



Study Session MINUTES – April 9, 2018

Tenth Street Elementary School Library

In Attendance:

M. McClure, D. DiPietro (via telephone at approximately 8:05 p.m.), L. Ashbaugh, A. Loeffler, J. Nehlsen, A. DiClaudio, J. Hurt-Robinson (via telephone), E. Tillman, F. Aughenbaugh, P. DiNinno, T. Good, E. Hewitt, N. English, M. Plance, D. Zolkowski, C. Monroe, C. Lane, T. Favo, W. Wilton

Dr. DiNinno welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared the following as potential motions for consideration and approval at next week's Regular Voting Meeting:

Personnel

- Retirement
- Supplemental and Athletic Event Workers
- Substitute Staff

Other

- Overnight Student Field Trip Request – Dr. McNally
- Acceptance of Foreign Exchange Student
- Riverview High School Global Scholars Certificate

Dr. DiNinno reviewed this certificate/endorsement of learning that is being recommended for Riverview students. She praised Mr. Kubistek for his efforts. She shared that these are the types of unique learning experiences that Riverview offers to students. She explained that these pathways prepare our students for their future collegiate and/or careers. She explained that a PSSA or Keystone test cannot possibly assess the types of skills and concepts acquired through this type of learning opportunity. She shared that this is the direction that the district needs to go when assessing student learning at Riverview. These types of experiences and the learning that results from them cannot be measured on a PSSA or Keystone test. These endorsements and certification pathways are an important measure of student success at Riverview. She shared that we, as a school district, need to define success and how we measure it. The state is not always aware of the unique and realistic learning opportunities we provide for our kids. It is up to us to define success and measure it. We know the realities of what our kids are learning. The state's measurement system is only one window of assessment that helps us to monitor learning. She recommended that we begin to look at more learning pathways like this, define our own success, and endorse this measurement or evidence of learning.

- Pitt Study

Dr. DiNinno and Mr. English shared that the professional development and review of learning strategies that will be made available to the students as part of this study and experience warrant our inclusion in this ELA study. All confidentiality will be honored.

Dr. DiNinno reviewed the following agreements that will be recommended for approval next week:

- AOT Agreement
- Solicitor Agreement
- Adelphoi Agreement
- DART (2 rooms at Verner for Early Intervention)

Dr. Monroe provided a review of the Special Education /Strategic Plan that is currently being reviewed. She also shared a summary of feedback she received from parents during a parent session she held.

Dr. DiNinno reminded the board to review the following policies that are in the process of being revised.

- First Readings: 105 Curriculum; 209.1 Food Allergy; 239 Foreign Exchange Students
- Third Readings: 210 Medications
- ASCHIC Trustee (in packet)
- Eastern Area Elected Officers – Dr. DiNinno noted that Mrs. Aughenbaugh is on this list as a nominated officer. She thanked her for being involved and for representing the school district through her genuine and sincere acknowledgement of the value of a Riverview education.

Mr. Nehlsen asked if the agenda could be adjusted to move the bond discussion forward. At this time, Ms. Good introduced Mr. Anthony Ditka, bond counsel from Dinsmore and Shohl and Ms. Alisha Henry, bond underwriter, from Janney Montgomery Scott LLC. Ms. Henry shared the most recent bond financing information with the board. She discussed the wrap-around structure being beneficial for a payback structure and will have little effect on this budget and future budgets because the district was paying off old debt and this new debt payment simply just took its place. In addition, Ms. Henry explained that the combined interest rate was currently approximately 3.25% which was still a very good rate for the District to borrow at. The new \$7,000,000 issue would have a cost of \$250,000 and add an additional 7 years to the payback schedule. Mr. Ditka stated he was satisfied with the review of the projects list and the draw down schedule provided to him by VEBH architects. Mr. Ditka also explained to the board that the current bond issue did not have any classroom work being down and therefore would not be eligible for any state debt reimbursement should that become a possibility at any time in the future. Ms. Henry also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a \$10,000,000 bond issue and suggested the board choose a bond amount below \$10,000,000 to optimize the benefits from their bond sale.

Upon the recommendation of Dr. McClure, Jon Nehlsen moved that the following item be approved:

- Motion to approve Resolution # R1718-021 regarding Capital Projects.

Dr. Loeffler seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Favo addressed the board and complimented the district for its ability to support special education students. He also addressed the board regarding new home assessments. He had questions and recommendations regarding the district process and asked that the board consider reviewing this matter for potential changes in the future.

Committee Updates

- Education – Mrs. Ashbaugh shared an update on the third snow makeup day, and the Superintendent's workshop (Monday, April 16, 6:00 pm). Dr. DiNinno shared that Mr. Rizzo will join the superintendent's Workshop and provide additional information to parents regarding school safety. SAT class with Mr. McNally at High School is now underway. An update on the Strategic Plan Survey: report to be provided by the University of Pittsburgh by April 20th and the Strategic Plan Committee Meeting will be at the end of April/beginning of May.
- Student Life – Mr. DiClaudio shared that the Musical, *Spamalot*, started out successfully and continues next weekend. He also updated everyone on spring sports and the weather conditions that have been impacting practices and games.
- Forbes and Legislation – Dr. Loeffler provided an update on Forbes.
- Eastern Area Schools – Mrs. Aughenbaugh shared that she attended the last meeting and that there are significant facilities needs at Sunrise, the IU operated and county school district shared school.

Budget Update

The Finance committee provided the board with an update on the status of the 2018 – 2019 Budget. Mr. Nehlsen shared that there is currently an \$800,000+ gap between expenditures and revenues.

Dr. DiNinno shared that the gap can only be addressed through an increase in taxes, or reductions in expenditures, or some combination of both. She shared that over the past few years, we have been able to reduce expenditures through things like rebidding contracts, addressing delinquent taxes, creative programming, energy savings programs and attrition. Most of these served as “one time pops” in the budget. She explained that, at this point in time, there are no magic tricks left to pull out of the hat. There are no untapped resources that we can use to offset expenditures. We will need to make some tough decisions and keep our priorities in mind as we make these decisions.

Prior to discussing the potential reductions to the budget, Ms. Good explained that this situation is not uncommon for a small school. The State has not been adequately funding Districts since 2006 or so. They are responsible for pushing more and more funding responsibility on to the taxpayer. Ms. Good then provided the board with details related to potential reductions that could be made to the budget along with potential tax increases. She shared six different budget scenarios and answered questions related to each scenario. All agreed that some very difficult decisions will need to be made. The board indicated that they would be discussing several personnel items in executive session. Personnel details associated with budgeting decisions will also be shared at next week’s meeting.

Mrs. Wilton shared that she did not envy the situation that anyone making these decisions was in and that she hoped more parents would attend the meetings so that they could understand the situation better and also share their concerns. She indicated that she would try to get the word out to more parents so that they attend the meetings related to budgeting.

An executive session was held from approximately 9:45 to 10:55, following the Study Session, to discuss personnel matters.