

SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sunbury, Pennsylvania

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

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

Board Members present were: Mrs. Cianflone, Mr. Garman, Dr. Hartman, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Michaels, Mr. Stepp, Dr. Walter and Mrs. Wiest (arrived @ 7:33 pm),

Board Members absent were: Mrs. Garman

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals expressed concern with the potential hiring of the Head Softball Coach, as well as the handling of a bullying matter by the Athletic Director:

- Russ Zellers, Sunbury, PA
- Amy Kratzer, Sunbury, PA
- Jeff Klick, Sunbury, PA

Mr. Kelley will review the incident and report back to the Board of Education during a public meeting. With regards to the appointment of a softball coach, Dr. Hartman requested his fellow Board members reserve comment for an executive session since the matter deals with personnel. He explained publically the potential appointment of a softball coach may be on the agenda for next Thursday.

PSBA PRESENTATION

Ms. Karen Devine, PSBA Director of Member Relations, shared an overview of the changes at PSBA. A member services department has been formed and Ms. Devine will serve as the field representative for Shikellamy School District. The focus of her department will be to work with districts in addressing needs, legislative issues, and advocacy. An advocacy committee will be formed with members from across the State. She invited Board Members to join the committee. She described some new initiatives, such as Career Gateway, Daily Edition, and Web Based Policy.

PSBA is looking into creating an alumni network. PSBA will continue to work with Boards across the State. If there are any questions, Ms. Devine encourage Board Members to contact her.

REVIEW OF HANDBOOKS

Principals reviewed the student handbooks for elementary, middle, and high school students.

DISCUSSION OF NEW COURSE

Dr. Murphy-Kahn requested the Board consider for approval a Leadership course for middle school students. This course will focus on study skills and self-awareness. It will be held once a cycle and students will meet for thirty minutes. The program was piloted successfully this summer and Mr. Walsh was the instructor. Students will be given a Pass/Fail grade at the end of the program. This program will be instructed by Mr. Walsh and will not conflict with his schedule or program at the high school.

PSSA/KEYSTONE/ADVANCED PLACEMENT UPDATE

On August 4, 2014, PSSA scores were released. In the past, schools were evaluated on annual yearly progress (AYP). The State is now using a School Performance Profile (SPP), which is based on academic achievement. Mr. Kelley explained the four levels of achievement and how a district earns points for the SPP. Historical data for grades 3-8 PSSA reading and math were reviewed in addition to historical growth for each grade level beginning with 4th grade through 11th grade.

Competency course exams have been established, which are referred to as Keystone in the subject areas of algebra, literacy, and biology. Mr. Kelley reviewed data for the last three years of Keystone results. Advanced Placement data was reviewed. Dr. Hartman inquired if the Keystone tests are administered during the year the student actively is taking the course. In the pilot year, which was 2012, anyone who had taken the course up to that point was tested. During the 2013-14 school term, the test was administered to tenth grade students in the course. Biology and Mathematics scores were within the state range and Literature scores were higher than the State average. Even though test results were shown, Board members were asked to be mindful it is a different group of test takers.

More information will be available mid to late September. Mr. Kelley will provide the Board of Directors with a comprehensive report.

REVIEW OF POLICY -246 - WELLNESS

Proposed changes come from requirements from the National School Lunch Program, which limit the number of fundraisers involving food outside of the approved food list. The number of fundraisers at each level is based on the number of students in a school. This policy will need to be revisited in two years when the new middle school opens and realignment of students occur. After some discussion, it was agreed to add this item to the agenda for Board approval.

REVIEW OF POLICY -141 - DIGITAL INSTRUCTION

This is a requested new policy regarding digital instruction, which would tie in with a district run cyber school program. After some discussion, Dr. Hartman requested this policy be held in abeyance until Mr. Kelley and Mrs. Walshaw-Wertz have time to review it with key personnel to get their input and perspective. The administration will work with the Board of Education to possibly get the policy in place by September.

Mrs. Wiest inquired if students in the Cyber School would take gym class. Mr. Kelley explained the Blended School program does offer a course and the student would be required to take exams. This program would be helpful to student who wants to transition back from a residential facility, homebound, or other circumstances.

REVIEW REGULAR BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS - MINUTES, BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

The August 14, 2014 regular agenda was reviewed.

Under Education Committee, the placement requests are related to the students' educational programming. With regards to the handbooks, Dr. Walter requested information be included regarding consequences of substance abuse, which can also be found in the athletic handbook. The policy regarding such infractions should be referenced.

Under Property Committee, the request for a change order was reviewed and explained.

OTHER

SRI is having a deed signing party at the Edison Hotel on August 19, 2014 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Tours will be given of the Albright Community Center from 4:00 - 5:00 pm.

Teacher induction will be held on Friday, August 15, 2014. The first two teacher in-service days will be held on August 18-19, 2014. A list of in-service activities will be forwarded to the Board of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.