

## Study Session Minutes

November 8, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Remote Access via ZOOM

as a result of necessity due to coronavirus pandemic sanctions

### Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

**In attendance:** Brian Hawk, Melanie Pallone, Tara Jean Schaaf, Maureen McClure, Lisa Ashbaugh, Jane Miller, Arlene Loeffler (arrival 7:23 pm), J. Chaparro, Jeanine Hurt-Robinson, Falco Muscante, Tammy Good, Neil English, David Zolkowski, Bob Rizzo, Tina Monroe, Eric Hewitt, Al Pater, J. Gonzalez, T. Abraham, S. Abraham, L. Abraham, M. Rometo, P. Ostrowski, P. Steele, T. Laughlin, L. Wilton, P. Wilton, W. Wilton, S. Garibay

Dr. English welcomed all to the November Study Session. Before beginning the agenda, he wanted to start by announcing that an executive session was held on October 18, 2021, beginning at 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm to discuss legal matters and to receive information.

He began with the results of the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Board elections. As many of you know, our esteemed Board President had chosen to not run again this year, leaving 4 open board positions. He was happy to report that two of our Board members will be continuing with us, Mrs. Jeanine Hurt-Robinson, and Mr. Brian Hawk. Congratulations for a hard-fought victory, and we appreciate your continued support of the District. He also welcomed two new Board members that will be joining our ranks, Ms. Stefanie Garibay, and Mrs. Wendy Wilton. Congratulations to both of you as well.

Before we move further in the agenda, however, it is imperative that we take time to recognize a couple of Board members that will be leaving their positions soon. First, we need to recognize the 13 years of service of Mrs. Lisa Ashbaugh. She has served the District in many roles, but most notably, as the Board President. Lisa, your leadership is marked with professionalism, support, and care. You have served countless families in this District, as well as students and staff. You have been a staunch advocate of the Verona population especially. Your calm and consistent leadership is certainly something that this Board, and myself, have come to appreciate. We thank you for your dedication to this District and pray that you will continue to have success in your new job, and in the next stage of your life. I want to personally thank you, also, for your support of me, and the District, during a period of time that will undoubtedly be marked as the most difficult in the history of public education. We thank you and wish you the very best of health and happiness.

Lastly, we will also be saying goodbye to Dr. Arlene Loeffler. At our last meeting, Dr. Loeffler received an award for her service to the Riverview School District for over 36 years. We did the actual research today, however, and learned it was actually 38 years of service. Dr. Loeffler has served in multiple roles, including Board President and Vice President, as well as the multitude of Board subcommittees. She has been a consistent presence on the Board for many years, and her advocacy of Riverview students, families, and staff, is noteworthy, and impressive. She has served as the Board member on the Forbes Road contingency for many years and has

advocated for students and families that take alternate routes to graduation to pursue a technical educational experience. She has led a long life of servicing others, and we must thank her for her leadership and dedication. We hope that she will continue to keep us informed of her next stage of life, where she will be spending time with family and friends, and hopefully stopping in for a cup of coffee from time to time. Please join me in thanking Dr. Loeffler for her long run of community service. Arlene, we wish you good health and happiness.

Dr. English then mentioned that are now officially through the first nine weeks of school, which has gone by in a hurry. We are excited to be approaching the holiday season and look forward to (Covid-free) times with families, friends, and good cheer. On a personal note, Dr. English spoke about attending a training with other Superintendents from Allegheny County, and this provided him an additional sense of appreciation for our District. After sharing notes with many of these leaders, he felt certain to be able to say that we are blessed here in Riverview. Specifically, we are blessed with a supportive community, a hard-working and dedicated staff, and a Board that is focused, knowledgeable, and student-centered. He feels for sure that this is not what many communities are experiencing right now, so he wanted all to be thankful and continue to support each other in this work, during tumultuous times. He then introduced Mr. Rometo (along with some special guests) to provide all with a fall sports wrap up.

### **Presentation**

Athletics – Mr. Rometo – Mr. Rometo discussed the successes of each sport, as well as gave the overall numbers of students participating in sports (253). This is not including band and other extracurriculars. This shows that Riverview students are involved. He also turned the floor over to Sean Abraham, who talked a bit about girls' soccer, and his daughter, Lola, who was the WPIAL goals leader as a sophomore. Palma Ostrowski also came on and talked about the WPIAL champion boys cross country team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State. Lola Abraham, Parker Steele, Ty Laughlin, and Luke Wilton all attended the meeting as well, as the leaders in those sports. The Board praised their accolades.

Dr. English thanked Mr. Rometo for his thoughtful leadership of our sports programs. Mr. Rometo does a fabulous job, and we are appreciative of his work, and the accolades and efforts of our Riverview students. Dr. English then moved on to discuss and review potential motions for the upcoming Regular Voting Meeting.

### **Discussion/Review of Potential Motions for Approval for Regular Voting Meeting**

#### **Personnel**

- Sabbatical Requests - We will be presenting for approval 2 sabbatical requests for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 22-23 school year.
- Student Teacher Spring Placement, University of Pgh., CASE Program, Special Education - We will be asking for approval of a University of Pgh., Case Program student teacher for special education. She will be working under the direction of Mrs. Maisto. Presently, the student is working with Mrs.

Favo and Pitt asked that she be able to continue her spring placement with us.

- Long-Term Substitute(s) – We will be asking for approval of a long-term substitute teacher along with our regular Precision Substitute approvals.
- Precision Substitute Approvals
- Supplemental Athletic Approvals – Site Manager, Fall; Site Manager, Winter - Mr. Rometo has asked that we consider the fall and winter site manager positions and we will have several athletic worker approvals, along with the REA supplemental approval for SADD (students against destructive decisions).
- Athletic Event Worker Approvals – Soccer Gate Workers
- Supplemental REA Approvals – SADD

### **Board Governance**

- Board Policies –Third & Final Reading – Policy 305, Employment of Substitutes
- 2021-2022 Booster Budgetary Outline & Game of Chance – Riverview Boys’ Basketball Booster Association, additional possible prior to voting meeting
- 2021-2022 Student Clubs & Budgetary Outlines – RHS Musical, Spanish Club, Jr. High Student Council, additional possible prior to voting meeting

Dr. English then mentioned that there were not many items for board governance next week. We will be asking for approval of the third and final reading of policy 305, Employment of Substitutes. We also continue to receive the 21-22 budgetary outlines and booster outlines, a number of those were included in this week’s board packet, including Boys’ Basketball, RHS Musical, Spanish Club, JHS Student Council. If any additional outlines are received, they will be included in next week’s voting packet.

### **Education**

- Professional Meeting Request – Albert Pater, PASBO Facilities, Transportation and Safety Conference, November 4-5, Lancaster, PA

Dr. English mentioned that will be asking for approval of Mr. Pater’s attendance at the PASBO training in Lancaster, PA.

### **Agreements/Contracts/Resolutions:**

- Letter of Agreement – Hearing Support – AIU
- Possible additional prior to voting meeting

Dr. English shared that, as of today, we had only one Letter of Agreement that we will be asking for approval of. The Agreement is for hearing support for one of our 504 students. Should any additional agreements be received, they will be included in next week’s packet.

He then turned the meeting over to Ms. Good for review of business and finance.

## **Business/Finance:**

- Annual Reorganization Notice- The School Code requires the board secretary to send a written letter to any newly elected or incumbent school board member to notify all of the upcoming School Board Reorganization Meeting. This notice is required to be mailed. All of you will receive a memo around November 15, 2021 to fulfill this obligation.
- Not To Exceed Resolution - A motion will be on the voting session agenda to adopt the “Not to Exceed Resolution”. Recall this is the resolution that states the board will not increase the millage rate beyond the adjusted Act 1 index and they will not apply for exceptions. We discussed the potential for exceptions at the October meeting and there are currently not any exceptions available to Riverview. It is my recommendation that you adopt this resolution as in years past so we can proceed with following the regular budget guidelines for the 2022-2023 school year.
- AIU Joint Purchasing Resolution – Electricity, Gasoline & Diesel Fuel, Natural Gas & Paper - A motion will be on the voting session agenda to adopt this resolution. This resolution grants permission to me to continue participating in the electricity, gasoline & diesel fuel, natural gas, & paper joint purchasing programs. These programs have provided fantastic purchasing savings to Riverview over the years. I would recommend we continue participating with the AIU in this service.
- Weiss Burkhardt Kramer Special Counsel Resolution - A motion will be on the voting session agenda to reappoint Weiss Burkhardt Kramer as district counsel for assessment appeals. This resolution is also asking for an increase in fees paid per hour to \$150/hour. Their fee of \$125/hour has been in place since the 2017 board motion. Ms. Good recommended that this motion be approved. Attorney Burkhardt and her crew have provided the district with a very professional, caring service to our delinquent taxpayers as well as providing the District with a fair and professional assessment appeal service.
- Weiss Burkhardt Kramer – Writs of Execution - A motion will be on the agenda to approve this request. Weiss Burkhardt Kramer is processing their annual property liens, notices, and sheriff sales. Since Verona Borough also uses Weiss Burkhardt Kramer, we share the processing costs on those joint properties. Most of upfront costs are recouped when the taxes are paid by the taxpayer.
- Forbes Update - We received notice from Jennifer Kautz, Business Manager for Forbes that a motion will be coming for you to review and approve, allowing Forbes to keep any potential refund due to Riverview and place these funds in their Capital Reserve Fund to maintain their facilities within the next five years. This of course is similar to our Eastern Area Discussions. I would recommend you approve this request as any money they save for capital improvements will defray the cost we will be required to pay should they issue a bond/loan in the future. More information to come. They have not released the District portions as of yet.
- Change Order – Currently one in the packet for door frames.
- Pay apps. – Currently two in the packet, R.A. Glancy and Merit – Ms. Good added that we could receive more as we close out the project.
- Reallocation of funds from Student Activities to Student Council - According to board policy, we need to close out some old monetary remaining balances in ski club and amnesty international, both of which have been dissolved. The funds will be moved to the student council according to the board policy.

**Adjournment 7:58pm**