

Regular School Board Meeting

July 11, 2023

A regular meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jason Barnett, Heidi Byers, Ann Kopnitsky, Don Nair, Bill Reddinger, Brent Wile, and John Sayers (who was appointed during the meeting). Absent: John Kimmel, Darren Bain

The board meeting was opened by President, Bill Reddinger

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by Ann Kopnitsky to approve the resignation of Mitchell Blose from the School Board effective June 6, 2023.

Public Interviews were performed to fill Mitchell Blose's position. Mr. Kevin Johnson was questioned first, Mrs. Briana Kiehl was questioned second, and Mr. John Sayers was questioned last. A series of questions were asked to each of the candidates.

A motion was made by Jason Barnett seconded by Don Nair to appoint John Sayers to fill the vacant seat on the Redbank Valley School District Board of Directors effective July 11, 2023.

District Magistrate Jeffrey Miller was present to swear in the new board member, John Sayers.

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by Brent Wile to approve Board Meeting, June 13, 2023, and Work Session Meeting, June 6, 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously

New Business

Mrs. Shirey gave her report. She conducted Interviews June 12. She completed a 2 day PIL course "School Leaders Who Coach Highly Effective Instructional Practice". Mrs. Shirey is planning High School tours with Dr. Rupp for the Reunion of a Lifetime coming up. Marti Snyder's last day as the Intermediate School secretary was June 23 and her replacement, Lisa Bowersox, started in July. Teachers have been meeting with students via Google Meet weekly to assist with the Bridge books and have a reading time. Fifteen students are participating each week. Mrs. Shirey has been participating in a virtual Collaboration Hour to get ideas on how to better engage with parents each Wednesday afternoon. It is hosted by K-12 Community Builders. Any teacher with a room change or assignment change was notified. Summer school began July 5th and runs through July 27th and as of this date, 26 students in grades K - 6 are signed up to attend. Asbestos abatement at the Intermediate School will begin July 10. New front doors were installed at the Primary and Intermediate. She stated that she will be advertising Back To School Night so parents can get it on their calendar for August 21st (Primary 6-7pm and Intermediate 6:30-7:30 pm). She is finalizing class lists and getting ready to release them in August and finalizing the master schedule. Mrs. Shirey is working on a mailing for incoming kindergarten student families with important information. Mr. Barnett questioned and wanted to make sure that anytime we have an agency willing to give us backpacks, he wanted to make sure the district has a policy to check the backpacks before being sent home with children.

Mr. Hartle gave his report. He stated that the Summer Credit Recovery courses have begun and we have 34 students participating and 26 total courses being taught. The master schedule for the 2023-24 school year has been created and the teachers have been made aware of their room assignments and subjects being taught. The 2023-24 teacher packets are being created and prepared. A schedule has been created, with documentation requirements, to assist in the improvement of three main areas next school year (The collaboration of the special education department and the regular education teachers, Department meeting planning time, and Communication time with families and the community). All outside cyber families are being contacted via phone and letters sent home to encourage students to return to in-person learning or to our in-house online program "Go Rockets". Summer workbook materials were sent out to students in grades 6-8 and we are currently doing weekly check-ins to help students with any questions they may have. He stated that they are still working on getting five teachers certified to be trainers in CPR, First Aid, AED. The plan is to have them ready to train the staff on the 1st (2) in-service days in August. Test results are currently being used to set up student schedule sections for grades 6-9 in Reading and Math subject areas. The alumni tours at the high school were conducted on Sat. July 8, 2023. He commented on the success of the tour.

Mr. Temchulla gave his report. He stated that the ESY program started last week and will continue until July 28th (4 student in high school Autism support, 2 students in learning support at the Primary, and 3 students in Autism at Primary). He stated there are currently two vacant Special Education positions because of the transfer of the autism rooms from the IU back to the district. There was one individual that resigned, and one individual that declined due to not enough money. There are two openings that are still available for hire because of the transfer of the autism rooms. He mentioned an adjustment to Item #5 on his report and he is currently projecting 238 total students for the upcoming school year (special education, gifted, and 504 students).

Mr. Jones stated he had someone resign in the maintenance department so they are looking to fill that position. They started removing asbestos in four rooms of the Intermediate Building. Maintenance is maintaining the work schedule this summer with people taking vacation. Mr. Barnett questioned confirmation concerning the seeding of the football field based on discussion from last meeting. Mr. Jones stated there were three bare spots on the field that were re-seeded and they were the only bare spots on the field. Mr. Jones stated that there are currently no bare spots on the field.

There was no cafeteria report

Rochelle Reitz gave the business report, she stated that they are finishing up the 22-23 school year. The 2023-24 budget was uploaded into the CSIU software. There are still expenditures and revenues that are being finalized for 2022-23. She is still talking to Dale from PASBO every Monday on things she needs to be working on and continues to work with Cheryl Motter trying to get things caught up. Revenue is at \$21,454,774 and expenditures are \$20,402,996, but they are still working to finalize for the 2022-23 school year.

Dr. Rupp commented on the tour of the school that the "all class" reunion had and that there were many comments about how good the condition of the school is in. She commended the maintenance staff on having to stop what they were doing to make the building presentable in the middle of their summer cleaning. The new safety entrance doors that were replaced at all 3 buildings came in under budget, allowing for more doors to be ordered. The current master key system is going to be replaced and upgraded with a key card system. Emergency lockdown buckets are being put in each classroom with

supplies. Amos looked at the parking lot and recommends that there is some replacements, some patching, crack filling, and restriping the lines that need done. A full report should be available in the next several weeks. The sound board for the auditorium is to ship in August, and the light board is here and waiting to be installed. The new projector screen is to be installed in August. We are still in need of several cafeteria workers and a maintenance position. We need a 1 year Spanish sub and 2 year science sub. We are reaching out to ESS and trying to be creative on how to fill those positions. Mr. Reddinger asked about German instruction and Dr. Rupp said that we are looking at a third party for instruction.

Ann Kopnitsky mentioned that at the IU June meeting there was a presentation on Early Intervention. Early Intervention is one of the largest growing programs within the education system. She stated that there will be a new Board because a lot of older people will be leaving in November.

Heidi Byers had nothing to add to her report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

Matt Darr brought up the geese problem. He reached out to several individuals who work in the field as well as John Fedak and they all recommended Migrate repellent spray and a coyote decoy. He also talked about the issue of watering the field. He contacted the Municipal Authority and they gave him some information. In 2018 we turned the meter on and we never got a bill until 2020. The meter was read for the first time in 3 years and that is the reason for the high bill. Matt ran a calculation and if we run the sprinklers on one side of the field for an hour and switch to the other side of the field for an hour, and we did that 3 days a week for 8 weeks, we would be charged less than \$1,000. We get charged \$22 for every 1500 gallons. He spoke about the reunion and enjoyed hearing all the compliments. They are still working on girls wrestling.

Mr. Reddinger called for an executive session at 7:26 pm to 8:01 pm for personnel.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by Jason Barnett for Consideration to approve the first reading of Board Policies 322-334. Motion Carried Unanimously. Dr. Rupp explained that the 300, 400 and 500s were being combined into the 300s, as recommended by PSBA. Jason asked if PSBA still give recommendations and Dr. Rupp explained that they do, and that she sent them our collective bargaining agreement to review as well. Mrs. Byers recommended that our next step is to attach our procedures to the policies. Motion Carried Unanimously

New Business:

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by Ann Kopnitsky to for Consideration the 2023-2026 Comprehensive Plan as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by Brent Wile for Consideration to approve the service agreement with Combustion Services & Equipment Company in the amount of \$2,486. Mr. Sayers asked if this was to update the service agreement for boiler service. Dr. Rupp said it was and it is to be paid in two installments of \$1243. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair and seconded by Ann Kopnitsky for the Consideration to the service agreement with Johnson Controls in the amount of \$23,122. Mr. Sayers asked if this was for yearly upgrades and maintenance hours. Jim Jones said it was and Mr. Sayers asked if the hours were updated. Mr. Jones explained that he hadn't updated the hours because they are prorated and we haven't used all our hours the last few years. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by Ann Kopnitsky for the Consideration to approve the updated Health and Safety Plan. Heidi Byers asked if we just did this and Dr. Rupp said it has to be done every 6 months. 5-2 (Byers, Nair)

A motion was made by Ann Kopnitsky seconded by Donald Nair for the Consideration to approve the MOU with Clarion Area and Clarion Limestone for shared Autism Support services as presented. Jason commented he has an issue with the cost sharing breakdown of the room. His concern is that Redbank is responsible for the program and taking the liability and risk. Dr. Rupp said they are paying \$15,000 plus transportation plus related services for their students to come here – one student from CL and one student from Clarion. If they send them to an IU classroom, it would cost them \$30,000 and now they will probably have \$20,000 - \$25,000 paying this district. 4-3 (Barnett, Byers, Nair)

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to approve the costs associated with the tree removal as presented for a total cost to the district of \$7,400 and Consideration to approve the costs associated with stump grinding and reseeded as presented with a total cost to the district of \$5,225. Dr. Rupp explained that this was for the work associated with the removal of the 37 trees around the football field. Mr. Sayers asked who the lowest bid was, which Dr. Rupp stated was C&K Tree Removal. Mr. Sayers then asked if they were doing all the work and they are not, just the cutting. Mr. Barnett then mentioned we have been talking about paving and asked if this was more important than the other maintenance jobs. There was discussion about how much damage the trees cause. Mr. Barnett brought back up that we keep talking about paving and wants to know if the tree removal is more important than the paving. Mr. Jones was asked if this was a priority project, and he believes it is. Dr. Rupp said that she needs to talk with Amos and the topic of paving will be brought up at a later time once she knows something for sure. Mr. Sayers asked if West Penn was still willing to remove the trees for no cost. Jim said that they would not. Mr. Barnett suggested we combine #18 & #19 and they were combined (A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by Brent Wile for approval of Mr. Barnett's suggestion). Motion failed. 3-3 (Barnett, Wile, Sayers) & Byers abstained from voting.

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by Anne Kopnitsky in Consideration to approve the June 2023 General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$2,425,343.41, Consideration to approve the Annual Cafeteria Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$914,261.09, Consideration to approve monthly budgetary transfers, Consideration to Retain S&T Bank, First United National Bank, Clarion County Community Bank, PA Invest Program, PLGIT, PSDLAF, and RBC Tim Brogan as depositories, and Consideration to authorize the Business Manager and Local Auditor to make any necessary fund adjustments and Budgetary Transfers so they may complete the year end accounting procedures. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to retain Dr. Carrico as school district dentist for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$4.50 per exam, AND the Consideration to retain Dr. Brandon Doverspike as school district physician for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$15.00 per physical exam. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by Brent Wile for Consideration to approve Josh Temchulla to attend the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Conference in Pittsburgh on November 8-10, 2023. The total cost from Title 2A funds is \$1,290.60. Motion Carried Unanimously

The Consideration to approve the agreement with Jim Jones, Maintenance Supervisor, as presented was skipped over. Later, at the end of the meeting, Jason made it clear as to why they skipped it. They skipped over it because they were waiting on a final agreement to be presented.

A motion was made by Ann Kopnitsky and seconded by Donald Nair for the Consideration to approve Rochelle Reitz as Board Secretary for the 2023-2024 School year. Total cost to the district is \$3,600. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair and seconded by Ann Kopnitsky for Consideration to hire Jackie Hopper as an elementary school teacher at a salary of \$48,745. Total cost to the district is \$63,750.43. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair and seconded by Ann Kopnitsky for Consideration to enter into an MOU with the RV Support Staff for the purpose of adjusting the Head Cook Salary contingent upon agreement with the support staff. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by Heidi Byers for Consideration to approve the resignation of Davey Eggleton effective June 15, 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair and seconded by Ann Kopnitsky for the Consideration to approve the extended medical leave for employee #365. Expected return date is June 30, 2025. Motion Carried Unanimously

Additional items: Bill asked if the board would be willing to hold a meeting at the career center. They agreed that they would be interested in that.

Bill brought up that he was contacted by the commissioners that there is a vacancy on the November election ballot due to Mitch Blose's resignation. There were instructions for how to get on the ballot.

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by Brent Wile to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM.

An executive session was held after the meeting for personnel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Reitz

Rochelle Reitz
Board Secretary