

**MINUTES OF REGULAR VOTING MEETING
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

May 15, 2023

**An executive session was held on Monday May 8, 2023 beginning at 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm and from 9:58 pm to 10:20 pm discuss legal matters and to receive information.*

**An executive Session was held on Monday, May 15, 2023 beginning at 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm and upon adjournment of voting meeting at 8:37 pm to 9:07 pm.*

CALL TO ORDER Mrs. Jeanine Hurt-Robinson, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Riverview Board of School Directors to order at 7:05 p.m., May 15, 2023.

VISITORS PRESENT Ernie Tillman, Erin Schuetz,

ROLL CALL Present: Members: Mrs. Hurt-Robinson, Mrs. Chaparro, Mr. Hawk, Mrs. Wilton, Mrs. Garibay, Dr. McClure, Mr. Paris, Mr. Muscante, Solicitor; Dr. English, Supt.; Ms. Wehner, Business Manager; Mrs. Zatawski, Recording Secretary Absent: Mrs. Miller, Dr. Pallone, no remote calls.

MINUTES APPROVED Mrs. Hurt-Robinson presented: Minutes of the Regular Voting Meeting for April 17, 2023 and Minutes of the Study Session for April 3, 2023. Ms. Garibay moved to approve, Mr. Paris seconded the motion with 7 affirmative votes, no opposed and no abstentions.

BILLS Food Service: March 2023; Capital Reserve Fund: March 2023; GOB Series 2020: March 2023; Fund 39 GOB 2019 Series: March 2023; Scholarship Account: March 2023; Student Activities: March 2023; Pa. Municipal – Delinquent EIT Collections: April 2023, Keystone Collections Group: EIT Collections – April 2023, LST Collections – April 2023, Approval of Bills – Fund 10 – 2022-2023 in the amount of \$635,891.94. Mrs. Garibay moved that these reports to be accepted and filed for audit. Mrs. Wilton second the motion which passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS Thank you all for coming and/or watching on Boxcast. Thanks to the board for being here and getting through the meeting quickly, and through the great updates we have going on that will be reported at the end. Encourage everyone to educate and understand the candidates that are running for office in local elections, get out and vote.

SUPTS. REMARKS None at this time

HEARING OF CITIZENS None at this time

MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee (Dr. McClure/Mr. Hawk), Mrs. Hurt-Robinson motion to approve:

MOTION 1:

- Recommend approval and direct the advertisement of the Riverview School District Proposed Final General Fund Budget for the 2023-2024 school year with total expenditures of \$25,870,581.00 and total revenues of \$25,870,581.00, which budget includes a millage increase, for a total of 24.1409 mills. The

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proposed budget will be available for public inspection at the Riverview School District Central Office and will be available on the Riverview School District website at www.rsd.k12.pa.us. A public hearing of the budget will occur on June 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Tenth Street Elementary School Auditorium at 901 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139. Citizens are invited to attend this hearing to make comments or ask questions about the Proposed Final Budget. **(ROLL CALL VOTE)**

Discussion:

Mrs. Wilton: a lot of talk about school responsibility and different ideas of what that means. Mrs. Wilton believes that part of it is having an emergency fund for things that come up without having to take on more debt and saving for maintenance of bldgs., prepare for other anticipated costs. A feasibility study is done during the 5/10/15 years in order to maintain good credit. Don't want to be put in a situation where credit rate decreases. And we must live within our means, sometimes we are not getting anything new/fun and have to always stick with what we have. We historically haven't frivolously spent. RSD – has been a financially viable school district. Even with deficits, we maintain. Made cuts years ago and furloughed and we have employees wearing multiple hats. Clear audits and fund balance healthy but not excessive, staying within 8%. Emergency fund – right now we only have 1 month of a fund but that is all we can do right now. Architects have recommended projects necessary and reserve fund now is preparing us now to cover those. Perception is not the same. We have a lot of unknowns with our budget: reassessment, state funding, contract negotiations, fair funding legal case, and all things can affect our budget. Unfortunately for PA residents financial burden falls on local tax payer. We get flat pay from the state but it never meets the costs that come to the district. Only increased revenue is raising taxes. But keeping our financial integrity intact, we are keeping our school appealing for families who move in to district and our value of home stay high and keep RSD what it is. I am supporting the 2% increase; we could go higher but Ms. Wehner has been working hard to figure out that 2% is a safe margin right now. If any unknowns come clear to be in our favor, then would love to lower but stand the way it is. Perception of raised taxes is not always fair; it is reality of funding school district.

Mrs. Garibay wants to bring up other points but appreciates what Mrs. Wilton said, the budget doesn't provide much for current students and incoming students, the next 2-3 year projects are unavoidable. But that being said suggested: 1 – lowering the amount we put into the reserve fund, not put into reserve fund and increase 1%. Or don't put in 2% and borrow from reserve fund. Try to lower to 1% or 0% and borrow against ourselves without setting a precedent to deplete reserves.

Mrs. Chaparro had some clarifying questions – 2% increase comes out to about \$94/per \$200,000, so a 200k home is \$94/year. It is not a significant amount, everyone is different so not assuming, does not feel like 94 in a year is alarming. Keep in the back of our minds, it is not thousands of dollars per year. 2 – if we were at the 1.5% would that be breaking even based on what we do know?

Ms. Wehner stated that she put 1.5% into the PDE format and the calculated difference is 240k and would still have a deficit.

Mrs. Chaparro – 1.5% doesn't get us to balance.

Mr. Paris asked what percent does get us to balance? Ms. Wehner explained that the 2% is what balances.

Mrs. Hurt-Robinson stated there is an increase cost attached to everything now, everyone is feeling effects of great inflation of COVID. Bills higher everywhere. 2% is reasonable as we didn't raise

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during COVID, does not feel a great deal to ask. Fair and less than what Mrs. Hurt-Robinson would have recommended.

Mrs. Chaparro stated everything is increasing, everywhere. With not having new money coming in and we don't want to subtract people or programs, long term problems are there and can't correct.

Mr. Paris disagreed with some of the discussion, yes agrees with an increase because he is in a good position in his life, but what about a community can't and has economics that are different.

Mrs. Hurt-Robinson mentioned that renting/increase in rent/issue is everywhere and dependent on landlords depends on how tax is paid. It is our duty, need to keep things good and the unknowns in check. Hard to plan but we need to do our best. Hard without all the information to make decisions but we need to be prepared. Discussion about unfunded mandates and unknowns, puts district in tough position, we are not blindly wanting to increase.

Mrs. Wilton added that perception of what our reserve fund is different v. reality. Reserve fund is dedicated to knowns and by having that we are maintaining the ability to pay for it instead of taking out another bond or interest. Misconception of hoarding millions of dollars. Compared how Idaho school burned and don't have the reserve funds.

Mrs. Chaparro added that it is irresponsible to not plan wisely and have a cushion.

10000k = 4.50 a month 200000k = 8 a month.

Mr. Hawk stated that this is easy it is a no brainer, it is in November that is hard when trying to figure out how to pay bills – November to March when running out of money and trying to fix the leaks.

Mrs. Wilton reminded that a few years ago 900k deficit and did cuts and awful and part was not thinking about the future and tax base and build on it slowly, no tax 4 out of 10 years and had other things to happen to make up for some things and now no longer available.

Mr. Hawk added that less than 20 houses are left to hit the rolls in Rivers Edge.

Mrs. Wilton stated that will no longer have new income, even though we have new houses on the rolls, it is not enough to pay what we are required to pay.

Mrs. Hurt-Robinson reminded that we don't see all of it. Other areas where the money gets dispersed. And we don't know what our population will be in 5 years either.

Dr. English mentioned the feasibility study as Capital Improvement Projects could be ways that we could save money moving forward. Look at options/5 years where we will be/maybe what we are doing ends up being cost effective but doing the study is a great thing to be doing. Where will be in 5 years and 10 years. Public look at it, etc. part of the strategic plan and maybe it will provide relief and maybe not.

Mrs. Chaparro added that this is a preliminary and goes out for 30 days and we don't adopt until June. Confirming for the public.

Mr. Hawk also added that we may have some unknowns answered by then.

Dr. McClure second the motion and it passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote 7-0. (2 members were absent: Dr. Pallone and Ms. Miller)

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee (Dr. McClure/Mr. Hawk), Mrs. Garibay motion to approve:
MOTION 2:

- The following pay application in conjunction with the Riverview Capital Improvement Project:
 - Pay App. #6, Merit Electrical Group, in the amount of \$12,444.39
 - Pay App. #8, Merit Electrical Group, in the amount of \$35,889.87

- Weiss Burkardt Kramer, LLC to proceed with the filing of the Real Estate Tax Liens as presented.

Mr. Hawk second the motion which passed unanimously.

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Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee (Dr. McClure/Mr. Hawk), Mrs. Chaparro motion to approve:
MOTION 3:

- The following contracts/agreements subject to the final review and approval of the Solicitor:
 - Services Agreement between Riverview School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit beginning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
 - Policy Maintenance Agreement between Riverview School District and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
 - Services Agreement between Riverview School District and The Children’s Institute for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
 - Extended School Year agreement with Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for Student X.
 - Extended School Year agreement with Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children for Student X.

Mr. Paris second the motion which passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee (Dr. McClure/Mr. Hawk), Mrs. Garibay motion to approve:
MOTION 4:

- Forbes Road Career and Technology Center 2023-2024 Proposed General Operative and Administrative Budgets (**ROLL CALL VOTE**)

Mrs. Hurt-Robinson second the motion and it passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote 7-0. (2 members were absent: Dr. Pallone and Ms. Miller)

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee (Dr. McClure/Mr. Hawk), Mrs. Hurt-Robinson motion to approve:

MOTION 5: (A)

- Participation in the CEP (Community Eligibility Program) at Verner Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year.
- A La Carte food prices for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Cafeteria food prices as follows:
 - Adult Breakfast: \$2.10
 - Adult Lunch: \$4.95
 - JR-SR High Tier Lunch: \$4.00
 - JR-SR High Regular Lunch: \$3.00
 - JR-SR High Breakfast: \$1.50
 - Elementary Lunch: \$2.75
 - Elementary Breakfast: \$1.25

Questions asked about what Tier means – more expensive product or larger quantity.

Mr. Paris second the motion with passed unanimously.

MOTION 5: (B) Items was pulled out by Mrs. Wilton, Mrs. Hurt-Robinson motion to approve:

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- Resolution: R2223-017: Resolution in Support of SB180 and HB180 – School Meals for All.

Discussion:

Mrs. Wilton wanted to clarify position that any kid should be able to eat or have food available to them, but wishes that our State or House would give us money for curriculum instead of just food for each kid when not everyone needs lunch. Comparatively, would like to see house/state support us educationally. But any kid who is hungry needs to eat and maybe should give us 10k a semester.

Mr. Paris noted on #7, family of 4 must live under 36k to qualify for free meals.

Mrs. Hurt-Robinson mentioned that having worked in the cafeteria and participated in Blessings in a backpack, there are a number of grateful families and she has watched kids not have any money on their school account for whatever reason, does not want to see a child go hungry. Maybe the state needs to stand up and make sure no one is hungry. Speak to representatives, impressed that this has made it that far and fully supports.

Mrs. Garibay second the motion which passed 6 -1, one No vote, Mrs. Wilton.

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Governance (Mrs. Hurt-Robinson), Mr. Paris moved that the following items be approved:

MOTION 1:

- Riverview School District application for Flexible Instruction Days.

Mrs. Garibay second the motion, which passed unanimously.

- Dr. English added that every few years we have to reapply the application, just gives assurances that we can deliver virtual instruction in emergency situations. We already allotted 1 snow day for the 2023-2024 school year and this is for anything else and emergency situations.

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Governance (Mrs. Hurt-Robinson), Mrs. Garibay moved that the following items be approved:

MOTION 2:

- Revision to the 2023-2024 Riverview School Board Calendar

Mr. Paris second the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hurt-Robinson (President) mentioned that an executive session was held prior, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Upon the recommendation of Personnel (Mrs. Hurt-Robinson) Mrs. Wilton moved that the following personnel item be approved:

MOTION 1:

- Patricia Kvortek as JR-SR High School Attendance, Truancy, and Student Support Specialist for the 2023-2024 school year at a stipend of \$2,000, with an additional \$2,000 in alignment with the master teaching schedule in the current REA Collective Bargaining Agreement, along with any additional duties approved by the building principal at a rate of \$45.00 per hour per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Paris second the motion, which passed with 6 yes, 1 abstain (Mrs. Hurt-Robinson)

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- The following Duquesne University Student Intern placement pending any clearance certification and/or health requirements:

Brandon Leakey

Guidance 10th St. Elem. (Mrs. Gross)

Mrs. Garibay second the motion and it passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Education (Mrs. Wilton), Mr. Hawk moved that the following student life item be approved-

MOTION 1:

- All 2023 graduation candidates for the award of a diploma as presented and pending high school principal final approval and fulfillment of requirements.

Mrs. Garibay second the motion which passed unanimously.

HEARING OF CITIZENS Ernie Tillman, 1231 Pennsylvania Ave., Oakmont, wanted to say thank you again, got through the budget process and appreciated Wendy Wilton trying to explain budget concern and misleading information that is out there. He isn't sure anyone actually hears you but appreciates that you, a school board member, takes the reality position, it is needed, especially as we get closer to November. A lot of information has been presented by the school board members to the public, it is appreciated.

** At this time Mr. Paris made a motion that the visitation policy be repealed and that it is again worked on this summer and discuss and resolve clarity on the policy. At this he would like to make a motion to repeal Policy 907.1. Solicitor Falco Muscante clarified that a motion needed to be made to add it for repulsion and questions to repeal. Mr. Paris moved to add repulsion of Policy 907.1, Mrs. Garibay second the motion. Discussion: Mrs. Chaparro stated that this is the smart way to go because there are differences in interpretation, and administrator not sure how to operationalize either and better to clarify in order to operationalize. Mrs. Hurt-Robinson stated it all needs to be ironed out. Motion passed unanimously.

No public comment on this policy at this time.

Mrs. Garibay motion to repeal, Mr. Paris second the motion which passed unanimously.

DELEGATE REPORTS Delegate reports attached:

SOLICITOR'S REPORT Mr. Muscante had no additional comments at this time, except to state that there are 3 negotiation sessions this month, tomorrow night May 16 is the first one.

ADJOURNMENT Ms. Garibay moved that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm. Adjournment to an executive session.