



**CENTRAL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JULY 15, 2021 – 7:00 PM  
CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

# Combined Work/Voting Minutes

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ROLL CALL**

<u>X*</u> Mr. Ambrose	<u>X</u> Mr. O'Neill
<u>X</u> Ms. Belcastro	<u>X</u> Mr. Ross
<u>X</u> Mr. Bloom	<u>X*</u> Dr. Unis
<u>X</u> Mr. King	<u>X</u> Mr. Zaritski
<u>X</u> Mr. Mowad	

Also Present: Dr. Perry, Mr. Halesey, and Mr. Maly

\* Remote call

### ROUTINE ITEMS

**III. EXECUTIVE SESSION - In order to discuss personnel items.**

- Ms. Belcastro announced that Dr. Perry would go over some of the points on the Health and Safety plan in order to possibly clear up some confusion. He stated 127 people responded to the survey regarding the plan, compared to last year's 2,034 responses. The results are posted on the website. Overall, people are generally accepting of the plan. Dr. Perry expressed synchronous learning under the new plan. Although it served the District well last year and there is a place for this type of learning, the option will not be provided the same way as last school year. It will be used for illnesses and quarantine situations and/or other special circumstances and these will be handled on a case by case situations and be approved by the administration. Regarding masking in the plan, the District clearly stated that as of June 28 masks are optional at Central Valley. The District is not requiring COVID vaccinations for students; however, should the state change the rulings on this vaccine, the District will revisit the issue. As far as masks on busses, Dr. Perry asked the solicitor to speak on this. Mr. Halesey spoke to this. There is still a federal mandate on masking on public transportation including school busses. Dr. Perry has reached out to local legislators and is trying to get a response for further clarification.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – Appendix A**

**V. MINUTES**

1. To approve the Voting Session Minutes from June 17, 2021. **Attachment A**

**Action required on items 1:**

Motion by Mr. Bloom                      Second by Mr. Ross  
Motion: Carries 9 Yes, 0 No

## **TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. King, Treasurer**

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. The following bills and reports are submitted for approval:

A. PAY BILLS --

1. Confirm the June 2021 General Fund Payments in the amount of \$3,611,139.50.  
**Attachment B**

2. Confirm the June 2021 Cafeteria Fund Payments in the amount of \$51,823.95.  
**Attachment C**

B. REPORT --

1. To approve the June 2021 Berkheimer Report. **Attachment D**

**Action required on item 1:**

Motion by Mr. King                      Second by Mr. Mowad  
Motion: Carried 9 Yes, 0 No

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. BOARD/POLICY ITEMS – Ms. Belcastro, Chairperson**

**B. NEGOTIATION ITEMS – Mr. O’Neill, Chairperson**

**C. EDUCATION ITEMS – Mr. Ross, Chairperson**

1. To approve an Outreach Services Contract Agreement with the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children at a cost of \$98.00/per hour, subject to terms of the Agreement beginning August 30, 2021 through June 10, 2022. **Attachment E**
2. To approve Resolution 2021-02 declaring an emergency under Section 520.1 of Public School Code. **Attachment F**
3. To approve the Central Valley School District Health and Safety Plan. **Attachment G**

**Discussion:**

- Mr. Zaritski asked that the plan is reviewed at the August meeting. Dr. Perry said that once the plan is submitted by the July 30 deadline, it is in; however, changes can be made at any time. All that will need to be done will be to put changes on the website.
- There were questions from the public regarding amending the plan on the floor. It was explained that if the Board wishes to do that, a motion will need to be made and second with a vote following.

**Action required on items 1-3:**

Motion by Mr. Ross                      Second by Mr. Zaritski  
Motion: Carried 9 Yes, 0 No

**D. TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Mowad, Chairperson**

**E. ATHLETICS – Mr. King, Chairperson**

1. To approve Dr. Amy D'Antonio as team doctor for the 2021 football season at a stipend of \$0.
2. To approve a three (3) year contract with Jamie's Physical Therapy as Middle School Trainer terms and conditions per contract.
3. To approve Drew Bollman as the head girls' soccer coach for the 2021 fall season at a stipend of \$3,500.00, pending receipt, review, and acceptance of all clearances.

**Action required on items 1-3:**

Motion by Mr. King

Second by Mr. Ross

Motion: Carried 9 Yes 0 No

**F. EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – Dr. Unis, Chairperson**



**G. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – Mr. Zaritski, Chairperson**

1. To approve/confirm the following Building Usage requests:

<b>Building</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Any Gym Space	CV Lil Warriors	6/28 – 7/30/2021	Cheerleading Practice
HS Cafeteria	CV Band Parent Assoc.	8/2-8/12/2021	Band lunches
HS Cafeteria	CV Extra Innings Club	9/13/2021 – 6/13/2022 (second Mon. of the month)	Club Board Meetings
MS Gymnasium	CV Youth Wrestling	1/29/2022	Wrestling Match

2. To approve to authorize Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates to proceed with design of the proposed Additions and Renovations to the Center Grange Primary School at a fee of 5.95% of the estimated Cost of the Work.

**Action required on item 1:**

Motion by Mr. Mowad                      Second by Mr. Zaritski  
 Motion: Carried 9 Yes, 0 No

**Discussion on item 2:**

- Mr. Zaritski explained the Buildings & Grounds committee met and felt that the entire board needed to do a walk-through of the buildings with the architects and engineers. At that time, they gave the Board an idea of what projects should be completed. Mr. Zaritski asked when the bids would begin for Center Grange? Dr. Perry explained the process of securing a bond, then the design and bidding phases. Mr. Zaritski had a concern that a “not to exceed” amount is not listed on the Agenda item. Dr. Perry explained that the “not to exceed” would come with the bond. Dr. Perry explained what cost of the work means. Mr. Zaritski explained that he is 100% in favor of all day kindergarten; however, he is not in favor of putting a lot of money into the District’s newest building. He feels the Board is not following the recommendations of the architects and engineers. He also feels that this is not the right time as far as building costs and all the other necessary building improvements.
- Mr. O’Neill asked for a dollar figure. Dr. Perry said that on the proposed cost of the work, approximately \$590,000.
- Mr. Mowad stated that all day every day kindergarten would be good for the community and good for the District, but he does not feel like this is the time for that. He said he has a hard time approving this after the walkthrough of the buildings and seeing the conditions that the Board puts teachers and students in every day. He stated that he knows this item will pass; but he hopes we do end up getting students back from Baden and that revenues go up, but he does not face large financial responsibilities on hope. He is on the financial committee and the recommendation from the financial auditor and state auditor was to not add any new debt currently and the finance committee also did not recommend going forward with this as well. In 2016 the Board apart from Ms. Belcastro whom was not a member at the time, committed to a renovation plan. He feels that not putting the money into the middle school is a mistake. The middle school was a priority at the merge and should be addressed. Mr. Mowad stated that this project started as a two – three million dollar project for all day every day kindergarten

has ballooned to an 11 million project with what he calls frivolous spending. He said if the Board is going to do this project, he will be watching the spending. He stated he will be voting no for this project because he feels it jeopardizes the long term financial state of the District.

- Mr. Ross knows that what the finance committee recommended but they did not give a plan for how to pay for the projects. Mr. Ross explained that the District is spending \$500,000 a year to pay for students that attend Baden Academy. Mr. Ross stated that PA Cyber is in negotiation with Quigley Catholic to possibly lease or buy the building and should that go through, there will grades 7-9 there. Once students attend, they make friends and want to stay with their friends. The cost will increase to a million dollars a year. He does not want someone else educating our kids, not transporting them. He went on to explain that if the District borrows the \$11 million our payment will be \$350,000 a year. It makes more sense to him that we would be saving some money. He believes that all day every day kindergarten will keep students here. He believes students in a half day program are only receiving two hours of learning where other schools are with all day programs and receiving more learning time. He also discussed that taxes would go up with the finance committee's plan. Mr. Mowad remarked that the committee never stated to take out a loan and do those two schools. What the committee did say is to no spend the money now, continue to build the fund balance and when appropriate proceed with the renovations. At that point Ms. Belcastro called for a roll call vote.

**Action required on item 2:**

Motion by Mr. Bloom

Second by M. Ross

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes and 4 No (Mowad, O'Neill, Unis, & Zaritski)

- Mr. Ambrose spoke at his voting time. He further explained what he believed Mr. Ross was trying to say. He feels that financially the District is getting a bargain at 2.5%. He also stated that he feels the District is in a much better position financially than when this was first discussed last year.

□

## H. PERSONNEL ITEMS – Mr. Bloom, Chairperson

1. To approve Rachel Watts as a HS Guidance Counselor, Step 1 Master's Degree, in accordance with the CVEA Agreement, effective August 24, 2021, pending receipt, review and acceptance of all clearances.
2. To approve Elizabeth Damp as a Music/Vocal Teacher, Step 1 Bachelor's Degree, in accordance with the CVEA Agreement, effective August 24, 2021, pending receipt, review and acceptance of all clearances.
3. To approve Lauren Leone as a High School Business Teacher, Step 2 Bachelor's Degree, in accordance with the CVEA Agreement, effective August 24, 2021, pending receipt, review and acceptance of all clearances.
4. To approve Danielle Thompson as a Secondary English Teacher, Step 1 Bachelor's Degree, in accordance with the CVEA Agreement, effective August 24, 2021, pending receipt, review and acceptance of all clearances.
5. To approve a FMLA request for an elementary teacher from August 30, 2021 through November 5, 2021.
6. To approve Erica Kain as a German Teacher, Step 1 Master's Degree, in accordance with the CVEA Agreement, effective August 24, 2021, pending receipt, review and acceptance of all clearances.
7. To approve Jessica Santillo as a High School Chemistry Teacher, Step 1 Master's Degree, in accordance with the CVEA Agreement, effective August 24, 2021, pending receipt, review and acceptance of all clearances.
8. To approve an unpaid leave request for an elementary teacher pursuant to Article 7 Section D of the Collective Bargaining Agreement

### **Action required on item 1-8:**

Motion by Mr. Bloom                      Second by Mr. Zaritski  
Motion Carried 9 Yes, 0 No

**I. FINANCE ITEMS – Mr. Ambrose, Chairperson**

**J. SUPERINTENDENT’S ITEMS/COMMENTS**

- Dr. Perry thanked the community for their input. Also, the personnel committee and administrators for their time and efforts spent during the interview process.

**K. BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS**

- Mr. Zaritski thanked the public and asked that they have faith in the Board.
- Mr. Bloom thanked the administration as well as the students that sat in on the demo lessons. They did a great job. He also said that the proposed cost of the middle school roof did come in less than expected.
- Mr. Ross, Mr. O’Neill, Mr. King, Mr. Mowad and Ms. Belcastro all thanked the community for attending the meeting and for their input.

**L. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Appendix B**

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. To adjourn the meeting.

**Action required on item 1:**

Motion by Mr. Zaritski

Second by Mr. O’Neill

Motion: Carried 9 Yes, 0 No

## APPENDIX A

**Terri Phillips (Mulberry Lane)** asked that the other school districts be investigated as to how they are handling the masking on buses? He stated that he believes Beaver and Butler Area are not requiring masks on buses. Dr. Perry stated that the door is not closed on the issue. He will continue to have discussions regarding this issue.

**David Mullen (no address given)** asked for clarification. Mr. Halsey stated that the Federal Government allows for the CDC to make this mandate. Mr. Mullen stated that he feels that the CDC does not overrule this state and our government. Mr. Mullen feels that the Board is more powerful than the CDC. He feels that the District has a solicitor that can fight that rule.

**Leah Paladino (Bainbridge Drive)** stated that the CDC says that vaccinated children do not need to wear masks and unvaccinated children need to wear a mask. Dr. Perry clarified that this is a recommendation of the CDC at this time; however, the District will not require masks in school. Ms. Paladino discussed how the District will receive separate federal money for this and the District does not need this money.

**Rick Forrester (Atlantic Avenue)** asked if students are on buses and are vaccinated, will they need to wear a mask? Mr. Halsey stated that the federal order does not differentiate between vaccinated and/or unvaccinated.

**James Peters (Front Street)** stated that there is no medical evidence backing up the mandate. He also referred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment and stated that the state is not required to follow a federal mandate.

**Rachel Schwer (York Way)** asked for clarification, stating that no one can just get on the school buses so is it public transportation? She feels asks the district to seek additional guidance, which Dr. Perry said he is doing. She asked in returning to classes, if the students will return to art, music, etc. and will Center Grange and Todd Lane students be using paper and pencil instead of exclusively on an iPad? Dr. Perry responded that where appropriate, yes.

**Leslie Russell (Heathcliff Drive)** was looking for guidance regarding the plan and the Lil Warriors. Dr. Perry said that the Athletic Director will work with the group as needed.

**Barbara Shearer (Mengel Ave)** asked the Board to vote against the Health and Safety Plan. She feels the CDC creates policies that hurt the students. She stated some stats regarding the vaccination. She asks that the Board not put what is best for children in the hands of the Dept. of Health and the CDC.

**Jennifer Checketts (Cedar Ridge Drive)** asked if the language regarding following the CDC could be taken out of the plan. Dr. Perry said the line states information will be taken from the CDC. Mr. Halsey reiterated what he had said, the order has the force of law behind it.

**Josh Himes (Poplar Avenue)** asked again for no masks on the buses and leave the vaccine choice up to the parents. He doesn't want the school to follow these rules.

**Brandi Patterson (Pinehaven Ct.)** read from the plan regarding plans could change based on the Dept. of Health and CDC guidelines. She would like that removed. Dr. Perry stated that the District did everything possible to get children back in school. He said the plan must leave it open for what cannot be predicted.

**James Peters (Front Street)** asked why the District seems to be following the CDC guidelines on some things and not on others. Dr. Perry pointed out the difference is between what is a recommendation verse what is a mandate. Dr. Perry will continue to reach out for further clarification.

**Barbara Shearer** again discussed the removing of the CDC line from the document.

**Karen Forrester (Atlantic Avenue)** commented that she is a bus driver and became ill with COVID even though she wore a mask. She also feels it is dangerous to drive with the mask on.

**Cindy Phillips (Mulberry Lane)** read from the Butler School District website regarding masks and that they have no mention of the CDC. She is asking to strike that line form the plan. She went on to review violations of civil rights. She stated that the CDC is not a legislative body and can be ignored.

**Anna Betters (Bridget Street)** gave a statement regarding mask wearing and an issue with the health of her son.

## **APPENDIX B**

**Josh Himes (Poplar Avenue)** spoke regarding the detrimental idea of using critical race theory in our schools.

**Leah Paladino (Bainbridge Drive)** spoke regarding critical race theory and that it is in the middle school. She referenced and asked the Board to watch a video that was referenced last Board meeting called "Being 12". She reviewed the video and read a statement she wrote down from the video. She was upset that this is in her child's Advisory class. Mr. Dolph addressed her statements and said that the video is being revisited. Ms. Paladino stated that this information should be handled at home, not at school. Mr. O'Neill spoke as to how he would use the video to teach good citizenship. He stated a good citizen is not a racist. Mr. Zaritski pointed out that the process of bringing concerns to the principal and the principal handling the situation was the proper order. It was agreed that the concern was being evaluated and handled by the principal.

**April Katsafanas (Morning Mist Drive)** asked that the Board watch the video. This is a very important issue to her. She stated there is no place for this in our schools.

**Jennifer Checketts (Cedar Ridge Drive)** asked if the safety issues at the middle school are being addressed? She agrees with the all day kindergarten; however, the needs of the middle school are important. Mr. Zaritski addressed that there is active involvement with the issues at the middle school and high school that are being addressed. She said that parents are also considering other middle school options because they do not feel it is safe.

**James Peters (Front Street)** asked about Board terms and contracts. Dr. Perry addressed the elections and contracts.

**Rachel Schwer (York Way)** stated that the terms of the Board members is not there and could that be added to the website? Mr. Zaritski agreed.