

Redbank Valley School Board Work Session Meeting
Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024
6:30pm
Redbank Valley High School Library

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

Mrs. Shirey presented her report. The Veteran's Day program was very well attended. She spoke about recently taking part in a principal's meeting at the Intermediate Unit. She also attended a STEELS curriculum mapping training at the IU with a 3rd and 4th grade teacher. The mid-quarter ended on November 22nd and an email was sent to all parents. Jim Travis was recently honored for being a bus driver for 50 years. She mentioned several events that are on the calendar for the month of December. The PTO will be sponsoring Christmas crafts for the students. There will be a storytelling night at the Primary building. The Elementary Chorus will be presenting their Christmas concerts. The PTO will also be sponsoring a Christmas shop for the students. The High School band and choir will be performing at each of the Elementary buildings. High School students will also be reading original stories to primary students. She spoke highly of the recent girls' wrestling presentation that was held. Matt Confer began a discussion about the substitute shortage in the district. Mrs. Shirey gave her thoughts on the shortage issue. The Board then discussed the teacher attendance/absentee rates. They also talked about ways to possibly draw more substitutes into the district. The Board is considering a policy concerning teacher attendance in order to remedy the substitute issue. No further questions for Mrs. Shirey.

Mr. Hartle presented his report. The Go Rockets program has seventeen full-time students and eight single class students currently enrolled. Six failing students will be encouraged to return to in-person learning after the completion of the quarter. A faculty meeting was held on November 5th with several topic areas being covered. Department, parent communication, and grade level meetings continued this month. On November 11th, the FFA conducted a Veteran's Day assembly/luncheon. The Guidance Department is continuing to offer FAFSA opportunities for students and families. On November 25th, the ninth grade students visited the Career Center. Mr. Hartle mentioned several recent achievements of Dr. Harmon. He also mentioned that the winter sports season began on November 15th. Mr. Sayers questioned if any students had switched from cyber school to in-person learning. Mr. Johnson had some questions about the discipline report/suspension numbers on the report. No further questions for Mr. Hartle.

Mr. Temchulla presented his report. He spoke about state reporting for the Special Education Child Count. He went into detail about what takes place during this process. He will be providing a professional development IEP course for all Special Education teachers during the Act 80 day on January 13th. He will also be attending the Special Education IU6 contact meeting on December 6th. He continues to attend IEP meetings with teachers in all three of the buildings. They are tracking dates and monitoring timelines for evaluations and IEP's. Teacher observations, walk throughs, and evaluations continue for the current school year. The Child Study process was completed November 12th at both elementary buildings. This will continue to happen once a month involving teachers, Special Education teachers, and the school

Psychologist. The district's spelling bee will tentatively begin on January 6th-9th. The district wide contest will be held on January 16th. No further questions for Mr. Temchulla.

Mr. Rapp presented his report. Winterization has been completed on the sprinkler systems and other equipment. An aerator has been ordered in an effort to maximize the fertilizer and lime applications on the athletic field. The greenhouse has recently had some problems with its heating and ventilation. An electrician will be coming in to assess the situation. Mr. Rapp is researching boiler maintenance companies. He feels like the rates with the current company are getting out of hand. The maintenance department is making an effort to complete some repairs in-house in order to save some money. The Board discussed the current state/age of the boilers. No further questions for Mr. Rapp.

Mr. Reitz didn't have anything to add to his report. He stated that November was a short handed month. No further questions for Mr. Reitz.

Mrs. Reitz will present her Board report next week.

Dr. Rupp gave her report. Student, staff, and parent climate surveys were distributed the week before Thanksgiving. More data will be provided at the January 14th meeting. An overview of standardized testing scores will also be available at next month's meeting. Dr. Rupp will be reading "The Nutcracker" to all Elementary students this month. She will also be demonstrating how to make caramel apples to the Family Consumer Science classes on December 19th. The RFP for the bollards and fencing will be sent out on December 9th with a bid opening on January 15th. Board approval will follow on January 21st. Parent/teacher conferences will be held on the district's in-service day on January 13th. She spoke about the Superintendent meeting that took place at the PennWest University today (12/3). She saw it as a very positive experience. She looks forward to keeping a good relationship with the University. Mr. Confer asked some questions about the fencing. The Board further discussed the fencing specifications. No further questions for Dr. Rupp.

Mr. Confer had nothing to add to the IU6 Report. He briefly discussed an IU6 employee that had resigned due to a child exploitation case. Dr. Rupp emphasized that the person did not work with our district.

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

Public Comments: None

Board Committee Reports: Mr. Sayers stated that a Grounds Committee meeting will be held sometime in January at the Primary Building.

Old Business: None

New Business: Dr. Rupp further discussed the policy readings that are on the agenda in Item 13. The Board asked her several questions about these policies. The Board also briefly spoke about Item 14 and talked about where future Board meetings should be held. They also mentioned possibly upgrading the audio equipment to offer people a better streaming experience while listening to the meetings.

Financial Matters: None

Personnel: Mr. Darr spoke about the recent coaching resignations in the district.

Additional Board Items: Mrs. Byers questioned if any progress had been made in researching a Hybrid School Board setup. The Board further discussed the prospect.

Public Comments: Mr. Darr expressed his gratitude to all of the recently resigned coaches and commended them for their work with the district.

The Work Session was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. with an Executive Session to follow for personnel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Reitz

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Board Secretary