

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

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

Study Session Meeting of the Board of School Directors

May 8, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Tenth Street Elementary Auditorium

AGENDA

Dr. English started the meeting, with a welcome to our May study session. Discussed year end events and in the middle of the downhill sprint. Be sure to check the district website and calendars to stay up to date and plan schedules accordingly.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Thank you. Meeting focus will be on the proposed preliminary budget, Ms. Wehner will present this year's preliminary proposed final budget.

II. Presentation(s): 2023 – 2024 Preliminary Budget

Dr. English took a moment to appreciate the work of Ms. Wehner and the business office staff. The first budget for a new business manager is always difficult. She is taking over someone else's budget and coding systems, etc. She has been balancing the creation of the budget, with contract negotiations, and of course, her other hats as food service and transportation supervisor, amongst others. At Riverview we all wear multiple hats, but it is important to take time to appreciate her efforts, and the efforts of the administration and staff that helped to create the budget in an increasingly difficult financial, socioeconomic, and political environment. Thank you.

Ms. Wehner provided the preliminary budget presentation of approximately 25 slides. Board members asked questions and allowed Ms. Wehner to answer them accordingly.

III. Hearing of Citizens – None at this time

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

A. Business/Finance

- a. Merit Pay App #6
- b. Merit Pay App #8
- c. Real Estate Tax Liens
- d. CEP (Community Eligibility Program) Verner Elementary 2023-2024 school year.
- e. School Cafeteria Prices – 2023-2024 school year
- f. A La Carte Prices

g. Allegheny County School Health Insurance Consortium

Ms. Wehner gave a brief overview of the business/finance issues that will be voted on at the next meeting.

Agreements, contracts, and resolutions. Starting with the AIU (Allegheny Intermediate Unit) services guide, which outlines the complete list of services offered by the AIU. The AIU special education pricing guide, while also included in the AIU services guidance, is a helpful one-page reference when considering the costs of special education services. The AIU comprehensive services agreement outlines the services and terms of the AIU with individual school districts. The agreement does not require school districts to purchase any of the services but requires signatures of the board president and secretary. This is annual. Included in your packet, as well, is the Forbes Road Career and Technical Center Budget for the 2023-2024 school year. This budget approval is also annual and will require a roll call vote at next week's voting meeting. Moving on. We have one student who will be attending the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf and one student who will be attending the Western Pennsylvania's School for the Blind for extended school year programs (which occurs in the summer) and we will be asking for your approval of both. We will also be asking for your approval of our annual agreement with the Day School at the Children's Institute to service two students with multiple disabilities. Included in this section, also, is the resolution that Dr. Pallone suggested regarding free breakfast and lunch for all students, to support SB180 and HB180 bills sponsored by Lyndsay Williams et al. Jenna Ossler filled in the appropriate information on this document and is also in favor of supporting this resolution, as the bill would allow for more of our students be properly nourished, while supporting our families at the same time. We will be asking for your vote of approval. We also included for you a preliminary boiler plate agreement that comes up every few years to allow the Department of Human Services (DHS) to subsidize transportation services for our foster and homeless students. This is a beneficial agreement to us, as transportation costs for these students can be cost prohibitive, and we appreciate the support from the County. We do not have the official agreement yet but wanted to make you aware by including this in your packets this week, to provide you additional time to look over the agreement

There was a short discussion on the resolution for school meals for all, specifically some objection from Ms. Wilton, who said that she wants to be sure all of our students have food. However, she felt that paying for students that did not need it wouldn't be a good use of federal dollars. Instead she would have liked the federal government to provide funding in other areas, such as curriculum.

B. Agreements/Contracts/Resolutions:

- a. Services Agreement between AIU and Riverview SD for 2023-2024
- b. Forbes Road Career & Technical Center Budget 2023-2024
- c. Extended School Year with WPSD, Student X
- d. Extended School Year with Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, (WPSBC), Student X
- e. Services Agreement between The Day School at The Children's Institute and Riverview SD for 2023-2024
- f. Resolution: School Meals for All

- g. County of Allegheny Department of Human Services Agreement
- h. Policy Maintenance Agreement between Riverview SD and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

For board governance and regulations, we will be asking for your approval of Riverview's PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education) flexible instruction day (FID) application. This is required every three years and allows the District to utilize online learning for weather related and emergency use only. This requires a board signature, so we have included this in your packets, and in the agenda. We also discussed a revised board meeting schedule. We discussed changing the August board meeting to occur at Verner Elementary School, and that when we draft next year's board agenda, that the meetings during musical seasons would also be scheduled at Verner, for a total of 5 meetings a year. We will be asking for your approval of the revised calendar for this year only.

Discussion will begin for operational requirements in our new board visitation policy, 907.1. Through discussions, we have a possible discrepancy on the interpretation of this policy. Dr. English was trying to provide the language that will affect board members moving forward. The first of which is background checks and clearances. This was discussed briefly during the policy discussions but want to be clear. It is not, by law, a requirement for board members to have clearances on file, unless they are volunteering. The language in this policy, however, requires this documentation if official school board visits are to occur (for board members acting in board capacity). Therefore, clarity is needed that if a school board member is attending an event as a parent or a spectator, this would not apply. Is this the interpretation from the majority of the board?

The second discussion topic is the interpretation of when a visit is a visit. There is language in the policy for a board member to follow school sign in procedures, which denotes a visit during the day. However, there is also language, or lack of definitive language, that may suggest that that a visit to a school can occur anytime, and hence, the same requirements would be needed for all school visits, no matter what time of day they occur. For us to backfill this policy with the appropriate procedures and accommodations, our board leadership felt this discussion was also important, so that everyone's interpretation is aligned and clear. Do these requirements (letting the board, superintendent, admin know of the visit, clearances, etc.) to both daytime and evening events equally?

The board discussed their thoughts on the board visitation policy in terms of their interpretations of their roles and responsibilities, and what they felt required board approval and what would not. They also discussed scenarios which would require clearances, and their thoughts on clearances. The board did not come to an agreement, and decided to come back to the discussion.

- C. Board Governance/Regulations
 - a. RSD Flexible Instruction Day Program
 - b. Board Visitation Policy Discussion
 - c. Revised School Board Calendar for 2023-2024

Personnel begins with the renewal of the dean of student position. As you may recall, we changed the job description to focus solely on truancy, attendance, and family support as of last year. Some board members, in approving the additional year, wanted more detailed information as to what the position entailed. To answer that question, included is a full 32-page redacted document of the duties and services for the 2022-2023 school year. As discussed last year, these student and family-focused duties are not only meeting school code and PDE requirements, but also a much-needed battery of services for our underserved and struggling population of students and families in Oakmont and Verona (especially with the added demands of Covid-related gaps in attendance and mental health needs, etc.). This person also completes home visits for our other schools as well, when needed. Therefore, we are asking for your approval of this \$4,000 stipend for the upcoming year. Also asking for your approval of our summer targeted assistance employees for the high school to support our credit recovery efforts. Additionally, will be asking for your approval of a long-term substitute for the remainder of the year in English, the usual P10recision substitutes, a paraprofessional unpaid leave, the usual Allegheny Transit bus drivers, and a school counseling intern for the upcoming year, which is always appreciated and needed.

The Superintendent discussed the responsibilities of the position and the board discussed appreciating the information regarding the position. There was no other discussion.

D. Personnel

- a. JR-SR High School Attendance, Truancy, & Student Support Specialist
- b. Summer Targeted Assistance – HS
- c. Long Term Sub – Leslie Turis
- d. Precision Subs
- e. Paraprofessionals: unpaid leave (1),
- f. Allegheny Transportation (ATS): Bus Driver (2)
- g. Guidance Intern 23-24 School Year

Finally, it is the time of year where we bring forth the 2023 graduation candidates, which is customary for the May voting meeting.

The board congratulated the graduation candidates.

E. Education

- a. 2023 Graduation Candidates

V. Hearing of Citizens

One resident that spoke to the board about the discussion regarding board members attending events, stating that he believed that board members should be allowed to attend any and all events. He also referenced the amendment of freedom of speech in his comments.

VI. Adjournment