

# Regular School Board Meeting

April 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on April 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Redbank Valley High School. The following members were in attendance: Chris Merwin, Heidi Byers, Chris Adams, Kevin Johnson, Bill Reddinger, John Kimmel, John Sayers, and Matt Confer. Brent Wile was absent.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Sayers to approve the minutes of the Work Session on March 5, 2024 and the Board Meeting on March 12, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Kim Turley introduced herself to the school board. She is the auditor currently working with the district. She went on to explain the process that she has been going through with Dr. Rupp and Mrs. Reitz to get the district prepared for this audit. She detailed some small changes that would be made to the audit as it was presented to the board. She discussed some specifics related to the general fund. The balance of the general fund sits at around \$5,000,000 after assets and liabilities. She went into further detail concerning revenue vs. expenses in the district. The district was in the positive for the 22-23 school year. Mrs. Turley discussed the status of the cafeteria fund and where it stands financially. She also reviewed pension plans within the district. The audit is expected to be finalized within the next week. She welcomed the board to ask any questions they may have concerning this audit. She expects the 23-24 audit to be done much sooner next year. She mentioned future AFR deadlines for the district. The board had no questions for Mrs. Turley concerning the report.

Mrs. Shirey presented her report. The primary and intermediate school just wrapped up their Book Blast Program. The program was a major success for the students. The third quarter ended on March 19<sup>th</sup> with report cards following. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders recently participated in the WQED Design Lives Here Challenge at Penn West University. The Kindergarten parents' meeting is April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Kindergarten registration will be held April 16, 17, and 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Shirey considered the Eclipse Watch Party to be a huge success with great participation. No further questions for Mrs. Shirey.

Mr. Hartle presented his report. Departmental meetings were held last month discussing the schedule changes and the class assignments. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ended on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Report cards were made available online. Emily Neiswonger was recognized for singing the National Anthem at the PIAA Championship basketball games in Hershey on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade attended a field trip to Penn West Clarion and the Clarion County Career Center on March 27<sup>th</sup>. "Music in the Schools" month was also celebrated. The guidance department is busy with SAT and ASVAB related activities. The Guidance office began gathering student interest with JH course selections for next school year. Mr. Hartle brought up some STEM awards that were won by students in the district. PSSA testing will take place from April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He commended the students for their work in the high school musical last month. Mr. Darr presented options to the board concerning the athletic trainer position. He elaborated the specifics on each option for the board members. Mr. Sayers questioned if anyone had been contacted concerning track repairs. Discussion ensued concerning the potential repairs. Further talk followed with questions the board had about the trainer position. Mr. Darr feels that making the trainer an RV employee is likely the best route to take. Mr. Hartle began to discuss the course change documents with the school board. He is looking to change the chronological order in which students take science courses. Two different science tracks will be available. They will be referred to as Academic and General. Mr. Hartle went into great detail about the proposed changes to these courses and how they would affect the students. These course changes are being made to adapt to new science standards that are being put in place. Mr. Sayers asked questions concerning instructors for these course changes. Further discussion ensued with the board on how these course changes

would help benefit the students meeting the new standards expected in the future. Mr. Hartle mentioned English and Math course changes that would also be taking place. Additional electives will also be offered. Mr. Hartle aims at getting students more math instruction time to help improve math scores. He answered several questions from the board following his presentation. No further questions for Mr. Hartle.

Mr. Temchulla presented his report. ESY (Extended School Year) NOREPs were sent out to those students that qualify for services. He stated that gifted students from the elementary school came to the high school to prepare for the STEM challenge. The STEM challenge took place on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Redbank completed an Act 80 Day on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Teachers and staff completed classroom and behavior management training. Teacher observations are ongoing and will be completed by May. Mr. Temchulla has met with the special education teacher staff concerning the schedule for next year. They strive to make sure that all students will have the proper classes in place for their needs. No further questions for Mr. Temchulla.

Mr. Rapp presented his report. Lawn maintenance equipment has been serviced and is operational. A mower deck has been installed on the plow mower. This gives us two capable lawn mowers at the high school. Mulching has been completed at the elementary schools. Luton's Plumbing is scheduled to snake out the drains at the elementary schools. If this doesn't work, more extensive work may need to be performed. New nets for the baseball backstop have been installed. Mr. Rapp continues to meet with HVAC services providers. Mr. Sayers offered some questions/comments on the pipe/drain issues. No further questions for Mr. Rapp.

Mr. Reitz had nothing new to add to his report.

Mrs. Reitz gave the Business Manager's Report. The majority of her month has been spent working on the 22-23 audit. As Mrs. Turley stated, the audit is almost complete. Mrs. Reitz still has some journal entries to make. She is currently working on reconciling the software with Mrs. Turley's reports. She will then move on to focus on the audit for the 23-24 school year. All of the audit work has caused a delay in the 24-25 budget. She will be working towards completing the budget. Mrs. Reitz continues to consult with Dale Kirsch on budget matters. The budget for this year seems to be consistent with the numbers from last year. Both revenues and expenses were down slightly. She feels that things are going in a positive direction. No further questions for Mrs. Reitz.

Dr. Rupp gave her report. There are less than 40 days till the end of the year so the district is in the final push for PSSA's, Keystone Exams, and plans for graduation. The graduating senior list will be approved next month. Transition activities will be held for students in grades two and five who will be moving to new buildings next year. April is Disability Awareness Month. Budget prep is in full force. A budget meeting is planned for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. Dr. Rupp brought up the possibility of raising taxes as a means of increasing revenue for the district. She stated that raising taxes to the index will not even cover the personnel raises. Dr. Rupp believes that the board will really need to look at cutting some things to make up for the financial shortfall. The business office is fully staffed again with everyone transitioning into their new roles. Dr. Rupp decided to remove the business with Key Solutions from the agenda due to some wording concerning training. The district is still waiting to hear if we were awarded the competitive safety grant. Mr. Sayers had some questions for Dr. Rupp concerning advertising the district's custodian positions. He would like to see these positions advertised beyond the school's website. He suggested the newspaper or Explore Clarion. Board discussion ensued about the possible costs of advertising these positions. Mr. Johnson asked some questions concerning taxes/budget. Mr. Sayers brought up issues regarding previous discussions about IU funding. No more questions for Dr. Rupp.

Mr. Confer had nothing to add to the Intermediate Report.

Mrs. Byers had nothing to add to the Career Center Report.

Mr. Sayers spoke about the Board Committee Reports. The Building and Grounds Committee met at the Intermediate building last month. He noted that a new generator is needed in the building. The current generator is old and obsolete. He also discussed the issue of asbestos in the building and how a grant would likely be necessary to remedy the issue. He requested that the next committee meeting be moved to May 20<sup>th</sup> at the primary building.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Darr discussed improvements that have been made to the baseball field since the last meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to approve the Career Center 2024-2025 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to approve the Elementary Summer School Program to be held: July 1-July 28, Monday – Thursday 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM at the Primary School Campus and the High School Summer School Program to be held July 1-July 28, Monday –Thursday 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM online. Teachers and instructional aides will be identified and presented to the Board in June. Summer school program will be paid with ESSR Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by Kevin Johnson for consideration to approve the Extended School Year Program to be held July 1-July 28, Monday –Thursday 8:30 am– 11:30 AM at the Primary School and High School. Teachers and instructional aides will be identified and presented to the board in June. Summer school program will be paid with ESSR Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve the updated rates for Go Rockets Cyber School for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Johnson questioned the Go Rockets rates from last year. Mr. Sayers asked further questions concerning the Go Rockets program. He wondered how students are split between PA Cyber School and Go Rockets. Dr. Rupp explained the process. Further financial discussion ensued with the board concerning online schooling.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to adjust the 2023-2024 school calendar to have an early dismissal for students only for the district track meet on May 9<sup>th</sup> and on the last day of school, May 29, 2024 with the final snow make up day will be Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to approve the reorganization and creation of High School courses as presented. Mr. Johnson believed that more information was required on the topic and this item be tabled.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by Chris Merwin to table the reorganization and creation of High School courses as presented.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to approve the March 2024 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to approve March 2024 General Fund expenditures in the amount of \$1,575,503.68. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to approve March 2024 Cafeteria Expenditures in the amount of \$43,729.18. Motion carried unanimously.

**PERSONNEL**

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Kevin Johnson to table the options for the hiring of Luke Kunkel as the Athletic Trainer. Motion carried unanimously. The motion is tabled until after the budget is reviewed and they can see how the district is doing financially.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve extended family medical leave for employee #623 from May 13th to May 30th, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to accept the resignation of Chris Edmonds, JH Soccer Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to hire Jessica McCauley as the Head JH Soccer Coach 50 pts @ \$45.50. Total Cost to district is \$2,275. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion ensued with the board about clearances for coaches.

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to approve the retirement of Pamela Liberato effective June 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS:**

A brief discussion occurred at the end of the meeting between the board members concerning school transportation and the companies that are utilized.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Sayers to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rochelle Reitz*

Rochelle Reitz  
Board Secretary