll would be re-published in the Bettendorf News using weighted grade points. Previously, it was published using un-weighted grade points.

Dr. Spelhaug extended the board's and faculty's best wishes to Deputy Jayne Ruckoldt, Sheriff's Liaison Officer at the High School, who has announced she is retiring at the end of the 2014-2015 school year after serving the district for eleven years and to Donna Haggerty, food service worker, who is retiring at the end of the 2014-2015 school year after serving the district for fourteen years.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Cournoyer, second by Bullock that the consent agenda be approved as presented. All ayes. Motion carried. The consent agenda consists of the resignation/ retirements at the end of the 2014-2015 school year of Deputy Jayne Ruckoldt and Donna Haggerty, the resignation of Chris Hallinan as a junior high social studies teacher at the end of the 2014-2015 school year; the employment of Katharine Beausoleil as a junior high science teacher and Maria Cibula as a K-6 General Music teacher

at Pleasant View both for the 2015-2016 school year; the probationary employment of Kaitlin Paris as a special education aide at Hopewell; the increase in the Letter of Assignment of Amanda Morrison as a special education aide at Hopewell by one hour per day; the regular employment of Mary E. Johnson as a special education aide at PVHS, the addition of Jonathan Keith as assistant girls soccer coach, and four open enrollment-in students – all from Bettendorf schools.

EXPENSES APPROVED: Motion by Dickson, second by Bullock that General Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of \$80,190.72 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Isbell, second by Wagle that Nutrition Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of \$40,440.16 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Bullock, second by Cournoyer that Elementary/Junior High Activity Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of \$7,278.73 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Cournoyer, second by Dickson that High School Activity Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of \$19,573.70 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Wagle, second by Dickson that PPEL Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of \$4,475.95 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Bullock, second by Isbell that Trust Fund warrants be issued in the total amount of \$679.06 in payment of invoices presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

2014-2015 IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SITE VISIT: On Tuesday, March 10th and Wednesday, March 11th the Iowa Department of Education will be present in the district to conduct the five year school improvement site visit of the district. The purpose of the site visit is to...

- Assess progress with the comprehensive school improvement plan
- Make recommendations with regard to the visit findings for the purpose of improving educational practices above minimal compliance
- Determine that a school or school district is in compliance with the accreditation standards
- Provide a general assessment of educational practices.

Mr. Strusz reviewed the anticipated two day schedule and explained the process behind the visit.

Director Paulsen arrived at 5:46 p.m.

2015-2016 CALENDAR: Dr. Spelhaug requested permission to proceed and the board discussed the possibility of applying for a waiver (in conjunction with Bettendorf Community Schools) for an earlier start date around the issue of lost instructional time for AP assessments. This would likely involve utilizing a grant

writer to organize the data and write the presentation. While this is not a sure thing, the board was in agreement with him to explore the possibility. The application needs to be submitted prior to March 15. Dr. Spelhaug emphasized that this does not negate the need to keep pressuring legislators to make this a local control decision.

In further discussion about the possible variables with the school calendar and a possible August 24 start date, Dr. Spelhaug indicated the administration is leaning toward having school on November 25 (day before Thanksgiving) and December 21-22, but maintaining a student day off in October (and keeping both the K-6 and 7-12 levels on the same calendar). It is also looking at the concept of final exams being a "point in time" rather than an absolute end point to a course. For example, year long courses may have a first semester exam based on 83 days of content and second semester exam based on 97 days of content. Semester courses would be a bit more challenging but would also have a comprehensive final prior to winter break and 5-7 days of instruction after break to complete additional content or some form of an alternative learning opportunity.

Regarding second semester, Dr. Spelhaug asked the board for its thoughts about the timing of spring break and whether or not it should be tied to Easter. A consistent time on the calendar was preferred rather than attaching it to Easter although the board did not oppose linking the break to Easter if it made sense for the timing of the break. Martin Luther King Day and President's Day will continue to be non-student days.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2015-2016 PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE: Mr. Clingingsmith presented a comparison of taxable valuations with the other Scott County school districts. PV's total taxable valuation (includes regular and TIF valuations) increased by 4.97% over last year, which was a higher percentage increase than the other Scott County school districts. Bettendorf's total taxable valuation decreased by 0.90%, Davenport's increased by 0.41% and North Scott's increased by 2.24%.

He then pointed out the effect of the change in the residential rollback percentage on the district's property tax levy rate. The residential rollback percentage increased from 54.4002% for residential valuations as of 1-1-2013 to 55.7335% for residential valuations as of 1-1-2014 (property taxes due to be paid in September, 2015 and March, 2016 are based on valuations as of 1-1-2014). Because of the change in the residential rollback percentage, PV's property tax levy rate would need to be lowered by \$0.34 per \$1,000 taxable valuation for a residential taxpayer whose valuation on their house remained the same as the previous year to not pay more in school property taxes next year.

Mr. Clingingsmith then shared data with the board on PV's actual and projected solvency ratios. The solvency ratio (Assigned plus Unassigned Fund Balance in General Fund divided by General Fund Revenue) is a key indicator of financial health for a school district's General Fund. PV's actual solvency ratio as of 6-30-2013 was 9.72%. PV's actual solvency ratio as of 6-30-2014 was 10.49%. According to Mr. Clingingsmith's calculations, PV's projected solvency ratio at 6-30-2015 is 11.14%. The low allowable growth rate proposed by the Governor is a significant factor in the district's solvency ratio and make for a greater possibility that the board will not be able to reduce the levy the full \$0.34 per \$1,000 taxable valuation.

This item will be on the agenda again at the February 23 board meeting.

REVIEW FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTS: As a framework, the board was provided an updated five year capital projects budget and schedule as an aid in describing how the district could move forward with large scale projects. The review shows significant borrowing in years 2 and 3. If the district stays on schedule, it would move forward with the Pleasant View, Bridgeview and High School STEM projects during year one; the Junior High and Cody in year two; and the first two phases of the High School “separate but connected” expansion in year three. The key concept is that these projects and the repayment plan would inhibit the district from moving forward on Forest Grove Elementary (without additional borrowing) for 9-10 years.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

FUTURE DATES:

Monday, February 23, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Belmont Administration Office.

GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATOR E-MAIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS - 2015

Roby Smith	Iowa Senate District 47	roby.smith@legis.iowa.gov https://www.legis.iowa.gov
Rita Hart	Iowa Senate District 49	rita.hart@legis.iowa.gov https://www.legis.iowa.gov
Linda J. Miller	Iowa House District 94	linda.miller@legis.iowa.gov https://www.legis.iowa.gov
Phyllis Thede	Iowa House District 93	phyllis.thede@legis.iowa.gov https://www.legis.iowa.gov
Norlin Mommsen	Iowa House District 97	norlin.mommsen@legis.iowa.gov
Terry Branstad	Governor of Iowa	https://governor.iowa.gov/constituent-services/register-

		opinion
Brad Buck	Dept. of Education Director	brad.buck@iowa.gov

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.

2014-2015

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Pleasant Valley Community School District to not discriminate in its educational activities on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, or age.

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 from educational activities 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 Brian Strusz, who has been designated by the district as Educational Equity Coordinator, or to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of HEW, Washington, D.C. Mr. Strusz' office is at Pleasant Valley Administration Center, 525 Belmont Road, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722; telephone (563)332-5550.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Spelhaug". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

James R. Spelhaug, Ph.D.
Superintendent