

SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sunbury, Pennsylvania
www.shikbraves.org

Thursday, February 5, 2015

A work session of the Shikellamy School District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Island Park Administration Center.

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

Student Members Present: Miss Hummel & Miss Murphy

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
Dr. Mary Murphy-Kahn, Shikellamy Middle 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. Doug Benick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mrs. Bethanne Zeigler, Board Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PROPOSED NEW COURSES

Mrs. Walshaw-Wertz reviewed proposed new courses, which she stated were teacher driven. Courses reviewed were:

Communication Arts: (In order to attend SUN Area, students must pass these courses). The Executive Director of SUN Tech was consulted. The communication arts courses would be simultaneous with the regular English course in order to attend vo-tech. Additional teachers would not be required and current staffing would be sufficient to offer these courses.

- Reading Information Texts in Technical Subjects (Grades 9-11) .5 credits
- Technical Writing (Grades 9-11) .5 credits

Physical Education:

- NAME CHANGE from Physical Ed 9-10 grade to Foundations of Physical Education (Grades 10-12) .5 credits
- Outdoor Team Sports/Activities (Grades 10-12) .25 credit
- Indoor Team Sports/Activities (Grades 10-12) .25 credit
- Racquet Sports (Grades 10-12) .25 credit
- Conditioning (Grades 10-12) .25 credit
- Fitness (Grades 10-12) .25 credit
- Non-Credit Physical Education Aide (Grades 10-12) No Credit

Science:

- NAME CHANGE Physical Science (Grades 11-12) 1 credit

Social Studies:

- American History I (Grade 9) 1 credit
- Honors American History I (Grade 9) 1 credit
- American History II (Grade 10) 1 credit
- Honors American History II (Grade 10) 1 credit
- World Cultures (Grade 12) 1 credit
- AP US Government and Politics (Grade 11-12) 1.5 credit

Giving high school credit for students taking algebra in eighth grade was discussed. The administration recommends students receive a math credit.

Mrs. Garman requested local districts be surveyed regarding weighting of honors courses.

Mrs. Walshaw-Wertz and the high school guidance counselors will continue to review the course selection guide. Students begin the scheduling process in March.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2015/16 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mr. Kelley reviewed the proposed calendar. This proposal was reviewed with the Act 48 committee as well as the administrative team. This calendar has been coordinated with the participating vo-tech schools to some extent. There was discussion regarding the last in-service scheduled, which is currently contractual. The District must comply with the current contract; however, this topic can be revisited once an agreement has been reached.

BUDGET PREPARATION DISCUSSION

Mr. Sinopoli reviewed information related to the proposed 2015-16 preliminary budget. The numbers used reflect rounded estimates and do not include requisitions from teachers. These are taking the number from 2014-15 and applying any known increases or decreases. Mr. Sinopoli will participate in a seminar on March 23, 2015 for the new Governor's budget discussion. Adopting the proposed preliminary budget allows the district to qualify for referendum exceptions. Mr. Sinopoli reviewed budgetary information as follows:

Revenue vs. Expenditures

Estimated Revenues		\$41,511,251
Estimated Expenditures	(5.3% increase)	<u>(43,647,431)</u>
Budget Deficit		\$ (2,136,180)

2014-15 General Fund Budget adopted at \$41,457,198

Preliminary Numbers (before tax increase)

Estimated Revenues	\$41,511,251
Estimated Expenditures *	(43,647,431)
Budget Deficit	(2,136,180)
Estimated Unassigned Fund Balance @ 6/30/15*	3,006,840
Estimated Committed Fund Balance @ 6/30/15	1,150,566
Estimated Assigned Fund Balance @ 6/30/15	4,396,246
Estimated Available @ 6/30/15	8,553,652
Surplus Remaining @ 6/30/16	\$6,417,472

Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance Based on Budget * \$3,491,794
 2014-15 General Fund Budget adopted at \$41,457,198

Referendum Exceptions

Current Real Estate Tax Millage	83.25
Adjusted Index (Base Index 1.9%)	<u>2.7%</u>
Allowable Act 1 Increase Before Referendum Exceptions	2.25
Estimated Referendum Exceptions:	
- Retirement \$400,861	
- Special Education \$691,054	4.21
Total Real Estate Millage Increase Available for Preliminary Budget Purposes	6.46
	or
	\$1,059,440

1 Real Estate Mill = estimated \$164,000

PDE will only approve referendum exceptions if the school district demonstrates a need for exceptions by adopting a balanced preliminary budget that contains a tax rate increase in excess of the school district index.

Mr. Sinopoli gave a comparison:

	Without Tax Increase	W/O Tax Increase
Estimated Revenues	\$41,511,251	\$42,570,691
Estimated Expenditures	<u>(43,647,431)</u>	<u>(43,647,431)</u>
Budget Deficit	(2,136,180)	(1,076,740)
Available Unassigned Fund Balance @ 6/30/15	<u>3,006,840</u>	<u>3,006,840</u>
	\$870,660	\$1,930,100
Maximum Fund Balance Based on Budget	\$3,491,794	

One mill of tax increase is roughly \$17.00 per mill. Without any referendum exceptions, the Board could do an increase of 2.25 mills.

SCHOOL SAFETY/ISS

Mr. Kelley reported interviews will be held for an ISS Monitor tomorrow. Additionally, Emergency handbooks are still being processed to be placed in each classroom. Additionally, the administration continues to work with local law enforcement to focus on school safety at an upcoming in-service.

Mrs. Wiest asked for some follow-up to a previous suggestion for a program whereby a few select employees be trained and carry a weapon. Attorney Apfelbaum can provide an opinion regarding liability, but budgetary matters will not be within the opinion. Mrs. Wiest is interested in the DARE program returning to the programs offered to students, and would like the administration to get information regarding costs for some type of individual to be appointed who would serve in a hybrid type capacity, which could include the main function of ISS, but would also work a law enforcement type capacity. Dr. Walter would like to know the

budget implications to implement a Saturday detention program. Different options regarding how the program would run were discussed.

POLICY REVIEW

The following policies were reviewed with proposed revisions highlighted:

246 – Student Wellness

434 – Sick Leave Bank

The proposals will be added to the regular voting agenda for 1st reading consideration.

WORK GROUP REQUEST

The original request made by the Work Group was for June 12-18, 2015. The group would like to extend it by one day, to include July 11, 2015. This item will be added to the regular agenda for consideration.

REPORT ON PROPOSALS FOR BAND FIELD REPAIR

Only one proposal was received for the repairs to the band field. The proposal came from Keystone Natural Turf of Muncy, PA in the amount of \$15,975.00. The payment will come from the Capital Reserve fund. The work will need to be completed by May 15, 2015 for field use beginning July 31, 2015. Dr. Walter suggested moving the band over to the new middle school fields. There was lengthy discussion regarding lighting, space availability and scheduling. After much discussion, the proposal will be added to the voting agenda for consideration.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Gary Wolfe, Clerk of the Works, gave an update on the middle school construction project. Various change order requests were discussed as follows:

- To address two spring seeping area. Proposing two sump areas approximately 25 feet long. Additional sumps may be necessary later in the project. This would be the initial permission to authorize the work when weather permits.
- To address unstable soil. Proposal of 2A stone at \$70 a cubic yard, or \$53 for shale with a resolution to move forward with the cost not to exceed \$6,000.00 or 800 cubic yards.
- Retaining Wall at lower end of the site. The cost went from \$139,000 to \$189,089.

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

The February voting agenda was reviewed. In regards to summer school, an alternative location will be needed for the last week of summer school for computer lab use. This should not be a problem to accommodate.

OTHER

Dr. Walter initiated discussion regarding the review of contracts and the criteria to have a review by the solicitor. There is no hard rule; however in the past, the dollar amount and the complexity of the agreement were considered. Dr. Hartman shared it would be burdensome for the solicitor to review every contract. Attorney Apfelbaum will prepare a report after he speaks with other solicitors on the topic. He will use various means to find out what the state of the art is among school districts regarding contract review. Many felt if it is a new endeavor for the district, it would make sense to have the solicitor review the agreement.

Mrs. Wiest announced Chief Shikellamy Elementary School staff made a thank you banner for the Board of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned and an executive session called for personnel matters at 9:03 pm.