

School Board Work Session  
November 7, 2023

The work session of the Red Bank Valley School District was called to order by Mr. Bill Reddinger at 6:29 p.m. The Following members were in attendance: Ann Kopnitsky, Brent Wile, Heidi Byers, John Kimmell, and Donald Nair. Absent were Jason Barnett, John Sayers and Darren Bain.

Lee Miller, the softball coach, began the meeting with the presentation regarding the softball team going to spring training. The board was presented with an agenda including housing options for the softball team. There will also be an educational component to the trip. Mr. Ryan Sherry, who also coaches, added that professionals will be there to work with the girls throughout the week. In addition, Mr. Miller presented some information regarding the details of the baseball team's trip. The details were not as specific as the softball team so we will be gathering more information on the baseball team's trip prior to the voting meeting.

Next, three students, Mia Narkute, Evelyn Barrett, and Cheyenne Skursky, spoke about being able to wear bandanas and changing the dress code to allow these to be worn to hold hair back. They had a concern and met with Dr. Rupp earlier last month. Dr. Rupp recapped the meeting and reviewed the proposal to change the wording in the dress code part of the handbook to allow headbands around the forehead to hold hair back. The board will consider this proposal.

Mrs. Shirey gave the elementary and secondary report. Working with an organization, she is happy to report that 83 students received new coats. She is very thankful for the generosity. Also, Mrs Shirey is using data to group students for remediation. Teachers will collect additional data and regroup again in the beginning of December. Currently Mrs. Shirey is participating in professional development for the basics of Special Education. Other items to note is that there was a bullying assembly this past month, tutoring began at both elementary schools, and she is thankful for the teachers who are helping out and staying after. Although bus behaviors are going up at the elementary school, in school behaviors are going down. Mrs Shirey attributes that to the work that they are doing as a team with Mrs. Constantino who goes into each classroom to teach different behavior and social skills. All of the adults in the building are using the same vocabulary as the students when addressing appropriate behavior.

Next was the maintenance report. Gene Rapp, the new maintenance supervisor, met with the custodial supplier this week and reviewed inventory. He asked them for an annual bid. He also met with Johnson Controls and walked through the heating and cooling. He had training on the control updates which will help make the system easier to navigate.

David Reitz submitted a report in writing for the cafeteria. Additionally, he spoke of the milk carton shortage. He reported that we are not affected through Turner's Dairy. Gallagher and others are affected, butTurners is working with those other companies to make sure that they have supplies while making sure that their original customers such are not affected.

Dr. Rupp gave the Superintendent's report. She discussed trainer options for the rest of the school year which would include a \$30,000 cost for this year and then options for the following years. This led into a discussion where Mr. Kimmel asked about raising the participation fee. It was discussed and determined that this is not an option as the cost is already \$100 per student. Mrs. Byers asked if this was the only option (this gentleman) and it is for now because trainers are in such short supply. Mr. Wile asked if boosters could help pay for this since they are able to go on spring training. He feels they should be willing to help pay for it. A vote will occur at the next meeting.

Additionally, Dr. Rupp spoke about the Education Foundation and how the community outreach with popcorn and snow cones was successful and brought in about \$240. Also there are plans for the Educational Foundation to sponsor the 50/50 at the home basketball games.

Mrs. Koprinsky gave the IU report. She said since they are short on staffing they put in a referral process and it generated 11 applicants. She also highlighted the fact that the IU is getting a Driver's Ed simulator for students to help them with the transition to driving. Finally, four members of the IU board were honored for leaving after several years of service.

Mrs. Byers reported that the Career Center Open House was November 2nd and 9th grade tours are going to be scheduled for Redbank Valley for November 21, 2023.

The remaining agenda was covered. No other questions were on the agenda. The only change that needs to be made is the proposed meeting calendar for next year. The December meeting needs to be moved to December 3rd for a reorganization meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The Board went into Executive Session for personnel following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rochelle Reitz*

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Board Secretary