

Redbank Valley School Board Work Session Meeting
Tuesday, November 5th, 2024
6:30pm
Redbank Valley High School Auditorium

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

Communications:

Mrs. Shirey presented her report. She spoke of a recent faculty meeting that took place. The PTO sponsored book fairs at the Primary and Intermediate schools. She recently attended the Sustainability Summit at Penn State. She also took part in the Pittsburgh Regional Food Service Directors meeting with Mr. Reitz. They listened to speakers presenting topics such as school gardens and hydroponics. They also learned of possible grant opportunities. She commended Mr. Reitz on being such a good representative for the district. School bus safety procedures were recently held with Officer Chewing and Officer Norbert from the Pennsylvania State Police. The first quarter ended on October 23rd and report cards went home on October 30th. PTO sponsored Fall Fest and 6th graders participated in the festivities. The district's Act 80 day was very successful with team building and training activities. Teachers are currently promoting the Clarion County Garden Club poster contest to the students. Halloween parades were held at both the Primary and Intermediate buildings. She mentioned several events that will be coming up for the month of November. Two 5th grade girls will be presenting a program about girls' wrestling. Grade level representative meetings will be held. All of the elementary students will be coming to the school on November 5th to see the Slippery Rock Cultural Dance Team. This was arranged by ELL teacher, Angie Stewart. Veteran's Day assemblies will be held in the elementary buildings. A PTO meeting will be held on November 12th. Monthly child study meetings will also take place. Remake Learning Day will be held on November 14th from 6-7:30. This event was planned by Kristen Landers. No further questions for Mrs. Shirey.

Mr. Hartle presented his report. Spirit/Homecoming week was held September 30th – October 4th. The powderpuff game was October 2nd, a pep rally was held on October 3rd, the Homecoming game was October 4th, and the Homecoming dance was October 5th. The first quarter ended on October 23rd. Report cards were uploaded to StudentVUE/ParentVue. Parents were notified of the upload. The Go Rockets program currently had 16 full time students after the quarter change. There has been no change in the eight single class students. Students have shown improvement in passing grades. The SAP program currently has 31 referrals. After school tutoring is in full swing. Departmental hearings continued this month to STAR and CDT baselines. Stephanie Bergman, JH counselor, set up a free JH assembly by the Salt Works Theater to perform "When Panic Attacks." It addresses anxiety and its relation to social media. Red Ribbon Week was October 23-31st. There was a Masked Singer performance on October 31st. Instant decision days were made available from Penn West Clarion, Slippery Rock, Grove City, Thiel, UPJ and Westminster. There were multiple students who were accepted on the spot. There was a FASFA workshop on Oct. 15th to help families with secondary education financial support. The Annual 9th Grade Washington D.C. trip was held

October 23-25th. Picture retakes and group photos were held on October 25th. An Act 80 Day was recently conducted by an Army Recruiter for the purpose of team building. Dr. Harmon set up mock elections on October 21st. ARTE TV (A European network) joined to interview students. On October 29th, CBS news set up in Dr. Harmon's classroom to do a story with the students concerning election topics. Mr. Hartle went on to discuss testing/results in the district. Girl's Volleyball recently won the District 9 AA Championship. Both boy's and girl's soccer made the playoffs with the girl's team losing in the District Championship game. The football team will open the playoffs with a first round game against Cameron County. No further questions for Mr. Hartle.

Mr. Temchulla presented his report. He stated that he attends the IU Contact Meetings each month and lets the employees know of any upcoming trainings or events. He will continue to attend IEP meetings with teachers at all three of the buildings. They will be tracking dates and monitoring timelines for evaluations and IEP's. A training will be held on November 28th pertaining to IEP writing in regards to progress reporting, goals, levels, information, PASA, and ESY services. The Child Find process was completed on October 15th at both elementary buildings. This process will be completed one time per month with teachers, special education teachers, and the school psychologist. Gifted students at the high school will be completing an event for the 24-25 school year titled "Chief Science Officers." He went on to explain the specifics/locations of that event. The Special Education department continues to search for a paraprofessional at the primary building for a student. No further questions for Mr. Temchulla.

Mr. Rapp presented his report. The start of winter maintenance has begun. They have started winterizing the concession stand. Pallets of salt have been ordered for all the campus buildings. They are now working on preparing the plows and salt spreaders. Dr. Rupp, Mrs. Shirey, and Mr. Rapp met at the Intermediate School to discuss options for utilizing the grant to provide safer conditions for the students and staff. These ideas included installing bollards to limit access from the public roads, clearing brush to have a better line of sight to the wooded area, and installing fence between the school and the wooded area. Mr. Rapp and Dr. Rupp are working on figuring out how many bollards would need to be purchased for the high school and the primary school so a final cost can be calculated. Maintenance continues to work with Johnson Controls to get the HVAC working correctly. He noted that it is getting increasingly difficult to fill vacancies due to vacation/sick days because of a lack of subs. Clearfield Wholesale Products will be coming to do a demonstration for the cleaning staff on how to properly use some of the new products the district will be utilizing. No further questions for Mr. Rapp.

Mr. Reitz presented his report. He spoke of his time at the Pittsburgh Regional Food Service Directors meeting he recently attended. No further questions for Mr. Reitz.

Mrs. Reitz will present her Board report next week.

Dr. Rupp gave her report. The Halloween parade was held in the auditorium on October 30th. A great job was done by all of the organizers. RFP's have been written for bollards and asbestos abatement. She is looking at a combination of bollards and fencing at the Intermediate building. The district did not receive the facilities grant. However, the Clarion County Career Center did receive 1.5 million dollars towards the replacement of their building's roof. In the long run, this will also end up benefitting our district/students. Dr. Rupp and Mrs. Reitz are preparing for an ESSER 3 Monitoring the week of November 18th. She spoke about

contacting cyber school parents/students to encourage in-person attendance again. Countywide professional development is in the planning process and is looking toward February 17th as a meeting date. The meeting will take place at Clarion Area School District. She talked about the speakers that will be attending the event. Dr. Rupp spoke about being disappointed at the number of staff absences at the recent Act 80/Army team building exercises. She strives to get the district back on track and wants to encourage a positive culture for the staff. The Board then discussed grants and how we may improve our grant application process in order to have a better chance to obtain these monies. Mr. Sayers commended Dr. Rupp in sending letters out to cyber school parents in an effort to persuade kids back into the building. Mrs. Byers asked Dr. Rupp questions pertaining to ESSER Monitoring. 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.

Mr. Johnson spoke about the initial meeting of the Board's AI committee.

Public Comments:

Mr. Darr spoke on the status of all the current sports teams. There was a craft show hosted a couple Saturday's ago, and it raised around \$3,000 for the Special Education Department. Mr. Reddinger asked about the Golf Proposal. Mr. Darr did a little bit of planning to see if the students would be interested in p. An email was sent to 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grades (which is around 280 students) and 20 responded. 13 students stated they were interested initially, however only 7 males and 1 female are currently showing interest. Mr. Darr stated that the cost will be around \$10,000. Income would be around \$800. Dr. Rupp asked if the Board had any interest in adding it to the Agenda. Mr. Darr thinks we would have more interest once we institute it and it is successful. Mr. Confer questioned the transportation cost. Mr. Darr stated it is \$3/mile for a bus. Mr. Wile said he had someone step forward and say they will give a large donation towards the Golf Team. The Board all agreed to put this item on the Agenda.

Kim Constantino addressed the Board with her Therapy Dog, Rocco. She wanted to give an updated status since she spoke in the Spring. She said Rocco is now fully certified. She continued to talk about the success of having Rocco in the Classroom and therapy sessions. She discussed improvements in children since having Rocco in the district. She feels that Rocco offers a sense of joy and happiness for the children. She wanted to thank the Board for allowing this opportunity and now other districts are reaching out to her to see how they can get this program started.

The School Store Presentation will be at the Board Meeting.

Old Business:

The Board went into discussion about Item #12 (Policies 807, 824, 918). Mr. Johnson expressed concern over Title IX. He suggested taking Title IX policies off the agenda or possibly tabling them. Mr. Johnson questioned why the policies are on the Agenda. Dr. Rupp stated she puts them on the agenda as she is notified if there are updates to the policies. The Board went into detail discussing agenda policies and Title IX. Dr. Rupp stated that these policies

would have been updated within the last 3 years. Mr. Johnson asked to add whether the policies are optional or mandatory as considered by the PSBA on the agenda when approving policies. Dr. Rupp said the PSBA policies state whether they are optional, recommended, or mandated, so she will include this information on the agenda when approving future policies. Mr. Merwin questioned if there were any competitors to PSBA and Dr. Rupp is not aware of any. The costs of a PSBA membership were discussed and Dr. Rupp or Mrs. Reitz will get a cost to the Board for the next meeting.

They also brought up Item #13 (resolution for exoneration of taxes for the Southern Clarion County Regional Police Department). Our solicitor stated that the police had contacted her concerning the tax forgiveness issue. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Confer expressed concern that the police had cost the district more money by contacting the solicitor about the issue instead of getting info directly from the district.

New Business:

Mr. Johnson had questions about Item #15 (2025 RVSD Board Meeting Calendar). He wants financials to be available at meetings and was wondering if the prospective meeting schedule allowed for that. The Board went on to talk about the timing of the meetings and changes that needed to be made.

Matt Darr addressed the Board concerning Item #16 (consideration to waive usage fees for Redbank Youth Football for the 24-25 and 25-26 school years). Mr. Darr stated that Redbank Valley Youth Football put in new ticket booths and new sheds at the football field, and there is an opportunity to upgrade another facility. The total cost of usage fees to the Youth Football program is \$500 - \$600/year. Mrs. Byers added that they are Redbank Valley Elementary students that use the field. The janitorial fees will not be waived. The Board went on to discuss the district financials and the hopes to get the budget balanced to help with fees like this and other student fees. The Board agreed to keep this item on the Agenda.

Mr. Darr also discussed Item #17 (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, Boys Varsity Wrestling, Girls Varsity Wrestling, Boys JH Wrestling, Girls JH Wrestling). The new agreement added Girls Wrestling. He discussed PIAA tournaments. Mr. Sayers questioned if there was interest from Union School District and he said there was interest, however there was little interest in soccer. The Board did not have issues keeping this on the Agenda.

Financial Matters: None

Personnel: Kristen Landers spoke to the Board about the PETE&C Conference and how beneficial it is to the employees.

Additional Board Items:

Mr. Sayers spoke about how coaches often split their payment with assistant coaches and how this falls onto the Business Office. He seeks to take this burden out of the hands of the Business Office and feels like coaches need to handle this themselves. The Board was concerned about contractual obligations concerning payment.

Mr. Confer was contacted by a former Board Member about a concern with Barrett Bussing leaving a sporting event before its completion. Dr. Rupp stated that the situation had been addressed and that it wasn't anything detrimental to the students. It was a game in the middle of the day that went into overtime and the bus had to leave temporarily to finish their normal bus run. She said that this instance was an anomaly and isn't a normal situation the district would be in. Dr. Rupp stated that they will look ahead in the future at all events so this won't happen again.

Public Comments: None

The work session was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Reitz

Rochelle Reitz
Board Secretary