

April 22, 2024

The regular meeting of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 6:01 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 (via Zoom), Bachman, Brigandi, Bukeavich, Engel, Hitesman, Rupert, and Young.

Others Present: Jesse Smith – Junior Senior High School Principal, Maria Pierce – Rommelt Principal/Director of Student Services, Dyan Hulslander – Central Elementary Principal, Dwight Woodley – Director of Innovative Learning/IT, Bill Reifsnyder – Director of Buildings and Ground, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager, and Tom Burkhart – Solicitor.

Visitors: Matt Courter – Williamsport SunGazette, Jessica Watson, Matt Krach, Tara Stryker, Mary Kay Bukeavich – Nutrition, Inc, Noah Hulslander, Jess Smith, Tracy Knoebel, and Richard Knecht.

APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the treasurer's report from March 2024 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Young. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$1,488,290.30, Food Service Fund in the amount of \$74,658.41, Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$50,630 and GO Note 2022 in the amount of \$1,025,899.38 as funds become available was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of March 25, 2024 and April 8, 2024 as written was moved by Young, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

DEBT DISCUSSION

Mrs. Audrey Bear, Managing Director at Piper Sandler & Company, discussed future debt borrowings and the resolution needed for the issuance of additional debt. Using current interest rates, and assuming a 2024 borrowing of \$9,995,000 and a 2025 borrowing of \$5,000,000, annual debt service would be approximately \$2,200,000. The 2024 borrowing was limited to 20 years in order to utilize the funds for a Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) project. Mrs. Bear then discussed the resolution needed. The school board can pass the resolution at any time; however, it needs to be approved prior to the issuance of debt. Mrs. Bear will work on the resolution to have it prepared for the next school board meeting.

MEP DESIGN SERVICES PROPOSAL

A motion to approve the Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) Design Services for the proposed educational upgrades and selected renovations at the Junior Senior High School as submitted by SiteLogIQ was moved by Rupert, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

PENN STRATEGIES

A motion to approve an agreement with JDM Consultants, LLC (d/b/a Penn Strategies) for submitting a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant application for a school construction project at no cost to the District was moved by Bachman, seconded by Young. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

RING MANAGEMENT, INC

A motion to approve an agreement with Ring Management, Inc. to provide educational services to students in the Woodhaven Recovery program was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

SCHOLARSHIP

A motion to approve the Connor "Connie" Smith Scholarship Award was moved by Young, seconded by Hitesman. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT - INFORMATIONAL

Dr. Briggs, Superintendent, accepted a letter of resignation from Michael Samar from his School District Police Officer position effective May 31, 2024.

EMPLOYMENT – ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

A motion to approve Dr. Kim Bollinger as Assistant High School Principal at a salary of \$90,000 effective July 1, 2024 was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT

A motion to approve the following employment was moved by Young, seconded by Hitesman.

Substitute Food Service Worker for the 2023-2024 School Year – Samantha Zellers

Boys Junior High Soccer – Zach Lynn as Assistant Coach at \$2,006, Alex Morrow, Caleb Snyder and Bryan Watson as Volunteers

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

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM FURNITURE ORDER

A motion to approve the purchase of new classroom furniture for Central Elementary School at a cost of \$534,635.95, with funds from the Central Elementary Building Project was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR GRANT SUBMITTAL

A motion to approve a resolution to file a Commonwealth Financing Authority Public School Facility Improvement Grant Fund Grant Request at a grant amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 to be used for High School Infrastructure Project was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE

A motion to move the Work Session originally scheduled for Monday May 6 at 6 PM to Tuesday May 7 at 6 PM was moved by Bachman, seconded by Young. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

DISTRICT SOLICITOR

A motion to approve Fred. A Holland as school district solicitor for the 2024-2025 school year at an hourly rate of \$175 per hour was moved by Bachman, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Armond-yes, Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Eric Briggs presented a building update. At Central Elementary school, they began pouring the new gymnasium floor, the building envelope design is still in process, and the addition is currently behind schedule. At the Football Field, work is scheduled to begin on May 13. Graduation will be able to be held on the football field, the first 2 football games may need to be relocated. There is no update at this time on the soccer field/track complex. At the High School, SitelogIQ continues planning with McKissick performing some design work. At Rommelt, Dr. Briggs met with River Rock; he is also looking at Pre-K Counts programs and potential partnerships with the IU.

Mr. Damion Spahr from SitelogIQ spoke about a slight change in scope at the High School due to further investigation into the boilers. He believes that replacement of the boilers may need to occur which may sacrifice projected work in bathroom renovation areas.

COURTESY TO THE FLOOR

The following individuals spoke about the following topics

- Noah Hulslander – soccer field/track complex
- Tracy Knoebel – soccer field/track complex

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rupert, seconded by Brigandi. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary