

Study Session/ Budget Update Discussion Minutes
May 10, 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, J. Chaparro, Falco Muscante, Tammy Good, Neil English, David Zolkowski, Bob Rizzo, Tina Monroe, RJ Long, Eric Hewitt, Al Pater, W. Wilton, S. Garibay, A. Bauer, M. Harden, J. Gonzalez

Dr. English welcomed everyone in attendance to the May Study Session. He mentioned that he is almost a year into this position. Although it has been a challenging year, he thanked the board for bestowing this responsibility to him. “It is an honor to serve the District in this capacity”. As many of you know, last week was teacher appreciation week, and the administrators and PTOs all took time to appreciate not only the teachers, but ALL of the staff in the buildings. Last week also marked health staff appreciation week as well. We did our best to pack the week with opportunities to demonstrate our appreciation for a job well done, during a historic year. Without their hard work, dedication, flexibility, and resiliency, we wouldn’t be here in May discussing end of the year events and opening school for the 2021-2022 school year.

Having said that, it’s May and we want to make everyone aware of a few events in the next week. First of all, he hoped that everyone enjoyed the 2021 HS Promenade. It was a wonderful event, and special thanks goes out to the faculty, administration, students, and parents that helped to organize that event. There were a host of people that contributed, and we need to say thank you. We also have our Senior Scholarship event which is tentatively set for Wednesday evening of this week. However, the videographer has one last film session set for Tuesday of this week, and that event may possibly be postponed, depending on how quickly he can tie up loose ends. More to come there. We also have our Riverview/Plum vaccination clinic beginning on Wednesday of this week at O’Block Junior High School, with the first shot occurring from 3:30-6pm. We are desperately hoping for an FDA announcement prior to then in regard to making the vaccine available to 12-15 year olds. If that’s the case, we will do everything we can to get another round of information out to our parents, in order to get the 12-15 year olds vaccinated. Finally, as of May 31st, gathering restrictions will be lifted, which will fare well for our end-of-year events scheduled in June, including graduation.

Presentation

Riverview Logo/Color Discussion - As we have discussed, the administration, athletic department, staff, and public relations subcommittee, consisting of myself, Mr. Gonzalez, and Mrs. Chaparro, are working with the AIU graphic arts department to create a 50th anniversary logo to celebrate our District during the 2021-2022 school year. We want to show the board some preliminary options, although we are still in the planning process. He then had Ms. Good share the screen to show the preliminary logos. We have had two meeting thus far about these

potential logos, and the PR subcommittee find it necessary to ensure that each logo uses the same colors, fonts, etc., to address messaging, form, and function. This opens our first discussion item for this evening. Unfortunately, I lack the historical context of District colors and logos, etc. However, he hoped that everyone can see the importance of changing the gold color on the District letterhead to be consistent with the yellow on the 50th anniversary and athletic logo. The reason that the athletic department had to deviate from the “vegas gold,” is that most jersey companies don’t have that exact match, and we were getting inconsistently colored uniforms. The athletic gold is ubiquitous across all grades and schools, is cost effective, and is easy to replicate. It is also used by the RAA, and therefore, all uniforms in the District down through the grades will then use the same colors for uniforms and logos, etc. We are hoping that it’s OK to change the Vegas gold on our District logo to create consistency and vibrancy. Dr. English then opened the topic for discussion.

Announcements

Dr. English – 2021-2022 School Opening Preliminary Update – – Dr. English also wanted to discuss the 2021-2022 school year with Board. As we have previously discussed, our virtual instruction currently consists of simultaneous at home and online learning. We have done so to ensure that we are appropriately responding to the needs and demands of the Riverview families and the health crisis. In the 4th 9 weeks, we moved to a fully in person model and a fully synchronous virtual model. As you know, this year has required our educators to simultaneously manage the instructional needs of both in person and at home students. As vaccinations become more available, however, and cases continue drop, and the general health and wellness of our Oakmont and Verona communities continue to rise, we are looking to move away from this simultaneous approach and get back to what we feel is what research would suggest is the most efficacious to students, and that is 100% in person instruction. This allows us to differentiate, focus all of our attention on the students in class, formulate large and small group instruction, and begin to assess and fill gaps caused by the health crisis. As we understand there may be requirements for virtual instruction set forth by the State Department of Education, or virtual modalities requested by our families, we are also looking to offer a Riverview Cyber program. This model, however, will differ from our current cyber option, as it will be a 100% fully asynchronous environment, and will not support “live” instruction from our teachers during the 2021-2022 school year. The reason that I am providing preliminary information now is for two reasons, the first of which is to be transparent and to provide the community with our preliminary thoughts and to allow families ample time to make decisions for next school year. The second reason is to allow us the ability to formulate and administer a preliminary survey to gauge family interest in each option, and to begin to build our resources appropriately and proactively. Our goal is to have significant lead time in order to provide reasonable options to our families and begin our summer planning.

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

Personnel

- **Summer Secretarial Assistance (B. Wagner)** - We normally have Barb Wagner fill in for Nancy at Tenth Street during the summer when Nancy is off on vacation so we typically have a board motion approving her for summer secretarial assistance.

- **Sabbatical Request – 2021-2022 school year** - We have the sabbatical request from a teacher at Tenth Street.
- **Paraprofessional – Class III 5.5-hour day transfer** - Since Mrs. Chenot was approved as the replacement our full time resignation, this created an opening for one of our Class III 5.5 hour positions. We will be requesting that the board approve the transfer to that open position.
- **Paraprofessional – Class III 3-hour per day hire** - We will also be asking the board to approve a Class III 3 hour per day paraprofessional at Tenth Street. Her hiring chart and resume were included in the packets.
- **Teacher FMLA Request – beginning 5/18/21 through balance of current school year** - We have a request from one of our teachers for FMLA. Due to HIPAA, the approval request will be listed by number on next week’s agenda.
- **Potential Substitute Approvals (None at Present)** – This is a placeholder for potential substitutes, although there are none for the voting meeting, at this particular moment.
- **Extended School Year (ESY) Program** - ESY Program is scheduled for July 12 through July 30. We will be asking for approval of two ESY teachers, several paraprofessionals, along with several substitutes (depending on number of children attending). We are also finalizing some COVID Compensatory Services which will be taking place in mid-June and we will be asking for approval of personnel next week.
- **Bus Driver/Van Driver/Aide – Allegheny Transportation** – This is the placeholder for bus drivers / van drivers, and aides through Allegheny Transportation.
- **Supplemental Athletic Approvals** – We are still working through coaching staff interviews and will be discussing athletic approvals during the June study session.
- We will be asking for approval of 2 student teachers, one from IUP and one from Clarion. Their resumes were included in the board packets. We are also working on several additional possible placements. If confirmed, their information will be passed on to you in this week’s packet.
 - Indiana University Student Teacher, Fall Placement, Guidance, Jr-Sr High School – Mr. Kinek (Kayla Trozzi)
 - Clarion University Student Teacher, Placement 10/18/21 through 12/8/21, Tenth Street – Mrs. Brickner (Katie Hostler)

Education

- Textbook Approval
- Graduation Candidates
- Michael MacConnell – Indoor A-G Con Conference, Orlando, FL, October 4 and 5, 2021

Included in the board packets were several textbook evaluations. We will be seeking the approval of the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, Ancient Civilizations. We will also seek the approval of the 2021 graduation candidates. That, too, was included in your packets. Finally, we want you to know that Michael MacConnell is seeking initial consent to apply for a grant through the NEA that would pay for professional development for NEA members. Conventions are covered under this grant, as well as meals, travel, and lodging. He will simply need two school approved days to attend, require a substitute, with no additional cost to the District. The Administration supports this venture, if he indeed is awarded the grant.

Agreements/Contracts/Resolutions:

- Notice of Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds
- IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreement
- Forbes Road Budget 2021-2022 – Ballot Resolution
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Communications/Marketing Services Agreement

We will be seeking annual approval of the Notice of Adoption and IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreements, along with the Forbes Road Budget. Forbes will be listed as a roll call vote on next week's agenda. The AIU Communications/Marketing Services Agreement has also been updated, according to the stipulations set forth by the Board, with the final copy included in your packets to be approved next week as well. Finally, in today's mail, we received a letter of agreement for one of our Special Education students for the Watson Institute. Therefore, you will also vote on the letter of agreement for this placement next week as well.

I will hand the meeting over to Ms. Good for the Business/Finance section of the agenda.

Business/Finance:

- Weiss Burkardt Kramer – Filing of 2020 Real Estate Tax Liens – The filing of tax liens is done annually. Generally, the practice of filing tax liens is an end of the road function. Weiss Burkardt Kramer only files tax liens if there are failed attempts on the homeowner's part to pay the delinquencies. The request to front the cost of filing is requested every year.
- Pay Application – PA Roofing – Pay App. #1, \$261,289.80 - This pay application is for mostly materials. In addition, Linda will send home next week Pay App#2 for Merit Electrical for \$32,456.43. The Merit pay application will have labor included.
- Change Order – R.A. Glancy & Sons – GC-04, \$13,642.83 – The change order is for the case work request by the music department to store sheet music. The price in the change order is better than the original quote. The storage used currently is falling apart.
- 2021-22 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution – Act 1, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 2006, was the beginning of the homestead resolution. The idea was to reduce property tax using gambling proceeds. The District is just a pass through. The state is required to certify the Act 1 proceeds on April 1st. The district will receive \$357,271.64 in gambling proceeds that will be returned to taxpayers with a reduction in their assessment of \$6,878. The reduction equates to approximately \$160 in savings annually.
- Wellness-Related Policy Assessment – 2020-2021 Annual Review – The wellness reviews are to be completed quarterly. The District found it difficult to maintain the wellness committee requirements with the impacts of Covid. We are hoping the State will have some leniency when doing the program review.
- The Efficiency Network (TEN) Energy Performance Contracting Program – This is year three of the energy audit from the ESCO project. The District experience another \$120,000 of savings in energy and another \$13,000 in operational maintenance costs. This ESCO program has been a great fiscal decision for the district. The savings has impacted the budget and allowed the district to survive without cutting some valuable programs. Please thank Mr. Hackworth and Mr. Tillman.

- Precision HR Solutions Renewal – The contract is for our substitute service. The contract has multiple years and permits renewals annually. The District does want to renew next year. The renewal letter was included in your packet for your review.
- Budget Discussion – The Proposed Final budget was prepared based on the April study session. During the April study session, the majority of the board selection scenario 1 out of three scenarios to move the budget forward. This scenario did not include a tax increase. However, it did include \$260,000 worth of reductions. The budget is prepared and presented on the PDE-2028 uniform form as required by Act 1, the Taxpayer Relief Act. The form was created for uniformity and simple comparison to other schools in Pennsylvania. The budget was also explained in detail.

Adjournment 8:59 pm