

**An executive session was held beginning at 6:00 pm to discuss legal matters and to receive information.*

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

Study Session of the Board of School Directors

March 6, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Jr.-Sr. High School Cafeteria - 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: J. Hurt-Robinson, M. Pallone, M. McClure, J. Miller, A. Paris, B. Hawk, J. Chaparro, S. Garibay, W. Wilton, N. English, F. Muscante, D. Zolkowski, C. Monroe, E. Hewitt, D. Turk, C. Thomas, S. Galata, K. Washington, B. Long, A. Borowski, P. McClelland, N. Paradise, K. Migely, L. Migely, P. Tomlinson.

Opening Remarks and welcome were made by Dr. English. He mentioned being out and about over the weekend and wearing his Raider gear, a couple people noticed and either asked about the insignia or knew it was Riverview. He gave reflection and appreciation for the District. Noting that the world seems to be a scary place these days with violence, divisiveness, trust issues and general calamity all around. It is important to remember that in this small community it is a great place to live, raise children, and go to school. He feels very fortunate to be able to call himself a Raider, be a part of this school district, and especially a part of these communities in Oakmont and Verona. Believes we are all part of something truly special.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Presentation(s)

- a. WPIAL Competitive Spirit Championship: January 2024
- b. Student Life Winter Wrap Up/Spring Preview
- c. Jr.-Sr. High School Student Handbook

There are three presentations prior to tonight's agenda items. First, Penny McClelland and Cathy Hornsby, the coaches of our junior high and high school cheerleading squad, to provide a brief overview of the possibility of a competitive component to the program.

In their plans, there would be a "no cut" sideline component to the team, and a 15-person tryout part of the team that will compete competitively. Outside judges would be procured for tryouts, in order to keep hidden biases from the tryout process. Board members were able to ask questions, and gave their thoughts regarding the program. Ultimately, there would be no additional costs to the proposed additions. They wanted to keep the numbers below 15 in order to compete with smaller schools in the WPIAL.

Questions were answered and clarified regarding criteria for tryouts, any concerns for the number of participants – keeping it at 15 so that the smaller status school could be maintained as

well as the level of skill set that a smaller school sustains. Confirmed that there would be a varsity level only, no additional costs, no additional uniforms, or gym time. With competitive cheer status, it still falls under athletics and continues to be considered a varsity sport. The danger level of technique and liability were discussed and informed of the rules that are required and are permission only under the supervision of the coaches. The other 2A teams that would compete in this group are: Shadyside Academy, Deer Lakes, Pine Richland, etc. Final comments made regarding goal is to compete in at least two competitions next year, as well as Riverview offers so many opportunities to students it does not appear to be a bad thing if there are spots to compete for in this program.

The end of the third quarter finishes at the end of this month. As is customary in March, our administrators and athletic director are prepared to provide a student life update, as well as a winter sports wrap up and a spring sports preview.

Tenth Street Elementary after school activities are continuing, 2 school spirit days. Kids just finished up the golden plunger award for the cleanest bathrooms. Now onto the golden spoon challenge. Looking for best behavior and cleanliness. Starting soon will be March madness where students compete for best behavior. National School breakfast week had 60 kids attend breakfast.

Verner Elementary completed Read across America week which included a door decorating contest. Both elementary schools participated in Book buddies with students from the Jr./Sr. High School. Saltworks Theater will be performing again at the Tenth Street Auditorium for both schools to attend. Verner will have an Open House March 16th. Our March madness is a book competition. As well as "R" cards for students showing respect and responsibility for cleanliness in bathrooms. Prizes are awarded to the "R" card that is drawn.

The Jr-Sr High School: Art Club has been working hard. GSA Club is looking for activity for the end of year. French Club is putting on a French themed food class making macarons. Key Club is acknowledging random acts of kindness. History Club had a parent showcase of this years History Day projects. Model UN have been winning awards. A number of events are coming up. Junior class prom coming up. \$60/person. Jr. High spirit days are coming up. Toy drive with Student Council. Third annual super bowl for canned good collection. Senior Club planning of graduation. Spanish club bringing in speakers. Yearbook has been pushing sales and early bird discounts. Taking pictures of winter sports are over. Spring sports pictures are coming up. PJAS exciting have student perform in State College.

Mr. Thomas – Athletics. Share how people were stopping him at the Monroeville Mall telling great stories of Riverview. Wrestling had a struggling season overall. Had individual accomplishments and qualifiers of States. 7th/8th grade boy's basketball did very well. 8th grade had a record of 17 - 3. 7th grade was 6 - 14. Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball had very good seasons. The boys started off 9 and 2, ended 12 - 10 and JV were 16 - 4. Luke Migely spoke about the success of the boys' basketball program and how much fun it was. Two players in the All Star teams. Girls Basketball record of 6 - 2 in conference and 11 - 12 overall. Young team with 4 underclassmen and one senior starter. First ever hosted WPIAL tournament game. Bri

Long spoke about the season and the young team. Felt they accomplished a lot and was a close team. Gained a lot of friendships this year.

For time for a Bocce team this year and had a great experience. Sponsored by Special Olympics. Bowling did very well, one is going to WPIAL section match.

Spring sports start on Monday. Baseball scrimmage coming up and playing at Washington Wild Things stadium. Track team is starting, excited for the season. Jr. High baseball has 16 game schedule. Began practice today.

Riverview Jr-Sr High School Handbook: The high school administration is proposing some changes. Changes are provided in your packets, but Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Turk will present these changes and are open for questions.

Mr. Turk updates on Student Handbook: Intervention process for red cards system. Level 1 teacher managed infractions. No change to this, but the dress code policy has been added to handbook. Athletic changes from the beginning of the year. A few small updates. Academics for the High School reflects change to opportunities.

Questions regarding the Student Handbook and Policies:

Mr. Turk presented the high school administration's proposed changes to the student handbook, and gave highlights of those changes. Specifically, board members asked questions regarding the bullying process. Specifically, board members suggested corrections to include the online bullying report form, the process of where the form is sent, and some omissions regarding internal documentation processes unique to the administration. Board members suggested adding Bocce to the club sports, and provide additional clarity in terms of consequences for using personal and tech devices inappropriately. The comments resulted in edits being made about those items.

Ms. Hurt Robinson questioned about if there still an Athletic Handbook? Yes, the new addition explains the athletic eligibility. Notation to reference the athletic handbook.

Questions about who the red card system is that with? The teacher? All for level 1 infractions are with the teacher. Conference the student as to why they received a red card. Principals and teachers meet every week. Question regarding if a student needs a bus pass: Would the student have a bus pass for going to work? The buses are filled and can only stop where they are scheduled to stop. That is why every bus pass needs to be approved.

Mrs. Chaparro – Question about the cell phone policy, have there been issues? No, just increased the communications of the cell phone policy.

Dr. English thanked all presenters and invited the Hearing of Citizens. The first hearing is for agenda items only. If anyone would like to speak, please come to the microphone, state your name and address, and do your best to keep your comments to under 3 minutes. There will be another hearing for all school-related topics at the end of the meeting as well.

III. Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Tomlinson mentioned that Brionna Long made the all-star team as well.

Dr. English thanked Mrs. Tomlinson for the addition. Next, the agenda is relatively short this evening. Discussion of each section will occur in its entirety, and if any Board member has any questions or discussion on any of the items, it is encouraged to ask or discuss agenda items as is necessary. Tonight will start with business and finance with Ms. Joan Wehner.

IV. Discussion/Review of Potential Motions for Approval for Regular Voting Meeting

A. Business/Finance

- a. East West Pay App #3, \$31,198.50
- b. Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Program of Services Budget 2023-2024
- c. Stockman Landscape Bid
- d. Audit Acceptance (presentation on 3/13/23)
- e. Budget Update

Ms. Wehner discussed the business and finance motions that will be approved at next meeting.

B. Agreements/Contracts/Resolutions:

- a. Allegheny Intermediate Unit – IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreement for 2023-2024
- b. AIU – Notice of Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds by School District
- c. The Meadows Psychiatric Center
- d. Maxim Healthcare Services

The first three of these are annual agreements. The first two is to maintain our current partnerships with the AIU in order to support Riverview students, and maintain current programming. For the pass through funds, you might recall receiving \$1,184 dollars last year from PDE, which we typically use to support our early intervention program through the intermediate unit. Therefore, we will be asking your approval of the pass through use of funds agreement with the AIU for the upcoming school year, ensuring that the District executes the agreement according to the law, and with cost records of expenditures made in association with this agreement. We will also be asking for your approval of the AIU's policies and procedures for the upcoming school year. Board members asked questions about the AIU program of services, specifically regarding students that are incarcerated. The administration and the Superintendent explained that the program of services provides not only services and professional development at low or no cost, but also has programs may be required for specific situations, like a student who may be incarcerated, etc.

The next item is an annual agreement with the Meadows Psychiatric Center. The District maintains multiple agreements with local psychiatric centers in case one of our students attends their programs and needs additional support.

The last agreement is new, and is an agreement for in house health related services for one of our students with significant special needs. The current company is subcontracting with Maxim, to ensure they have the appropriate staff to cover student needs.

C. Board Governance/Regulations

a. Board Policies:

- i. Second Reading, Policy 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

- ii. First Reading, Policy 907.1/School Visits by Board Members
- b. Confidential Student Settlement Agreement CSA2223-003
- c. Resolution 2223 – 015: Calling for Charter School Funding Reform
- d. Student Club: Tenth Street Student Council

The voting meeting will request approval of the second reading of policy 249. Also, since you made changes to the visitation policy for Board members policy last month, it has been reverted to the first reading of that policy, which will include the language changes discussed. There will be an approval of the confidential student settlement agreement as well. The next item is Resolution 2223, provided to us by the PSBA, which supports charter school reform for public schools. The importance of charter school funding reform has been discussed, and how charter school funding is prohibitive to our budget. The District appropriates over 600K a year to charter and cyber charter schools, despite having our own cyber program. Consideration for voting to support this resolution, which allow the PSBA more credibility in proposing changes. Finally, we are asking your support of the budgetary outline for our Tenth Street Student Council. Any questions regarding board governance this evening?

Board members discussed past practice in terms of readings of policies. One board member highlighted the fact that the board has a quorum at every meeting, which could mean that policy review and the reading process could move quicker. The board discussed that three readings is customary for Riverview, but two readings are what is required. The Board then had a discussion about the need to give the public ample opportunity to hear discussion and weigh in on policy changes.

D. Personnel

- a. Leaves
- b. Retirement
- c. Paraprofessionals: unpaid leave (1), retroactive
- d. Allegheny Transportation (ATS): Bus Driver (3)
- e. Precision: Teacher Sub
- f. Junior High Volleyball coach

Personnel discussion, Mrs. Zatawski will continue to provide the personnel grid, as an easier way to see personnel changes. Board members expressed how helpful it is. As stated on the grid, requesting approval of two upcoming maternity leaves, an upcoming retirement, and our reappointment of the junior high volleyball coach. Additional approval for an unpaid leave that will have to be approved retroactively, reason was addressed by business office. Finally, approval of our usual Allegheny Transportation and Precision workers. No additional questions on personnel.

E. Education

- a. Student Exchange Belgium – USA, EXPEDIS
- b. Dual Enrollments: WVU High School ACCESS Early College Program, Penn State New Kensington

Finishing the evening there are two items for your consideration for education. The first is an exchange student on a tourist visa through the Expedis program. As you may recall, we had a student do this already last year. The student will stay with the same family. Her letter was included in your packet. This is a great way to learn about other cultures through interactions with those that live in other countries and is a great opportunity for us. We are asking for your approval. The second item are dual enrollment agreements with Penn State New Kensington and WVU. These programs allow our students for additional academic opportunities while gaining college credit. Mr. Hewitt discussed these programs briefly. Board members discussed dual enrollment opportunities, specifically. One board member was concerned that the courses would supplant high school courses. The administration answered questions, stating that courses do not supplant high school course, but college courses. Typically, less than 5 students a year choose dual enrollment options. Many board members expressed their support in more opportunities like these for students. Students still need to finish the HS credits to graduate.

Finally, let's move to the second hearing of citizens. The second hearing is for any school related topic. If you would like to speak, please come to the microphone, state your name and address, and do your best to keep your comments to under 3 minutes. Thank you, citizens.

V. Hearing of Citizens

No citizens spoke during the second hearing.

Thank you for attending our March study session. Administrators, thank you for coming, and for all that you do to support our students and staff. As stated earlier, we have a lot to be thankful for here in Riverview. It's going to be a great spring. Let's move to adjournment.

VI. Adjournment