

SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sunbury, Pennsylvania
www.shikbraves.org

Thursday, April 2, 2015

A work session of the Shikellamy School District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 7:02 pm at the Island Park Administration Center.

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

Others Present: Mr. Ned Sodrick, Acting District Superintendent
Attorney Michael Apfelbaum, District Solicitor
Mr. David Sinopoli, Business Manager
Mrs. Abbey Walshaw-Wertz, Director of Education
Mrs. Stephanie Michaels, Director of Special Education
Mr. Michael Egan, Acting High School Principal
Dr. Mary Murphy-Kahn, Shikellamy Middle School Principal
Mr. Brett Misavage, Chief Shikellamy Elementary School Principal
Mrs. Angela Farronato, Oaklyn Elementary School Principal
Mr. Doug Benick, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mrs. Bethanne Zeigler, Board Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Proposals for drainage were discussed to address neighborhood water run-off concerns at the construction site of the middle school project. The cause of the excess water is hard to determine. Mr. Ross, of Larson Design Engineering stated that although the District is not accepting responsibility, they understand it is a hardship to the neighbors. In attempt to be a good neighbor, the Board of Education agreed to consider action to install a drainage system at the next regular voting meeting. Mr. Ross addressed Mr. & Mrs. Ed Bucher, neighbors who were in attendance at the meeting, stated the Board of Education cannot be positive this will make it right, however they are doing everything possible to help alleviate the situation. The Board of Education was alerted there is potential to have additional water issues by the old tennis courts, as a result of springs; however the cost should not be as great. At discussions end, it was agreed to add a motion for formal consideration at the April 9, 2015 regular meeting.

There was discussion regarding whether or not to reconsider a retaining wall or move forward with the terrace bank. A change order in February in the amount of \$189,890 for a retaining wall included a price increase due to site work that had already begun. After an extensive discussion, Mr. Benick was directed to research and report back to the Board of Education on the annual maintenance cost of the ivy maintenance, grass cutting and maintenance, as well as the timeframe for ivy to establish. If the Board of Education would decide to move forward with a retaining wall, springs would not be an issue, as additional drains would be included in

the price of the retaining wall. A decision, on way or another, must be made by Thursday, April 9, 2015.

Paver bricks were discussed. The donor cost would be \$100.00. Location of the bricks was discussed. Some areas discussed were near the cafeteria – patio area, gymnasium area and near the flag pole, as well as near the entrance. Generally when doing this type of paving, three bricks per square foot are used. The largest area for the pavers would be in the rear of the building near the gymnasium. McKissick’s was also asked to get pricing for a flagpole near the rear of the gymnasium. Paver bricks would not affect the Act 34 hearing numbers.

Dr. Walter asked fellow Board Members to give some thought to possibly having a scoreboard or something donated by the funds from the Brett Swank Memorial fund and possibly have Brett Swank’s name tied into the field somehow.

COURSE SELECTION GUIDE UPDATE

Mrs. Walshaw-Wertz has been working with the teachers and guidance counselors to update the course selection guide. The most recent revisions were reviewed. She compared a guide from 2006/07 to the present guide.

Mrs. Garman suggested involving students more in the branding of the district by possibly incorporating a social networking course. She believes it will give student some ownership and pride in the district and empower them to highlight the positive things happening in the district. In discussion, it seemed staffing issues were a concern. Mr. Karpinski suggested looking at a social media club. Mrs. Walshaw-Wertz will explore what other districts are doing who are on the cutting edge and report back to the Board of Education.

AP COURSES

The weighting of AP Courses was discussed. Mrs. Walshaw-Wertz will continue to explore this with guidance counselors and teachers.

REVIEW OF 2015-2016 SUN AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

A revised 2015-16 draft of the SUN Area Technical Institute was reviewed. Mr. Michaels, Mr. Karpinski, and Mr. Stepp toured the Vo-tech, which is part of the bond issue request. It is their recommendation the Board of Education approves the proposed budget and supports the renovations of the current building. This item will be added to the April 9, 2015 regular voting agenda for consideration.

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

The April voting agenda was reviewed.

OTHER

Dr. Walter recently visited all of the buildings and was very impressed with the loving relationships with staff and students at the elementary level. He commended everyone for what he observed. Mrs. Wiest thanked Mr. Sodrck for his positive presence in the District.

Mr. Sodrick thanked the Board of Education for their confidence in him and for inviting him back to serve the Shikellamy community. He truly enjoyed his time three years ago and he is here to help. He believes the District is on the right path and it is his personal belief the poll of candidates for a Superintendent is better in the spring. He is ready to help the Board of Education to find the right person for the Shikellamy School District.

ADJOURNMENT

An executive session for personnel was called and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.