

Study Session / Education Committee

August 17, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Remote Access via ZOOM
as a result of necessity due to coronavirus pandemic sanctions

In attendance: N. English, L. Ashbaugh, M. McClure, A. Loeffler, M. Pallone, J. Miller, B. Hawk, J. Chaparro, T. Schaaf, T. Good, F. Muscante, D. Zolkowski, E. Hewitt, C. Monroe, R. Rizzo, A. Pater, E. Phillips, W. Wilton, P. Tomlinson, additional unnamed residents
Absent: J. Hurt-Robinson

Dr. English began the meeting with gratitude and wanted to express gratitude first, to the Board of Education, for their vote of confidence to allow him to serve the community as Superintendent. In addition, since the decision was made to go virtual, he wanted to thank the staff for working hard to prepare, train each other through virtual education, and to thank the custodial staff for preparing for the model, and the school system working in overdrive to provide the best possible scenario for our community. He also thanked the community for their patience, flexibility, understanding and support through this health crisis.

Presentation

Metz – NSLP for 2020-21

On July 29th, Ms. Good set up a finance committee meeting with Dr. English, Dr. McClure, Mr. Hawk, with Metz Culinary Arts, Mr. Larry Stelitano and Ms. Stacey Waffensmith, to talk about the National School Lunch Program. This was a productive meeting; and since the community had specific questions regarding this program, Ms. Good thought it would be an opportune time for them to speak. Dr. English then turned the introductions over to Ms. Good and thanked Mr. Stelitano and Ms. Waffensmith for joining.

Announcements

PDE – Emergency Instructional Time Template Approval

Riverview Reporter

Updates – Athletic Resocialization Plan
Technology

Dr. English mentioned that the Riverview Report will be completed and sent to families in September. He mentioned that we have had some students quarantined, but no one has contracted the virus. Second level preparation just began. The season has been pushed back to August 24th. He also mentioned that the PIAA and WPIAL are in discussion with the State regarding the 50 person/250 person outdoor mandate, and the strong recommendation by the Governor to push sports back to January. In Technology, the department is in overdrive. Sixty-four teachers received their computers today with additional computers being distributed this week. All family tech surveys have been catalogued and the tech department will be working on getting computers ready for students to be distributed the first week of school.

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

Personnel

- Supplementals:
 - Academic
 - Athletic
 - Athletic Resignation
- Sabbaticals – New and postponed

- Resignation – LTS
- Professional Status
- Substitutes

Other Personnel

- Bus Drivers

Dr. English reviewed the personnel items that will be presented for approval at the upcoming board meeting. Mr. Rometo is working on a plan regarding the athletic resignation. Several teachers have requested sabbaticals at this time. Due to the resignation of one of the long-term substitutes, Mr. Zolkowski and Dr. English interviewed a good candidate. Her information will be in this week’s board packet. Finally, there will be a motion to approve professional status for two of our employees.

Board Policies/Governance:

- First Reading: Policy 103, Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
 Policy 104, Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
 Policy 247, Hazing
 Policy 249, Bullying/Cyberbullying
 Policy 252, Dating Violence
 Policy 317.1, Educator Misconduct
 Policy 824, Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
 Additional Policies being reviewed relating to COVID-19 and will be included in
 Next week’s board packet

There was much discussion regarding the policies presented for review. We will be working with Mr. Muscante’s office to use a template policy prepared by his firm regarding the Title IX regulations until further review is completed.

Agreements/Contracts:

- Wesley Family Services (partial hospital if needed to support students)
- DART (Age 3-5 early intervention program to help identify and support young students prior to kindergarten)
- Watson Institute (2 students will be attending in the upcoming year)
- Soccer Agreements – Wm. McKinley and Creekside Park (Yearly contracts – Wm. McKinley has been included in your packet – Creekside will follow when received)
- Auditorium Manager (Yearly contract for Auditorium Manager)

Dr. English reviewed the agreements/contracts that will be presented for approval at Monday’s meeting. He then asked Ms. Good to share the Business/Finance information.

Business/Finance:

- Pay Apps
- Transportation Update
- Tax Update
- Light Bulbs
- Five-Year Facility Plan Update
- Community Engagement Finance Sessions

Ms. Good reminded the board that with social distancing suggestions, busing costs were going to be about double this year and possibly higher. For our parochial/private runs an additional bus and 2 vans were added at this point. Athletics will be hard to accommodate and very pricy. At worse-case scenario, costs could be double.

She also mentioned that the District had about 2,000 bulbs that were old florescent and no longer used. There was an attempt to sell them twice on Muncibid. Muncibid is an online auction for school districts to use. Due to mercury and other non-environmental friendly elements, they cannot be disposed of. Mr. Pater found a company willing to take them at a recycle cost of approximately \$800. A finance committee meeting was held on July 28th to talk about the preliminary structure of the five-year facility plan. The next meeting will be on August 28th. The goal is to have the architects present the plan to the full board at the September study session. She then provided the board with 9 year comparison data for both real estate revenues and EIT revenues. The goal was to see how collections were going during COVID. At this point, Real estate collections seem to be going strong. The EIT is lagging but the filing deadlines had been extended through June 15 so it was hard to tell at this point if that was the problem. More information to come as we close out August.

As Mrs. Hurt-Robinson was unable to be in attendance, she asked Dr. English to provide the update on her behalf.

Education Committee

- Elementary and Athletic Handbooks 2020-21
- Update – Back to School Plan

Because of the changes to Title IX, final adjustments are being made to the elementary handbook. The Jr-Sr HS handbook will follow. There will be additional changes regarding issues/protocols related to Covid-19 that will follow. Mr. Rometo is also finalizing any changes to the Athletic Handbook.

- Education subcommittee updates:

Town Hall Meeting – Thursday, August 13, 2020, 6pm - This is another “live” session with the community regarding the instructional plan for virtual learning. The speakers will include: Dr. English, Mr. Zolkowski, Dr. Monroe, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Rometo, Mr. Rizzo, Marlee Deluca (junior high teacher), Cathy Cecil (high school teacher), and Nathan Hart (Elementary school teacher). The meeting should be no longer than 1 hour. Each speaker will lay out a rough schedule, expectations for teachers and parents for virtual learning, updates on the tech plan, updates on sports, and any additional information that parents may need to know. Eddie Phillipps is going to take notes during the meeting and email a recap of the event after it ends. The event will also be recorded. Eddie has sent out reminders to parents. Schedules for students should be finished by this time, and parents should get an idea of their child’s teacher.

Race and Equity Curriculum and Policy Study – The Education and Student Life Committee are coming together with teachers, students, and community members to discuss issues of race and equity in curriculum and student-life related activities and issues. This will be an ongoing discussion, and will result in a task force to address these issues and make improvements in this regard.

Covid Tabletop Training – Dr. English, Mr. Pater, and Mrs. Rice will be participating in a mock crisis activity regarding Covid 19. We believe this will be a helpful exercise to prepare us for outbreaks/additional crises that may arise in the upcoming year.

Week of August 17th – Teacher Training / PLC - For this week, 8-10 of our Microsoft Teams “power users” will be leading hour-long professional development sessions (one morning session, one afternoon session) every day during this week, as well as Mrs. Ketler teaching sessions on mindfulness and mental health. A schedule will be provided to the teachers on Friday of this week at the all staff meeting. We also have a four part mental health focus from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as trainings from Eureka, Seesaw, clever, mystery science, and the Teacher’s Curriculum Institute for social studies.

Microsoft Teams Parent Training - Tuesday, August 18th, Wednesday, August 19th – 6pm. Microsoft Teams trainings for parents, broken up by sessions of 300 participants by K-6, and 7-12 parents. This training opportunity will have multiple meetings for parents to join, that will model a school day, and each session will be a training component in Microsoft

Teams. The teachers are organizing and putting this together, and is a creative training that will model a virtual school day and provide Teams training simultaneously. Pretty neat!

PD for opening day – We have two Microsoft Teams opportunities and the traditional 403B Education opportunity scheduled, as well as a McKinney Vento. We will hold another PD meeting this Friday with the teacher committee to plan out the other opportunities on August 24th and 25th appropriately. Mrs. Ashbaugh has been asked to speak on behalf of the Board. There will be teacher-led trainings and staff meetings scheduled during these two days, along with a surprise that Dr. English has been working on. Stay tuned for more details about that. Since the auditorium will provide for an unsafe social distancing environment, these meetings will occur virtually. The PD/PLC Committee is meeting on Friday to plan for these days, and get the schedule out with plenty of time.

New hires – long term subs and the Assistant Principal position at the high school. For the Assistant Principal, we have over 70 candidates. This is exciting.

We are extremely busy, and teachers and administrators are working hard! We are in 5th GEAR getting ready for the start of school, and planning for a positive and engaging start!

Committee Updates

Finance: Nothing additional to report

Safety: Dr. Pallone had no report at this time

Forbes: Dr. Loeffler gave a brief update. Forbes will be starting on the 20th with in-person instruction. Student enrollment appears to be up.

Legislative/Eastern Area Ms. Miller reported that Eastern Area (Sunrise) was opening in-person five days per week. She is waiting for the next meeting to be scheduled as they planned to discuss the results of the facility study.

Student Life Mrs. Schaaf mentioned that sports are still up in the air, waiting on PIAA To make a decision based on Gov. Wolf's suggestion to push all sports until January, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm

An Executive Session was held until approximately 11:00 pm to discuss personnel matters.