

Study Session - MINUTES
March 11, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Tenth Street Library

Attendance:

M. McClure, L. Ashbaugh, T. Schaaf, F. Aughenbaugh, A. DiClaudio, E. Tillman, J. Hurt-Robinson (telephone), A. Loeffler (telephone), M. DiNinno, T. Good. Absent: D. DiPietro
E. Hewitt, M. Plance, C. Monroe, R. Rizzo, D. Zolkowski, N. English, L. Stelitano, S. Waffensmith, J. Miller, W. Wilton, A. Cummings, D. Engen

Dr. DiNinno welcomed everyone and shared that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss District topics and prepare for potential motions of approval during the Regular Voting meeting which will take place next week.

Capital Improvements Update:

District Architects reviewed the status of the implementation of the Capital Improvements Plan indicating that several summer projects will take place throughout the District and a motion to grant permission for the Architects to obtain bids for several projects will be needed next week in an effort to complete some of the larger projects over the summer and while students are not in the building. The Architects provided the board with the highlights of the largest projects at all three buildings, the elevator replacement, wrap-around road, and the replacement of domestic water piping system at the Jr/Sr high school, the redesign of the admin area, the carpeting replacement and the drainage and surface replacement for the playground at the 10th street elementary and, a new roof at Verner. In addition, both 10th and Verner will be getting updated, clock systems, PA systems, etc. so that the entire district is on the same system and can communicate. The board was provided with a detailed plan. A copy of the detailed plan is attached to the minutes.

Metz – Meal Service Programs:

Representatives from Metz shared 2019-2020 Riverview Food Services changes and provided an update on the Breakfast in the Classroom program at Verner. Information regarding the Community Eligibility Provision at Verner and the success of the Breakfast in the Classroom program was shared. As a result of the CEP and the Breakfast in the Classroom program, all students at Verner will be able to have a free breakfast and lunch at school next year.

Additional information shared includes Tenth Street will have a Grab and Go Breakfast Cart next year, the JSHS Grab n Go Cart will continue, the JSHS will implement a Coffee Bar and Pizza Impinger/Italian Special Room. Additionally, a Tier Program will be implemented at the JSHS for \$1.00 more per meal permitting students to expand on the regular lunch menu.

It was discussed that the District has not raised lunch prices for many, many years. Some of this was due to restrictions placed on the District due to mandates and the price-lunch equity

system. The Board discussed increasing all lunches next year by 25 cents and adult meal prices by 25 cents.

It was also shared that in addition to the current nutrition information that is shared on the District website pertaining to lunches, a new School Café App will be available to support nutrition value education/awareness.

Superintendent Comments:

Dr. DiNinno shared that Mrs. Plance plans to retire at the end of the year and she thanked her for the support and leadership she has given to the students, faculty and community at Verner. She also thanked her for her Special Education leadership and the experience she brought to Riverview after serving a large majority of her career at McKeesport. It was acknowledged that Mrs. Plance has made a positive difference and her leadership was appreciated. The board and those in attendance applauded for Mrs. Plance's efforts and leadership.

Budget Update:

Dr. DiNinno shared that Ms. Good did a great job of reviewing the preliminary budget at last week's Budget meeting. Dr. DiNinno reminded everyone that, based on the current proposed budget for 19-20, revenue projections do not meet the expenditure costs requested by educators in order to meet student needs. As a result, discussion, prioritizing, and responsible decision making will need to take place between now and June as we move towards the creation of the final budget for 2019-2020. Dr. DiNinno shared that the board will need to provide direction soon regarding whether or not they will raise taxes – and - if they do decide to raise taxes, the board will need to determine how much taxes will be raised. She reminded everyone that if taxes are raised, they can only be raised up to the index permitted by the State. Either way, Dr. DiNinno explained that raising taxes to the index will still not cover all of the resources being requested. She reminded everyone that only about 20 percent of the budget is available for reduction considerations. This is because only 20 percent of the budget falls under the category of non-mandated items. These non-mandated items are resources that are not required by the state or federal government to operate the schools.

Mr. Tillman shared concerns over increasing mandated special education costs and the impact these costs have had on past budgets. He shared that this has resulted in cuts elsewhere.

Mr. DiClaudio shared concerns about only structural issues related to the costs to run the school district.

Dr. McClure reminded everyone that as student enrollment declined the resources needed to support fewer students were impacted and eventually created a structural problem over time. She indicated that an increase in student enrollment could help.

Ms. Good reminded the board that there have been two tax increases over the past several years and that several other revenue pops have come from other resources that provided one year revenue increases.

The board discussed special education costs, structural implications, and enrollment.

Some discussion regarding the need to increase taxes, or not increase taxes was also held. Ms. Good assisted with clarification and answering questions the board had related to these items.

Mrs. Ashbaugh requested that in preparation for a discussion related to any tax increase that the administration prepare a sample list of items that could be impacted if the board did not approve a tax increase, if the board approved raising taxes to half of the index, and if the board approved raising taxes to the full index. Dr. DiNinno and Ms. Good indicated that they would provide this to the board next week using a similar template to the information that was provided to the board last year.

Dr. DiNinno reviewed and discussed with the board the following items explaining that most will be listed on next week's agenda for potential board approval.

General:

- Disposal of Physics Textbooks – Mr. Hewitt explained that the books were very old.
- ROTC – Dr. DiNinno and Mr. Hewitt shared details on this leadership program that could be offered to interested students by joining forces with Plum. The board agreed that the program was valuable and that the District should move forward under the premise that families would provide their own transportation.
- PJAS – May 19 through May 21 (B. Ludwig, M. Carson, 13 students)
- ASCD Empower Convention (Chicago, Illinois) March 16 and 17 – R. Poth

Personnel

- Teacher Sabbatical
- Potential paraprofessional hire
- Supplementals—Orchestra Pit (Pagnotta); JH Volleyball (Spohn); JH Assistant Volleyball (Ercole); Volleyball Volunteer & Athletic Event Worker (Siebert)
- Substitute Employees
- Bus Drivers

Agreements/Contracts:

- Forbes – Lunch Program Agreement
- Educational Services Agreement, Use of funds, Notice of Adoption (AIU and IDEA)
- AIU Program of Services Budget
- YMCA – The board asked Mr. Zolkowski to create and distribute a local community survey to obtain more information regarding any interest or need for this before and after school program.
- Western PA School for the Deaf
- DART
- Letter of Agreement – Woman for a Healthy Environment Grant - – Dr. DiNinno thanked and congratulated Mr. Pater for his time and work on obtaining this grant.
- AGX Inc. – Environmental Quality Screening
- Stockman Landscaping Contracts (each building)
- CTI Water Treatment Services for the Boilers
- Homegrown Summer Institute
- LearnWell

Finance:

- VEBH Pay apps (3)
- GASB 45/75 valuation report
- Price Lunch Equity
- Food Service Renewal

Board Policies/Governance:

- Third Reading: Homeless (251)
- First Reading: Tobacco/Nicotine – students (222); Tobacco/Nicotine – staff (323); Hazing (247); Public Attendance at School Events/Tobacco (904)
- Budgetary Outlines – Baseball Boosters

Committee Updates

Student Life: Mr. DiClaudio reminded the board that SHREK, this year's musical will be performed during the last week of March and that tickets were on sale and available for purchase via the District webpage. He shared that high school students visited the elementary schools to introduce the musical and share short snippets. Patrons night will take place on March 26th.

Education: Mrs. Ashbaugh congratulated Verner Elementary School for its recognition as a "Standout" School ranking #7 in the area.

Eastern Area Schools: Mrs. Aughenbaugh shared that Eastern Area School, sunrise, is addressing maintenance issues and a grant has been provided to offset costs.

Forbes/Legislation: Mrs. Loeffler shared that new cyber school legislation could be helpful to schools and encouraged everyone to contact local legislators. She also shared that she has been in contact with Frank Dermody and will provide an update in the future.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05.

An executive session to discuss personnel matters was held from approximately 9:07 to 9:55.