

March 11, 2024

The work session of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 6:00 PM in the High School Library by the President, Todd Engel.

The meeting opened with a Moment of Silence and Pledge to the Flag.

Board Members Present: Armond, Bachman, Brigandi, Bukeavich, Engel, Hitesman, Miller, Rupert (via Zoom), and Young.

Others Present: Dwight Woodley – Director of Innovative Learning/IT, Bill Reifsnyder – Director of Buildings and Ground, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager, and Fred Holland – Solicitor.

Visitors: George Gerber, Ji Hamman, Andy Brown, Hilarie German, David Weaver, Matthew Deblander, Sara Engel, Noah Hulslander, Tracy Knoebel, Jason Barrett, Paul McGinn, Kris Runner, Elyse Schopfer, Melissa Daily, Chelsea Rieppel, Erin Rieppel, Amy Pregent, Christa Matlack, John Peters, JJ Manikowski, Ray Wenger – W.J. Strickler Signs, Ernie Graham – ELA Sports, Shannon Manning – Nittany Learning Services, and Vern McKissick – McKissick Architecture.

ACTION ITEMS

EMPLOYMENT – INFORMATIONAL

Dr. Briggs accepted the resignation, for retirement purposes, from Brenda Trimble from her 6th grade reading teacher position at Rommelt Elementary effective May 31, 2024.

EMPLOYMENT

A motion to approve the following employment was moved by Miller, seconded by Bukeavich.

Mentor – Melanie Rojas as a teacher mentor for McKenna Woodley for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year at a stipend of \$250.

Certified Substitute for the 2023-2024 School Year – Erin Spencer

Theater Staff for the 2024 Junior High Musical – Jared Whitford as Director at \$1,000, Stefanie Welty as Associate Director at \$1,000, and Miki Rebeck as Music Director at \$500.

Event Staff for the 2023-2024 School Year – Joe Baier

Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION DRIVER

A motion to approve Jeremy Wilton as a transportation driver for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Young. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

FIELD TRIPS

A motion to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trips was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Armond.

- 5th Grade’s request to take students to the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY on May 17, 2024
- Jessica Kaledas’ overnight field trip request to take four band students to Honesdale, PA on February 23-24, 2024 for PMEA Regional Band
- Jessica Kaledas’ overnight field trip request to take one band student to Central York High School on March 21-23, 2024 for PMEA Regional Orchestra
- Rachel Knipe’s overnight field trip request to take six Key Club students to the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center on April 5-7, 2024 for the Key Club District Leadership Conference

Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

NATURAL AREA RENOVATION PROJECT

A motion to approve the Cooperative/Landowner Agreement with USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife/Pheasants Forever to mitigate stagnation of water on District property in Armstrong Township that borders the Robert Porter Allen Natural Area was moved by Armond, seconded by Young. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS FOR CENTRAL ELEMENTARY PROJECT

A motion to approve the following Change Orders for the Central Elementary Project was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Miller.

- HVAC Contract (H-006)
 - COR 010 – Lintels for Phase 2 Wall Penetrations - \$2,947.37
 - COR 011 – Condensate pumps and shut down controls for Phase 2 - \$4,654.48
- Electrical Contract (E-002)
 - COR 001 – Demo, relocate and install new raceway & wire in corridors to make work accessible for installation for new duct work - \$13,343.80

Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT AREA EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

A motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Grievance Settlement with the South Williamsport Area Education Support Professional Association was moved by Bachman, seconded by Young. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-abstained, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT AREA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

A motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the South Williamsport Area Education Association was moved by Bachman, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE POLICIES – SECOND READING

A motion to approve the second reading of Policy No. 200 – Enrollment of Students, Policy No. 202 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students, and Policy No. 217 - Graduation was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ATHLETIC FIELD PRESENTATION

Ernie Graham from ELA presented a schedule for the football field upgrades. For the turf replacement, it is expected that they will begin mobilization on May 28, 2024. Installation should be complete by the end of June. With a 7-week growing period, the field should be usable by August 30, 2024. The LED lighting retrofit should begin mobilization on May 13, 2024. Estimated substantial completion date is May 31, 2024. Grandstand renovations are in process. There will be significant time needed for fabrication. It is estimated that mobilization will begin on June 24, 2024, Substantial completion and code inspection should occur by August 30, 2024.

Mr. Graham then spoke about the potential future running track with synthetic turf athletic field. To construct on the current high school practice field, the total estimated cost will be \$5,780,238.20. Under this scenario, there are significant costs for earthwork, site concrete and retaining walls. This location would also cause the width of the field to be narrower. To construct on the South Williamsport Park site (current play field owned by the South Williamsport Borough, not the District's practice field at the cul-de-sac), the total estimated cost will be \$3,553,840.03. This location would allow a wider field in the center of the track. If the school board authorizes this work by the beginning of April, it is estimated that construction would begin after the Fall 2024 soccer season and last through the Spring 2025. The work should be done in time to use the field for the Fall 2025 soccer season.

FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD PRESENTATION

Mr. Ray Wenger from W.J. Strickler Signs provided information about a new scoreboard for the football field. The new sign would be installed on the existing poles. The cost of the scoreboard is \$51,000 which will be generously paid for by Journey Bank. If the District would like electronic team names, there would be an additional \$12,000 in cost. The District also needs 2 new play clocks. The total cost for play clocks is \$8,000.

ERATE CATEGORY 2 FUNDING

Mr. Dwight Woodley, Director of Innovative Learning & Information Systems, provided the results of the bidding process for the District's eRate Category 2 funding. Total cost of the project will be \$190,289.45. Of this total, the District will receive eRate reimbursement of \$140,074.76. The District's net cost will be \$50,214.69.

TYLER TECHNOLOGIES SOFTWARE PROPOSAL

Mrs. Jamie Mowrey, Director of Transportation, presented information on Student Transportation powered by Traversa from Tyler Technologies. Currently, the District utilizes Transfinder for their bussing software. This software is server based. Transfinder is switching to a cloud-based software which would cost \$10,575 to migrate over to this cloud-based software. In addition, the annual cost would go from \$3,250 to \$4,650. After reviewing other programs, Mrs. Mowrey is suggesting switching to Student Transportation powered by Traversa from Tyler Technologies. This is also a cloud-based software. The cost for implementation will be \$7,885 plus an annual cost of \$2,678.

NITTANY LEARNING SERVICES

Mr. Shannon Manning from Nittany Learning Services provided data on referrals that Nittany Learning Services have received during the 2023-2024 school year. As of March 6, 2024, they have received 190 referrals. Reasons for referrals: 43 of these have been for disruptive behavior, followed by 25 referrals for abusive or inappropriate language. Local of referrals: 63 of these have been from classroom, followed by 19 referrals from the cafeteria. Days of the Week: Wednesday has the most referrals, followed by Thursday and then Friday. Grades: 7th Grade has the most referrals, followed by 9th grade and then 8th grade. There are 25 students who have 3 or more referrals. Mr. Manning then shared the current CLP roster, the self-referred roster, and the academic referral roster.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Vern McKissick from McKissick Architecture presented a schematic design review for the Junior Senior High School. The goal is to create a 6-8 middle school downstairs with a 9-12 high school upstairs. In order for this to occur, there will be some renovations in the current guidance suite to create classroom space, and renovations in the current library and cafeteria to relocate the school nurse and guidance department. There is also some discussion regarding locker rooms, weight room, wrestling room, and trainer's room.

Dr. Eric Briggs then provided a district wide update on building projects. At Central Elementary, Phase 2 has been completed and certain classrooms were moved over the weekend of March 8, 2024 for the next phase of construction to begin. Fields were discussed in previous presentations at tonight's meeting. For Rommelt Elementary, some meetings have occurred as to future use of the building, but no decisions have been finalized.

JUNIOR BOROUGH COUNCIL PROGRAM

Dr. Eric Briggs shared that the school district is partnering with the Borough of Duboistown for a student to have the opportunity to apply for a Junior Council position on Borough Council. The student will serve a term until they graduate or until they are no longer able to serve. At this time, no student has applied.

YOUTH BASKETBALL AND WRESTLING DISCUSSION

The school board held discussion about the youth basketball and wrestling programs, and the level of involvement from the District's perspective. Dr. Briggs shared how there seems to be some gray area when he needs to make decisions regarding the priority of these groups in terms of facility use. Mr. Engel allowed public comment at this time. The following individuals spoke about the following topics:

- George Gerber – history of wrestling program at South Williamsport
- JJ Manikowski – fundraising efforts of elementary basketball, using funds and registration fees to cover the cost of the program, access to facilities
- John Peters – access to facilities
- Eric Gerber – elementary wrestling program, scheduling, access to facilities

The school board will continue to review and discuss the District's involvement in these programs.

COURTESY TO THE FLOOR

The following individuals spoke about the following topics

- Jason Barrett – track and soccer field
- Chelsea Rieppel – location of track and soccer field from athletic trainer perspective; location of wrestling room from athletic trainer perspective
- Eric Gerber – wrestling room location

There will be an executive session following the board meeting regarding personnel matters and contract negotiations; no action to follow.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Miller, seconded by Bukeavich. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary