BELLE VERNON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania  

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 15, 2008  

I. CALL TO ORDER  
A regular meeting of the Belle Vernon Area School District Board of Education was called to order by President Dale K. Patterson at 8:10 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2008 in the District Administration Office Board Room.  

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
President Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.  

III. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE  
Board Secretary James M. McKevitt recorded the following in attendance.  

DIRECTORS—(Present): Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKeveit, Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill  (9)  

(Absent): None  (0)  

SOLICITOR: Ira Weiss, Esq. – Law Offices of Ira Weiss  

STAFF: Stephen V. Russell, Substitute Superintendent/Bellmar M. S. Principal  
Eileen M. Navish, Business Manager  
Gregory J. Zborovancik, High School Principal  
Maria C. Weightman, Assistant High School Principal  
J. K. Folmar, Jr., Rostraver Middle School Principal  
Frederick T. Labutta, Rostraver Elementary School Principal  
Keith D. McMonagle, Marion Elementary School Principal  
David H. Bashada, Director of Transportation  
Jason E. Zadroznay, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Jesse J. Cramer, Athletic Director  
Frances P. Kopanic, Board Executive Secretary  

MEDIA: Lori Waryanka, *Times Sun*, West Newton PA  
Jeff Pikulsky, *The Valley Independent*, Monessen PA
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

A motion to add to the agenda action to set the wage for consultant Dr. John Osheaka was made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director Kraft, and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES ............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill   (9)
NO ............... None   (0)

The agenda for this meeting was then approved on a motion made by Director McKevitt, seconded by Director Puglia and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES ............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill   (9)
NO ............... None   (0)

V. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS RELATIVE TO THE AGENDA OF THIS MEETING ONLY

President Patterson opened the meeting to comments from citizens relative to the agenda of this meeting only. There was no response from the audience.

REPORT BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

BVA Senior, John Watroba, presented a report on the following items to the Board. He also introduced Mia Amatangelo, a junior student, who will be working with him and assume this responsibility for the 2009-2010 school year.

- National Honor Society Pennies for Patients Drive which raised $1,100.00 for Children’s Hospital
- The Christmas Dance was held over the weekend and a good time was had by all who attended
- The Future is Mine Club is hosting its first annual Teacher Appreciation Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 17, in the High School Library; all Board members are invited to attend
- The High School Band and Chorus will host their Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday December 17; a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser will be held prior to the concert
- Interact Toys for Tots project
- Student Advisory council will meet with Mrs. Naylor, Food Services Director, to
exchange ideas for lunches and/or ethnic lunches on designated days

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[November 17, 2008 – Agenda Meeting]

Minutes for the November 17, 2008 agenda meeting were approved on a motion made by Director McKevitt, seconded by Director Puglia and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
                Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)

NO ............... None   (0)

[November 17, 2008 – Regular Meeting]

Minutes for the November 17, 2008 regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Director McKevitt, seconded by Director Stringhill and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
                Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)

NO ............... None   (0)

[November 24, 2008 – Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting and Special Meeting]

Minutes for the November 24, 2008 Building and Grounds Committee meeting and special meeting were approved on a motion made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director McKevitt and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
                Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)

NO ............... None   (0)

[December 4, 2008 – Reorganization Meeting]

Minutes for the reorganization meeting held December 4, 2008 were approved on a motion made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director McKevitt and carried on a 9-0 vote:
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YES ............ Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
          Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ................ None   (0)

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

**BVA WRESTLING BOOSTERS:**
(Exhibit #1)

Request to have the wrestling team participate in two tournaments which would require overnight stays; the first one is the Easton High School Dual Tournament scheduled for January 2 and 3, 2009, and the second one is the Sharon High School Duals in Sharon PA. The Boosters will pay for the hotel rooms.

The Boosters are also requesting permission to conduct a Powder Puff wrestling match in the High School gym on December 20, 2008, following conclusion of the youth wrestling matches that day.

Approval was granted on a motion made by Director Jackson, seconded by Director Sepesky and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES ............ Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
          Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ................ None   (0)

**BVA TEACHERS COMPETITIVE RECREATION VOLLEYBALL:**
(Exhibits #2 and #2A)

Request for use of the Rostraver Elementary School gymnasium from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2009 for a volleyball game.

This was approved on a motion made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director Kraft and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES ............ Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
          Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ................ None   (0)

**THE MARTINETTES TWIRLING CORPS:**
(Exhibits #3 thru #3B)

Request for use of the Marion Elementary School gymnasium 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the dates listed for baton twirling practice in preparation for indoor winter competitions: January 8, 29, February 5, March 5, 19, and 26.
Following some discussion on appropriate sites for such an activity, a motion for approval was made by Director Kraft, seconded by Director Jackson and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ............... None   (0)

BVA GIRLS AND BOYS SOCCER BOOSTERS:

(Exhibits #4 and #4A):  Request for use of the High School gymnasium and cafeteria from 6:30 a.m. to approximately 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2009 for the annual girls’ indoor soccer tournament, and on Friday, February 27, for setup.

Approval was granted on a motion made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director McKevitt and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ............... None   (0)

(Exhibits #5 and #5A):  Request for use of the High School gymnasium and cafeteria from 6:30 a.m. to approximately 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, 2009 for the annual boys’ indoor soccer tournament.

This was approved on a motion made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director McKevitt and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ............... None   (0)

BETSY’S DANCE CENTER:
(Exhibits #6 and #6A)  Request for use of the High School auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a dance recital on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31, 2009.

Approval was granted on a motion made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director Sepesky and carried on a 9-0 vote:
NEW HOPE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:
(Exhibits #7 and #7A)
Request for use of the Rostraver Elementary School gymnasium for basketball recreation every other Friday beginning December 12 and continuing thru May 2009. They are requesting the 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. time slot; however, this is negotiable.

A motion for approval was made by Director Sepesky, seconded by Director Jackson and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ................ None   (0)

JESSE J. CRAMER, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR:
(Exhibit #8): Athletic Department monthly report
(Exhibits #9 thru #9C): Facility Usage monthly report
President Patterson ordered this filed for the record.

JASON E. ZADROZNY, DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:
(Exhibit #10): Buildings and Grounds Department monthly report
President Patterson ordered the report filed for the record.

DAVID H. BASHADA, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION:
(Exhibits #11 thru #11B): Transportation Department monthly report
President Patterson ordered this filed for the record.

GREGORY M. STEEBER, TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR
(Exhibit #11-1): Technology Department monthly report
President Patterson ordered this filed for the record.

CENTRAL WESTMORELAND CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER:
(Exhibits #12 and #13))
Summaries of the Board meeting held November 19, 2008, and the Professional Advisory Meeting held November 26, 2008, respectively. President Patterson ordered this filed for the record.

WESTMORELAND INTERMEDIATE UNIT:
(Exhibits # 14 and #14A, and #15 thru #15-O)
Summary of the November 25, 2008 Board meeting and the Executive Director’s Report for same.
President Patterson ordered this filed for the record.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Director Kraft made a motion to approve collectively and/or for informational purposes only, all financial reports submitted for this meeting as listed in Exhibits #16 thru #27-B. Director McKevitt seconded the motion.

Director Bialon then made a motion to table this until after action on Exhibit #41 because the bills presented for payment include one from a consultant who has not yet been approved by the Board. Director Jackson seconded and the motion carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ................. None   (0)

(SECRETARY’S NOTE): Action on the financial reports is recorded on Page No. 16 of the minutes for this meeting.

(Exhibits #16 thru #16T): Interim Financial Statements of the General Fund for the Month of November 2008

(Exhibits #17 thru #17B): Reconciliation Report of the General Fund for the Month of November 2008

(Exhibits #18 thru #18C): Report of Investments for the General Fund For the Month of November 2008

(Exhibits #19 thru #19W): Bills Presented for Payment from the General Fund TOTAL – $912,612.28

(Exhibits #20 thru #20I): Report of Bills Paid from the General Fund In November 2008 for Fixed Charges
TOTAL – $383,945.62

Exhibits #21 thru #21F): Report of Investments for the Capital 37 Construction Fund for the Month of November 2008

(Exhibits #22 and #22A): Bills Presented for Payment from the Capital 37 Construction Fund
TOTAL – $133,102.67


(Exhibits #23 and #23A): Statistical Reports of Cafeteria Program Operations For the Month of November 2008

(Exhibits #24 thru #24N): Interim Financial Statement of the Cafeteria Fund For the Month of November 2008

Student Activity Fund Reconciliations For the Month of November 2008

Exhibits #25 thru #25M): Belle Vernon Area High School
(Exhibits #26 and #26A): Bellmar Middle School
(Exhibits #27 thru #27B): Rostraver Middle School

OVERVIEW OF FINANCES

Nothing to report.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. BIDS ON METAL LOCKERS FOR MARION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(Exhibits #28 and #28A)

[Return to the Agenda from Table at November 17, 2008 Regular Meeting]

A motion was made by Director Bialon to return to the agenda from table at the November 17, 2008 the bids received on the purchase of metal lockers for Marion Elementary School. Director McKevitt seconded and the motion carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
                  Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ................. None           (0)
[Action to Award / Reject Bid on Metal Lockers for Marion Elementary School]

A motion to award the bid for purchase of metal lockers for Marion Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder was made by Director Bialon and seconded by Director McKevitt. Following discussion, the motion was defeated on a 3-6 roll call vote:

YES ................ Bialon, McKevit7, Stringhill    (3)
NO ................. Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, Puglia, Sepesky, Patterson    (6)

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESIGNATIONS

Nothing to report.

B. REPORT OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:
(Exhibit #29)
Notification that the District’s 2008-2009 Consolidated Federal Programs Application has been approved and that funds may be obligated under the Consolidated Rider effective September 5, 2008; further, that the funds must be obligated by September 30, 2009. The total allocated for Project RA-999-09-0024 is $816,633.00; individual project allocations are: No. 013-09-0024 – $643,018.00; and No. 020-09-0024 – $173,615.00.

President Patterson ordered this filed for the record.

C. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION
[Additions to Substitute Rosters]
(Exhibit #30)

Substitute Superintendent Russell recommended that additions be made to 2008-2009 substitute rosters as listed.

Substitute Teacher:   Pierina Alcorn – elementary K-6
                    Katie Cosner – elementary K-6

Substitute Security Guard:  Melvin Gray
A motion for approval was made Director Bialon, seconded by Director Sepesky and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill (9)

NO .............. None (0)

[Graduate Credit Tuition Reimbursement – BVAEA]
(Exhibit #31)

Substitute Superintendent Russell recommended that the Board of Education authorize payment of graduate credit tuition reimbursement to the following members of the professional staff in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Jamie D. Palenchar ........ $1,606.50 – 6 credits earned 08/08 thru 12/08
Sarah E. Yonash ............ $1,606.50 – 6 credits earned 08/08 thru 12/08

Approval was granted on a motion made by Director Jackson, seconded by Director Bialon and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill (9)

NO .............. None (0)

[Renewal of Re-appraisal Services]
(Exhibits #32 thru #32D)

Substitute Superintendent Russell recommended that the Board of Education approve a renewal agreement with Valuation Engineers Incorporated for re-appraisal services for a five-year period as listed:

Part I: Initial Fixed Asset Appraisal .......... $6,950.00 (Same as 2003 Fee)
Part II: Annual Revaluation Service .......... $  695.00 per year (No Change in Fee)
Part III: Fixed Management System .......... (No Fee – Previously Purchased)
Part IV: Annual Accounting Supplement .... $   495.00 per year (No Change in Fee)

This was approved on a motion made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director Jackson and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill (9)
Substitute Superintendent Russell recommended that the Board of Education adopt the PSBA policy and accompanying regulations relative to Public Records as recommended by Solicitor Weiss’s office.

A motion for approval was made by Director Bialon, seconded by Director Sepesky and carried on a 9-0 vote:

**YES ................ Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt**
**Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill (9)**

**NO ................ None (0)**

Substitute Superintendent Russell recommended that the Board of Education adopt the calendar for 2009 Board meeting dates and sites as outlined.

Approval was granted on a motion made by Director Godzak, seconded by Director Sepesky and carried on a 9-0 vote:

**YES ................ Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt**
**Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill (9)**

**NO ................ None (0)**

### D. EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

### E. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

**[Change Order No. 003-General Construction – MES and RES]**
*(Exhibits #35 thru #35U)*
Substitute Superintendent Russell recommended that the Board of Education approve Change Order No. 003 as requested by Franjo Construction Corporation in the amount of a $52,339.00 increase for additional work at Marion Elementary School and Rostraver Elementary School, per the backup data included in the administration office.

This was approved on a motion made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director McKevitt and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt  
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)  
NO ............... None   (0)

[Gospel Alliance Church – Request for Use of Facilities]  
(Exhibits #36 and #36A)

Gospel Alliance Church of Charleroi requested use of the High School auditorium for a religious service on Sunday, December 21, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to approximately noon. The solicitor recommended approval, and due to time constraints President Patterson polled the Board via telephone earlier in the week. The poll for approval was ratified on a motion made by Director Puglia, seconded by Director Sepesky and carried on a 7-1-1 roll call vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Patterson,  
Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (7)  
NO ............... McKevitt    (1)  
ABSTAIN ....  Kraft    (1)

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE  
(Director Godzak, Director Sepesky)

[Change Middle School Boys’ Soccer to Junior High Team]

Due to a decrease in enrollment soccer coach Chris Stasicha requested a change in the boys’ soccer classification from Middle School to Junior High which will include 7th and 8th grade students.

This was approved on a motion made by Director Godzak, seconded by Director Sepesky and carried on a 9-0 vote:
YES ............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKeivitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill (9)
NO ............... None (0)

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**
*(Director McKevitt, Director Jackson)*

Nothing to report.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**
*(Director Stringhill, Director Jackson)*

Director Stringhill clarified that after the studies are completed on the 84 Lumber Company sales agreement, the Board will meet again to review and approve it.

Director Jackson reported on the safety issues created at the elementary school parking lots due to the number of parents who congregate early to pick up their children from school. Considerable discussion followed.

**EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**
*(Director Patterson, Director Kraft, Director Puglia)*

President Patterson reported that the science curriculum is being finalized; also, the Classrooms for the Future program is going well and eventually will be available for use in classrooms at any location in the School District.

**POLICY MANUAL COMMITTEE**
*(Director Puglia, Director Patterson)*

**[Hiring Policy for Administrators and Supervisors]**
*(Exhibit #37)*

A Hiring Policy for Administrators and Supervisors was adopted on a motion made by Director Jackson, seconded by Director Bialon and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES ............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKeivitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill (9)
[Student Parking Policy for High School]

Director Puglia advised that the student parking policy for High School students is being reviewed and will be modified prior to the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(Director Sepesky, Director Godzak)

Nothing to report.

XI. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Jodie Mima, Martion Elementary PTA President:
Commented on the need for the lockers at Marion Elementary School, and the need for a review of the importance of parents bringing their children to the school and picking them up at dismissal time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to retire to executive session for real estate and personnel matters was made by Director Jackson at approximately 8:55 p.m. Director Sepesky seconded and the motion carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ................ None   (0)

The regular meeting was reconvened at 9:40 p.m. on a motion made by Director Kraft, seconded by Director Godzak and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ................ None   (0)

[Sales Agreement for 84 Lumber Company Property]
(Exhibit #38)
A Sales Agreement for the 84 Lumber Company property in Rostraver Township was tabled for further review by the Solicitor as discussed in executive session. A motion to this effect was made by Director Bialon, seconded by Director Puglia and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
                   Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ............... None    (0)

[Agreement with Belle Vernon Area Education Association re Grievance]
(Exhibit #39)

After discussion in executive session an agreement with the Belle Vernon Area Education Association relative to a grievance settlement on behalf of day-to-day substitutes was approved on a motion made by Director Bialon, seconded by Director McKevitt and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
                   Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ............... None    (0)

[Open-Air Drug Searches]
(Exhibit #40)

A motion to permit the Drug Task Force to conduct open-air searches, as discussed in executive session, was made by Director Jackson, seconded by Director by Director Puglia and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
                   Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ............... None    (0)

[Consultant on As-Needed Basis]
(Exhibit #41)

A motion to name Dr. John Osheaka as a consultant to assist Substitute Superintendent Russell on an as-needed basis at the rate of $400.00 per day was made by Director Jackson, seconded by Director Bialon and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKevitt
                   Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill       (9)
NO ............... None    (0)
[Financial Reports]

A motion was made by Director Bialon to return from table earlier in the agenda the financial reports submitted for this meeting. Director Jackson seconded and the motion carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKeveitt
                  Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill   (9)
NO ................ None   (0)

A motion to approve collective and/or for informational purposes only all financial reports submitted for this meeting as listed in Exhibits #16 thru #27B was made by Director Jackson, seconded by Director McKeveitt and carried on a 9-0 vote:

YES .............. Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKeveitt
                  Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill   (9)
NO ................ None   (0)

XII.  ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m. on a motion made by Director Jackson, seconded by Director Godzak and carried unanimously.

_________________________________________
James M. McKeveitt
Board Secretary

JMM:fpk