

Study Session Minutes - May 12, 2014

In attendance: J. Hackworth, L. Ashbaugh, D. Tompa, M. McClure, E. Tillman, D. DiPietro, H. Dolan, A. Loeffler, P. DiNinno, A. Coudriet, D. Zolkowski, T. Nix, E. Hewitt, J. Shoaf, L. Huffman, B. Huffman, H. Shipley, A. Hoolahan, K. Bodnar, P. Brun, and C. Gagetta - Absent: L. Vitti

Dr. DiNinno welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged a group of parents who were in attendance. The parents all shared comments, and a few of them shared research they found, encouraging the school board to maintain small class sizes at Riverview, particularly in the kindergarten and early grades. Particular attention was asked to be considered at Tenth Street Elementary. Dr. DiNinno indicated that she appreciated the parents' interest and was pleased to have new kindergarten students. She reminded everyone that small class sizes are valued at Riverview and that budget constraints also require that we are creative in supporting this priority. Mr. Hackworth also reminded everyone of the realities of budgeting. Several members of the board agreed and expressed their appreciation of the parents' concerns.

Dr. DiNinno shared a draft of Policy 810.12, regarding video recording on school buses for anticipated approval of the first reading during the May 19th regular voting meeting. The policy is needed in response to future approval of a new bus contract.

Dr. Coudriet and Mrs. Dolan shared a summary of text book needs for AP Chemistry, AP Stats and the Math Pathways Course.

Dr. DiNinno indicated that approval will be sought for the following matters during the May 19th regular board meeting: Teacher tenure (Ms. Clontz, Ms. Arnett Mr. MacConnell), 2013-14 Elementary Band supplemental contracts, several supplemental positions for 2014-2015, staff for Summer Targeted Assistance and Extended School Year programs.

Some discussion was held regarding the number of music teachers the district employed. Several board members reminded the group that music is an opportunity that the district provides to kids and that Riverview is proud of and known for in the region. Mr. Hackworth reminded the board that the district employs a higher number of music teachers than most districts. Mrs. Tompa asked about ways to creatively schedule music classes. That led to a discussion about creatively scheduling physical education and music classes. Dr. DiNinno reminded the board that creative scheduling is an option, but could ultimately lead to the need for fewer teachers. Discussion regarding music teacher stipends and daily schedules was held. All agreed that RSD values the employment of music staff, as well as physical education, and art. However, in these tough financial times, creative scheduling and use of staff in a way that also meets the strategic planning goals of the district will need to be considered.

Dr. DiNinno provided the following updates:

- Strategic Plan – all were encouraged to keep informed by using the schoology site and that the next meeting is scheduled for June 10th at noon.

- Enrollment numbers and teacher positions at the elementary level were reviewed with the board. A short discussion regarding potential needs and considerations was held.
- A school communication flyer pertaining to safety plans and procedures is in the works and will be shared with parents soon.
- Ms. Nix joined in commenting on the success of the prom and congratulated the baseball team for making it into the playoffs, and many members of the track team for qualifying for WPIALs.
- Ms. Nix and Dr. DiNinno explained that a step up day will occur again this year for students and the last day of school and graduation will occur on June 5th. Board members were invited to attend graduation.

Budget Meeting/Budget Items

Ms. Good indicated that she is currently examining details related to the board approving the school dentist and school physician (UPMC).

Ms. Good indicated the following items will be on the agenda next week for board approval: Forbes Operating Budget, AIU IDEA and part B flow through funds, budgetary outlines for two student activity groups and final payment for the Moret Construction project.

A discussion was held regarding the manner in which funds for the musical need to be processed. A lengthy discussion regarding PASBO recommendations, state budgeting requirements, and how student activity or booster group designation works and should be used to assist this process. Ms. Good explained that the business office is in the process of updating procedures to make sure things are compliant. Mr. Tillman requested that Ms. Good research approaches used by other districts. Ms. Good indicated she would do that and she would also provide the board with PASBO recommended processes to assist with the Board's understanding. Several board members indicated that they wanted to be able to have the ability to monitor and control the selection of the musical and the selection and employment of those who run the annual musical. All of these things need to be taken into consideration as the district determines which procedures/process best meets the overall goal of supporting the musical and providing the students with an opportunity that RSD is proud to provide.

Ms. Good provided the board with additional research pertaining to potential options the board could consider related to delinquent tax collections. She explained that she is reviewing the results of the three companies who participated in piloting copy machines at the district, shared an Iron City uniform agreement pertaining to mopheads, and provided the board with an update on the Transportation RFPs. Four companies returned RFPs and two had significantly reduced costs and additional perks for the school district. Ms. Good explained that careful review of the proposals is in process prior to making a recommendation.

Ms. Good then provided the board with an updated 2014-2015 proposed final budget indicating that the board would need to approve a proposed version of the final budget at the board meeting next week. She provided the board with a list of the changes that were made to reduce the expenditures from the previously shared budget. The board agreed to the changes and asked that Ms. Good make one revision to the maintenance/renovations line item and the technology line item. The board also agreed that it is

important to maintain a budgetary reserve. At this point in time, the budget includes raising millage to the index and using state approved exception monies. The board still needs to cut approximately \$127,420. Mr. Hackworth reminded the board that additional reductions will need to be made. A discussion pertaining to the district's inability to count on the Ready to Learn Grant monies at this time are making it challenging to create a budget at this time.

Other potential budget cuts were provided for consideration including:

- Additional reduction depending on Transportation Vendor
- Teacher Attrition
- Additional Staff Reduction
- Initiating Student/Family Fees for Athletics, AP and SAT testing, Graduation Caps & Gown

Other potential revenue avenues were also provided for potential exploration including:

- Advertising on website
- Participation in Energy Conservation Program
- More aggressive delinquent real estate tax collection
- Facility Use cost review
- Look into running an RSD Cyber School
- Look into establishing an Education Foundation
- Look into allowing tuition nonresident students
- Look into in-house special education classes to reduce out-of-school placement costs
- Continue to seek and apply for grants

Ms. Good agreed to provide a detailed revised budget to the board in an email with changes made to all line items.

The Study Session concluded at approximately 10:15.

An executive session was held from approximately 10:15 to 10:55 to discuss a personnel matter.