

Study Session Minutes

January 4, 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: N. English, L. Ashbaugh, J. Hurt-Robinson, M. McClure, A. Loeffler, M. Pallone, J. Miller, B. Hawk, J. Chaparro, T. Schaaf, T. Good, F. Muscante, D. Zolkowski, C. Monroe, R. Rizzo, A. Pater, E. Hewitt, R. Long, W. Wilton, K. Krajca, J. Libell, R. Highberger, J. Gonzalez, R. Poth, K. O'Block, J. Burkhardt, D. Tsambis, H. Morrissey, A. Ciorra, M. Morrissey, L. Vitti

Presentation

Dr. English wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed them to this evening's meeting. He mentioned that it is important in the new year to harness the energy that only a new year can bring and begin with the highlight of student and staff accomplishments. He added that Riverview is a breeding ground for talented musicians and was pleased to welcome both Alexio Ciorra and Mr. Jason Libell to tonight's meeting. In orchestra, Alexio stands out. He is the first Riverview graduate that has auditioned and secured a position in National Orchestra, which is a truly exceptional feat. We wanted to share this achievement with the community and express our pride for this accomplishment. Dr. English presented the overall accomplishment and then introduced Mr. Jason Libell, the orchestra teacher, to discuss the National Orchestra, and the many other accolades that Alexio has achieved. Alexio also spoke briefly, and the Board members praised his work and asked some questions of Alexio.

Announcements

Dr. English had several announcements to share with the board. As was posted on our Facebook account last week, Rachelle Poth, our World Language teacher, has published her 5th book, entitled, True Story: Lesson That One Kid Taught Us. This book highlights stories from 35 educators that she gathered from the world about "that one kid" that made a difference in their life as an educator. The book also highlights one of our students, Hann Morrissey, who co-created the cover. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments. Dr. English had Mrs. Poth talk briefly about the book, and share Hann's accolades as well. Mrs. Poth explained that there have been multiple students involved with both writing parts of her book and created the cover. The Board praised the work of both Rachelle and Hann, and also asked a few questions of both of them.

Dr. English also mentioned that Dr. McNally will be hosting an SAT Prep course for our high school students. Dr. McNally has agreed to teach the course virtually. It will run as usual providing a great benefit to our students who want to improve their SAT performance.

Dr. English continued with his acknowledgement of School Director Recognition Month. He mentioned that school board directors are unpaid officials dedicating many hours monthly to the governance of our district. The directors engage in complex decision-making involving areas from budgeting and finance to policy and personnel. Due to the health crisis, this has been a particularly challenging year. As many school directors are also parents, they cite public service and a desire to give back and contribute to public education as a primary motivating factor to run for school board. Because school boards play such a crucial role in helping schools provide a quality education to every student, January is once again being declared School Director Recognition Month. Each of you Board members have received a certificate acknowledging your tireless service, and we appreciate your dedication to the District. Dr. English then thanked our Board of School Directors.

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

Personnel

- Supplementals:
 - Senior Scholarship Coordinator
- Leave Requests – Article XI(b) – Two Requests
- Leave Requests – Filed under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- Paraprofessional – New Hire, Verner, Class III

- Paraprofessional Resignation – Class III, 5.5 hour position
- Substitutes
- Bus Driver/Van Driver/Aide – Allegheny Transportation
- Board Secretary Resolution – 7/1/21 – 6/30 25 – Ms. Good

Dr. English then reviewed the potential personnel motions for next week's voting meeting. We will be seeking approval of the supplemental Senior Scholarship Coordinator which was approved at a prior meeting. Mrs. Casey Rocchini has agreed to accept the coordinator position. We will also be requesting the approval of two Article XI(b) requests for Mrs. Liz Morgans and Mrs. Kristen O'Block. Three additional individuals requested leave requests under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) in December. They will be listed for approval as well. Dr. Monroe has secured a new Class III paraprofessional who started today. He asked that if there are any parents or anyone that you know who may be interested to come and support students to let us know. We have also received two paraprofessional resignations. We received a resignation of the long-term substitute who was filling in at the Jr/Sr High School for Mrs. Swogger. We are currently trying desperately to fill that position. As a side note, Dr. English informed everyone that they are currently in the second round of interviews for the Jr/Sr High Social Studies position. More will be coming in the upcoming weeks. Any new substitutes with Precision and any new bus driver/van driver/aide with Allegheny Transportation will be presented for approval as usual. Lastly, Dr. English mentioned that Tammy Good will be listed for approval as Board Secretary for a four-year period 7/1/21.

Board Governance

- PSBA – Principles for Guidance and Leadership Resolution – Dr. English spoke to the board regarding the PSBA resolution. More important to the document itself, is the decree that the Board will sign saying that they will advocate earnestly, lead responsibly, govern effectively, plan thoughtfully, evaluate continuously, communicate clearly, and act ethically. The statements in each of these subsections is included in the board packet, and if all agree, the resolution will be voted on next week to be signed by the Board members thereafter. This is a fairly straightforward document, signed by most boards, and represent genuinely solid board practices.

Dr. English then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Good for a review of the business and finance portion of the meeting.

Business/Finance:

- Delinquent Tax Collection and Interim Tax Collection – T. Good and J. Burkhardt
- Audit Update
- Budget Update
- Construction Bid Update
- Tax Installment Resolution

Ms. Good discussed:

- The Federal Stimulus Package which includes ESSER/GEER funds. These are federal dollars and have specific use guidelines. Potential total for Riverview \$624,603. PASBO webinar is Jan 6 and I will have more information then.
- Audit Update – the Finance Committee is meeting with local auditor to discuss the 19-20 audit on 1/7/2021. Local Auditor will attend the Feb Study Session to review the audit with the full board.
- Construction Update – Bids were advertised in Valley News Dispatch and Tribune-Review on December 16, 27 and January 2. Pre-bid walk-thru is 1/6/2021 with the architects. Bids are due 1/21/21. Mr. Dan Engen from VEBH will attend the February Study Session to go over bid awards with the full board.

- Budget Update 2021-22 – We will begin the budget development in a few short weeks. State funding won't be released until end of February. We are not expecting any major increases. Will begin meeting with Departments this month.
- The Math Purchase approved within the 20-21 budget was for multiple years. In order for the payment to be made in advance but the materials to be shipped as needed, a contract was developed. Christina Lane reviewed it and approved it. Ms. Good signed and returned it. There will be a motion at the January voting meeting to ratify the contract.
- Janet Burkhart, managing partner from Weiss, Burkhart, Kramer, discussed delinquent tax collection, assessment appeals, and interim assessments in length with the board.

Adjournment – 8:50 pm