

Regular School Board Meeting

November 14, 2023

A regular meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Redbank Valley High School Library. The following members were in attendance: Jason Barnett, Heidi Byers, Ann Kopnitsky, Donald Nair, Bill Reddinger, John Kimmel, Darren Bain, and Brent Wile. Absent: John Sayers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by John Kimmel to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 10th 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Shirey had nothing to add to her Primary and Intermediate Report. No questions.

Mr. Hartle presented the Secondary Report. He covered topics such as homecoming, training from the IU, and updated the numbers of students attending go Rockets to 16 students. His report also listed the Student Assistance Program referrals. Currently there are 26 referrals for concerns brought up by teachers and or parents. The SAP program helps students with mental health and or drug and alcohol problems. The after-school tutoring program is up and running at the high school. It is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at varying schedules. Mr. Hartle continues to meet with departments on a regular basis. Dr. Rupp, Mr. Hartle, and the Math Department are beginning to meet to look at patterns in the math scores and try to make an overall Improvement. Awareness days were observed for the last few months at the high school. On the college front, there were instant decision days for Penn West and Gannon this past month. Sixteen of our students were accepted into these schools. We have the second phase of diagnostic training coming soon to gauge the success and Improvement of our students in math reading and science. PVAAS data is being disaggregated and we are currently comparing our test scores to those of neighboring districts. The sports teams did well this year. The boys soccer team were the D9 champions and our football team is advancing to the D9 championship game on Friday. No questions.

Mr. Temchulla gave the Special Education Report. The Audit Improvement Plans were submitted and we are waiting for review. This past month, Mr. Temchulla attended the CASE conference in Pittsburgh. The information he gained from that conference will be brought back to train the special education staff. There is a plan for an IEP training at the next Act 80 day on November 28th, and he is continuing to have department meetings with Special Education teachers. No questions.

Mr. Rapp had nothing to add to his maintenance report. No questions.

Mrs. Reitz gave the business manager report. She is currently working with Dale Kirsch and the auditor for the 22-23 budget completion in an effort to finalize the AFR. Dates for Budget planning for the 24-25 school year were presented. Our index for this year is 7.8%. If the taxes are raised to the full index, the median rise in taxes for Clarion County residents would be \$75 a year and for Armstrong it would be \$46

a year. Revenues and expenditures were reviewed and balances were given. They are very close to last year. Next month the board will have to decide whether to raise taxes to the index. During her presentation there was a question about reassessment from one of the new board members. It was clarified by Jason Barnett that the money that the school district receives will remain neutral and those funds will be redistributed among taxpayers based upon the reassessment. Mrs. Reitz stated that Kim Turley from the auditing firm will be coming this week on Wednesday to start the fieldwork for the 22-23 audit. Mrs. Reitz has been pulling the information from the auditor's punchlist and Dale Kirsch from PASBO has been helping with the reconciliation of balance sheets. Concerning the \$500,000 that was to be put into a Capital Reserves account back in 2021 that never happened, Mrs. Reitz stated that her suggestion would be to put the money into a PLGIT Term Account. The board agreed and stated they no longer needed to put it into a Capital Reserves account so the money is more accessible. Mrs. Reitz stated that the Adjusted Index was just released and it has increased from 6.1% to 7.8% for 2024-2025. She will show the increase at various increments up to the maximum of 7.8% at the next Board Meeting. No further questions.

Dr. Rupp had nothing to add to her report. No questions.

Mrs. Kopnitsky didn't have anything more to add to the IU Report.

Mrs. Byers and Dr. Nair had nothing to add to the Career Center Report.

There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the second reading of Policies #613-626.1 and #711 as presented. Motion carried unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Don Nair seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to approve the first reading of Policies #701-702, #703-710, #716 and policy #718 as presented. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to approve the 2024 RVSD Board Meeting Calendar. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Brent Wile and the motion died for the lack of a second motion for the Consideration to approve the dress code procedures as presented.

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to approve the spring softball and baseball trips as presented. Total cost to the district is \$1,315.71. A motion was made by Don Nair seconded by Anne Kopnitsky to amend the total cost of \$1,315.71 for the substitute teachers to be the responsibility of the Boosters. Amendment approved 5-2 (Barnett, Byers). Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Don Nair and seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to cancel the contract with Catapult Learning for our Non public Title 1 students due to the lack of a provided teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to enter into a service agreement with Clarion Area, Clarion-Limestone, and Keystone School Districts to provide Reading services to Redbank Valley students who attend Immaculate Conception School. Cost to the district is paid with allocated Title 1 Funds.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

A motion was made by Anne Kopnitsky seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the October 2023 Treasurer's Report, the Consideration to approve the October 2023 General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$1,590,067.61, and the Consideration to approve the October 2023 Cafeteria Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$51,253.69. Motion carried unanimously

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Don Nair for the Consideration to approve Mike Fricko, Kristen Landers, Mindy Traister, Kevin Watkins, Jenean Smith, Tessa Shick, and Rachelle Kirkpatrick to attend the PETE&C Conference in Hershey, PA on February 4-7, 2023 with a total cost of \$5,571 (\$2,502 from Title 2A and \$3,609 from the general fund) and for the Consideration to approve Linda Young and Annette King to attend the Title I conference in Pittsburgh on February 4 – 7 2023 for a total cost of \$2,317.67 (\$1,440.53 from Title 2A and \$877.14 from the general fund) as presented. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to enter into a contract with Luke Kunkle for Athletic Training Services at \$40.00 per hour, an average of 6 hours per day for a total cost to the district for the remainder of the year of \$30,000. There was discussion regarding the trainer. It was recommended that we have proof of insurance and ensure that the district's insurance would cover any remaining issues or concerns. It was also discussed that we need to ensure that students are not playing with injuries. Matt Darr and Roddy Hartle conferred that the doctor has to release the student athletes to play after they are seen by the trainer. The Business

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Manager was directed to talk to the district's insurance carrier for insurance limits. The Board wants to be sure that students are fully cleared before returning to play. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Don Nair seconded by Brent Wile to approve the FMLA leave for employee #1330. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to approve Rochelle Reitz to attend the PASBO conference in Hershey, PA on March 5 – 8th 2023 for a total cost to the district not to exceed \$1,500. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Anne Kopnitsky seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to approve the Superintendent Goals for the 23-24 school year as presented. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Don Nair for the Consideration to approve the MOU with the Association regarding the Girls Wrestling Coach as presented. Motion carried unanimously

Sports co-ops were discussed and Dr. Kimmel reiterated that we cannot combine sports for strength rather lack of numbers. The Board consensus is to continue to discuss Co-op opportunities in the future. Mr. Hartle gave some examples of sports in which we share programs and this seems to be a good start towards opening up the conversation. Jason Barnett suggested that a letter from our Board to other Boards should be written to explain that we are willing to have those discussions.

The outgoing board members (Anne Kopnitsky, Darren Bain, Jason Barnett, and Donald Nair) were thanked for their service.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS : There were no additional items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Don Nair and seconded by Anne Kopnitsky to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Reitz

Rochelle Reitz
Board Secretary