

Study Session - MINUTES

February 3, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Tenth Street Library

In attendance: M. DiNinno, L. Ashbaugh, J.Hurt-Robinson (telephone), M. McClure, A. Loeffler, M. Pallone, J. Miller, B. Hawk, J. Chaparro, T. Schaaf, T. Good, F. Muscante, D. Zolkowski, E. Hewitt, C. Monroe, N. English, K. Krajca, W. Wilton, R. Ogradowski, E. Phillipps, D. Engen, A. Cummings

An executive session was held from 6:00 to 6:50 p.m. to receive information.

Dr. DiNinno welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared the goal/purpose of a Study Session.

District architects, from VEBH, provided the Board with an update on the Verner Classroom project and overall District Capital projects. Discussion of a new, more invasive, long-term Capital Improvement plan to address general maintenance, non-educational necessities, and the refunding and refinancing of a Bond to offset the budget was held. A bond refunding should occur in May 2020 regardless of a new bond issue. The savings looking at today's figures is slightly over \$200,000. This could produce good savings. Ms. Good stressed that another bond issue is inevitable as the items remaining are mandatory, such as HVAC units, Boilers, wiring, etc. Mr. Engen from VEBH agreed and pointed out this plan will not include educational changes because we must catch up with the required maintenance first before implementing any educational changes. The Board agreed to move forward with a motion to hire the architects to develop a plan at next week's Regular Voting Meeting.

Dr. DiNinno reviewed the following topics and held a discussion with the Board pertaining to the following personnel items:

- Supplementals:
 - Varsity Football Coach, Spanish Club - Rachel Carlson, Rescind motion (musical)
- Substitutes: LTS
- Bus Drivers
- Sabbatical: Srodes (Sem. 1, 2020-21)
- Potential intermittent FMLA

Dr. DiNinno reviewed and discussed the following agreements with the Board:

- UPMC Athletic Trainer – Dr. DiNinno shared that this document is forthcoming and will also need to be reviewed by the solicitor.
- Marketing Proposal – Dr. DiNinno shared the need to continue with communications, community engagement, and Marketing in the District. She proposed that the District contract the service out between now and the end of the current school year. She also advised that additional providers could be sought out in the spring for consideration in the 2020-2021 Budget after a more long-range plan is considered. Mr. Eddie Phillipps, a local resident and current IU marketing employee, shared details about his experiences and background indicating that the IU will provide the District with an agreement in an effort to provide this service to the District for the remainder of the school year, using Mr. Phillipps. Dr. DiNinno indicated that the cost of this contracted service cannot be higher than is currently allotted for in this year's budget. Several Board members asked Mr. Phillipps questions and engaged in discussions pertaining to his background and ideas for marketing the District. This item will be placed on the agenda for approval at the Regular Voting meeting this month.
- MOU1920-001 (RSD & REA) – personnel matter

Dr. DiNinno shared and answered questions pertaining to the following items. Additional discussion was held.

- Model UN: Cornell (4/23-4/26)
- 2020 – 2021 School Calendar
- CCAC

Dr. DiNinno reminded the Board that a second reading of Policy 113.4 would be on the agenda next week and as time permits, the administration will continue to provide the board with recommended policy revisions based on School Code, changes in the law, and recommendations of PSBA. All policy revisions are reviewed by the District solicitor as well.

- Second Reading: 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information

Ms. Good reviewed and answered questions pertaining to:

- Pay Apps and Change Orders
- Eastern Area School (Sunrise) Feasibility Study – Ms. Good and Ms. Miller shared details pertaining to the status of the facilities at Sunrise and a legal matter related to the school's roof. Some discussion was held pertaining to the number of Districts that support the school, conditions of the building, need for a feasibility study, associated costs, and long-range considerations.

Ms. Good provided the following update regarding the 2020 Budget:

The Tax Assessment Disc was received January 18th. The assessed value increased by \$17,000,000. If the board does not raise taxes, the amount of new revenue generated is \$379,331. If the board raises taxes to the maximum index amount, the amount of the new revenue generated is \$757,309. There are 3,900 taxable properties in RSD. 2,828 are in Oakmont and 1,072 in Verona. Edgewater is almost completely built out now and on the rolls. Brooks & Blair is still moving along but many plots are still just land. An update of the Riverfront Complex will be included in the Budget Presentation in March. Ms. Good reminded the board that Gov. Wolfe's budget will be presented on February 4th, PASBO will be presenting funding numbers February 6th, and PSBA is offering a free webinar on February 5th.

Ms. Good also pointed out that it is very early in the budget process. She explained she won't have the health care benefit premium numbers to include until February 28th. She mentioned that she completed the salaries/social security, PSERS section of the Budget. The total increase for these items is \$671,523. This compared to the new tax revenue potential does not leave much money on the table for other necessities. At this time, it appears to show another year with a deficit. Again, this is very early in the process and some State funding could come in positive. We will know more in March.

Dr. DiNinno thanked Ms. Good for the budget information and asked each Committee to provide an update.

Education

Mr. Zolkowski shared an update on Kindergarten registration and the math pilot programs.

Dr. English and Dr. DiNinno discussed the completion of the 2020 Academic Report.

Mr. Hewitt shared an update on his research with Dual Enrollment and the Cyber partnerships he is looking into with Allegheny Valley.

Mr. Hewitt discussed the District's Personal Finance course and its implications on students.

Ms. Hurt-Robinson thanked the administration for the Academic Report and shared her praises over the accomplishments of Model UN students.

Student Life

Mrs. Schaaf provided details related to the impact of a change to the Junior High Girls' basketball/Soccer season. She also shared the status of where things are with hiring a new football coach. Dr. DiNinno invited members to the final interview on Wednesday afternoon. An update on the April 1st Patron's night and the musical was provided. All were reminded of the March 12th STEAM showcase. The Board discussed the request by RAA to waive overtime custodial charges when the group uses District facilities. The Board agreed to waive the fees again for the current year and examine the topic for the future.

Safety

Mr. Rizzo shared that signs are to be installed at the high school to assist with the new traffic pattern associated with the road at the high school. Communication with parents will be provided prior to using the new traffic pattern at the JSHS. Drills are being conducted at all buildings.

Forbes

Dr. Loeffler shared that a new veterinary program will be provided at Forbes and the school received 56 new students.

Legislation

Ms. Miller shared that Mike Turzai is resigning, 4 new charter bills have been shared in the Senate and the Governor's budget will be shared tomorrow. Ms. Good commented on Right to Know changes.

The Study Session concluded at 9:55.