

**Study Session / Student Life/Budget Minutes**  
**March 14, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria**

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

**In attendance:** M. Pallone, M. McClure, J. Miller, S. Garibay, J. Hurt-Robinson, W. Wilton, B. Hawk (remote), T. Schaaf, J. Chaparro, T. Good, C. Lane, N. English, E. Hewitt, S. Newell , D. Zolkowski, C. Monroe, R. Rizzo, A. Pater, J. Gonzalez, S. Wermager, C. Favo, T. Favo, P. Tomlinson, N. Paradise

**Presentations**

Dr. English welcomed everyone to tonight's first IN PERSON Study Session. He thanked all in attendance. All Riverview schools are doing quite well, and continue to operate in a mask optional environment, which is a breath of fresh air. The County and local incidence rates continue to trend downward, and of the handful of cases we have experienced in the last month, we are not seeing transmission in schools, even with the relaxation on the universal masking mandate. In other words, all systems go for now. We will continue to watch this carefully and bend and flex as the situation requires.

In an effort to move the meeting along in an efficient manner, let's move to our presentations quickly this evening. We will start by celebrating the accomplishments of one of our second grade teachers, Dr. Cathy Favo. Dr. Favo has earned her Doctorate of Education from the University of Pittsburgh, and her dissertation was entitled, "Teachers in the Workforce" Grant Intervention: Effective Professional Development for STEAM Integration and Career Standards Implementation. We have invited her to provide a very brief overview of her study, and then follow up with a well-deserved round of applause for an incredible accomplishment. I also bought some congratulatory cookies for us to enjoy. Dr. English also mentioned that he had a separate batch for Dr. Favo to take home to her family. Dr. Favo provided a brief overview of her research study, conducted right here in the District, and what she learned from the results. The Board congratulated her publicly on her accomplishment.

Dr. English mentioned that Mr. Rometo was on our schedule to initially provide a brief winter sports wrap up and a brief spring sports preview. Unfortunately, Mr. Rometo could not make it this evening. Instead, we are going to reschedule his update for next month's Study Session instead. Dr. English also mentioned that we are still waiting for the WPIAL individual all-conference awards, which we believe we may have by then, and those student(s) will be invited to attend. In addition, he is going to present a possible website addition to purchase school gear, which you can discuss the pros and cons of at that time.

Dr. English then turned to Mrs. Schaaf to provide everyone with a Student Life update. Mrs. Schaaf had provided the school board members with a report listing student life updates by

building. Mrs. Schaaf summarized this report and stated it would be provided as a matter of record with the minutes for the study session.

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

Dr. English then moved to review the upcoming items scheduled in the personnel section. As usual, he moved through the items by category, starting with Personnel.

#### **Personnel**

- Teacher Sabbatical – 2022-2023 school year
- Precision Substitute Approvals
- Bus Driver/Van Driver/Aide – Allegheny Transportation
- Amend Central Office Employee Retirement Date
- MOU-- M2122-004 and M2122-005 between the REA and Riverview School District

We have a teacher who has requested a sabbatical for the 22-23 school year. Her letter was included in this week's board packet. We will also, as usual, be asking for your approval of our Precision substitutes along with approval of those from Allegheny Transportation. We will be requesting approval to amend the retirement date of Mrs. Barbara Kumar as well. Also, we will include in your board packets for next week, paperwork for the Jr. High Girls Volleyball Coach recommendation, as well as approval of our usual spring event workers if any, so look out for those. Finally, Dr. English mentioned that we will be asking for your approval of two personnel-related MOUs between the District and the REA, as listed in the agenda and included in your board packets this week. He then moved to Board Governance.

#### **Board Governance**

- Board Policies – First Reading, Policy 217, Graduation Requirements
- Board Policies –Second Reading, Policy 218.1, Weapons; Policy 218.2, Terroristic Threats; Policy 252, Dating Violence; Policy 305, Employment of Substitutes
- Board Policies: Third and Final Reading, Policy 006, Meetings; Policy 006.1, Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications; Policy 008, Organizational Chart; Policy 903, Public Participation in Board Meetings; Policy 610, Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation; Policy 611, Purchases Budgeted
- Discussion of in-person/virtual/simultaneous meetings
- Health and Safety Plan Update

For Board Governance, we will be asking for approval of the first, second, and third readings for the policies listed in your agenda. These are items that we have discussed before, and Dr. English asked for any additional questions regarding the policies. There was discussion around dating violence, suggested by Dr. Pallone, that discussed the delineation between “may” and “shall” in terms of training for students. The Board, Business Manager, Superintendent, and

Solicitor discussed the legal difference around that language, suggesting that “shall” would result in a legal obligation for training. There was also discussion on the public participation in board meeting documents regarding public comment at study sessions, which currently is not the practice. There was also legal counsel from Ms. Lane in regard to what structures would have to be in place if the structure changed.

Dr. English then moved to the additional agenda topics. The first topic that the board wanted to discuss in open forum once again, is the in-person board meetings. To recap, we decided to hold this month’s meetings right here in the high school cafeteria, and subsequently move the meetings to the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Auditorium in April and through the remainder of the year. These two spaces were considered, specifically, due to the ability to spread out any guests that may attend accordingly. Dr. English went on to mention that we have been using boxcaster to allow residents to view the “live” meetings from the comforts of their own home in real time. Although the sound last week was sufficient, the sound capabilities will improve in the auditorium since that space is better designed for it. There was a discussion regarding virtual participation in the meetings, with legal counsel providing information about recordings and right to know laws.

Dr. English then moved to the second discussion which will revolve around the health and safety plan that we will be asking your approval of next week. We have updated the plan to include the mask optional policy. Most of this document has remained consistent, but please make reference to section A, the use of masks. Specifically, the document makes reference to our decision, on February 25<sup>th</sup>, to align masking policies due to the downward trend of infections, low incidence rate in our schools, and the CDC’s community level guidance. Please keep in mind that the document doesn’t box us in to any CDC guidance, in particular. There is still language that suggests that the utilization of masks may change in accordance with CDC, State and County Health Department mandates, recommendations and guidelines, and allows for flexibility as needed. There are also slight changes in terms of physical distancing, specifically in the cafeterias. The rest of the policies and protocols don’t change. Dr. English went on to mention the significant enhancements to our ability to clean and disinfect, mitigate airborne pathogens in our ventilation systems, and universally test all students and staff with both rapid and PCR tests. There was discussion about the health and safety plan, and providing the ability to bend and flex for future situations.

Dr. English also mentioned that next week’s voting packet will include a letter from Mrs. Spohn to reinstate the inactive volunteer Bible Club. This club has been inactive for approximately 10 years. Presently, approximately 6 students are interested. There was legal counsel in terms of what the teacher/supervisor was allowed and not allowed to do in terms of the Bible study club. Specifically, the supervisor is there to make sure students are safe, and the club and discussion is run solely by the students.

Dr. English then moved to the Education portion of the agenda.

## **Education**

- Amend the TCEA Conference for Rachelle Poth
- NSBA Conference for Public Education Conference, April 2-3, San Diego, CA

He mentioned that we will be asking that the board amend the previous motion for Mrs. Rachelle Poth regarding the TCEA conference. The original motion mentioned the cost to the district as “\$300.00 registration fee and substitute wage.” We will be asking that the motion be amended to read “registration and other costs not to exceed \$300.00 and substitute wage.” We will also be asking the Board to approve the upcoming NSBA conference that Ms. Schaaf and Dr. English will be attending for public record. We have been asked to speak at the conference and share our District’s experience with the data modeling that we utilized in our cost-free partnership with Epistemix. This event is on the weekend, and has no cost to the District. We will also be attending the other events at the conference as well, and will be able to come back more knowledgeable. Dr. English will be taking a few vacation days prior to the event to surprise his mother in California, who will be turning 70 on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

After finishing the Education section, Dr. English moved to the Agreements, Contracts, and Resolutions section of the agenda.

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

- Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Dart Agreement
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Program of Services Budget 2022-2023
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures & Fund for 2022-2023
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit – IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreement for 2022-2023
- 2022 Pennsylvania’s Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH)

Dr. English mentioned that we will be asking for approval of the annual agreements listed above. The first four are annual agreements and contracts with the AIU in regard to Dart (Discovery, Assessment, Referral and Tracking), the annual program of services budget for the 2022-2023 school year, notice of adoptions of policies, procedures and funds for the 2022-2023 school year, and the IDEA Part B use of federal pass through funds agreement. These are annual agreements, and must be signed to ensure that current partnerships with the AIU are maintained to support Riverview students, and maintain current programming. The second agreement is an annual Local Agency Letter of Agreement with Pennsylvania’s Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness. This is to provide assurances that Riverview will follow the law to identify, support, and monitor children and families that are experiencing homelessness. He then turned the meeting over to Ms. Good who will go over the business and finance section.

### **Business/Finance:**

- Reconfirm appointment of DRAW Collective (formerly, VEBH, Inc.) Ms. Good reminded the board that VEBH had a name change and now that we are past the construction

project approval, Mr. Engen is beginning to use the company's new name, DRAW Collective, and his invoices are reflecting that change. On the agenda, a motion will be listed to reconfirm appointment of DRAW Collective (formerly, VEBH Architects, PC).

- Pay Apps –DRAW Collective Invoice #21-S18-01-02 in the amount of \$76,375.00 and Invoice #20-S18-03-06 in the amount of \$1,035.00. Ms. Good presented both pay applications from DRAW Collective and stated they would be on the agenda for approval at the voting session. Ms. Good also notified the board that the district is waiting to receive Pay Application 7 from PA Roofing; and if received prior to the voting meeting, it would be listed on the agenda for payment.
- Change Order – Pennsylvania Roofing Systems in the amount of (\$7,504.11) Ms. Good explained that Draw Collective put PA Roofing Systems on notice regarding the roof leak and the gym damage. PA Roofing Systems accepted the damage and a deduct change order was issued. It will be on the voting meeting for approval. The gym has been repaired and Ms. Good closed the claim on our insurance.
- Taxpayer Request for P&I refund Ms. Good discussed the receipt of two requests for waiver of penalty and service cost from taxpayers. Both of these requests were the result of errors with PA Municipal Service records. The deed transfers occurred in February 2021 and the new tax addresses were not updated at PAMS. Ms. Good mentioned that current board policy grants that the finance committee and board president review these complaints and make a recommendation to the full board. The recommendation is to refund both penalty and service cost to both taxpayers due to the error in records with PA Municipal Services.
- Federal Fiscal Compliance – Policy 626 – Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) Ms. Good explained that this policy states the school board is required to approve all federal grants. Normally, the title grants do not receive board approval in advance of submission due to timelines, however PASBO has advised due to all of the ESSERS/ARP funds that the board formally approve all of the federal grants the board received this school year. The motion will appear on the voting agenda.
- Budget Update –Ms. Good provided the board with a spreadsheet that provided details of our athletic programs and the costs associated with them. Ms. Good provided preliminary information regarding the potential of beginning to charge an athletic fee for student participation. Also, Ms. Good provided the board with a spreadsheet that provided the salary matrix for the teaching staff and discussed how the step movement works and explained how many employees would be making it through the jump step in the next few years. Ms. Good advised both documents be placed in the budget binders for later reference and review.

Dr. English thanked everyone for attending. As always, we thank you for your continued service to the District. Grab some cookies, and have a great evening!

**Adjournment 9:36 pm**