

SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sunbury, Pennsylvania

Work Session -February 6, 2014
Island Park Administration Center - 7:00 p.m.

A Work Session of the Shikellamy School District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Island Park Administration Center.

Board Members present were: Mrs. Cianflone, Mrs. Garman, Mr. Garman, Dr. Hartman, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Michaels, Mr. Stepp, Dr. Walter, and Mrs. Wiest

Others Present: Mr. Patrick Kelley, Superintendent
Attorney Michael Apfelbaum, Solicitor
Mr. David Sinopoli, Business Manager
Mrs. Abbey Walshaw-Wertz, Director of Education
Mr. Ernest Jackson, High School Principal
Mrs. Brandy Wiest, High School Assistant Principal
Mrs. Mary Murphy-Kahn, Shikellamy Middle School Principal
Mrs. Susan Giberson, Beck Elementary Principal
Mr. Brett Misavage, Chief Shikellamy Principal
Mr. Douglas Benick, Director of Facilities
Mr. Brad Skelton, Director of Athletics
Mrs. Bethanne Zeigler, Board Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Lorie Morison-Becker, Sunbury, PA shared her disappointment with a recent newspaper article regarding a health class at the high school. She shared her experience as a parent with the class in question.

Mr. Matthew Becker, Shikellamy High School student, described the discussion held in a class that was recently featured in the local newspaper. He supports the teacher.

Miss Madison Walter, Shikellamy High School student, expressed disappointment with the sensationalism of a recent article in the local newspaper regarding a health class. She supports the teacher and stated that she does not feel anything inappropriate is occurring in the classroom.

Ms. Randi Buehner, Sunbury, PA requested the Board of Education consider a rental request for a work camp and housing of 400 workers. She provided the recording secretary with the information. Dr. Hartman asked Ms. Buehner to work through the Superintendent.

Mr. Nathan Savidge, Sunbury, PA expressed his disappointment in the local newspaper and the author of an article written about a health teacher and a class the teacher conducts. Encouraged the administration to work together with the teacher and stated that he fully supports the teacher.

Dr. Hartman explained that the school board has not had any discussion, nor a report on the matter discussed in public comment. Executive sessions are held to review personnel matters. If there is need for additional comment, it will be done at a subsequent meeting.

PROM UPDATE

Mr. Kelley was informed that due to a scheduling conflict with the Susquehanna Valley Country Club, this year the prom and prom walk will be held at the high school.

FOOTBALL CO-OP WITH NORTHUMBERLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DISCUSSION

Currently the district participates in a co-op with Northumberland Christian School in the sports of bowling, golf and softball. Mr. Skelton received a request from Northumberland Christian School to include football. He reported to include football would have no bearing on numbers reported to PIAA and Shikellamy School District would remain in the AAA classification. Each school entity would be required to pay a \$50 application fee. Concern regarding the effect the co-op would have on Shikellamy High School students was discussed. This item will be added to the February 14, 2014 agenda for consideration.

WINTER CHEERLEADING ADVISOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Skelton recommended that the Board take action to eliminate the Varsity Wrestling Cheerleading Advisor and Varsity Basketball Cheerleading Advisor positions and establish a Varsity Winter Cheerleading Advisor. The Winter Cheerleading Advisor would supervise cheerleaders at home varsity wrestling and varsity basketball events. The cheerleaders would not travel to away events. After some discussion, it was agreed to add these items to the February 14, 2014 agenda for consideration.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR & COACHING DISCUSSION

Mr. Skelton requested the Board of Education consider approving the Athletic Director to coach in addition to duties as athletic director. Because this is a personnel matter, it was agreed that discussion would be held in executive session and the Superintendent would inform Mr. Skelton regarding the Board's determination.

REVIEW OF 2014-15 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Mr. Sinopoli reviewed the 2014-15 Preliminary Budget with the School Directors. The estimated revenues are \$40,207,513 and the estimated expenditures are \$41,674,837, which is a 5.4% increase. This is a budget deficit of \$1,467,324. Mr. Sinopoli reviewed preliminary numbers before any tax increase. The Pennsylvania Department of Education will only approve referendum exceptions if the school district demonstrates a need for exceptions by adopting a balanced preliminary budget containing a tax rate increase in excess of the school district index. The current real estate tax millage is 81.0 and the adjusted index is 3.0. The allowable Act 1 increase before referendum exceptions is 2.43. Mr. Sinopoli reviewed estimated referendum exceptions, which are retirement and special education. The total real estate millage increase available for preliminary budget is 6.25 or \$993,750. 1 real estate mill is equal to approximately \$159,600. Mr. Sinopoli shared a comparison with and without a tax increase. Mr. Sinopoli explained this is not an unusual picture and it leaves all options open. The administration will continue to work on the budget.

REVIEW OF SUN AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE 2014-15 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Sinopoli reviewed the proposed SUN Area Technical Institute 2014-15 General Operating Budget. The district's share is \$49,000, which is a 4.4% increase. The salaries make up 43% of their budget and benefits make up 29%. This figure has been reflected in the district's preliminary budget. This item will be added to the February 14, 2014 agenda for consideration.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE

Vern McKissick of McKissick & Associates, along with Justin Ross of Larson Design gave an update on the middle school project. It was reported that after the zoning hearing, verbal approval was received and Mr. McKissick hopes to receive written confirmation in the near future. With regards to utilities and EDU's, a waiver on former capacity was granted by the Borough. McKissick will purchase 44 new EDU's at a cost of \$1,630, which are contained in the budget. Land Development plans were submitted to the Borough this week. The Borough has thirty days to review the plans. Mr. Benick has a copy of the plans if any Board Member wishes to review them. A meeting was held with Borough council for street improvements. Options were discussed in terms of shared costs. Improvements would benefit the Borough, the bakery and the district. Demolition progress was reviewed. Demolition is projected to begin in April and full completion should be in May. A project synopsis was reviewed. Pictures of the potential look of the new building were reviewed. If the Board would choose to change the sided area to brick, the cost of materials would be a difference of approximately \$87,000. It would also require additional drawings, as different details would need to be considered with windows. Mr. McKissick reported the Governor does not propose lifting the moratorium of PlanCon. The Board will need to take action acknowledging Act 34 completion, as well as PlanCon Parts D & E. These items will be added to the February 14, 2014 agenda for formal action. Dr. Hartman asked Mr. McKissick to provide the Board of Education with a one page list of big ticket item costs to date. This sheet would give Board Members the ability to answer questions effectively.

REVIEW REGULAR BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS, MINUTES, AND BILLS

The February 13, 2014 voting agenda was reviewed.

OTHER

Dr. Hartman announced that Ms. Judge's father passed away.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm and an executive session was held for personnel & negotiation purposes.