

## School Board Work Session Meeting October 1, 2024

A work session of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on October 1, 2024 at the Redbank Valley High School. The work session was called to order by Bill Reddinger. The following members were in attendance: Chris Merwin, Heidi Byers, John Sayers, Kevin Johnson (remote), Chris Adams, Brent Wile, and Matt Confer. John Kimmel was absent.

Mrs. Shirey presented her report. The American Legion recently presented flags to the all of the Elementary classrooms. She considered the "Reading Under the Lights" event to be a great success. There were good participation numbers by parents, students, athletes, and staff. A monthly SAP meeting was recently held. She is searching for a new reading curriculum for next school year. Virtual meetings were held with several representatives in an effort to further look into these possible curriculums. Tutoring sessions recently began at the Primary School. The Primary Fall Fest will be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Intermediate having theirs on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The PTO has given permission for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders to attend the Intermediate Fall Fest. The end of the first nine weeks is quickly approaching and report cards will be sent home on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Discipline data has been increasing slightly as the school year moves along. She said they are being very proactive with their guidance lessons in an effort to curb this number increase. No further questions for Mrs. Shirey.

Mr. Hartle presented his report. Teacher peer observations began on September 9<sup>th</sup>. All teachers will be required to do one peer observation every quarter in an effort to improve depth of knowledge questioning in the classroom. Formal teacher observations have also begun this past month as well. 4 ½ week progress reports have been sent home via ParentVUE/StudentVUE. Study hall teachers have been notified of students who are failing in an effort to get them some extra help. The SAP program is in full swing and meets every Thursday morning. There are currently 15 new referrals for the program. The district continues to reach out to the families of students who are struggling in the Go Rockets program. The majority of the students involved in Go Rockets are currently passing. After school tutoring will be available on Tuesdays and Thursday upon request. Departmental meetings were recently held to discuss the goals for the school year. The guidance department recently participated in suicide awareness month. The school took part in wearing t-shirts in support on September 26<sup>th</sup>. 197 t-shirts were sold in total. \$780 will be donated to the Alex Mills-McGuire Memorial Scholarship. Five instant decision days were recently held with various colleges and universities. 73 acceptance letters were handed out. The Marines, Army, and National Guard representatives visited this week. Picture day was held on September 20<sup>th</sup>. All staff were given identification cards. The FFA conducted a blood drive on September 24<sup>th</sup>. STAR and CDT testing recently took place. Data will be analyzed during October department meetings. He then presented data/discipline/field trip numbers to the board. Mr. Sayers questioned Mr. Hartle about some of the district cyber numbers. Mrs. Byers inquired about the parents' role in scheduling for the students. Mr. Hartle went into detail about scheduling procedures. The board went on to further discuss parents' involvement in scheduling. Mr. Johnson requested more information about the multiple suspensions that were on the report. No further questions for Mr. Hartle.

Mr. Temchulla presented his report. He attended the Special Education Contact Meeting through the local IU6 on September 26<sup>th</sup>. This was the first meeting of the school year for the Clarion County districts. He spoke of the opening of the new Penn Highlands RTF Facility in Dubois. He also mentioned the BRAINSTEPS program. It deals with children with concussions and traumatic brain injuries. The program formulates action steps for the affected students to successfully return to the school setting. He also mentioned that special education needs have risen from 15% to 20% over the past ten years across the state of Pennsylvania. He went on to talk about the numbers involving new move-in students to the district. No further questions for Mr. Temchulla.

Mr. Rapp presented his report. Keys and locks continue to be a time consuming issue. He met with Builder's Hardware to discuss possibilities for keyless entries, but it doesn't seem like it would be a cost effective option for the district. Builder's suggested having all of the doors rekeyed and then having control keys available. The district does not currently have control keys for all of the locks. He stated that a control key would give him the option to change out tumblers as they wear out. He also mentioned that he has contacted companies about doing asbestos abatement for the Intermediate building in the Summer of 2025. The companies are going to submit bids for the work. The maintenance position was recently filled by Jeff Neiswonger and he seems to be fitting in well. Mr. Rapp spoke about a meeting that was recently held with the company who originally installed the track. The company stated that the track was holding up well and that the district should consider recoating and replacing the surface/bad areas in the next two years. The fertilizers and seeds for the athletic fields have been purchased. He plans to apply fertilizer with herbicides in the fall so that nutrients are in the ground for Spring growth. Mr. Wiles inquired what the track repairs would cost. Mr. Rapp stated that the company would submit a bid for the work. Dr. Rupp encouraged the board to look at the Maintenance Plan to see what was coming down the pipe for the district. Mr. Sayers discussed what the Facilities Committee had talked about at their recent meeting. Mr. Sayers said that the committee came up with a wish list of possible building improvements in the future. He mentioned the drainage problem at the Primary building. He also discussed the possibility of closing one of the buildings and just making improvements on the other buildings. Mr. Rapp and Mr. Sayers agreed that the Primary building was in worse shape than the Intermediate building. The Board went on to further discuss necessary repairs that will need to be made to the district buildings and how the repairs will be financed. The Board also talked about repairs vs. closing a building. No further questions for Mr. Rapp.

Mr. Reitz presented his report. Mr. Reitz stated he received quotes for the freezer compressors at the elementary schools. Bev Air is donating a refrigerator at the Intermediate Building and will deliver it to us for free on Friday. Mr. Johnson questioned the cost of biodegradable straws vs. plastic straws. Mr. Reitz said they were more expensive, and the additional cost would be around \$200/year. No further questions for Mr. Reitz.

Mrs. Reitz will present her Board Report next week.

Dr. Rupp gave her report. The district will be hosting the Halloween parade on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We are partnering with the Chamber and the Lion's Club. The high school band has been invited to play at the event. Dr. Rupp mentioned the need to bring in another employee for the business office because of workload. She is proposing an accounts receivable/accounting clerk position. This position could possibly also assist with the financials of the Education Foundation. The Board went into a detailed discussion about the possibility of

adding this position and how it would be covered financially. All members agreed to add this position to the agenda for the next meeting. Dr. Rupp went on to talk about the Act 93 Agreement. In an effort to retain administration, she is proposing that the principals work the same amount of days that the teachers do. She seeks to keep vacation time comparable to other school districts in the area. The Board agreed to add it to the agenda. No further questions for Dr. Rupp.

Mr. Confer had nothing to add to the IU6 Report.

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

Public Comments: Matt Darr presented his findings to the Board about potentially bringing a golf team back for the students. The Board further discussed the specifics/financials of a potential golf team for the district. Members asked Mr. Darr to gauge interest with the students and to get more specific numbers about what a golf team would cost the district. It was agreed upon to add this to the agenda in November pending research. Mr. Sayers asked Mr. Darr questions concerning the bocce ball team. Mr. Darr said that things were still in the works and progressing along. No further public comments.

Old Business: Mrs. Byers questioned if all of the bugs had been worked out of the booster's policy that is on the agenda. Dr. Rupp further discussed the policy specifics with the Board. Transportation costs were also discussed.

New Business: Dr. Rupp discussed changes she made to Policy #807 with the Board. She also discussed Item #14 with the board regarding AI in education. Dr. Rupp and several other individuals will be attending an AI training in Pittsburgh on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The Board also chose to discuss Item #14A concerning tax exception for the Southern Clarion County Regional Police Department.

Financial Matters: None

Personnel: Dr. Rupp discussed Item #24 with the Board. This issue regards an online PE course. Matt Darr discussed payment rates for ticket takers.

Additional Board Items: None

Public Comments: Alex Bell spoke on behalf of the PTO. She was following up with the Board regarding issues discussed at last month's meeting.

The work session was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rochelle Reitz*

Rochelle Reitz  
Board Secretary