

Regular School Board Meeting

October 8, 2024

A regular meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on October 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Redbank Valley High School. The following members were in attendance: Chris Merwin, Heidi Byers, John Sayers, Kevin Johnson, Chris Adams, Brent Wile, Matt Confer, and John Kimmel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Chris Adams to approve the minutes of the Work Session/Special Meeting on September 3, 2024 and the Regular Board Meeting on September 10, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (25 MINUTES): Aeros Lillstrom requested that the district's in-house water supply be tested for lead. She expressed concern for the health of the students/teachers and would like to see this done as a safety precaution. Dr. Rupp stated that the Redbank Valley Municipal Authority has already started the testing process.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Hartle had nothing to add to the Secondary Report. Dr. Rupp mentioned some new information concerning parental input during the student scheduling process. The Guidance Department put together a list of all the dates that counselors met with Junior High and Senior High students. Also included were copies of the emails that went home to all the parents. Dr. Rupp presented a document to the Board showing that the students created their schedules and then were required to get a parental signature as approval. Dr. Rupp stated that it was possible to do a One Call to ensure that parents were getting this paperwork brought home. A meeting is being held with Synergy to possibly update the system to make sure that parents are reviewing important documents concerning their child. To streamline the process, grades may start being emailed directly to parents.

Mr. Temchulla had nothing to the Special Education Report.

Mr. Rapp had nothing to add to the Maintenance Report. Dr. Rupp mentioned that there is a leak at the primary building above one of the bathrooms. The location of the leak is difficult to access due to it being in the ceiling. The issue is currently being worked on by maintenance.

Mr. Reitz had nothing new to add to the Cafeteria Report. Dr. Rupp added that Mr. Reitz was awarded a Farm to School Grant. This will help cover the costs of the Smicksburg Farm Auction purchases he makes for the district.

Mrs. Reitz presented the Business Manager's Report. It was another busy month in the business office. Dale Kirsch was here September 27th and they completed the reconciliation of

the Cafeteria account. All of the info was submitted to the auditor for that fund. The auditor came October 3rd and did the fieldwork portion of the audit. We hope to have her back by the end of the month to finish everything up so we can prepare to complete the AFR by November 30th, 2024. There are still a lot of balance sheet accounts and federal programs that need reconciled. Hopefully, by next month, she will have a number to report as to where we ended the 23-24 school year. The Adjusted Index was just released and it has decreased from 7.8% to 6.0% for 2025-2026. She presented a chart to the board documenting the Adjusted Index history for all of the Clarion County schools. She also included some bond payment information to the board for review. She went on to further discuss revenues, expenditures, and other district financial data. Mr. Wile asked questions about the time schedule of Bond payments. Mr. Kimmel questioned current interest rates the district was receiving. The board went on to discuss interest rates in-depth.

Dr. Rupp had nothing to add the Superintendent Report. She added that Matt Darr had given her a list of things to relay to the Board. He would like the ticket taker wage (if approved) retro- active to October 2nd. He sent a golf survey out to all males and females in grades 8-11 to gauge interest in the sport. This covered approximately 275 students. He received 15 responses. He will update the costs and interest for the November work session. Senior Nights for the following sports were mentioned: Volleyball – September 26th, Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer – October 10th, Cheer/Marching Band/Football – October 25th. Redbank Valley is hosting Clarion County Band Night on October 15th. Junior High Girls’ basketball practices have begun. The rest of the winter sport’s practices begin on November 15th. All Fall sports have officially qualified for the playoffs. Playoffs begin the week of October 21st. Our bid on the property for the potential athletic complex was turned down. We are now looking at other locations.

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

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

There were no Board Committee Reports.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Matt Confer for consideration to approve the second reading of the following policies:

801 – Public Records

803 – School Calendar

805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response

805.1 – Public Relations

805.2 – School Security Personnel

806 – Child Abuse

915 – School Relation Groups/Boosters/Support/PTO

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnson questioned who would decide when law enforcement officials would need to be involved in incidents at the school. Dr. Rupp stated that it was an administrative decision and that each situation was reviewed on a case by case basis.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve the first reading of the following policies as presented:

807 – Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Display

824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

918 – Title 1 Parent/Family Engagement

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by Kevin Johnson for consideration to approve a committee to work through procedures associated with the following policy:

815.1 – Use of Generative AI in Education. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Rupp listed Mr. Johnson as being a member of the AI Committee. Mr. Reddinger also chose to join the committee.

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by John Kimmel for consideration to grant tax exemption to the Southern Clarion County Regional Police Department for next year as presented. Total cost is **\$937.74**. Mr. Johnson questioned what the police department does for the school above and beyond normal responsibilities. Dr. Rupp stated that the police department may be contacted if the district wants a local welfare check done. They also assist in other issues such as patrolling. Dr. Rupp emphasized the good relationship between the district and the local police. Mr. Adams questioned if this exemption was something that needed to be applied for on a yearly basis. Mrs. Reitz stated that they usually receive this exemption, but with their name change/the timing of billing, the bill had already been sent out to the department. Mr. Johnson questioned what other non-profits get exempt from these taxes. The Board further discussed non-profits and their tax responsibilities. A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to table the tax exemption for the Southern Clarion County Regional Police Department for next year as presented. Total cost is **\$937.74**. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Chris Merwin and seconded by Matt Confer for consideration to purchase a compressor for each of the elementary buildings. Total cost per unit is \$11,365 paid through cafeteria funds. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Brent Wile for consideration to approve the September 2024 Treasurer's Report, the September 2024 General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$2,777,079.28, the quarterly High School Activities Fund Report as presented, and to approve September 2024 Cafeteria Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$46,605.13. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL:

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to hire Patti Musser as a 182 day custodian. Total cost to the district is \$29,394.94. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve intermittent FMLA for Employee #352 and Employee #101. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to approve Sandy Shirey and Kristen Landers to attend the 2024 Sustainability Summit at Penn State University on October 16-17, 2024. Total cost to the district is \$465.80. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Matt Confer for consideration to approve the MOU between the Redbank Valley Education Association and the Redbank Valley School District as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by Matt Confer for consideration to approve the hire of Lauren Smith as the Junior High Assistant Girls Basketball Coach. 57 points @ \$43.50. Total cost to the district is \$2,771.72. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to approve the athletic game workers' pay scale as presented. Motion carried unanimously. John Sayers abstained from the voting.

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by Kevin Johnson for consideration to approve Rochelle Reitz, Dawn Davis, and Laura Neiswonger to attend the PASBO Conference on March 11-14 in Hershey, PA. Total cost to the district is \$2,700.00. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made for consideration to approve the following job descriptions:

- * Accounts Payable/Payroll
- * Business Operations and Transportation Admin
- * Accounts Receivable/Accounting Clerk

Item died due to lack of motion.

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Matt Confer for consideration to approve the amendment to the Act 93 agreement as presented. Motion failed with a 3-6 vote. (Merwin, Adams, Byers, Kimmel, Johnson, and Reddinger)

A motion was made for consideration to post the Account Receivable/Accounting Clerk position as presented. Item died due to lack of motion.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson for consideration to approve the Director of Maintenance and Facilities Agreement as presented. Item died due to lack of a second motion. A motion was made by Chris Merwin and seconded by John Sayers to extend the current Director of Maintenance and Facilities Agreement to June 30, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS: Mr. Sayers had questions for Dr. Rupp regarding Barrett Bussing/school van usage.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (5 MINUTES): Laura Neiswonger spoke about the Business Office and the Account Receivable/Accounting Clerk position.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Chris Merwin to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Reitz

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Board Secretary