

School Board Work Session Meeting September 3, 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, Chris Adams, Brent Wile, and Matt Confer.

Mrs. Shirey presented her report. She recently attended an online Go Rockets meeting pertaining to the upcoming school year. In-service days were held August 14, 15, and 20th for the teachers. Back to School night was held for the students on August 20th. This was followed by the first day of school on August 21st. An informational meeting was recently held with all of the district bus drivers. Title I School Plans are nearly complete for the district. She then spoke of upcoming events occurring in September such as the Primary/Intermediate Picture Day, a PTO Meeting, and the Reading Under the Lights event. She discussed the STEELS curriculum mapping that was taking place at the IU. Fire/Weather Drills will also be conducted with the students at each of the buildings. She mentioned that only one discipline issue was written up in August. She feels like it has been a wonderful start to the school year for the Primary/Intermediate Buildings. No further questions for Mrs. Shirey.

Mr. Hartle presented his report. Teacher in-service days were held August 14, 15, and 20th. Topics presented those days included threat assessment, Homelessness, ELL, Conflict Management, Deescalation, CPR, Synergy Analytics, Title IX updates, Depth of Knowledge, and Student Performance Measures. Sixth Grade Orientation/Welcome Back Night was held August 15th. Families/incoming students were welcomed to tour the school, find/decorate lockers, and meet teachers. Mr. Hartle emphasized the importance for parents/students to become familiar with the ParentVue/StudentVue system. The schedule drop/add period ended for the students on August 30th. The Go Rockets program began for students on August 27th. There are 15 full-time Go Rockets students. There are an additional 10 single class students in the program. The Student Assistance Program (SAP) began on August 29th. September is going to be recognized as Suicide Prevention Month. A suicide prevention walk will be held in Clarion on September 4th. 18 new students have been enrolled in the high school while 20 withdrew for the 24-25 school year. Mr. Hartle talked about the new ice rule in the district. Families were emailed concerning the issue. He brought up the upcoming schedule for the CDT and Star testing for the students. All Fall sports are in full swing and he encouraged everyone to come out and support the athletes. Mr. Sayers asked Mr. Hartle some questions regarding cyber school attendance numbers. Further discussion occurred with the board about these numbers and other cyber issues the district is facing. No further questions for Mr. Hartle.

Mr. Temchulla presented his report. CPI recertification training for the paraprofessionals took place in August. He spoke of working with Mrs. Neiswonger on specialized transportation plans for students for the 24-25 school year. He mentioned that the Special Education Department was fully staffed for the beginning of school. He talked of the planning and organizing of the 504, IEP, and evaluation meetings for the first month of the school year. All 504 plans have been completed for the students. The Special Education Department and School Psychologist are reviewing and planning timelines for the start of the school year. He mentioned meeting

with Mrs. Shirey concerning the planning for the upcoming Spelling Bee. Last year's event was a huge success with great family attendance. No further questions for Mr. Temchulla.

Mr. Rapp did not present his report. Dr. Rupp offered an update to the pipe repair that took place underneath the school. She spoke of the maintenance department keeping busy around the school district with different tasks. No further questions.

Mr. Reitz presented his report. He discussed cafeteria financial numbers with the board. No further questions for Mr. Reitz.

Mrs. Reitz will present her board report next week.

Dr. Rupp gave her report. She feels like the kickoff to the 24-25 school year was a success. The 180 Days of Learning program is underway for the district. We are recognizing new staff/students of the week on the district Facebook page. Teachers are submitting photos highlighting classroom activities with the students. She began discussing grant opportunities with the board. The current mental health/security grant is pending. She presented four options to the board on how this money could be spent. They are as follows:

Option A: High school Social Worker (\$71K) and Elementary Security (\$50K)

Option B: High School Social Worker (\$71K), Bollards (\$50K)

Option C: Bollards (\$50K), Fencing (\$15K) and Elementary Security (\$50K)

Option D: Security personnel at both buildings (\$100K) and fencing at the Intermediate Building (\$15K)

She noted that the grant paperwork was due at the end of September. She just needed clarity from the board about which option to submit. She then discussed the Ready to Learn Block Grant. This grant is used for Kindergarten teachers' salaries. There is also an allowable expense for world languages so the foreign language teacher's salary would also be covered under this grant. She then discussed the specifics of the consolidated grant with the board. This grant offsets the salaries of the Title 1 teachers and their benefits. The environmental and facilities grants are still pending. The board began an in-depth discussion about the four options for the mental health/security grant. A long conversation was held about security guards/safety in the district buildings. Dr. Rupp mentioned to the board that the first Strategic Planning meeting was held on September 3rd. She also stated that the Clarion County Superintendents met to plan the countywide professional development in February. She said it was a good way to share ideas through the local schools. No further questions for Dr. Rupp.

Mr. Confer had nothing to add to the IU6 Report. He mentioned that the IU was fully staffed. This was the first time in awhile that they have not had any vacancies open. No further questions for Mr. Confer.

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

Old Business: Several of the board members had questions about the policies on the agenda. Mr. Sayers inquired if any new information was available concerning improving the video equipment for streaming the school board meetings. Dr. Rupp stated that she was still looking into the cost associated with the upgrade. Mr. Merwin questioned if the meetings could be held in the auditorium since audio equipment is already in place. Mr. Sayers mentioned an instance where this was done before and that the audio for the meetings didn't turn out well. Several members of the board agreed that this option should be further looked into.

New Business: The board discussed several of the new policies on the agenda. Three policies (103, 103.1, 104) were removed for consideration until the October meeting.

Financial Matters: Mr. Johnson asked some questions concerning the Treasurer's report.

Personnel: A brief discussion ensued with the board about substitute cafeteria workers and their hourly wage.

Additional Board Items: Mrs. Byers requested that a motion be added to the agenda concerning going to an "at large" district regarding the school board member election process. The board discussed this idea in depth. Several members were concerned with areas of the district getting proper representation on the board if this type of process was used. Mr. Johnson thought that this method may make empty seats easier to fill since there will be a larger pool of people available. Further research will be done on the topic. Mr. Confer was recently approached by a member of the community concerning excessive bus travel times for some of the students. Dr. Rupp discussed all of the construction ongoing in the area. She also suggested that the individual contact Mrs. Neiswonger to further discuss this issue and look for a resolution.

Public Comments: None

The work session was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. with an executive session to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Reitz

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Board Secretary