

## Regular School Board Meeting

November 12, 2024

A regular meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on November 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Redbank Valley High School in the High School Auditorium. The following members were in attendance: Chris Merwin, Chris Adams, Heidi Byers, John Kimmel, Matt Confer, Kevin Johnson, Bill Reddinger, Brent Wile, and John Sayers.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Kevin Johnson to approve the minutes of the Work Session on October 1, 2024 and the Regular Board Meeting on October 8, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mrs. Shirey had nothing to add to the Primary/Intermediate Report.

Mr. Hartle had nothing to add to the Secondary Report.

Mr. Temchulla had nothing to add to the Special Education Report.

Mr. Rapp had nothing to add to the Maintenance Report. Mr. Sayers emphasized that any donations that affect the grounds of the district need to go through the administration before action is taken. He cited a past example of donated steps being installed at the Little League field without proper approval. Mr. Kimmel spoke about district liability concerning this situation.

Mr. Reitz had nothing to add to the Cafeteria Report.

Mrs. Reitz presented the Business Manager's Report. Dale Kirsch was here today to finish up the Balance Sheet accounts and to start the AFR. All federal programs have been reconciled and that information has been sent or will be sent to the auditor this week. She is waiting on the final journal entries from the auditor. The auditor stated that she will have everything back to the business office in time to get the AFR completed by 11/30/24. Any corrections after November 30<sup>th</sup> would require a revision to the AFR, but we wouldn't have to file an extension like we did last year. Mrs. Reitz is hopeful that she will be able to provide the Board with numbers on how 23-24 ended by the next work session or Board meeting. She also mentioned that the Adjusted Index was just released. The Index has decreased from 7.8% to 6% for the 25-26 school year. She provided the Board a chart documenting the estimated tax increase from 1% to 6%. She went on to discuss revenues and expenditures with the Board. No further questions for Mrs. Reitz.

Dr. Rupp added to the Superintendent Report. She drew up a report for the Board concerning projected field trip costs for the district. She presented numbers on what it would cost the district to offer a school paid trip at each grade level. The final number she came up with was

\$18,249.10 for the year. That cost did not include potential substitute teachers that would be needed on field trip days. She went on to further discuss her report with the Board. She also talked about working with several individuals/groups/churches to get Angel Trees started for students who are in need during the holidays. November 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the families to return the letters. No further questions for Dr. Rupp.

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 Board Committee Reports. She mentioned that she met with the Education Foundation yesterday. She spoke about sending out applications for mini grants to the teachers so they can apply for their individual classrooms or grade level grants. Those grants will be awarded in January for the Spring semester. A classroom grant is \$250 and a grade level grant is \$500. She projects that the district may be able to get about \$2000 in grant money. Dr. Rupp also talked about kicking around some future fundraising ideas with the Education Foundation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (25 minutes):**

Representatives from the Redbank Valley High School Store spoke concerning the School Store and the daily operations. There is currently a hard launch of the store and they explained the different roles of the business. They discussed the best sellers and spoke of the profits of the school as well as advertisement. They sell gift certificates so teachers can purchase them as incentives. They are in the process of working on many new items and ways to improve customer service. 100% of the profits go back into the store.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by Brent Wile for consideration to approve second reading of the following policy:

807 – Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Display **(Recommended)**

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Chris Merwin to table the following policy:

824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries (with edits) (Recommended).

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to approve the second reading of the following policy:

918 – Title 1 Parent/Family Engagement **(Mandated)**

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to approve the resolution for the exoneration of taxes for the Southern Clarion County Regional Police Department as presented. Dr. Rupp stated she talked to the solicitor and legally when someone is being represented, the solicitor has to be contacted and not the District. Dr. Rupp stated the solicitor only did the proofreading and did not have much work involved. Motion carried with an 8-1 vote. (John Sayers)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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

234 – Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students **(Recommended)**

247 – Hazing **(Mandated)**

249 – Bullying/Cyber Bullying **(Mandated)**

252 – Dating Violence **(Optional)**

Motion failed due to the lack of a second.

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by Kevin Johnson for consideration to approve the 2025 RVSD Board Meeting Calendar. Dr. Rupp discussed small changes that had been made to the calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by Chris Adams for consideration to waive the usage fees for the Redbank Youth Football Organization for the 24-25 and 25-26 school years. Maintenance fee will still be charged. Mr. Confer expressed concerns about waiving this fee when other educational needs in the district could potentially be met with this money. He feels like the athletic department needs to be involved more in budgeting when asking for fees like this to be waived. Mr. Adams mentioned that he felt like the donation of the ticket booths/shed by the youth program was a fair trade off for waiving this fee. Motion carried with a 6-3 vote. (Matt Confer, Bill Reddinger, and John Sayers)

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve the co-op agreement with Union School District for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 season in the

sports of JH coed soccer, Varsity Boys soccer, Varsity Girls soccer, Boy's Varsity Wrestling, Girl's Varsity Wrestling, Boy's JH Wrestling, and Girl's JH Wrestling. Motion carried unanimously. (John Kimmel abstained from the vote.)

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to approve adding Girl's Junior High Wrestling as a sport beginning with the 24-25 school year. No cost to the district. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by Kevin Johnson to approve the October 2024 Treasurer's Report, to approve October 2024 General Fund Expenditures in the amount of **\$1,636,732.70**, and to approve October 2024 Cafeteria Fund Expenditures in the amount of **\$35,272.51**. Motion carried unanimously.

**PERSONNEL:**

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Matt Confer for consideration to approve Mike Fricko, Kristen Landers, Mindy Traister, Kevin Watkins, Kim Merwin, and Tessa Shick to attend the PETE&C conference in Hershey, PA on February 4-7, 2025. Cost to the district not to exceed **\$8,072.20**. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Chris Merwin and seconded by Matt Confer for consideration to approve Bryan Ripple as the Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach. **60 points @ \$43.50** - Total cost to the district is **\$2,917.60**. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve the following volunteers:

- Lauren Smith – Girl's Varsity Basketball
- Justin Dawson – Girl's Varsity Basketball
- Declan Fricko – Boy's Varsity Basketball
- Megan Nolf – Varsity Wrestling
- Brylee Shumaker – Varsity Wrestling
- Kasey Haines – Varsity Wrestling
- Aiden Gardner – Varsity Wrestling
- Brandon Bailey – Varsity Wrestling
- Ty Haines – Varsity Wrestling
- Ruben Carrillo – Varsity Wrestling

The Board held a discussion concerning coaches/volunteers and their access to key cards to enter the building. Motion carried unanimously.

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A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by Brent Wile for consideration to add Golf to the list of PIAA sports offered by Redbank Valley School District. Approximate cost to the district is **\$10,000**. Mr. Darr stated that there were seven male students and one female student committed to the team. He suggested adding a stipulation that there be at least ten kids signed up for the team for it to move ahead. The Board further discussed the number stipulation. They decided to vote on the motion without the number requirement. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (5 MINUTES):** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by Chris Merwin to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. with an executive session to follow for personnel.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rochelle Reitz*

Rochelle Reitz  
Board Secretary