

SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sunbury, Pennsylvania

Special Board Meeting

June 14, 2012

Island Park Administrative Center - 7:00 P.M.

A Special Board Meeting of the Shikellamy School District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Island Park Administration Center. Mrs. Markunas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present were: Mrs. Garman, Mr. Garman, Mr. Kerstetter, Mrs. Markunas, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Michaels, Mrs. Wiest, Mrs. Van Der Pool

Members Absent were: Dr. Hartman

Student Board Members present were: Miss Pehowic

Student Board Members Absent: Miss Bowmaster and Miss Cressinger

Others Present: Mr. Ned Sodrck Acting District Superintendent
Attorney Jeffrey Apfelbaum, Solicitor
Mr. David M. Sinopoli, Business Manager
Mrs. Stephanie Michaels, Director of Education
Mr. Michael Hubicki, Shikellamy High School Principal
Mrs. Mary Murphy-Kahn, Shikellamy High School Assistant Principal
Mr. Frank Boyer, Shikellamy Middle School Principal
Ms. Dixie Barth, Priestley Elementary Principal
Mr. Brett Misavage, Chief Shikellamy Elementary Principal
Mrs. Susan Giberson, Beck Elementary Principal
Ms. Holly Judge, Oaklyn Elementary Principal
Mr. Matthew Mitchell, Food Service Director
Mr. Daniel Saxton, Director of Facilities
Mrs. Bethanne Zeigler, Board Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

TOPICS OF CONSIDERATION

Personnel Committee

A motion made by Mrs. Van Der Pool, seconded by Mrs. Wiest carried to appoint Donna Politza as the Acting Director of Education at a daily rate of \$300.00 effective Monday, June 18, 2012, pending receipt of clearances.

A prepared statement from Mrs. Markunas: *I would like to make a motion to table the vote for appointing an Acting Director of Education until the Board has been given the opportunity to have interviews with the top three candidates. One of these candidates should include Mrs. Debbie McLaughlin, Teacher on Special Assignment, who has acted as the interim Director of Education since January 2012. I strongly feel she is a professional, competent candidate that has performed*

the duties of this position exceptionally in the time she has worked in the position. I have the following questions for Mr. Sodrick:

Why did you interview candidates presented by one or two board members? How many did you interview for the position of interim Director of Education?

Mr. Sodrick responded that he felt that after an executive session, the Board asked him to contact certain retired individuals to see if anyone was interested. At that time, consensus was that all the candidates mentioned would be competent and capable. As a result, he called the first one that came to mind.

Mrs. Markunas statement continued: Was Mrs. McLaughlin included in these people? I know that when we left the meeting, there was a lot of individual talk. I'm not so sure about a consensus. However, I know that at least three of us asked that Mrs. McLaughlin be included in that grouping. Was she included?

Mr. Sodrick responded that his understanding was that she should be considered, but was not the first choice; however, if he struck out, Mrs. McLaughlin would be the asked to do the job.

Mrs. Markunas asked her fellow Board Members the following: Why are we here as a Board if one or a few members are directing who is being considered and hired for these types of positions? What kind of district are we running? Again, I want to know when we are having interviews with the top three candidates for the Acting Director of Education who is going to serve in that capacity until a permanent Director of Education is found. How much is the job paying other than what was already determined by the few people that were here prior to this meeting? Where do we stand legally with all of this, Mr. Apfelbaum?

Attorney Apfelbaum explained that as far as how the Board hires an individual, it must be done by Board action. Tonight is an advertised voting meeting, naming Donna Politza. If the motion passes with five members voting affirmatively, that would be legally effective to have Ms. Politza start on Monday, June 18, 2012. If the Board as a group wants to do interviews first, that is certainly the prerogative of the Board and that has been the typical action, but that is not necessarily the only way to do it. Mr. Marshall was offended with the implication that the Board is doing things behind the scenes and explained that there is not time to interview. There are grants to file and the position is an interim post and Mr. Marshall stated that he will support the Superintendent's recommendation.

A motion by Mrs. Markunas to table the appointment of Donna Politza failed due to lack of a second. A vote was taken on the original motion.

Vote: Mr. Garman, yea; Mrs. Garman, yea; Mrs. Markunas, nay; Mr. Kerstetter, yea; Mr. Marshall, yea; Mr. Michaels, yea; Mrs. Wiest, yea; Mrs. Van Der Pool, yea

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Marshall
Board Secretary