

**An executive session was held on April 12, 2021 beginning at 6:15 pm and ending at 6:55pm to discuss legal matters and to receive information.*

Study Session/ Budget Update Discussion
April 12, 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: Brian Hawk, Melanie Pallone, Tara Jean Schaaf, Jeanine Hurt-Robinson, Maureen McClure, Lisa Ashbaugh, Jane Miller, Arlene Loeffler, Falco Muscante, Tammy Good, Neil English, David Zolkowski, Bob Rizzo, Tina Monroe, RJ Long, Eric Hewitt, Al Pater, Wendy Wilton, Stefani Garibay, Kevin Krajca, Tina Abraham

Absent: J. Chaparro

Presentation

Dr. English welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting and thanked them for being in attendance. He mentioned that it has been exciting few weeks since we last came together, and we have a lot, as always, to discuss this evening. He wanted to start the meeting by thanking the entire Staff for preparing for yet another transition to the five day a week option. As you can imagine, this took a ton of time, preparation, and extra work from the administration, teachers, custodians, support staff, central office staff, coaches and volunteers, and students and parents. He also wanted to thank the Board for their vigilance and attention to the students and families in the District through what has certainly been a challenging year. This has been "all hands-on deck" effort, and we have to express our gratitude to all parts of our system. We have, thus far, worked through obstacles as a collective unit, or a team, and this has resulted in Riverview handling this pandemic as successfully as we can. We owe everyone a great deal of gratitude for this.

Rachel Lipko –Study Abroad –

Let's begin this evening's meeting with a presentation from Rachel Lipko. As most of us know, Ms. Lipko teaches High School French, and is one of our ESL teachers. She is going to talk briefly about a few exciting new opportunities for exchange and travel for our French students. Dr. English then turned the floor over to Ms. Lipko who showed 9 slides and discussed the benefits of a week-long exchange program with a "sister" school from France, whereas French students would come to our school for a week to 10 days, and vice versa for our students in the spring. She discussed the basics. Board members had questions regarding safety, and the "vetting" process for other students and families. She answered some questions, and also agreed to ask these questions through the booking company, called Promatour.

Announcements

Dr. English – 4th marking period update –Dr. English gave a brief announcement in regard to the 4th marking period. As you know, last week marked a 5-day a week in person model, and a five

day a week virtual model for all students K-12. As previously mentioned, this endeavor took a ton of extra time and preparation by everyone involved. We tried to make the “first” day as celebratory as we could. Each student received a bracelet that said, “Raiders, Live and In Person,” as well as a confetti cookie that the Staff and Food Services Department worked together to offer each student (with a little welcome back poem written on the baggie of each cookie). Although there are still a few of our families that chose virtual learning, 85% of our students elected to return to the building for in-person instruction. Dr. English and Mr. Gonzalez visited each school and tried to document each classroom filled to greater capacity. Some of those pictures were shared with last week and posted many of them on District Facebook page as well. Ultimately, it has been a great start to the marking period and has brought some additional hope and excitement to students and staff alike. It feels as if we are turning a corner, but this is slightly dangerous, as we still have to recognize that we’re not out of the woods yet. Cases continue to be a concern, and although vaccinations are becoming more readily available, we have to continue to stay vigilant, be safe, and hold to our very rigorous safety standards as we head down the home stretch to the summer months. We will continue to encourage everyone who can get vaccinated, to do so, and continue to follow gathering and mask orders as mandated by the State and County Departments of Health. Any questions about the start of the 4th marking period? Hearing none, let’s move into the Discussion and review of potential motions for approval at the April 26th voting meeting:

- HS – 91 Virtual, 295 In-Person
- 10th – 34 Virtual, 305 In-Person
- Verner – 9 Virtual, 168 In-Person

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

Personnel

- Paraprofessional – Retirement effective 6/30/21 – As included in your packets this week, one of our full-time paraprofessionals is retiring at the end of the current school year. This position will be filled internally by seniority. The position has been posted and interested candidates have until April 15th to apply.
- Paraprofessional – Resignations (Class III and 5.5-hour Class III)
- Paraprofessional – New Hires – Filling Replacement Positions - We also have two paraprofessional resignations along with their replacements for approval. You have been provided their official resignation letters, as well as the hiring packets of their replacements
Paraprofessional – Probationary Period - We have a paraprofessional has met her 60-day probationary period. You will be approving their permanent status on April 26th.
Paraprofessional – Leave of Absence (Policy 339) – You will be voting on a temporary leave of absence for one of our paraprofessionals.
- FMLA – Intermittent during 2021-22 year
- Article XI(b) Return Date Change

One of our teachers has requested intermittent FMLA for the 2021-22 year and a teacher presently on an Article XI(b) leave has asked that her return date be change from 6/11/21 until the start of the 2021-22 school year. These were also included in your study sessions packets and will be a motion for the voting meeting

- Substitutes – We will be approving substitutes with Precision.
- Targeted Assistance - We will also be asking for approval of our targeted assistance teachers at Verner Elementary
- Supplemental Athletic Approvals – Volleyball, Jr. High Assistant Coach, Girls Basketball-JV Head Coach (missed last month) You will also be approving several supplemental athletic approvals.
- Penn State Student Teacher, Fall Placement, Mathematics – Jr/Sr High School
- Duquesne Student Teacher, Fall Placement, Guidance – Verner Elementary - Lastly, included in your packet is all paperwork associated with two fall placement student teachers – the first of which is a math teacher at the Jr-Sr High School and the second is a school counselor at Verner.

Agreements/Contracts:

The following agreements and contracts have been included in your study session packets, and are presently being reviewed by Mr. Muscante and Ms. Lane. Once reviewed and approved by our solicitors, they will be listed for final approval at the April 26th voting meeting.

- Local Education Agency Letter of Agreement – Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (ECYEH) – This is an annual agreement that delineates roles and responsibilities for both ECYEH, and the District, in terms of servicing homeless and fostered youth. This highlights the identification of a homeless liaison, providing for equal opportunity for homeless and fostered youth, providing public notice of the McKinney-Vento Act, ensuring that the District is partnering to engage staff in the appropriate professional development, providing transportation, and ensuring the District relieves barriers that may prevent homeless and fostered students from receiving an equitable education. We sign this yearly.
- Stockman Lawnscape Proposals – This is our annual renewal for our landscaping agreement with Stockman Lawnscape. The prices for next year remained consistent except for some additional service at 10th Street, which accounts for eliminating some dying shrubs and adding some additional mulch on the admin. side by the playground for approximately \$700. The board questioned the \$4,450 quote attached to the Stockman Lawnscape renewal contract for shrubbery repair at 10th Street Elementary. Inquired about the cost being high and was it to be included in the contract. Ms. Good and Mr. Pater explained this was a separate project and not part of the renewal contract. The Board spoke in detail about the project to remove the dead shrubs, and directed Ms. Good and Mr. Pater to obtain additional quotes to review before proceeding.
- UPMC Children’s Hospital Healthy Schools – This is a free of charge agreement to partner with UPMC (similar to the Live Well Allegheny partnership). This partnership

provides the District with an evidence-based, national initiative that will help us create, implement, and sustain healthy environments for students (especially those in greatest need). UPMC will provide training and technical assistance to the District so that school leadership and staff can facilitate the creation and maintenance of wellness committees, the completion of annual school health assessments, the development and implementation of action plans to positively impact student nutrition, physical activity, and social-emotional health; and the promotion of student and staff wellness through organizational and environmental policy and practice change. The District has a choice as to which services they can utilize, and ultimately, this will help our District Health Staff to provide up-to-date training and information to students, families, and Staff alike. Dr. Pallone requested to see the attachments listed within the document to review before making a decision on moving forward.

- Comply Agreement by Edulink – In your packet is an annual agreement with Edulink. This is the same cost as last year, and this agreement provides the District with software that tracks and manages employee fulfillment of District requisites, State mandates, and other important compliance items. This agreement represents a licensing fee to access the system. This software allows Mrs. Tamburro to easily track Act 48 credits and other important mandates accordingly. She has been using this service for a long time. You will be voting on this agreement on April 26th as well.
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Communications/Marketing Services Agreement – Finally, in your packet is the yearly agreement with the AIU3. This is the annual agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, to enhance the District with communication specialist services to the District in regard to strategy consultation, creation of marketing and public information materials, creation and printing of deliverables, promotion of District accomplishments and events, graphic design, and all other communication and marketing services as needed. This is a modest amount of money and has proven quite beneficial to the District (\$15,000). The board had discussion on the language changes within this agreement. Some concern was discussed on the terms of billing etc. The board directed Mr. Muscante to remove the flat pricing language and replace with hourly rate billed for services performed rather than advanced payment. The board also requested that Mr. Muscante remove the \$20,000 cap in the language and replace with \$18,000 to match our budgetary amount.

As mentioned, Mr. Muscante and Ms. Lane are analyzing all agreements on behalf of the District, and if after approved, will be included in the voting meeting items for April 26th accordingly. Dr. English then turned the meeting over to Ms. Good to discuss the business and finance items in the agenda.

Business/Finance:

- Forbes Road Budget Summary 2021-2022 Ms. Good reviewed page 2 with the board. Explained that the administrative budget was set to increase \$412.73 and the Operating Budget was set to decrease \$224. Forbes did not make any adjustments to their operating budget for 21-22. Currently Riverview has app. 20 students participating at Forbes.

- Tenth Street PTO – Tree Purchase Ms. Good explained that a PTO request was presented to Mr. Zolkowski to purchase a tree and plaque at Tenth Street. Mr. Zolkowski spoke about the placement of the tree.
- Cross Country Retreat Ms. Good shared the request for insurance from the cross country coach. Ms. Good explained this is an event that the coach has paid for the past 10 years. The District has never been involved. Ms. Good explained that the board would need to assume liability in order to provide the insurance document. Mr. Muscante explained and agreed with Ms. Good that in the past the district has not agreed to do this and a precedent would be set. Wendy Wilton reached out to the booster to see if they could provide the insurance and would get back to Ms. Good.
- PSBA Policy Maintenance Participation Agreement – Ms. Good provided a brief explanation of the Policy Maintenance Program with PSBA. Ms. Good indicated the cost is approximately \$2,200 annually. The board agreed it is valuable.
- Budget Discussion – Ms. Good explained the three budget scenarios. Discussion and questions were asked and answered by the board. The majority of the board were in favor of scenario one which does not include a tax increase and directed Ms. Good to move forward in this direction to prepare the proposed final budget.

Adjournment – 9:53 pm