

*\*An executive session was held from 6:00 pm until 6:47 pm to discuss legal matters and to receive information.*

### **Study Session**

January 10, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Remote Access via ZOOM

as a result of necessity due to coronavirus pandemic sanctions

#### **Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm**

**In attendance:** M. Pallone, M. McClure, J. Miller, S. Garibay, J. Chaparro, J. Hurt-Robinson, W. Wilton, B. Hawk, T. Good, F. Muscante, E. Hewitt, S. Newell, D. Zolkowski, C. Monroe, R. Rizzo, A. Pater, J. Gonzalez, O. Slagle, A.J. Guest, **ABSENT:** T. Schaaf

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

Dr. English welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. He wished all a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2022. The word of the day is Omicron. We have been inundated with cases of the variant amongst staff and students. The new guidelines are helping us to keep students in seats, but there is, on average, over 2000 cases a day in the County, and we have never seen numbers that large. All indicators from the Allegheny County Health Department and our medical community would suggest that February should be much better. Fortunately, our health and safety protocols, universal masking, and ability to test students onsite with parental consent is helping us to weather the storm. We need to thank the Staff, for their willingness to remain flexible, communicate with us openly, and support the students that are home because of infection and isolation protocols. Also, we have to publicly thank our school nurses who have been our front line employees in handling this, and have been true heroes. We thank those that have joined us this evening, and hope that everyone continues to stay happy, peaceful, and safe! In addition, it is Board appreciation month, so we need to spend a moment to thank each of you for your service to the District in the past, present, and future. We will have a small token of appreciation for you at the next board meeting in regard to your steadfast service. Stay tuned for that, and thanks again.

Dr. English then moved to the personnel section of the agenda.

#### **Personnel**

- **Sabbatical Request** - We have a sabbatical request from one of our elementary teachers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of this year. There has been a long-term substitute filling in at Tenth Street. This substitute will then move to Verner for the remainder of the school year.
- **Long-Term Substitute(s)** - In addition, we will be asking for approval of another long-term substitute at the Jr-Sr High School since the absence has exceeded the 45-day timeframe.
- **Central Office Resignation** – We have a Central Office employee that has submitted her letter of resignation which was included in your board packet. A motion will be listed on next week's voting agenda to accept her resignation for the purpose of retirement.

- Precision Substitute Approvals - We will be asking for approval of the normal Precision substitutes; which is routine.
- Paraprofessional Uncompensated Leave Requests – Policy 339 - Two paras have requested several uncompensated leave days according to board policy 339. Their requests were included in the packets.
- Paraprofessional Probationary Period - Several of our newly hired paraprofessionals have reached their 60-day probationary period. We will be asking for their change from temporary to permanent at the 1/17 voting meeting. In addition, over the weekend, we received a resignation letter from one of our paras at Verner. Her letter will be included in this week's packet. We have posted the position today.
- Supplemental Athletic Approvals – Wrestling Volunteer -Lastly, we will be asking for approval of a supplemental wrestling volunteer.

Dr. English then moved to Board Governance. He shared this section with Ms. Good.

### **Board Governance**

Dr. English explained that we have are in the process of updating a number of policies. We will be presenting them for first readings at the voting meeting. Policy 008 is the organizational chart. There was only a slight change to the Organizational Chart, (Assistant Principal – no longer Instructional/Curriculum Coordinator)

- Board Policies –First Reading, Policy 008, Organizational Chart

Dr. English mentioned that the next block of policies deal with the Board and bid/quotations/purchases, and would be better explained by our Business Manage/Board Secretary, Ms. Good. He then turned the meeting over to her.

- Board Policies: First Reading, Policy 006, Meetings; Policy 006.1, Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications; Policy 903, Public Participation in Board Meetings; Policy 610, Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation; Policy 611, Purchases Budgeted - Ms. Good explained to the board that Policy 006, 006.1 and 903 were changed as a result of the Sunshine Law Changes. She also reminded them that we use PSBA Policy Maintenance to provide us with policies that meet all the regulatory and legal guidance. She explained that we included some admin. regulations attached to these policies because they would regulate how the Board will administer these policies. She also explained that the Policy 610 and 611 were updated annually due to the school code change in bidding thresholds annually.

Dr. English continued with the rest of the items listed.

- 2021-2022 Student Clubs & Budgetary Outlines – SADD, additional possible prior to voting meeting - We will be asking for approval of the budgetary outline for SADD and we just received the outline for the Ecology Club. Ecology Club will be included in this week's voting meeting packet.
- 2022-2023 School Calendar - We will also be asking for approval of the 22-23 school calendar, which is very similar to the current year calendar, along with a student discipline agreement.
- Student Discipline Agreement

Dr. English then moved to the Education items on the agenda.

## **Education**

- Program of Studies – Mr. Hewitt provided a brief description for the program of study changes that the high school needs for scheduling. These changes are mostly in regard to prerequisite course, and updating language to make courses more available and inclusive.
- Approval of Textbooks – Spanish – The Spanish textbooks have been in the Central Office for review, and the Board will be asked to vote on their approval at next week's voting meeting.
- Disposal of Textbooks – Social Studies – In addition, he mentioned that we will be asking the board to approve the disposal of some very old social studies books as well.
- Amend Professional Meeting Request – Rachelle Poth – As you may recall, at the November board meeting, several conferences were approved for Ms. Poth. Fortunately, she was able to obtain free registration to one of the conferences so we will be asking to amend the motion to apply a portion of the registration fee to the other conference that had been approved. The net result will be a savings of \$180.00 to the district. This will be on the voting agenda for next week as well.

Dr. English then moved to the Agreements/Contracts/Resolutions section of the agenda.

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

- Phase IV Agreement – 21-22 school year – The first agreement is for our yearly partnership with Phase IV. Phase IV is our annual AEDY provider for students.
- Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf Service Amendment Letter of Agreement  
This agreement is to make adjustments for services associated with one of our special education students in the District for PCA (Personal Care Assistant) Services. Specifically, the student no longer needs 1:1 services.
- School Broadcast Program Agreement – This is a 5-year proposed agreement supported by our Athletic Director for Riverview Jr-Sr HS to broadcast "live" Varsity Sports in the high school gym and at Riverside Park. Installation of all cameras or Internet-based services are free of charge for the District, and parents would subscribe to the service on an as needed basis to view events. This will improve the quality of the programming and allow for Varsity sports to be streamed and available to parents at both locations. The contract has been reviewed by our legal department and will be included in the voting meeting next week. The contract will be dependent on the approval of the Borough. There was board discussion regarding wording in the agreement.
- Maiello Brungo Maiello Engagement Letter – This is to establish fees for service through the 2023-2024 school year with our current legal firm, Maiello, Brungo, and Maiello. This agreement was included in your packet this week, for board approval next week.
- UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Healthy Schools Program for the 21-22 and 22-23 school years – This we discussed last year, and is a partnership between Riverview and UPMC to work collaboratively to provide support, and technical

assistance in the creation and maintenance of our wellness committees, completion of annual health assessments, student nutrition, social and emotional health, violence and alternatives to suspensions, policy changes, and mobile clinical services as needed. All services are completely voluntary on our part. We already approved this last year, but this was pushed off due to Covid, and UPMC never finalized the agreement last year. As such, they have added the upcoming year as well. There was board discussion regarding wording in the agreement.

- AIU Transition Memorandum of Understanding – This is a yearly MOU between the AIU and District in regard to pre-k transition, specifically in creating plans for the implementation of Kindergarten registration events, and improving and reporting enrollment.
- Fair Funding Resolution – As you may recall, this is a resolution provided by the “P” organizations (PSBA, PASA, PARSS, PASBO), and is a statement of support for a thorough and efficient system of public education and urges the General Assembly to provide a fair, adequate, and predictable funding system that enables all children to meet state academic standards and does not discriminate against low-wealth school districts. Dr. English provided to the Board the trial updates this week against the PA Department of Education.
- Possible additional prior to voting meeting – And any additional items to be included next week.

Dr. English then turned the meeting over to Ms. Good to discuss the Business/Finance item portion of the agenda.

#### **Business/Finance:**

- Tax Installment Resolution – Ms. Good explained that this program is allowable under Act 1 of 2006. She explained it is an annual election to offer this program. She further explained the board historically approved this resolution in January so that PA Municipal Service has time to get the packets together.
- Ratify Kades-Margolis Section 125 Cafeteria Plan Flexible Spending Program MOU – Ms. Good explained that because we have employees contributing to their healthcare cost, the IRS requires us to have a Cafeteria Plan for those employee contributions to be tax exempt. We use Kades-Margolis to handle this for the District. Ms. Good explained that she signed the document because it had to be enforced before January.
- Allegheny County Southeast Tax Collection Committee (ACSTCC) – Delegate and Alternate Appointments – Ms. Good explained that this committee was developed during the Statewide law that required countywide tax collection of EIT (Earned Income). She explained that the District needs to designate someone to attend the meetings to voice our vote. Also explained the EIT comparison listed below.
- Keystone Collection EIT Comparison
- Ratify VEBH Pay Apps. In the amount of \$1,203.20 and \$14,625.00 – Ms. Good explained these were remaining invoices from last summer’s project and that she already paid them.
- VEBH Architects – name change – Ms. Good discussed the name change.

- Disposal of obsolete/broken computer equipment – She explained that Mr. Rizzo asked us to dispose of this equipment and that likely we may pay for removal due to the chemicals. She then deferred to Mr. Rizzo for more explanation.
- PSERS Rate 2022-2023 announcement/budget update – Ms. Good informed the board of the new rate for 2022-2023 that was voted on by PSERS in December. She further explained that it increased by a lower rate than in the past year. She also mentioned that more info would follow as we begin the 2022-2023 budget season.

**Adjournment – 8:37 pm**

*\*An Executive Session was held from 8:42 pm until 10:47 pm to discuss legal matters and to receive additional information.*