

Regular School Board Meeting

September 10, 2024

A regular meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on September 10, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Redbank Valley High School. The following members were in attendance: Chris Adams, Heidi Byers, John Kimmel, Matt Confer, Kevin Johnson, John Sayers, and Brent Wile. Chris Merwin and Bill Reddinger were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Sayers to approve the minutes of the Work Session on August 6, 2024 and the Regular Board Meeting on August 13, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Donna Byers spoke concerning an issue regarding saved seats at the Varsity Football game on August 30th, 2024. She presented pictures of where she sat in the stands at the football game on August 30th, 2024 as well. Ms. Donna Byers sat down in the section next to the band on the top two rows, but moved a blanket that was already placed there by someone else. Approximately 30 minutes later, she stated that she was approached by two women asking her to move because she was sitting in a section reserved for the band. Ms. Byers refused to move since there were other available seats in the band section. She stated that a man came shouting at her after this incident telling her that she had to move because those seats were reserved for the band advisors. She stated that she felt threatened by the Athletic Director and was told to take the situation up with the Superintendent or the School Board. She filed an official complaint to Heidi Byers, School Board Member. Ms. Donna Byers felt humiliated and embarrassed after the incident and stated that she will no longer be returning to the Redbank field due to the incident.

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 the Special Education Report.

Mr. Rapp had nothing to add to the Maintenance Report. Dr. Rupp added that the shut off valve was also ruined following the recent pipeline break under the school. Last Friday, Mr. Rapp had an individual come in and turn off all the water to the school. No events were taking place at the building that evening. The shut off valve was then successfully replaced. She has plans to sit down with Mr. Rapp and discuss a sample list of the 3, 5, and 10 year plan. This is

part of the strategic plan Dr. Rupp is currently working on for the district. In addition, Dr. Rapp stated that Jeff Neiswonger will begin working on Monday.

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

Mrs. Reitz presented the Business Manager's Report. She stated that this was another busy month in the business office. Dale Kirsch didn't come until September 6th and is planning to return the week of the 23rd to help get accounts reconciled. The auditor is coming September 26th to do fieldwork and collect any information they need in addition to the items that have already been sent to her. There are still a lot of accounts that need reconciled to ensure that everything is accrued back to 23-24. She is still pushing for the AFR to be finished by the deadline of October 31st, but the automatic extension deadline is November 30th. There is a lot of work to be done by that date. She will hopefully have an updated number for 23-24 next month as to where we will end the year. She went on to discuss the district's financial numbers with the board.

Dr. Rupp had nothing to add the Superintendent Report. Mr. Sayers questioned if the board would be voting on the security grant options. Dr. Rupp offered her recommendation of which option to use for the grant application. The board went on to further discuss the grant specifics/options. Mr. Sayers had some questions about what areas would be covered by the new fencing in the grant. The board further talked about if the district actually needed bollards at the schools and/or if the money could be used for a better purpose. Mr. Johnson hopes to get the best value out of these available grants.

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. Mr. Sayers added that there would be a Building and Grounds Committee meeting on Monday (September 16th) at 4pm at the high school. He requested that Dr. Rupp bring her five year plan assessment to the meeting so that the committee may add items as needed.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Brent Wile for consideration to approve the second reading of the following policies as presented:

- 908 – Relations with Parents and Guardians
- 909 – Municipal Government Relations (new)
- 911 - News Media Relations
- 912 – Relations with Educational Institutions
- 913 – Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals

- 914 – Relations with Intermediate Unit
- 915 – School-related Groups/Boosters/Support/PTO Organizations
- 917 – Parent/Family Involvement
- 146.1 – Trauma Informed Approach
- 218 – Student Discipline
- 218.1 - Weapons
- 218.2 – Terroristic Threats

Amendment proposed to remove Policy 915 from the voting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnson asked questions about Policy 908 concerning the language involving parents/guardians. He wondered if too many individuals were being noted in these policies. Dr. Rupp stated that the district has a number of non-traditional family units in the district and wanted to make sure that the policies were all inclusive. Mr. Johnson also questioned the language utilized in Policy 909 about law enforcement agency usage. The board further discussed this use of language in the policy. Mr. Johnson expressed concern over policy discussions and blindly trusting the PSBA language that was being implemented.

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

- 908 – Relations with Parents and Guardians
 - 909 – Municipal Government Relations (new)
 - 911 - News Media Relations
 - 912 – Relations with Educational Institutions
 - 913 – Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals
 - 914 – Relations with Intermediate Unit
 - 917 – Parent/Family Involvement
 - 146.1 – Trauma Informed Approach
 - 218 – Student Discipline
 - 218.1 - Weapons
 - 218.2 – Terroristic Threats
- Motion carried. 5-2 vote (Byers, Johnson)

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Brent Wile for consideration to approve the second reading of Policy 916 as presented. Discussion ensued with the board about the specific language in this policy. Motion carried (6-1 vote. Sayers with the dissenting vote.)

NEW BUSINESS

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

801 – Public Records

803 – School Calendar

805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response

805.1 – Public Relations

805.2 – School Security Personnel

806 – Child Abuse

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve the Guidance Plan as presented with an amendment of the names of the committee. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by John Sayers for the approval on the amended motion to approve the Guidance Plan as presented with the amendment of the names of the committee. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Heidi Byers and seconded by Kevin Johnson for consideration to pursue the reorganization of the board to include hybrid model with a combination of regional members and members at large. Mr. Kimmel brought up discussion about what the hybrid model would look like. He questioned about type of representation each region would get on the board. Further research will be done to figure out what the options are after approval. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Chris Merwin for consideration to approve August 2024 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Brent Wile for consideration to approve August 2024 General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$1,307,350.99. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to approve August 2024 Cafeteria Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$36,007.77. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to accept the retirement of Annette King, effective on or around January 15, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to raise the substitute rate for cafeteria workers from \$9.25 to \$11.00 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Confer and seconded by Brent Wile for consideration to approve the hiring of David Hepler as the Head Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2024-2025 season only. 90 points @ \$43.50. Total cost to the district is \$4376.39. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Chris Adams for consideration to approve the following volunteers:

Leah Barrett – Marching Band
Cherie Schultz – Marching Band
Kristie Draa – Marching Band
Kenndra Cravener – Marching Band
Laura Neiswonger – Marching Band
Briana Kiehl – Marching Band
Brent Wile – Baseball

Casey Sturgeon – Baseball

Brent Wile abstained from the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brent Wile and seconded by Matt Confer for consideration to approve the pay scale for game day workers for sporting events as presented. Dr. Rupp stated that Mr. Darr checks what the other local schools are paying for volunteers in order to keep our pay on level with their numbers. Mr. Confer asked that Mr. Darr attend a work session in order to explain the pay scale increase specifics to the board. Motion tabled for further discussion.

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Sayers for consideration to table the pay scale for game day workers for sporting events motion as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS: Mr. Wile proposed that Redbank field a golf team next school year. He stated that the district currently has three independent players, but they are not allowed to wear Redbank apparel at events. There needs to be six individuals to have a team and he believes there is enough interest with the students. Mr. Wile spoke to Bostonia Country

Club and they are willing to work with the district to support the team. He said that several locals have reached out about volunteering their time for a team.

Alex Bell from the PTO came to address the board to explain what the PTO is all about and the plans that they have in the works for the kids this school year. She expressed concern about the PTO getting a bill for bussing. She feels like it's really a strain on their tight budget. She doesn't want this billing to affect the activities for the students. Board members asked questions concerning the PTO's roles in field trips. The board then discussed what the district is responsible for financially in regards to the PTO. Mr. Adams seeks to have the board and PTO work together and build a closer relationship.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by John Sayers to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m with an executive session to follow for personnel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Reitz

Rochelle Reitz
Board Secretary