

School Board Work Session Meeting September 5, 2023

The work session was called to order by Bill Reddinger. The following members were in attendance: Jason Barnett, Heidi Byers, John Kimmell, Donald Nair, Brent Wile, John Sayers, and Ann Kopnitsky. Absent: Darren Bain

The work session followed the Special Board Meeting.

There were no problems with the minutes.

Mr. Barnett asked for clarification as to when the Executive Meeting for personnel matters would occur and Mr. Reddinger stated it would be after the Work Session Meeting.

Mrs. Shirey presented her board report. She went over events that happened in August. She stated that Back to School night was a huge hit at both elementary schools. People were lined up an hour and a half before the doors opened. She discussed upcoming events in September as listed on her Board Reports.

Mr. Hartle presented his board report. The Teacher in-services were conducted on August 21st and 22nd. 6th grade orientation was held on August 22nd, and students were able to check out their classrooms and lockers at the high school. The Kona Ice Truck was a big hit at the event. School began August 23rd and schedules were made available in homerooms as well as studentVue. The drop/add scheduling time period ended the week of August 28th – Sept. 1st. Online Go Rockets program began on August 29th. The students involved in Go Rockets follow their schedule and not the district schedule. There are full time and single class students. Study halls have been adjusted to accommodate most single class students and told students to go to the office if any issues. The high school also conducted the summer activity workbook. Prizes will be given out at the end of this week. The Health and Physical Education teachers will be certifying all 11th grade students in First Aid/CPR/AED this year. Our goal is to have every student that graduates from our district to be certified in CPR and AED. September is going to be suicide prevention month. Activities are planned through the guidance department. Teachers will meet Sept. 6th for “Freckle”. All Fall sports are in full swing. Mr. Barnett asked what our Spanish program was looking like right now. Mr. Hartle stated that students would be participating in Go Rockets since there is no teacher in the building. Further discussion ensued about the foreign language program. Mr. Hartle said students were acclimating well to the online foreign language program. Mr. Hartle sees Go Rockets as an excellent program for these students and offers great communication with the kids. Go Rockets has added on staff that will remain online until 7pm for students’ needs. Mr. Barnett inquired if Redbank provided any Spanish classes through our district. Mr. Hartle replied that all Spanish classes were strictly through Go Rockets and not the district. Mr. Barnett inquired if the district was planning to look for an in-person teacher. Mr. Hartle further discussed what options were available in this respect. Mr. Barnett continued to express his concerns with not having a foreign language requirement for students in the district and how that may affect them in the future. He would like to keep working towards a better situation than what we have with the foreign language department. No further questions for Mr. Hartle.

Mr. Temchula presented his school board report. August was a very busy month. 15 new IEP students came into the district. Planning, paperwork, and organizing with teachers is going on very quickly to make sure the process goes smoothly for these students. Dr. Rupp and Mr. Temchula received an email from the Department of Education stating that students with disabilities are able to attend school until their 22nd birthday that have an IEP. The previous age of attendance was 21 years old. Mr. Temchula went on to discuss the specifics of this email. No students aged out of Redbank last year under this criteria. Redbank students graduated at 18 and 19 years old. One Key Solutions staff member is leaving the district as of Friday. Another applicant has already been interviewed. Mr. Hartle, Mrs. Shirey, and Mr. Temchula already conducted meetings to get plans in place for the students. There are 179 students with IEP's, 14 early intervention students, 29 students with 504's, and 24 students with gifted IEP's in the district this year. The board questioned if numbers were up or down from last year with the early intervention students. Mr. Temchula stated that the numbers seemed to be around the same for the last couple of years and has been around 12-15. No further questions for Mr. Temchula.

Mr. Jim Jones gave his report. He stated that they had interviewed an individual that morning for the maintenance position. Mr. Barnett raised questions about the placement of the handicap parking spaces as he was approached by an individual about the issue. Further discussion ensued about student parking and handicap parking at the school. Mr. Barnett questioned the legal requirements concerning handicap parking. Dr. Rupp said she will look into this issue. No further questions for Mr. Jones.

Mr. Reitz had nothing to add to his report. He added that he had interviewed some individuals for cafeteria positions. Mr. Barnett had questions whether school lunches were still free and when that program may end. Further discussion ensued about the free lunch program in the district. No further questions for Mr. Reitz.

Mrs. Reitz will present her business manager's report next week.

Dr. Rupp gave her report. The kickoff to the school year was a success. On Facebook, the district is recognizing new staff and students of the week. Dr. Rupp proposed new ways to reach out to the families in the community. She seeks to make things more personalized. She desires to have one on one conversations with families. Dr. Rupp discussed events happening within the community to bring families out in the evening to school events. She also discussed the prospect of letting Redbank Valley staff members attend sporting events for free. She thought staff attendance may help better support our students. Trauma training is the topic of the October 27th Act 80 Day. Neighboring school counselors and outside agencies will be invited to join in on the day. Trauma training is a required activity for the district. We are in the final stages of auditorium repairs. The new screen was finally installed. The last thing we are waiting on is the soundboard. Final payment will be submitted once the soundboard is installed and everything checks out. We are using the remainder of the grant money to replace the rest of the elementary school doors. Dr. Rupp brought up the possibility of vape detectors being installed at the high school. The addition of female wrestling and other sports related information was discussed. Dr. Rupp brought up adding medical equipment to the school/sporting events following the medical incident at the Karns City/Redbank Valley football game this weekend. No further questions for Dr. Rupp.

Matt Darr gave a rundown of sports related information in the district. Information would be organized concerning female wrestling. He considered the possibility of bocce being added as a sport for special needs students. He thinks that this sport would fit very well into the district

financially speaking. Mr. Darr also brought up the medical incident in Karns City this weekend. He talked about what kind of training coaches are required to have to deal with such situations. He discussed what medical coverage the district has available at games for the students. He stated that the visiting school districts sometimes bring a trainer with them to away games. He mentioned the possibility of bringing a trainer/company in for sporting events and what that may entail financially. Mr. Barnett voiced his concerns about bringing in a trainer. Further talk ensued about bringing in a medical professional for sporting events and what kind of insurances would be needed for coverage. Mrs. Kopnitsky was concerned about signing a contract with a traveling trainer because they may be limited to what they could and could not do. She also questions hiring a traveling trainer because they will likely not be aware of specific medical conditions/issues our students may be dealing with. Mr. Darr stated that he would prefer to have an athletic trainer vs. hiring an outside company/individual. Other options were reviewed for medical coverage. Mr. Barnett brought up the possibility of putting an athletic trainer on a teacher salary with benefits to combat the high costs of hiring them at an hourly wage. The trainer situation will be reviewed further at a later date. Mr. Darr mentioned that the "Reading Under the Lights" event is scheduled for September 26th. No further questions for Mr. Darr.

The IU report was given by Ann Kopnitsky. There was discussion on the MOU with the IU. Dr. Rupp said that it is just an estimate and speech hours are over-billed. She stated they over inflated the estimate and would like to get the estimate closer in the future. No further questions for Mrs. Kopnitsky.

Career center report was presented by Heidi Byers. No further questions for Mrs. Byers.

Board Committee reports were presented. The Education Foundation Board has updated the donations that have come in. \$500 was donated from a Porter Township Golf Tournament. An additional \$500 was donated from The Class of 1972. Things are being earmarked for the other \$5000. A lot of the money is likely intended for the Career Center kids. Dr. Rupp intends to get things moving with scholarships so the money can be available to the students. She also discussed potential mini grants for teachers. Mrs. Kopnitsky brought up the possibility of earmarking money for an athletic trainer. She believes that people would donate to that cause.

Board members raised questions about open records policy. The open records officer is the business manager, which are for the right to know requests. The board also discussed questions regarding contract specifics.

Mr. Reddinger asked if there were any questions about the busing contracts. Dr. Rupp stated that the busing contracts would be ready for next week, but they were still being calculated. There is a record number of little buses and vans being used this year. As a public school, we are responsible for busing private school students as well. Mr. Barnett questioned if we were paying state formula for the transportation. Dr. Rupp stated that we were paying over state formula on some of the vans because they were available. Mr. Barnett further discussed the state formula issue with the board. Dr. Rupp stated that the regular bussing is state formula.

Mr. Reddinger asked if there were any questions regarding financial matter items. Mrs. Reitz explained Item #24 in further detail to the board. The director of the Clarion County Tax Bureau contacted the district regarding adjusting taxes due to small items being removed from the properties in the county. The county has to get approval for these tax adjustments from the school board every time one is needed. The Tax Bureau is hoping to streamline this process and get permission from the board to make minor changes without their approval being needed. We

are the last district in the county who requires this approval before a change can be made. The Tax Bureau representative offered to come to the next school board meeting to answer any questions that the board may have. Board discussion ensued as to what the elimination threshold number should be and Mrs. Reitz recommended a threshold of \$100 or less. There were no objections to this amount.

Mr. Reddinger asked if there were any issues with Dr. Harmon's trip to the National World War Two Museum or the field trip scheduled by the Music Department. It was questioned whether passports would be needed for the Music Department trip. Dr. Rupp said that the adults would be required to have them, but as long as the students had tickets to a show, they would not need to have one.

Discussion ensued about the MOU regarding the athletic director position and unit clarification. According to Dr. Rupp, they put an end date of 2028 that we would not file unit clarification until then. It's saving us money to not file the petition. No further action was taken at this meeting.

An executive session followed the work session concerning personnel issues.

Work session was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Reitz

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Board Secretary