

SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sunbury, Pennsylvania

Work Session -April 24, 2014
Island Park Administration Center - 7:00 p.m.

A Work Session of the Shikellamy School District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Island Park Administration Center.

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

Board Members absent were: Mr. Garman, Mrs. Garman, and Dr. Hartman

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. Mary Murphy-Kahn, Shikellamy Middle School Principal
Mrs. Susan Giberson, Beck Elementary Principal
Mr. Douglas Benick, Director of Facilities
Mrs. Bethanne Zeigler, Board Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES DISCUSSION

At a previous meeting, there was discussion regarding the merits of requiring all students enrolled in advanced placement courses to take the advance placement exam, as well as the funding of the test. The administration asked for direction from the Board of Education regarding this topic. When asked for the administrative recommendation, Mrs. Walshaw-Wertz explained that the course is valuable without requiring students to take the exam. At discussion's end, it was agreed to add this item for consideration to the May 8, 2014 voting agenda. If a child wishes to take the exam, but cannot afford it, the district should help fund it and concrete criteria should be established to determine a student's need for financial assistance.

REVISION OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

This topic was discussed at the April 3, 2014 work session. It is proposed to reduce the number of required credits from 26 to 25 and to reduce the physical education requirement by one credit. A report given by a physical education teacher at the last meeting was that district students are more obese than neighboring districts. There is no data that reflects requiring an additional credit of physical education has reduced childhood obesity. The revisions proposed are, in part, to increase the graduation rate. Currently, students are required to take a half credit per year of physical education. The administration did look at neighboring districts, and the proposed change would be in line with them. Dr. Walter has received reports that students are dissatisfied with the

current physical education offerings. He inquired if more life-long learning activities could be offered, such as Zumba or other creative offerings, in order to increase participation. Mrs. Walshaw-Wertz shared that the physical education program is under curriculum review. After discussion, it was agreed to add this item for consideration at the May 8, 2014 voting meeting.

2014-15 BUDGET DISCUSSION

The following budgets were presented to the Board of Education:

- Elementary - Sue Giberson presented the proposed elementary budget to the board.
- Middle School - Mrs. Murphy-Kahn presented the middle school budget.
- High School - Mr. Jackson reviewed the high school budget explaining that he tried to maximize expenditures to improve math, science and English scores. JRTOC field trips were decreased by two. Supplies in many departments were reduced. He shared a proposal for new I-Pads to be used in the core subject areas for a total cost of \$75,000.
- Facilities - Mr. Benick reviewed revisions made to the April 10, 2014 draft of the facilities budget. Proposed eliminations total \$129,500. He asked that the Board consider using capital reserve funds to replace doors by the dish room at Beck Elementary School.

With cuts made over the last three to four years, the majority of savings have been seen through a reduction in personnel. Mr. Kelley believes that the district is at a point where no more educational staff reductions can be made. However, he reported the administration is reviewing a program that could potentially provide roughly a \$100,000 in savings. The program being reviewed is JROTC, which currently services approximately 90 students. The fund balance is currently about \$7,000,000, with a portion reserved for the major increase in salary, healthcare and retirement. One mil is equal to \$160,000. On May 1, 2014, the district will get another look at the real estate millage, which will be included in the next draft of the budget. The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the proposed final budget at the May 10, 2104 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm and an executive session was held for negotiation purposes.