

Study Session Minutes

Monday – June 10, 2013 – 7:00 p.m. – Administration Conference Room

In attendance: J. Hackworth, E. Tillman, M. McClure, H. Dolan, L. Ashbaugh, D. Tompa, A. Loeffler, P. DiNinno, L. Black, S. Wiegand, B. Dunkle, J. Moser, T. Nix, D. Zolkowski, J. Shoaf, H. Dezayes, (reporter), several high school students.

Peggy DiNinno reviewed the following items indicating that the items will be placed on the June 17th agenda for board approval:

Personnel Items

- Resignations: 1 custodian and several athletic positions
- Technical revision on sabbatical leave motion
- Adjustment to Verner Student Council Facilitators to address co-position
- School Physician 2013-2014 – (Frank Thompson commented that he is still waiting to hear back from UPMC for more details with regards to an assignment for this position.)
- Summer Custodial work
- Summer Technology employee/s
- Leaves – none at this time
- ESY Staff
- Additions to Targeted Assistance Staff - summer
- Supplemental employee recommendations Athletics/Extra Curricular/Special Assignments
- 2013-2014 Act 93 Evaluation recommendations

Mr. Thompson discussed the following as being action items on the agenda:

- Bids for Supplies, Art, Janitorial Products, Paper
- Ductwork and Concrete Bid
- AIU Educational Services Agreement
- Adelphoi Agreement of Services
- Forbes Road Anticipation Note

Mr. Moser explained that the new band uniforms are in and he would like to consider either selling or donating the old band uniforms. Band Uniforms -Jay Moser

Dr. DiNinno reminded the board that the third and final reading of the organizational chart will be included as a motion next week and that the district solicitor was reviewing the netbook contract provided to him by Mr. Dunkle.

In other news, Dr. DiNinno explained that in lieu of considering revisions to the 2013-2014 district calendar, Tenth Street Elementary will use the day (May 20th) as their Field Day. There will not be a need to revise the calendar.

Each building principal shared the successes and details of the end of year Step- Up Day events that took place on the last day of school. Dr. DiNinno and the board congratulated the 88 students graduating from the Class of 2013.

Mrs. Lynn Black shared and discussed the new teacher evaluation systems and tools currently being piloted in the district. Ms. Nix shared details related to the development of curriculum for the new grade 7- 21st Century class.

Mr. Shoaf provided the board with an update on the status of the Verner Safety project indicating that plans are still in place to have the school ready for the beginning of the school year.

A Budget Meeting was then held by Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson shared the status of the 2012-2013 budget indicating that he expects a very minimal surplus at the end of the year. He reminded the board that some monies from the fund balance were used to address capital improvement projects this year.

Mr. Thompson reminded everyone of the variables associated with developing this year's budget, including retirement rate obligations, health care increases, contractual obligations, increases in special education costs, and an additional reduction in federal revenues. He also reminded the board that the state still has not passed their budget, and the district is still estimating the amount of revenue to be received from the state. Mr. Thompson then discussed the formula he used to determine best estimates for local real estate revenues as a result of county assessments and appeals. He explained that he is using a logical formula to best estimate local revenues and to make sure that the district does not receive a windfall as a result of the reassessments. He also explained that the millage must be revenue neutral. Mr. Thompson indicated that every property appeal was reviewed by the district to determine what percentage of the appeals have been denied or accepted to date, and he is currently comparing the appeals that have been finalized with the current pending appeals to make a logical estimate of local real estate revenues while committing to a resulting revenue neutral millage. He told the board that reductions to expenditures have been made and he will make minor adjustments to the budget in its current form. Mr. Thompson explained that since he shared the May 13, 2013 Proposed Final budget, he has made changes to several expenditures allotments. These changes have been made to six expenditure categories and the total expenditures have been reduced by approximately \$99,000. Discussion over challenges and staffing for future years was also held. Mr. Thompson indicated that a final budget will be presented to the board next week for approval. He and several board members agreed to hold the millage at 21.18 and not to add additional millage although it is permissible due to exception allowances.

Mr. Thompson concluded the session indicating that he is very comfortable with the budget he presented this evening and he feels it leaves the district in a very good place this year as well as next

year. He reminded the board that the budgeting process will begin all over again next year when the index is set in September and the actual budgeting process for the next year starts in November.

No citizens were present to discuss any budget matters or share comments regarding any items on the agenda.

The meeting ended at approximately 9:14 p.m.

An executive session was held from approximately 9:15 to 10:09 to discuss several personnel matters.