

March 6, 2023

The work session of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 6:03 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: Bachman, Bowman, Brigandi, Bukeavich, Cramer, Engel, Hitesman, and Rupert.

Others Present: Maria Pierce – Director of Student Services/Rommelt Elementary, Michele Loomis – Central Elementary, Dwight Woodley – Director of Innovative Learning/IT, Bill Reifsnyder – Director of Buildings & Grounds, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Fred Holland – Solicitor, and Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager.

Visitors: Elyse Schopfer, Hilarie German, Charles Haefner, Jamie Bloom, Tara Battaglia, Richard Knecht, Melissa Stahl, Travis Rogers, Lisa Arp, Jared Whitford, Vern McKissick – McKissick Associates, Damion Spahr – SiteLogiq, Wayne Brookhart – SiteLogiq, Jason Fitzgerald – Penn Strategies, Mike Caschera – Penn Strategies, and Mike Reuther – Williamsport SunGazette.

ACTION ITEMS

EMPLOYMENT

A motion to approve Ann Elyse Schopfer as the long-term substitute for 2nd grade beginning February 17, 2023 through the end of the school year was moved by Bachman, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll Call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – INFORMATIONAL

Dr. Briggs accepted the resignation, for retirement purposes, from Lorri Amrom, Secretary at Rommelt Elementary effective June 14, 2023.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST

A motion to approve Jessica Kaledas' overnight field trip request to take one student to Midd West High School/Susquehanna University on March 22-24, 2023 for All-State Ensemble was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Cramer. Roll Call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CARNEGIE LEARNING PRESENTATION

Hilarie German, high school math teacher, presented information on a mid-level math curriculum from Carnegie Learning. The current curriculum from McGraw Hill is out of date and not up to standards. Grades 7 and 8 are currently using Carnegie Learning to full capacity in the 2022-2023 school year. It is recommended that the District expand Carnegie Learning curriculum to grades 6 and 9. The current quote from Carnegie Learning would add 4 additional years to grades 7 and 8 and 6 years for grades 6 and 9 for a grand total of \$85,460.60. This would be set up in payment plans of \$17,912.35 for year 1 and \$13,509.65 per year for years 2-6 of the agreement.

SECOND STEP CURRICULM ADDITIONS

Dr. Briggs informed the School Board about additions to the Second Step curriculum, such as the Child Protection Unit for Early Learning and Learning for Justice Lesson. This Second Step curriculum is usually 30 – 40 minutes for a lesson per week.

UPDATE ON CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATIONS AND TIMELINE

Dr. Briggs presented a historic estimated timeline for construction at Central Elementary School and explained some impacts that caused a new timeline which puts construction during the school year. Dr. Briggs also explained some temporary reconfiguration options during construction to free up classrooms to allow construction to occur. Vern McKissick, Architect, and SiteLogiq, the District's preconstruction management company, also commented on the timeline and options to allow construction to occur.

MEADOWS PSYCHIATRIC CENTER LETTER OF AGREEMENT

Dr. Briggs presented a letter of agreement with the Meadows Psychiatric Center. The District does not refer students to this center; however, the District is responsible for providing an education service while students are at this facility.

DEMOLITION OF HOUSE AND TREE REMOVAL

The School Board reviewed three demolition quotes for the house adjacent to Central Elementary. The School Board asked for more information on these quotes to enable them to accurately compare the work to be performed.

JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM UPGRADES

The School Board reviewed a costars pricing quote from Illuminated Integration for renovations to the auditorium at the Junior Senior High School which included audio, video, lighting, curtains and rigging, general equipment, and seating and flooring. The total project cost was \$1,455,173.96. Jared Whitford, Drama Director, spoke about the needs in the auditorium on behalf of the drama department, and the band and chorus departments. It was requested that the Building Committee review the quote to determine whether any changes can be made to reduce costs.

PENN STRATEGIES GRANT WRITING AND ADVOCACY SERVICES

Jason Fitzgerald and Mike Caschera from Penn Strategies presented a proposal for grant writing and advocacy services in relation to the District's building renovation projects. Mr. Fitzgerald explained various grants that the District may qualify for and his role in the process. The agreement calls for a fee of \$5,000 per month for a 12-month agreement, with a 30-day notice for termination.

There will be an executive session after the meeting regarding contract negotiations/personnel. No action to follow.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bachman, seconded by Brigandi. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary