

October 7, 2024

The work session 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: Bachman, Brigandi, Bukeavich, Engel, Hitesman, Miller, Rupert, and Young.

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

Visitors: Rebecca Sones, John Schadler – New Story, Christina Spielbauer – New Story, Brandon Hoff – River Rock Academy, Amanda Ertel, Jason Lewis, George Gerber, Melissa Daily, Tina Pulver, Jessica Kaledas, Robyn Rummings, Joseph Carey – Carey Forest Planning, and Ernie Graham – ELA Sports.

### **SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY – REGION II**

After hearing from candidates for Region II, members cast a silent ballot. These ballots were tallied by Mr Holland, Solicitor. Based on the results of the silent ballot, Mr. Hitesman nominated Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Young. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **CHANGE ORDERS**

A motion to approve the following change orders as moved by Miller, seconded by Bachman.

General Contract (G-006)

- COR 008 – Generator Fencing - \$3,451.91

General Contract (G-007)

- COR 010 – Window sills at translucent panels - \$17,986.08

HVAC Contract (H-009)

- COR 015 – Condensate Pumps and Shut Down Controls - \$4,841.71

Electrical Contract (E-006)

- COR 9 – Raceway and Light Circuit Relocation - \$3,737.85
- COR 11 – PVC Conduit, New Breakers, Security Panel Relocation - \$4,380.13

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

#### **OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP**

A motion to approve Jessica Kaledas' overnight/out of state field trip request to take senior high band students to Nashville, TN on March 25 – 29, 2026 was moved by Miller, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

#### **RIVER ROCK ACADEMY ACT 48 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AGREEMENT**

A motion to approve the River Rock Academy Act 48 Alternative Education Agreement with River Rock Academy LLC for the use of alternative education for disruptive youth for 2024-2025 school year at a per diem cost of \$234.00 was moved by Bachman, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

#### **EMPLOYMENT – INFORMATIONAL**

Dr. Briggs accepted the resignation from Marquelle LaBarre from her Food Service Manager position at Rommelt Elementary effective September 17, 2024.

**EMPLOYMENT – WITHDRAWAL OF RESIGNATION/REINSTATEMENT OF POSITION**

A motion to approve the withdrawal of Alicia Porter’s resignation and restate her to her existing position under the South Williamsport Education Support Professionals Association effective immediately was moved by Bachman, seconded by Young. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

**EMPLOYMENT – HEAD BASEBALL COACH**

Chase Waller as Head Baseball Coach for the 2024-2025 season at a stipend of \$3,342 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

**CAREY FOREST PLANNING**

Mr. Carey from Carey Forest Planning provided the results of the Bid Opening for the tract of land behind the South Williamsport Area School District High School.

A motion to award the winning bid to Kish Lumber Co. LLC in the amount of \$53,317.00 was moved by Miller, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

**BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE**

Mr. Engel began a discussion about possibly changing the October 22, 2024 meeting to October 23, 2024. After comments from various board members, no action was taken. There will be no change in the October 22, 2024 board meeting date.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ELA SPORTS COMPLEX PROJECT PROCESS & TIMELINE/FOOTBALL CONCESSIONS**

Mr. Ernie Graham from ELA Sports spoke to the school board about upgraded concession area and bathrooms at football field. In this version, the architect created a large building on the East end of the field that consists of a concession area, toilet rooms, tickets and storage at an estimated cost of \$587,125. In addition, a West end ticket booth and cheer store would be constructed at an estimated cost of \$80,520 for a total package of \$667,645.

Mr. Ernie Graham reviewed information on the soccer/track complex that was presented at the March 11, 2024 board meeting. He reviewed the estimated costs at the High School Site and the Borough Park Site as presented at that prior meeting. He then spoke about the flood layers at the Borough Park Site and how to get the project through the permitting and zoning process with the Borough. He discussed that it will take approximately 8 months to receive all of the permissions needed prior to construction, and it is estimated it will take approximately 4 months to construct.

**HUMMER TURFGRASS PROPOSAL FOR PRACTICE FOOTBALL, BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FIELDS**

Dr. Briggs provided a proposal from Hummer Turfgrass to maintain the practice football, baseball and softball fields. The annual cost of that agreement would be \$16,615. Hummer also provided a proposal to maintain the soccer field only at an annual cost of \$3,383.

**NEW STORY PRESENTATION**

With the upcoming relocation of students out of the Rommelt Elementary Building, Dr. Briggs has been exploring programs that may need space to lease to run their programs.

John Schadler from New Story presented information to the school board. New Story runs a Private Academic License (PAL) program. New Story provides services for students on the Autistic Spectrum and Emotional Support students who cannot be handled by the home district. The goal of New Story’s program is to help with the student’s behaviors to ultimately return them to the home District.

### **RIVER ROCK PRESENTATION**

With the upcoming relocation of students out of the Rommelt Elementary Building, Dr. Briggs has been exploring programs that may need space to lease to run their programs.

Brandon Hoff from River Rock presented information to the school board. While he spoke about both programs; Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) and Private Academic License (PAL), River Rock would prefer using available space for the PAL program. Their PAL program can host students that have an emotional disturbance, learning disabled, intellectually disabled (case by case), or other health impairments.

### **LOCATION OF REMAINING BOARD MEETINGS**

Due to renovations beginning in the High School Library, the remaining board meeting dates (October 22, November 4, November 18, and December 3) will take place in the High School Auditorium. When dates are selected at the reorganization meeting on December 3, the location will be re-evaluated based on the progress of construction.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Miller, seconded by Young. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey  
Board Secretary