

Study Session/Budget Update

April 4, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Tenth Street Auditorium

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

In attendance: M. Pallone, M. McClure, J. Miller, S. Garibay, W. Wilton, B. Hawk, J. Chaparro, T. Good, F. Muscante, N. English, E. Hewitt, S. Newell, D. Zolkowski, C. Monroe, R. Rizzo, A. Pater, M. Rometo, J. Gonzalez, S. Wermager, E. Tillman, P. Tomlinson, J. Harvey

Absent: J. Hurt-Robinson, T. Schaaf

Dr. English welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting and thanked them for attending the April Study Session. He said that the students knocked it out of the park for our musical this year. It was amazing. He congratulated all of the students and staff that made the musical possible. We are looking forward to nice weather and spring sports. He then introduced our Athletic Director, Mr. Mario Rometo, to provide a winter sports wrap and a spring sports preview.

Presentation/Discussion

Mario Rometo – Winter Sports Wrap-up – Spring Sports Preview – Mr. Rometo provided the Board with a recap of the winter events, including accolades achieved by students. He also provided the Board with a preview of the spring sports, including numbers of students, team records, and other pertinent information. He also discussed the athletic department's wish to provide an online store for students and families to purchase gear. He finally discussed the athletic department's wish to freshen up the gym space with paint, and discussed that a ship with the Raider flag and a painted banner saying "home of the Riverview Raiders." This is a part of the summer project list. He supported this effort to raise the school spirit levels in the school. Mr. Rometo also briefly spoke about working with NFHS to stream games at the high school and the Borough. Mrs. Chaparro also attended the meeting as well as Dr. English. The opt out payment could not be negotiated, but the representative said that if the District wanted to opt out, they would simply not use the service and not have to pay the fees. Ms. Good also said that a letter in writing would be needed from the Borough to approve the installation of the camera at Riverside Park. Mr. Rometo also talked about the possibility of advertising on the site, which had a revenue possibility for the District.

Eastern Area – Dr. English then moved onto Eastern Area. He asked Mr. Muscante to provide a brief overview of where we are in the process and get a general idea for moving forward. Mr. Muscante provided the public some background and Ms. Miller provided some background as well. The Board directed the Superintendent to get in touch with the other Eastern Area Superintendents and get some backing for a possible one-year extension with specific goals in place for the jointure. Ms. Miller will also put the discussion on the agenda and have the Superintendent speak at the next EAS meeting.

Verner Playground – Dr. English explained that back in 2017, our insurance company advised that we close the Verner playground because it was being vandalized (broken hoop, student got

stuck, spray paint, etc.). One of our board members has expressed interest in discussing the playground, along with the pros and cons of opening it in a public session. The Tenth Street playground is open because there is a gate for people to enter into the gym at night. People don't enter Verner through the playground, so they are different in that regard. The Administration discussed the issues of liability and risk with the board regarding keeping the space open after school hours. The Board discussed and wished to keep the space open to the public during the week, with the park to be closed by the night supervisor each evening. The park will be open during the week for two months, and the space will be monitored to ensure that the equipment is protected and kept safe for the students during the school day.

Hearing of Citizens - None

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

Personnel

- Paraprofessional Resignations
- Paraprofessional – Transfer from Probationary to Permanent
- Resignation – Business Manager/Board Secretary
- Teacher – Uncompensated Day Request
- Paraprofessional – Uncompensated Day Request
- Precision Substitute Approvals
- Bus Driver/Van Driver/Aide – Allegheny Transportation
- Supplemental Approval – Jr. High Assistant Volleyball Coach

Dr. English then moved to the personnel section. We will be asking the board to approve 2 para resignations – one due to retirement, and one due to finding full time employment. We are happy for them, but unhappy for us, as we are looking for more paraprofessionals. He asked those in attendance if anyone knows anyone that can provide limited hours to support our students during the day, please send them our way. It's an honorable and rewarding way to spend your time. We will also be asking for approval of the transfer from probationary to permanent for a para who has completed her 60-day probationary period. Unfortunately for us, but fortunate for her, we have Ms. Good's resignation for approval. Dr. English passed on his good wishes to her and her family. He then asked shared with the board that we will be asking for approval of uncompensated day requests for a teacher and paraprofessional, and we will be asking for the typical approvals for both Precision and Allegheny Transportation. Finally, we will be asking for the approval of a new Junior High Assistant Volleyball Coach. Her information was included in this week's packet.

Board Governance

- Board Policies – Second Reading,, Policy 217, Graduation Requirements
- Board Policies –Third and Final Reading, Policy 218.1, Weapons; Policy 218.2, Terroristic Threats; Policy 252, Dating Violence; Policy 305, Employment of Substitutes

Dr. English then moved to Board Governance and mentioned that we will have the second and third readings of the policies listed.

Student Life

- Foreign Exchange Student – 1st 9 weeks 22-23 school year

In Student Life, Dr. English mentioned that we will be asking for approval of an exchange student through the EXPEDIS Program. Her introduction letter was included in this week's board packet. This is the same arrangement as you made for the exchange student this year, traveling on a tourist visa for 3 months. This is great benefit to the District, as we always appreciate the added diversity in our schools.

Education

- PASBO School Operations Academy – July 27 and July 28, 2022 – Harrisburg, PA

In Education, Dr. English explained that we will be asking for approval of both a Central Office Employee, along with the Director of Buildings and Grounds to attend the School Operations Academy in Harrisburg, PA. This will help both of them to learn and improve their ability to serve the District. As you know, PASBO is a great resource and offers terrific courses.

Agreements/Contracts/Resolutions:

- Communication/Marketing Services Agreement
- Farm to Table Grant – Matching Funds
- Cares Transition Services Agreement

Dr. English explained that we have not yet received the Communication/Marketing Services Agreement for the AIU. If it is received next week, it will be included in the April voting meeting packet as well. If not, it will be moved to the May agenda. As some of you may remember, in January of 2020, Dr. DiNinno signed off on an elementary Farm to Table grant that was presented to her by Michael MacConnell & Stacey Waffensmith. The goal was to bring an awareness and appreciation of farm crops to the community and support the food service department. This was intended to introduce sustainability to the elementary intro program to the grow pod. The grant had a 25% matching component. The total grant was \$10,000 and the match was \$2500 for the District costs. The grant was awarded by the State for \$6,815.50 for the supplies but the total supply budget was \$7500. Therefore, the District must also contribute the difference, which is \$2,559.50. As such, a board motion authorizing the match amount of \$2,559.50 to be used to fulfil the grant obligations should be approved because the funds were not budgeted. Finally, since Dr. Monroe was in attendance, she gave a brief description of the Cares Transition Agreement.

Business/Finance:

- Food Service Renewal
- CEP/Price Lunch Equity
- Musical Request for Budget
- O.Z. Enterprises, LLC Service Proposal
- PSBA Policy Maintenance Agreement Renewal
- Budget Tax Discussion and review of scenarios

Ms. Good reviewed the items on the agenda for Business/Finance. She explained that the Food Service Renewal was submitted to the Dept. of Education for approval and we were awaiting its return. It will likely be on the May agenda if not received in time for April's voting meeting. She explained that we were working on CEP, but the system is not yet open so more will be forthcoming. Ms. Good explained that the musical asked if the Board would consider adding to next year's budget the purchase of stage weights. They have been renting them for the past few years. They would like the Board to consider purchasing them. The Board agreed. O.Z. Enterprises was the Company that Mr. Pater presented to them last year as a trial run. He would like to continue using them to control our HVAC controls. He is recommending that we approve the three year agreement as it has the ability to terminate it annually. Ms. Good reminded the Board that the PSBA Policy Maintenance provides the District with Administrative Regulations and Board Policy updates. We normally have the renewal by now, but it is likely running late and should appear in May.

Finally Ms. Good reviewed the 3 budget scenarios and the 5 year forecasts. A discussion regarding their preference on scenario occurred. The majority agreed to move forward with scenario 3 for the proposed final budget preparation.

Hearing of Citizens - Mr. Tillman spoke about the importance of raising taxes each year to protect the School District. He also spoke on behalf of Ms. Good leaving the District. Mrs. Tomlinson also spoke on behalf of Ms. Good, as well as urging the Board to consider an in-person option to purchase gear.

Adjournment - 9:52 pm

