

**An executive session will be held on September 13, 2021 from 6:30 to 7:00 pm to discuss legal matters and to receive information.*

Study Session/ Student Life Committee

September 13, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Remote Access via ZOOM
as a result of necessity due to coronavirus pandemic sanctions

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

In attendance: Brian Hawk, Melanie Pallone, Tara Jean Schaaf, Jeanine Hurt-Robinson, Maureen McClure, Lisa Ashbaugh, Jane Miller, Arlene Loeffler (arrival 7:10 pm), J. Chaparro, Falco Muscante (arrival 7:20 pm), Tammy Good, Neil English, David Zolkowski, Bob Rizzo, Tina Monroe, Eric Hewitt, Al Pater, J. Gonzalez, W. Wilton, O. Slagle, H. Fichte

Presentation

Dr. English mentioned that things have gotten off to a great start. He has visited every classroom and students and staff are already hard at work. Although we are dealing with issues related to COVID-19, the year feels more “normal.” We have full classrooms of students, recess, specials, and the full offering of programs this year. This is a wonderful improvement from last year. We have had some issues in terms of COVID, but everyone is physically distanced, students are masked, and we have been relatively fortunate thus far in terms of cases, although we have had to deal with them. He added that it is imperative that we continue to stress the importance of vaccinations, as students and families that are vaccinated are significantly less disrupted by Covid-19 isolations, quarantines, and health guidelines. Overall, however, it has been a great start to the year.

State funded COVID testing program – As we have discussed, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has allocated nearly \$338 million dollars to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID-19 and prevent its spread in schools. They have contracted these services through a company called Gingko Bioworks. This testing is voluntary for Districts and for all participants. As such, Districts will be given the flexibility to determine the testing plan, testing frequency, and type of test that they wish to take advantage of. Under the Commonwealth’s testing program, there will be three testing options to select from: pooled testing, individual diagnostic PCR testing, and individual diagnostic rapid point of care (POC) antigen testing. To allow schools to administer POC antigen testing onsite, the DOH is offering use of the DOH Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver to cover the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations. In order for a school to participate in any level of the Commonwealth’s testing program, this Statement of Assurances must be completed, signed, and submitted to RA-DHK12COVIDTEST@pa.gov. Upon submission of the completed Statement of Assurances the school will be deemed an “Authorized School” for participation in the program, unless otherwise notified in writing by the PADOH.

Dr. English went on to explain the three components to this free service:

1. **Pooled testing** – This is a preventative measure for schools/classrooms/cohorts and involves administering nose swabs to individuals in a grade/classroom all at once, to determine if there is a positive case. If a positive case is determined, Gingko staff will come back and individually assess students and contact parents and the District in terms of results. Pooled testing would only be administered to those that give consent. Gingko provides health staff to Districts that choose pooled testing. If the school identifies an individual with a positive test result, the school will contact the DOH to start the case investigation and contact tracing protocols.
2. **Individual Diagnostic PCR testing** – This is what it sounds like. This gives our District Health Staff and parents the opportunity to get a PCR test at school, if symptoms are observed. This saves on guesswork for parents and Health Staff, as well as provide a convenient and easy way to test. We are finding that with cases rising, parents are finding a harder time finding a test site, and the results are coming back 3-5 days after assessment, which isn't a great turnaround rate.
3. **Individual Diagnostic Rapid Antigen Testing** – Although the rapid tests aren't the most efficacious, this provides an immediate result to parents and Health staff. If a student has COVID-19, however, the test is more reliable.

Consent and Privacy

- Authorized schools will follow the CDC's guidance to determine testing frequency.
- There must be consent for all individual's being tested.
- There will be strict privacy guidelines to protect all individuals that choose testing, in compliance with FERPA and HIPAA laws.
- District Health Staff would be trained how to administer and send tests.

Recommendation: At this time, since the pooled testing requires consent of a large number of people with, at times, competing thoughts and ideas, our recommendation is to fill out the assurances form for Individual Diagnostic PCR testing, and individual Rapid Antigen Testing only. We can possibly revisit the pool testing after we receive testimonials and information from other schools that have signed on to this additional service.

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

Personnel

- Paraprofessional – resignation
- Paraprofessional hire
- Dean of Students
- Substitute Approvals
- Bus Driver/Van Driver/Aide – Allegheny Transportation
- Supplemental Athletic Approvals –21-22 Junior High Assistant Girls Basketball Coach (discussion in Business/Finance); 21-22 Co-Ed Soccer Coach

Dr. English shared that we will have a paraprofessional resignation, along with a new paraprofessional hire, and we will be asking for approval on both. He went on to mention that we also have the annual renewal of the Dean of Students, discussed earlier in the year, which is

being served as attendance, truancy, academic support, and family outreach, to address additional mental health needs as a result of COVID-19. In addition, we have several substitute approvals through Precision and transportation personnel through Allegheny Transportation. Finally, he mentioned that we will be asking for the approval of the Junior High Assistant Girls basketball coach, and the coed soccer coach. Ms. Good will be discussing the Junior High Assistant Girls Basketball position in her business/finance update as well.

Board Governance

- Budgetary Outlines: French Club
- Board Policy – First Reading – 305, Employment of Substitutes
- Board Policy – Second Reading – 247, Hazing; 209 Health Exams/Screenings; 317.1, Educator Misconduct; 332, Working Periods; 803, School Calendar; 824 Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries; 904 Public Attendance at School Events; 907 School Visitors; 236.1, Threat Assessment
- Board Policy – Third & Final Reading – 249, Bullying/Cyberbullying

In this time of the year, we will be asking for approval of a number of our supplementals, supplemental clubs and booster groups, with the French club already on the docket. There may be more forthcoming information prior to the voting meeting on the 20th. If so, they will be included in next week's packet. We are also continuing to review our board policies, as we have discussed many times this year, with the first reading of board policy 305 regarding substitutes, and the second and third readings of hazing, health exams/screenings, educator misconduct, working period, school calendar, maintaining professional adult/student boundaries, public attendance at school events, school visitors, and threat assessment, as well as bullying and cyberbullying. Remember, as we have discussed, we have purchased services through the PSBA and our solicitors to ensure that the language is aligned to the new changes in school code.

Dr. English then turned the meeting over to Ms. Good to supply input regarding several of the contracts and agreements listed.

Agreements/Contracts/Resolutions:

- Limbach HVAC Maintenance Proposal Ms. Good discussed that the current multi-year agreement has expired. We find them to be a valued vendor. They have saved us thousands of dollars in repairs over the last few years with implementing a maintenance program on our HVAC systems. We still have a number of very old HVAC units that Limbach helps keep running. Limbach is a widely recommended company and we are not recommending that we bid this service out. We are recommending we enter into another multi-year agreement with Limbach. Mr. Hawk confirmed that he agreed they are a reputable vendor. We plan to review the filters and likely remove them from the contract and continue to change them quarterly in-house.
- Forbes Career & Technology child nutrition agreement – Ms. Good mentioned this is an information sharing agreement that allows us to share free/reduced information with

Forbes Career & Technology Center. However, Riverview is not running the NSLP this school year. We are not collecting meal applications. She mentioned that she will be reaching out to Forbes to see if this agreement needs revised or is not needed. At this time, she was waiting on a response from Forbes.

- UGI Natural Gas Agreement for the period 9/2022 – 8/2025 Ms. Good reminded the board that the District entered into the Natural Gas Consortium shortly after 2013. For the last three contracts, the rates per DTH have remained extremely low and has saved the district thousands in utility costs. Currently, the rate will be set for three years at 0.44/DTH. The previous three year agreement set the rate at .39/DTH. And the contract prior set the rate at .48/DTH. It has been a great 9 year run with the natural gas consortium.
- Wesley Family Services Child/Adolescent Partial Hospital Program
- Addiction Medicine Services, UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital Prevention Services Letter of Agreement
- Bayada Home Health Care, Inc.
- Special Transportation Agreement – ST2122-001 Ms. Good explained this was an arrangement to pay a parent vehicle mileage for a special education student transportation agreement for one day. Ms. Good also mentioned that it is likely that another student transportation agreement for another special education student would be also placed on the agenda next week for Krise Transportation. We have used them in the past to assist us. We have another need to have them assist us for this school year.

To close the agreement portion of the meeting, Dr. English then share that we will be asking for the board's approval of our annual agreements with Wesley Family Services and UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital for any partial hospitalization services we may utilize throughout the course of the year. The Bayada contract is for nursing/medical services for one of our students with special needs.

Dr. English then turned the meeting over to Ms. Good to review the items in the business/finance section of tonight's meeting.

Business/Finance:

- Club Sport/Booster/Athletic Update Ms. Good notified the school board that Heather Fitch and Elizabeth Morobitto approached Mr. Hewitt and Mrs. Tamburro about a year ago to begin a discussion regarding starting a new bowling sport. Most recently, they contacted me for assistance. Dr. English, Mrs. Tamburro, Mr. Rometo, Mr. Hewitt and I have been discussing and collecting information on this for about a week. It is the administrations' recommendation that we permit the creation of a club sport for competitive bowling that will be solely funded by parents/booster club. The District is not willing at this time to agree to add another sport to the budget due to the current budgetary constraints.
- YMCA Agreement Ms. Good explained that YMCA is currently operating their after school program in our Tenth Street Elementary since the beginning of school but they have not completed the required documents such as a contract, liability insurance and

employee clearances. Ms. Good has sent them a few emails and left a few voice mail messages. It is the hope of getting this on the public agenda for next week.

- Approve – Pay Application East West Manufacturing & Supply Co., Inc. - \$382,134.60
- Approve – Merit Electrical - \$84,325.46
- Ratify – Pay Application R.A. Glancy & Sons, Inc. - \$499,312.97
- Ratify – Pay Application East End Plumbing & Mechanical, Inc. - \$30,825.00
- Change Order – R.A. Glancy & Sons, Inc. - \$1,848.32
- Ricupero, Inc. Ms. Good introduced the Ricupero renewal. They do a wonderful job and have not raised their prices since 2016. However, she wanted to ask the board if they wanted to rebid this service to see if we could obtain better pricing. The board agreed to rebid.
- Basketball Comparison Discussion – Ms. Good shared the comparison grid. There was discussion regarding the definitions regarding the different types of coaching positions. There was some discussion regarding the high per pupil cost for these sports. There was discussion on Title IV and the district’s compliance with this regulation.

Dr. English thanked Ms. Good. He added that last but not least, as this is a student life committee study session, we have an additional report. We had mentioned last year that we will plan to incorporate additional celebrations and updates on student life during times when accolades and achievements occur (for instance, at the end of each sports season, arts showcase, concerts, etc.). That being said, he turned the meeting over to Mrs. Schaaf, who would be able to provide a specific update on fall events at this time.

Student Life Committee

- Fall Events Update - Mrs. Tara Jean Schaaf - After reaching out to all school Principals, Mrs. Schaaf gathered information on each building’s fall and opening events. She provided to the Board a presentation of approximately ten minutes that highlighted these events in great detail. At the high school level, she discussed each club, activity, and sporting event in session. She made mention that these events were in line with what a “normal” school year would look like.

Following Mrs. Schaaf’s update, Dr. English wanted to publicly thank the teachers, administrators and staff, along with our custodians, for all of their hard work and preparation for the start of the school year, and as always, he wanted to thank everyone for their continued support of the Riverview School District, and he appreciated your attendance this evening.

Adjournment – 9:09pm