

SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Sunbury, Pennsylvania  
[www.shikbraves.org](http://www.shikbraves.org)

Thursday, January 8, 2015

A work session of the Shikellamy School District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7:02 pm at the Island Park Administration Center.

Members Present were: Mrs. Cianflone, Dr. Hartman ( via phone), Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Michaels, Mr. Stepp, Dr. Walter, & Mrs. Wiest

Members Absent were: Mrs. Garman and Mr. Garman

Others Present: Mr. Patrick Kelley, District Superintendent  
Attorney Michael Apfelbaum, District Solicitor  
Mr. David Sinopoli, Acting Superintendent/Business Manager  
Mrs. Abbey Walshaw-Wertz, Director of Education  
Mrs. Angela Farronato, Oaklyn Elementary School Principal  
Ms. Susan Giberson, Beck Elementary School Principal  
Mr. Brett Misavage, Chief Shikellamy Elementary School Principal  
Mr. Doug Benick, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mrs. Bethanne Zeigler, Board Recording Secretary

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Before public comment began, Mrs. Wiest asked from here on out, anyone wishing to speak during public comment indicate the agenda item to which they speak. She added the Board of Education will attempt to inform the public of action of progress as they move forward.

Brad Strawser, Sunbury PA, expressed his continued concern for the direction of the school district and safety issues.

**SCHOOL SAFETY/ISS**

Mr. Kelley surveyed school districts located in the Heartland Conference regarding employment of a School Resource Officer and In-School Suspension Programs. He reviewed the survey information, noting a School Resource Officer would cost an estimated 45,000-\$60,000. Many of the grants available for a resource officer are for one year and require a three year commitment following the first year of implementation, which would be funded locally.

District	SRO	Funding Source	ISS	Staffed by
Benton	No		No	
Berwick	Yes – Two retired State Troopers	\$25 hour - No benefits Grant but will be all local 15/16	Yes	Aide
Bloomsburg	No		Yes	Substitute Teacher @ \$95 day
Central Columbia	No		No	
Danville	No		Yes	Assigned Duty for teacher
Lewisburg	No		Yes	Aides @ HS At MS use aide or use duty free teacher
Line Mountain	No		Yes	Day to Day Sub
Midd-West	No		Yes	Aide & Duty Free Teachers

				when needed
Mifflinburg	No		Yes	Substitute Teacher
Millville	No		Yes	Assigned Duty for Teacher
Milton	Yes – Part time Borough Officer	Locally funded- invoiced by borough	Yes	Aide
Mt. Carmel	Yes	Locally funded - Borough Officer employed 180 days by district and remaining contract with borough	Yes	Aide
Selinsgrove	No		Yes	Assigned Duty for teacher
Shamokin	No – 3 armed guards who monitor entrance and @ HS one does occasional door security checks	Grant	No	
Southern	Yes effective January 2015	Safe Schools Grant	Yes	Aide
Warrior Run	No		Yes	Assigned Duty for teacher
Keystone (Central Mountain)	Yes	Local funds	Yes	Assigned Duty for teacher
East Lycoming	Yes	Local funds	No	
Montgomery	Yes – 5 hours week	Local funds	No	
Montoursville	Yes for 39 weeks per year	Local – paid by PD and billed	Yes	Monitor @ hourly rate
Muncy	No		Yes	Substitute teachers
South Williamsport	No		No	

Mrs. Wiest called Representative Schlegel-Culver for information on grants available. There is a grant for a maximum of \$60,000 for one year. The application window runs for 45 days between September and October and awards would be made in November, at the earliest. If the Board decided to have an SRO, it would need to be with the understanding that funding would be the responsibility of the district at the start of the year, and if not a recipient, the full year. Mrs. Wiest added the downside of an SRO officer is there is no educational component, along with the challenge of jurisdiction, given the layout of the district. Mrs. Wiest suggested looking into a program whereby a few select employees be trained and carry a weapon. After some discussion, Attorney Apfelbaum was asked to research the matter from a legal standpoint. Dr. Walter inquired if there is any support from local government for partial funding. Mr. Kelley has been in discussion with Chief Hare of the Sunbury Police Department; however he reminded the Board of Education the district is made up of four areas of law enforcement jurisdiction (Sunbury PD, Northumberland Borough PD, Point Township PD, and Pennsylvania State Police). Mr. Kelley is not averse to having a SRO, but wants everyone to understand it will not be the “cure all”.

In-School Suspension (ISS) programming was discussed, as well as the various ways to staff it. According to the Certification & Staffing Policy Guidelines, when engaged in teaching activities, defined by the School Code, during their assignment, the individual who supervises the ISS class must be appropriately certified. If the supervisor is engaged in taking attendance, monitoring student behavior and facilitating the flow of paperwork from a student’s classroom teacher to the suspended student, they are not required to hold a certificate. Mr. Kelley added he believes a special education teacher would need to be available to students who have an IEP after speaking with Mrs. Michaels, Director of Special Education, he does not see that as a

problem. There were some strong feelings against rotating teachers as part of an assigned duty. After a good discussion, Mr. Kelley was directed to advertise for an aide to cover ISS for the remainder of the year. This would be for high school and middle school students, but the administration needs to be cautious of mixing these students. Mrs. Wiest asked if volunteers could help with ISS. They can help, but would be required to have all of their clearances. Additionally, volunteers would not be used to staff the program.

With a recent change in the child protective services law, Mr. Kelley announced that anyone working with children will be required to have updated clearances every three years.

Mr. Kelley reported building administrators have been conducting lockdown drills. When the drills are held, notification is being sent to parents. After consulting with Chief Hare, it was agreed that during a real lockdown, notification will not be sent to parents for safety reasons. When a crowd of individuals go to the scene, it takes first responders away from the task at hand and could potentially put these people in danger.

Emergency handbooks are being made to be placed in each classroom. There is highly confidential information, which will be included in the book and teachers will need to make sure the book is kept secure.

#### **BUDGET PREPARATION DISCUSSION**

Mr. Sinopoli reviewed the local and state budget timeline.

##### **Local Timeline:**

- \* January 15, 2015      Board action to advertise 2015-16 preliminary budget availability and notice of intent to adopt the 2015-16 preliminary budget, or action to adopt resolution stating that any tax increase will not exceed the Act 1 adjusted index.
  
- \* February 12, 2015      Board action to adopt 2015-16 preliminary budget.
  
- \* April 2, 2015      First draft of 2015-16 budget presented to Board of Education.
  
- \* April 23, 2015      Work session.
  
- \* May 7, 2015      Work session.
  
- \* May 14, 2015      Board action to adopt 2015-16 proposed final budget and approve proposed final budget availability and advertise notice of intent to adopt the budget.
  
- \* May 19, 2015      Work session.
  
- \* June 11, 2015      Work session.

\* June 16, 2015 Board action to adopt 2015-16 final budget and if necessary, board action implementing the homestead/farmstead exclusion.

#### State timeline:

##### No Later Than Date

- \* December 31, 2014 Mailing of homestead/farmstead exemption applications to those who have not filed.
- \* January 29, 2015 2015-16 proposed preliminary budget available for public inspection, or resolution needed stating that any tax increase will not exceed the Act 1 adjusted index.
- \* February 8, 2015 Public notice of intent to adopt the 2015-16 preliminary budget.
- \* February 18, 2015 Adopt 2015-16 preliminary budget.
- \* March 1, 2015 Homestead/farmstead exemption applications filed by owners requesting approval.
- \* April 15, 2015 State Secretary of the Budget certifies the amount of revenue in the Property Tax Relief Fund and the total amount available for distribution in 2015-16.
- \* May 1, 2015 Department of Education notifies school districts of the amount of their state allocation of property tax reduction funding. County assessor provides school district with certified report on homestead/farmstead properties.
- \* May 31, 2015 Adopt 2015-16 proposed final budget.
- \* June 10, 2015 2015-16 proposed final budget available for public inspection.
- \* June 20, 2015 Public notice of intent to adopt the 2015-16 final budget.
- \* June 30, 2015 Adopt 2015-16 final budget.

Adopt resolution implementing the homestead/farmstead

exclusion. This only occurs if PDE has notified school districts by May 1, that there are enough funds in the Property Tax Relief Fund to make a distribution to school districts for 2015-16.

The real estate millage and index was reviewed.

	<u>Real Estate Millage</u>		
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>%</u>
2014-15	83.25	2.25	2.8
2013-14	81.0	3.0	3.8
2012-13	78.0	0.0	0.0
2011-12	78.0	5.5	7.6
2010-11	72.5	3.5	4.3

	<u>Index</u>	
	<u>Base %</u>	<u>Adjusted %</u>
2015-16	1.9	2.7
2014-15	2.1	3.0
2013-14	1.7	2.4
2012-13	1.7	2.3
2011-12	1.4	2.0
2010-11	2.9	4.0

Maximum Real Estate Millage Increase at the Adjusted Index Prior to Referendum Exceptions

2015-16                      2.25

- Estimated 1.13 mill increase anticipated by Public Financial Management for 2014 Bond Issue. \*One Real Estate Mill equals approximately \$164,000.

The fund balance was reviewed.

Budget Resolution for 2014-15 General Fund Budget adopted on June 17, 2014:

Estimated June 30, 2015:

Committed Fund Balance Future Health Care and/or Pension Obligations	\$822,282.00
Committed Future Debt Service or Costs for Proposed Middle School	328,284.00
Assigned Fund Balance Future Salary, Health Care, and/or Pension Obligations	4,396,246.00
Unassigned Fund Balance	3,006,840.00
	<u>\$8,553,652.00</u>

### **BAND FIELD REPAIR**

Mr. Benick reviewed a request to do an RFP to have field work done for the field used by the marching band. It is the area at the high school athletic complex formerly used for junior varsity baseball. Mr. Benick would like to work with the current lawn care provider to develop the specifications. An estimated cost of work would be \$18,000. One item that should be included in specifications is that the field would need to be ready for the spring use. This would not resolve sinkholes. Mr. Benick explained the maintenance workers fill the holes as they

happen. Ground was taken from C.W. Rice; however no topsoil was taken at this time. It would be funded through capital reserve. After discussion, it was approved for Mr. Benick to do an RFP.

#### **REVIEW REGULAR BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS – MINUTES, BILLS, RESOLUTIONS**

The January voting agenda was reviewed.

#### **OTHER**

School Performance Scores have been released. The high school score was 76.3 and were 294 out of 597 Pennsylvania high schools. The middle school score was 87.3 and were 96 out of 465 Pennsylvania middle schools. Mr. Kelley commented this says a great deal about the students and faculty as a whole.

Mr. Gary Wolfe, Clerk of the Works, reported on the progress of the middle school construction project. Concrete is being poured. If the weather cooperates, it will get more exciting. The excavator has done a great job. Underground items have been measured and marked. Two prints will be kept so if future issues arise, everyone will know where wiring and pipes are located. Mr. Wolfe invited Directors, faculty and staff to stop by and see the progress. He stated they would need to check in with him and his office is the large trailer on site.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned and an executive session called for personnel matters at 8:13pm.