

School Board Work Session Meeting  
July 2, 2024

A work session of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on Jul 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Redbank Valley High School. The following members were present: Chris Merwin, Heidi Byers, Chris Adams, Kevin Johnson, Bill Reddinger, John Kimmel, John Sayers, Matt Confer, and Brent Wile.

Ms. Shirey presented her board report. In June, she attended the Title meeting and the Headstart meeting. Summer school was planned and is going very well these first days. She went over the parent/student handbook and has presented the changes to the Board. She attended an ACT13 training. She finished all class scheduling for the 2024-25 school year. She is working on the master schedule for elementary to include interventions and specials. She plans to inventory the science materials for the new STEELS standard we will be implementing this coming school year.

Mr. Hartle has 17 students in Summer Credit Recovery courses this summer attending 17 different classes being offered by Redbank this summer. He has been working on the master schedule and has notified teachers of any curriculum or room number changes being made this coming school year. He has made teacher packets for the items that teachers are required to post in their classrooms and has created a google classroom for all other pertinent information the teachers need to have at their fingertips at the click of a button. He and Mr. Hicks have been working towards finding solutions for getting the 11 students into the Clarion County Career Center who could not fit into the AM classes because the classes were full. Of those 11 original students who were put on a waiting list: 3 spots opened up allowing those 3 students to attend morning classes, 5 students were offered a PM spot at a cost to the district (of which 2 students have agreed to attend in the PM), 3 students are not sure yet if PM class is for them, and 3 students have decided to remain on the AM waiting list for the Career Center. The cost of transporting up to 9 students on a van to the career center is \$36,000. The Administration team analyzed ACT80 days and put together a schedule of speakers for the first 3 days and will continue to work on content for the remaining ACT80 days as they come closer. Dr Rupp and Mr. Hartle were approved to receive a Grant for MATHstream by Carnegie Learning to help improve middle school math progress. He explained the benefits of the new program and how it will help when a substitute teacher is not certified in teaching a math class. This program will give resources to play videos teaching kids the concepts among other tools. He was able to go over his parent/student handbook and submitted changes for board approval. He reported PSSA Test scores were in and will be reviewed soon. The Go Rockets program is reaching out to all of our current students enrolled in outside cyber to try and bring them back into the district using our home cyber program. John Sayers asked Mr Hartle if we knew how many students will be cyber for 2024-25. Mr Hartle and Dr Rupp shared that we will not know for sure until closer to the school year. Kevin asked about costs associated with sending students to the career center for PM Classes and what challenges we face to get them there. Mr Hartle said that these are only offered to 10th grade students who could not get a spot in the AM classes. He mentioned those students would have to take an online English class to make it work. John

Sayers asked if we allowed students to self transport if it opened up the district to liability issues if a student were to be in an accident while traveling to the career center for classes. Dr Rupp said we would have an agreement signed by the parents/student releasing RVSD of liability.

Mr. Temchulla gave his special education report. He has 2 para-educator positions needing filled for the 2024-25 school year. He met with the auditor and has documented improvement plans. The state confirmed everything is okay and will wrap up the audit. Kevin asked if the board can review the audit. Josh and Amy said they will have the results printed for the board to review at the next board meeting.

Mr. Rapp gave his maintenance report. Floor maintenance will be completed mid-July. Exhaust fans were repaired which proved very time consuming. Electric motors were repaired instead of being replaced which was a huge cost savings to the district. Parking lot repairs are slated for mid-July. Repairs and maintenance of the Athletic Field will be done this month as well including liming the field and applying grape juice. John Sayers stated we needed to be sure we are scheduling the parking lot repairs early so we can get on the schedule for summer of 2025. Mr. Sayers also said it would probably save the district money if we re-paved all 3 campuses instead of one at a time. Dr. Rupp agreed saying that we should be making calls in December or January. Gene also reported that he had the bids for the parking lot repairs broken into segments in case we cannot afford to do all of it at once. Kevin asked if the district maintenance staff would be repairing the parking lot this year and Gene said yes.

The Cafeteria Report will be deferred to the next meeting.

The Business Manager Report Summary was deferred to the next meeting.

Dr. Rupp gave her Superintendent Report. They interviewed for the music teacher position and are prepared to present a name to the board at the July 9th meeting. She passed a folder around with the candidate's information for the board to review. They have also chosen a 200 day secretary for the high school and a paraprofessional. They are again holding interviews for the school nurse position because Alex Hetrick turned in her resignation due to health issues. Dr. Rupp met with Johnson Controls regarding the ongoing issues with the AC unit and they have decided the real issue is the duct work/fire alarm system the district uses. They are contacting Simplex, who is owned by Johnson Controls, to have them come in to get that issue fixed. She went over the service contract with Johnson Controls. She reported on the environmental grant and said that asbestos removal would cost much less than we originally expected and if we get the grant our portion of expenses would not exceed \$75,000.

Matt Confer gave his IU report. He was happy to report that the IU hired Stacy Blair as their Special Education Superintendent. Stacy is a Redbank Valley Graduate.

Heidi and Kevin met with the CCCC. Nothing new to report.

Board committee report: nothing new to report.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Kristen Landers, Elementary Computer Teacher, made a plea to the school board to please consider making a change to the handbook regarding elementary school students being forced to take home their Chromebooks nightly. Discussion was had on her research and that she contacted all of her elementary classroom teacher colleagues who report they do not send homework home that requires the use of Chromebooks. She discussed that parents have requested that the students leave them at school because the devices are heavy. There has also been damage to the Chromebooks and parents not taking responsibility for repairs. She said it's written in the handbook that students would take them nightly, and she is asking that we change that. She also reported that she has gotten pushback from the tech department any time she asks if they can work towards this goal. Kevin asked if we have the capability to charge them all at the school and Dr. Rupp said they would have to check with the tech department and maintenance department to make sure we don't blow breakers, and to make sure we can safely charge/house all of the Chromebooks. Mr. Reddinger asked the Administration if they check with their staff before making handbooks for feedback on making changes. Both Ms. Shirey and Mr. Hartle said yes and that it was just an oversight. Mr. Hartle agrees 6th and 7th grades should not be taking Chromebooks home because he is having the same issues at the High School. Mr. Johnson reminded the Board that the tech department should remember it is there to serve the needs of the students and staff and not dictate. Mr. Sayers asked if we changed the handbook to say students would not take Chromebooks home if it would hinder a student who wished to take it home? Ms. Shirey answered that it would not. Mr. Confer asked if we should just leave it up to each building? Mr. Hartle asked if the district was okay with paying the additional electric needed to charge all of these Chromebooks. Dr. Rupp said she would have a meeting of the minds to find the safest way to do this. Roddy reported that if we do this it would help with our standardized testing as the biggest issue is dead Chromebooks. Kevin asked how much a tech cart cost and Dr. Rupp reported approximately \$1,200 each. Discussion ended and Dr. Rupp asked that each admin bring their final changes to the next board meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No questions

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Board discussed the Johnson Control Service Agreement, and that it includes service hours that you use or lose. Mr. Rapp says he will keep track. Mr. Johnson asked if this agreement was for one year. Mr. Rapp agreed.

Discussion was had about several changes to the secondary handbook. Mr. Merwin told Mr. Hartle that he would likely get pushback on the drink vessel change. Admin all agreed it will be a challenge at the beginning but consistency was key. Mr. Hartle disclosed that the biggest need for the change was because kids were bringing in Vapes to school hidden in the ice inside their cups.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:** No questions

**PERSONNEL:** The question was asked if the price was raised this year. Dr Carrico went up because we were the lowest paying school. John Sayers chimed in with praise for Macie Boozer, telling of how good a job she is doing as secretary. Roddy also commented on her doing a great job. Dr. Rupp explained why additional duties were being added to the secretary job description.

**ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS:**

Mr. Adams brought up for discussion allowing graduated students as volunteer coaches. Matt Darr said he spent hours online looking for our board policy where it might say that a person must be 21 or older to become a coach for Redbank. Dr. Rupp said she would look into it. Mr. Merwin said we would be crazy to turn away such talented athletes. Brent Wile expressed a desire to have the young adults possibly volunteer at the Youth sports levels before coming up to high school coaching to gain experience. Matt Darr recommends we only accept graduates under 21 as a volunteer and not a paid coach as a volunteer cannot be alone with students, and a paid coach could be. Mr. Hartle agreed. It was reiterated that these volunteers would not be eligible for any compensation if a coach decided to split up his/her pay at the end of the season.

Mr. Merwin discussed receiving an email with a request for board meeting recordings to be posted on the website for the public to access. Mrs. Byers asked if there is any reason we wouldn't want to do that. Mr. Kimmel said it's public record if someone requested a Right To Know we would have to send it to them without delay. Kevin weighed in that our website needed an overhaul and suggested we consider making it more user friendly. Dr. Rupp stated that she had also noticed changes needing made and sent an email to Mr. Cserr to work on this summer. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Confer also noted upgrading our current microphone system for board meetings might be necessary for good recordings.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:03pm. The board went into executive session and the meeting was adjourned.

*Rochelle Reitz*

Board Secretary