

SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sunbury, Pennsylvania
www.shikbraves.org

Thursday, April 23, 2015

A work session of the Shikellamy School District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 7:13 pm at the Island Park Administration Center.

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

Members Absent: Mr. Stepp

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.

BOND ISSUE REFINANCING DISCUSSION

Ms. Jaime Doyle, Public Financial Management Managing Director, reviewed a financial analysis for the district. She reviewed the summary of outstanding indebtedness, as well as new money with and without reimbursement. The refunding opportunities were reviewed, as well as the required call bonds. A sample motion was provided. Ms. Doyle recommended making principal payments on September 1st, explaining the refunding opportunity has a 2.88% net savings. Mrs. Wiest recommended proceeding based on the recommendation of Ms. Doyle. This item will be added to the May 14, 2015 voting agenda.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Alex would like to set up a five year rotation for field maintenance. Earlier in the day, he joined Mr. Benick and a representative from Big Foot Lawn Care to do an assessment of current field conditions. Mr. Alex estimates the cost of maintenance and repairs over the next five years to be approximately \$900,000. Mr. Alex was informed by PIAA officials last October if repairs were not made to the field hockey fields, officials may have no choice but to decertify and prohibit play until remediation is complete.

In the first year of repairs, Mr. Alex proposed at an estimated cost of \$350,000, beginning with the football field, the track, and the baseball field. The cost to skin, sod, replenish dirt, and

install drainage to the football field would be an estimated \$150,000. Repairs to the infield of the baseball field would cost approximately \$25,000. The track is crumbling in sections, with one corner collapsing and is in need of repair. Some discussion was held regarding using Bond issue monies to do a portion of the work. Mr. Michaels cautioned his fellow Directors and expressed concern with continued budget cuts to the maintenance budget each year, which would hinder future repairs. There must be a good maintenance program in place that can be funded annually to support the repairs proposed. Mr. Sinopoli was directed to research the impact of borrowing against the existing bond issue. Mr. Alex recommended having a professional come in to review the drainage system and field situation. Mr. Alex should do more research on this topic and this will be discussed at the May 7, 2015 work session.

SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN DISCUSSION

Mr. Benick requested the Board of Education consider increasing the hourly rate for substitute custodians to \$9 - \$10 per hour with an effective date of July 1, 2015. This request is under consideration.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Sinopoli gave a brief PowerPoint update on the 2015-16 budget.

	Budget 2015-16	Estimate 2014-15	Budget 2014-15
Revenue	\$42,975,215	\$41,118,480	\$41,619,291
Expenditure	\$(762,984)	\$(338,718)	\$505,312

State Subsidy:

	Budget 2015-16	Estimate 2014-15	Budget 2014-15
Basic Ed Funding	\$12,922,025	\$11,804,912	\$11,804,912
Special Ed Funding	\$2,009,144	\$1,812,375	\$1,769,952
Accountability Block Grant	-0-	\$416,739	\$709,066

Special Education Costs

	Budget 2015-16	Estimate 2014-15	Budget 2014-15
	\$7,179,372	\$6,968,395	\$6,519,691

*2014-15 over budget \$448,704 or 6.9%

2015-16 Budgeted Expenditures %

- Salaries (100) 41.9
- Benefits (200) 27.2
- Special Education & Tuition Cost for Students (500) 9.9
- Debt Service (800/900) 7.6
- 86.6

2015-16 Medical Insurance

Weighted Average Increase of 5.7% in 2015-16; weighted average increase for 2014-15 was 7.1%. For 2015-16, the industry-wide average increase for “non self-funded” plans is 8%-11%.

2015-16 Retirement

Contribution % rose from 21.4% to 25.84%; the rate is scheduled to increase approximately 4% for 2016-17, and then remain at that rate for approximately 15 years.

Our state reimbursement rate is approximately 60% of expenditures.

2015-16 Computer Lease

\$175,000 has been budgeted for the continued educational technology needs of the School District students.

Mr. Sinopoli reviewed the budget timeline for the Board of Education.

OTHER

Dr. Hartman distributed CSIU highlights.

Mr. Michaels announced the SUN Area Technical Institute Skills USA Winners. They will be honored at the next voting meeting on May 14, 2015.

Mr. Egan reported a K9 search recently held at the high school was successful. He thanked the entire administrative team for their assistance. The musical was a great production. The athletic teams are doing great. Finally, he reported one of the high school students, Seth Burk, was featured on WNEP. He encouraged Directors to go online and watch the story of Seth’s ability to overcome adversity.

Mr. Sodrick thanked Mr. Egan for his report and informed the Board of Education he is doing a tremendous job at the high school. Mr. Sodrick announced that in lieu of State of the City address, Mayor Persing will be holding an Informational evening. Mr. Eric Attinger and Mrs. Jolene Dressler will represent the District at this event. Mr. Attinger will have a stand on the community garden and Mrs. Dressler will have one on the Caring for Kids program.

ADJOURNMENT

An executive session for personnel was called and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32