

## Regular School Board Meeting

June 11, 2024

A regular meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on June 11, 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, Matt Confer, and Brent Wile.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by John Sayers to approve the minutes of the Work Session/Special Board Meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> and the Regular Board Meeting on May 14, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Shirey had nothing to add to her report.

Mr. Hartle had nothing to add to his report.

Mr. Temchulla had nothing to add to his report.

Mr. Rapp had nothing to add to his report. Dr. Rupp mentioned that the air conditioning in the auditorium had been successfully repaired.

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

Mrs. Reitz gave the Business Manager's Report. She stated that the 22-23 audit has been completed. The AFR has also been revised and submitted. Everything for the budget has been completed for the 24-25 school year. The tax information has been sent to the assessment offices. She will be reconciling the 23-24 accounts and then working on the budgetary transfers for the next board meeting. Dale Kirsch is coming to Redbank on Monday (6/24/24) to assist with this and hopefully will continue to come to help her get caught up and make sure everything is being done correctly for 2024-2025. She went on to discuss revenue and expenditures with the Board. Mr. Merwin asked some questions concerning the budgetary numbers/potential new hires on the agenda.

Dr. Rupp added to the Superintendent Report. She mentioned that she had received an email concerning the schools facilities grant. The email stated that the parking lot project was not within the guidelines because it did not fit in the footprint of the building. Since the parking lot project is not available for funding, she chose to proceed with roofing quotes in an effort to still benefit from this grant.

Mr. Confer had nothing to add to the IU6 Report.

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

Dr. Rupp added to the Board Committee Reports. She stated that the Education Foundation had met the previous night. The family movie night will be held tomorrow night (6/12/23). She spoke of other potential fundraisers for the Education Foundation. No further questions for Dr. Rupp.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Matt Darr spoke about the resignation of the varsity baseball coach, Craig Hibell. He feels like it is a huge loss to the district. He talked about the tremendous job that Mr. Hibell and his staff have done over the last several years. Mr. Darr wanted to thank him for all of his hard work while involved in this role.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to approve the first reading of the following policies:

222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products

227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia

323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products

351 – Controlled Substance Abuse

707 – Use of School Facilities

903 – Public Comment in Board Meetings; Motion passed unanimously for all policies.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve the advertisement for bids for the Mahoning property with a \$5000 reserve and for the buyer to pay all closing costs. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #13A - Consideration to approve the costs associated with removal and installation of new bleachers in the auxiliary gymnasium. Estimated cost: \$50,000. Motion dies due to lack of first or second motion.

Item #13B - Consideration to approve the costs associated with replacing the generator at the Intermediate school. Estimated cost: \$40,000. Motion dies due to lack of first or second motion.

Item #13C - Consideration to approve the costs associated with replacing the generator at the High School. Estimated cost: \$36,000. Motion dies due to lack of first or second motion.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by Heidi Byers for consideration to approve the costs associated with adding railings to the steps on the bleachers at the athletic field. The board discussed the possible cost of this project. Mr. Sayers emphasized ADA compliance. Mr. Merwin stated that he'd like to see a total cost before any action. Motion Failed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by Brent Wile to table the consideration to approve the costs associated with adding railing to the steps on the bleacher at the athletic field. Motion carried unanimously.

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by Kevin Johnson for consideration to approve the May 2024 Treasurer's Report, May 2024 General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$1,516,720.27, the transfer of \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve account, and to approve the May 2024 Cafeteria Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$32,722.66. Mr. Johnson asked about the \$250,000 Capital Reserve account, and Dr. Rupp explained it was the recommendation of Dale Kirsch from PASBO. (Agenda Items #14, 15, 15A, 16)

John Kimmel made an amendment to his motion, which was seconded by Kevin Johnson, to remove item #15A from that original motion.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by Kevin Johnson for consideration to approve the May 2024 Treasurer's Report, May 2024 General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$1,516,720.27, and the May 2024 Cafeteria Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$32,722.66. Motion carried unanimously. (Agenda Items #14, #15, #16)

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to transfer \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Account. Motion carried unanimously. (Agenda Item #15A)

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to approve the tax rate for the 2024-2025 school year with a 0% tax increase.

Armstrong County – 35.94 mils

Clarion County – 45.6 mils

Tax rates for the 2024-2025 school year are as follows:

Section 511 per capita for the following townships, municipalities: \$10.00 per head - Redbank Township (Armstrong), Madison Township, Monroe Township, and Mahoning Township.

Section 511 per capita for the following townships, municipalities: \$5.00 per head - Hawthorn Borough, New Bethlehem Borough, Porter Township, Redbank Township (Clarion), and South Bethlehem Borough.

Section 679 per capita for the following townships and municipalities: \$5.00 per head - Oak Hall; Monroe Township per capita - \$15.00 per head. Occupational Tax - \$10.00 per head; Earned income tax - .5%; Real Estate Transfer tax - .5% Motion Failed (4-5 vote; Adams, Kimmel, Confer, Reddinger, and Sayers with dissenting votes)

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve the tax rate for the 2024-2025 school year with a 3% tax increase.

Armstrong County – 36.92 mils

Clarion County – 46.84 mils

Tax rates for the 2024-2025 school year are as follows:

Section 511 per capita for the following townships and municipalities: \$10.00 per head - Redbank Township (Armstrong), Madison Township, Monroe Township, and Mahoning Township.

Section 511 per capita for the following townships and municipalities: \$5.00 per head - Hawthorn Borough, New Bethlehem Borough, Porter Township, Redbank Township (Clarion), and South Bethlehem Borough.

Section 679 per capita for the following townships and municipalities: \$5.00 per head - Oak Hall; Monroe Township per capita - \$15.00 per head; Occupational Tax- \$10.00 per head; Earned Income Tax - .5%; Real Estate Transfer Tax - .5%. Motion carried (5-4 vote; Merwin, Byers, Johnson, and Wile with dissenting votes)

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to adopt the 2024-2025 proposed final budget in the amount of **\$22,583,783**. Motion carried; (7-2 vote. Byers and Johnson with dissenting votes)

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve the Homestead/Farmstead Resolution for the 2024-2025 school year at 3%. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Kimmel mentioned that this motion potentially offsets the tax increases for some individuals.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to approve a commitment of 50% of the total amount of the grant disbursement should Redbank Valley acquire the environmental grant for the asbestos abatement costs. \$125,000 has been included in the budgetary reserves for the 24-25 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to set the penalty percentages for tax payments as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Installment – 8/31/2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Installment – 9/30/2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Installment – 10/31/2024

Last day to pay tax collector is 12/31/2024.

Between 11/1 and 12/31, there is a 10% penalty assessed. Motion carried unanimously.

**PERSONNEL**

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to hire Trista Truitt as a summer school aide at an hourly rate of 11.37/hour. Total cost is **\$570.13**, to be paid with ESSER funds. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to renew the contract with KeySolutions as presented for the employment of instructional aides. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to renew the contract with KeySolutions as presented for the employment of a behavior specialist. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Chris Merwin and seconded by Kevin Johnson for consideration to renew the contract with SPERO GROUP as presented for the employment of two mental health workers. Total cost will be paid through grant funds. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Kimmel for the consideration to hire Alexandra Hetrick as a school nurse at a salary of **\$51,509**. Total cost to the district is **\$67,102.99**. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Kimmel for the consideration to hire Dana Weiser as a Spanish Teacher at a salary of **\$66,654**. Total cost to the district is **\$103,997.79**. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #28 to approve the transfer of Macie Boozer from High School Secretary to Primary School Secretary beginning on August 7, 2024 was scratched from the agenda.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by John Sayers for the consideration to accept the resignation of Craig Hibell, Head Baseball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Chris Merwin and seconded by Kevin Johnson for the consideration to renew the contract with Luke Kunkel, for the 24-25 school year for Athletic Training services at \$40.00 per hour, an average of 6 hours per day for a total cost to the district not to exceed \$50,000. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by John Sayers for the consideration to accept the resignation of Brittany Weaver as Student Council Co-Advisor. Kira Voris will become the Student Council Advisor. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Sayers for the consideration to approve granting permission to the Superintendent to advertise and post vacancies as they become available over the summer. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by John Kimmel for the consideration to approve the Act 93 agreement with the Principals and Special Education Director as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Kimmel for the consideration to approve the agreement with the Food Service Director as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board members discussed Agenda Items #35 - #38 and the priority level of each item.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Matt Confer for the consideration to advertise and hire an elementary music teacher. Estimated annual cost to the district is **\$92,260.33**. Motion carried; (5-4 vote. Adams, Kimmel, Reddinger, and Sayers with dissenting votes)

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Kevin Johnson to table Agenda Items #36, #37, and #38 until a further meeting:

Agenda #36: Consideration to advertise and hire a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Estimated annual cost to the district is **\$92,260.33**. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda #37: Consideration to advertise and hire a full time custodian. Estimated annual cost to the district is **\$48,443.14**. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda #38: Consideration to advertise and hire a K-12 Assistant Principal. Estimated annual cost to the district is **\$119,008.81**. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS:** The board went into further discussion concerning budget numbers/costs. The Expenditure amount for the 2024-2025 budget amount was approved under Agenda Item #18, which included the \$500,000 in additional costs added to the Agenda. Mr. Kimmel brought up that the cyber school costs will increase with an over inflated budget if we don't decrease it by the items that were tabled.

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Brent Wile for the consideration to amend item #18 on the agenda to \$22,198,071. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by John Kimmel to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rochelle Reitz*

Rochelle Reitz  
Board Secretary