

## School Board Work Session Meeting March 5, 2024

The work session was called to order by Bill Reddinger. The following members were in attendance: Chris Merwin, Heidi Byers, John Sayers, Kevin Johnson, Matt Confer, Chris Adams, John Kimmel, and Brent Wile.

Mrs. Shirey presented her board report. She stated that the countywide in-service day was a success. There was a lot of great feedback from the teachers. The PTO hosted the very first elementary Snowball Dance. It took place at the Leatherwood Church Hall with about 250 students in attendance. It turned out to be a wonderful event and Mrs. Shirey was thankful that the PTO hosted it. A tech committee has been formed at the elementary school. They will work together to ensure a successful tech program for the students. March 5<sup>th</sup> was the official launch of the Book Blast. Mrs. Shirey thought this program was important to bring into the school since the district no longer has a library. The Book Blast event was at no cost to the district. The elementary students will be coming to the high school to watch a presentation of The Wizard of Oz on next Friday. Mrs. Shirey stated that they are preparing for the students to take their PSSA tests in April. A “Knock It Out of the Park” event is being planned to motivate the kids for the PSSA testing. Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. Shirey to further elaborate on the tech committee. Mrs. Shirey stated that many of the Chromebooks have been damaged because of various reasons. She also said that the kids are often finding ways around filters that are placed on the computers and are looking at inappropriate things. She mentioned a number of other issues. She is working with other members of the committee to best navigate the situations that have been popping up. Mrs. Byers asked Mrs. Shirey if parents were notified if children were using the Chromebooks inappropriately. Mrs. Shirey said that parents were notified of this behavior and Chromebook privileges could be revoked if necessary. No further questions for Mrs. Shirey.

Mr. Hartle presented his board report. Sixth grade participated in drug and alcohol lessons on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Third quarter midterms were February 14<sup>th</sup>. Progress reports were made available to parents online. The faculty meeting this month was focused on student and teacher issues in the building. Mr. Hartle discussed details of the in-service day at the high school level. One band student was selected for district band and three students were selected for regional band. An admin meeting was held to discuss the budget. Mr. Hartle also discussed some events taking place with the guidance office. There have been 65 SAP referrals and four new students. Twenty students are in the school-based therapy. Mr. Hartle feels like there are many new and positive things coming up with the guidance department. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Hartle questions about data that was being presented. Mr. Sayers asked if these four new students in the district were from cyber school, home school, or if they were new to the area. Mr. Hartle stated that he believed they were new to the area, but that one may be from cyber school. He said that the guidance department would better know the answer to that. No further questions for Mr. Hartle.

Mrs. Shirey and Mr. Hartle went on to do a presentation about testing results in the district. Our scores were better than several of the districts in the IU, but there is room for improvement overall. Teachers are going out of their way to find ways to improve these scores by going to trainings and workshops. Our teachers are very dedicated in improving instruction quality. Math scores seem to be low in several of the grade levels. The district will be looking into adding more math instruction time into the curriculum next year. Mr. Hartle is also concerned about

student effort on these tests. An extensive discussion ensued with the board about these results. They discussed pathways to improve the scores and what actions are needed to be taken to better prepare students for these tests.

Mr. Temchulla presented his school board report. He stated that he recently attended a PDE webinar. He discussed doing transition surveys for graduating seniors. These surveys are normally done in a paper format, but the state is now looking to do these surveys online. The Integrated Monitoring System on one of the PA websites helps track and monitor students' transitions from high school to the real world. He stated that he was involved with Dr. Seuss week at the elementary schools. The PTO played a big part in organizing the event. They had prizes and giveaways for all the kids. Paperwork went out for students who qualify for ESY. This would take place in July. Mr. Temchulla will be looking to gather information and get feedback about who may be attending this summer. He is also looking to get teachers lined up to teach those classes. The gifted department is doing a Math 24 Challenge at the IU on May 8<sup>th</sup>. A few teachers from the elementary will be going up to assist the kids. Several high school teachers will also be involved. No further questions for Mr. Temchulla.

Mr. Rapp gave his report. He updated the board on several different inspections that had taken place over the last month. District insurance provider Burns & Burns completed their yearly building and grounds inspection with minimal violations. Most of the violations have already been corrected. Playground issues will be corrected when the weather permits. Johnson Controls completed their HVAC install in the auditorium. Everything is working properly. All of the track and field equipment has been put out and set up. The Ag Department is going to perform soil tests on the football field. Mr. Rapp hopes that the testing will help us grow better grass. He also contacted Hager Paving to see about getting some quotes about the parking lot and main drive areas. Mr. Sayers asked some questions concerning the new HVAC system. No further questions for Mr. Rapp.

Mr. Reitz presented his board report. He stated that there is a 76% lunch participation with the students. This number is an improvement from last year. He discussed his involvement in the Farm to School Institute and stated that he would be attending a Webinar tomorrow concerning this topic. He is excited about the potential of this program. No further questions for Mr. Reitz.

Mrs. Reitz was away at the PASBO Conference so no Business Manager's Report is available.

Dr. Rupp gave her report. The district is accepting applications for the position in the business office. Three candidates are going to be interviewed for the position. Dr. Rupp will be attending two conferences in April. She brought up Agenda Item # 16 to the board. She discussed the comparison of outsourcing vs. hiring in-house. The cost savings for the district is in the insurance. Mr. Sayers asked Dr. Rupp questions concerning this contract with Interstate Maintenance. He was questioning the district's ability to get out of the contract, if necessary, and if there would be fees involved for breaking the contract. Dr. Rupp had discussions about this and believes they wouldn't be locked in to the contract if better options came along. No further questions for Dr. Rupp.

The IU6 Report was presented. Mr. Johnson stated that the board must vote to approve their budget. Redbank has one of the lowest contributions out of all the districts. No further questions.

The Career Center Report was presented by Mrs. Byers. The Career Center is looking at possibly looking at replacing its roof. They will be researching a grant called the Public School Facility Improvement Grant in order to cover this replacement. Further discussion ensued with the board on how this roof replacement/grant may affect Career Center Funding. No further questions for Mrs. Byers.

Mr. Matt Darr gave a presentation concerning the status of sports and extracurricular in the district. He thinks that participation numbers are very strong across the board. He highlighted the recent accomplishments of the athletic teams. He spoke highly of the kids and coaches involved in these programs. He brought up the reoccurring topic of going into a co-op with other school districts. He discussed his thoughts on the matter. Mr. Sayers questioned if the playoff games over the weekend would be televised. He stated that RV Live would cover the game with assistance from sponsorships in the community to cover the fee associated with them.

#### Old Business:

Mr. Merwin brought up an issue with the language of Policy #916. He saw a concern with how this policy was worded concerning the arrest and conviction requirements for position and guest volunteers.

Dr. Rupp made a brief explanation to the board concerning the tax waiver procedure in Item #17.

#### Financial Matters:

Dr. Rupp stated that they are working on the general budget for next year. Mrs. Reitz will be prepared next week to talk more about the planning of that.

#### Additional Board Items:

The board discussed potential improvements on the Little League/softball field facilities.

#### Public Comments:

Mr. Darr mentioned that tickets for the weekend's basketball games would only be available online. Information is on the Redbank Valley Facebook page on how to purchase the tickets.

Work session was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rochelle Reitz*

Rochelle Reitz  
Board Secretary