

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
August 8, 2018 – Administration Building  
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at the Shaler Area Administration Building, Glenshaw, PA, with Dr. April Kwiatkowski, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 7:39 p.m.

Board Members Present:                   Mrs. Suzanna Donahue  
  Mr. James Fisher (by phone)  
  Mr. Tim Gapsky  
  Dr. April Kwiatkowski  
  Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich  
  Mrs. Eileen Phillips  
  Mr. Steve Romac  
  Mr. James Tunstall

Not Present:                                   Mr. Jason Machajewski

Others Present:                            Mr. Sean Aiken, Superintendent  
  Dr. Bryan O’Black, Assistant Superintendent  
  Ms. Sherri Ludwig, Director of Business Affairs  
  Mr. Matt Hoffman, Solicitor

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

➤ Dr. April Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

Dr. O’Black then announced the following Educational Items:

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>SUP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
#	<u>EDUCATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	#	<u>TAKEN</u>
A.1	Approve the agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide special education services for the 2018-19 school year.	A.1	_____
A.2	Approve the agreement with Wesley Family Services to provide school-based therapeutic and student assistance program services for the 2018-19 school year.	A.2	_____
A.3	Approve the contract with PA-Educator.net from July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019 at a cost of \$3,000.	A.3	_____
A.4	Approve the first reading of the following revised policy: a. Policy No. 707 – Use of Facilities	A.4	_____
A.5	Approve the second reading of the following revised policy: a. Policy No. 404 – Employment of Supplemental Contracted Employees	A.5	_____

➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski thanked Mr. John Kaib, supervisor of buildings and grounds, and his team for their hard work this summer.

Dr. O’Black then announced the following Discussion Item:

Discussion Item:

1. Shaler Area Education Foundation – Dr. Kwiatkowski announced the annual 5K to be held Homecoming morning and provided details for registration. She also announced that the Foundation recently approved the formation of the Shaler Area Alumni Association and Mr. Mark Becker as the first president of the alumni association.

Dr. O’Black then announced the following Information Items:

Information Item:

1. Enrollment Update – Dr. O’Black provided details for enrollment numbers at that point in the summer. He said over the next couple of weeks, the district will continue to monitor the numbers especially in kindergarten. The district does have the ability to move students who enroll later in the school year or deny attendance exceptions to maintain smaller class sizes. Mrs. Donahue also asked for numbers for first grade. Mrs. Donahue said she would be interested in the district taking a proactive approach with kindergarten numbers that are reaching 25 students per classroom. A discussion occurred regarding class sizes, the enrollment of new students, and how the district has managed class sizes in the past.
2. Act 44 – School Safety and Security Coordinator – Per the requirements of PA Act 44, all districts must appoint a School Safety and Security Coordinator by August 31. Mr. Aiken has appointed Dr. Bryan O’Black, Assistant Superintendent to serve as the School Safety and Security Coordinator for Shaler Area School District. Mr. Aiken added that this is a requirement of the state, and school districts similar to Shaler Area also are appointing the assistant superintendent to this position because that person also approves the safety plans.

Ms. Ludwig then announced the following Finance Items:

<u>ITEM #</u>	<u>FINANCE AND OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP. #</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
C.1	<b>APPROVE FUND PROFILES:</b>		
A.	General Fund – Schedule of Bills and Addendum	C.1A	_____
B.	Cafeteria – Schedule of Bills	C.1B	_____
C.	Bond Proceeds – Schedule of Bills	C.1C	_____
D.	Year-to-Date Financial Reports	C.1D	_____
E.	Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1E	_____
C.2	Cafeteria Operating Statement	C.2	_____
C.3	Approval of ABC Transit, Inc. Bus Drivers for the 2018-19 school year	C.3	_____
C.4	Approval of school of attendance exception applications for the 2018-19 school year (pending final enrollment).	C.4	_____
C.5	Acknowledge receipt of the lists of unpaid taxes as submitted and further, the Board charges PA Municipal Service with the responsibility for delinquent tax collections.		

**Background Information:**

The tax collectors responsible for collection of the real estate taxes have submitted lists of unpaid 2017 taxes for exoneration from collection. The following represents unpaid taxes @ 06/30/2018.

Municipality	Properties	Amount
Etna Borough	244	\$ 190,051.12
Millvale Borough	357	\$ 251,528.49
Reserve Township	254	\$ 184,627.98
Shaler Township	650	\$1,046,072.81

C.6 Approve the removal, relocating and mounting of the two existing school zone warning devices at the new Scott Primary School along Scott Ave. as per traffic signal plans. Work to be completed by A-1 electric for the approximate cost of \$17,000. Utility charges may be additional. The actual change order and final costs will be provided as soon as available. C.6

- Mr. Aiken said for information, Mr. Kaib found a company to conduct a compaction test for the district’s two turf fields.
- Mr. Gapsky asked when the lights in Item C.6 would be moved. Dr. O’Black said the work will not proceed until the district issues that work, which would probably be the following week when the district can submit all the paperwork. The intent is for the lights to be up before the start of school.
- Mrs. Petrovich asked about the totals for Item C.5. Ms. Ludwig said the totals were about \$1.5 million; last year the total was \$2 million and next year she is projecting \$1.7 million. Ms. Ludwig said it was an overall \$626,000 decrease. Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if the delinquent properties were different from the year before or if they are consistently delinquent properties. Ms. Ludwig said that is next piece of the puzzle. The properties will go to the solicitor’s office and will be lienied as soon as possible.
- Mr. Romac asked if the number of drivers for Item C.3 is similar to previous years. Ms. Ludwig said the approval also includes anyone who works in the office who may be driving one of the district’s buses.
- Mr. Kaib said Field Turf tested the district’s turf fields on Saturday and he recently received the results. He said the Louis C. Martig Field at Titan Stadium passed and Biles Field also passed but by a small margin and the district will have to revisit the issue in the spring. Mr. Tunstall said it has served the district well but it’s not worth repairing. Mr. Kaib said Field Turf sent the district a quote for a new field, which he will sent along. Mr. Kaib said there are a number of variables to the final cost of a new field including drainage issues that wouldn’t be known until the turf was removed. Cost could range from \$270,000 to \$400,000 or \$500,000 or more.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski then invited the public to speak on any item.
  - Dorothy Petrancosta, who owns property at Skylark Drive, said there is information coming from Mt. Alvernia and the agreement to purchase Jeffery Primary. Mr. Hoffman said there was an agreement and they had a 7-day “escape clause” period during which time they decided to exit the agreement to purchase. Ms. Petrancosta said there was \$300,000 included in the budget for the sale of Jeffery, so she wanted to know if the district would market the property. She also suggested that the district look at personnel and other areas where it can save money. She said with the information shared about Biles Field, the district needs to decide if it is going to do something with it or abandon it, especially with the \$300,000 loss in the budget. Mr. Gapsky said he agreed.

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- Karen Bottegal, of Lehr Avenue, said 25 students in kindergarten is to many. She said her son's diagnosis of autism was missed because he was in a class of 25 students. She also said the discussion of Biles Field is about putting more money to athletics and suggested money should be directed to academics and special education instead. Mr. Tunstall said one objective of the school district is to provide services in the district to bring students back.
- Jodi Poniewaz, of Iola Street, said class size is important when it comes to students in kindergarten and those with dyslexia. She mentioned services through Robert Morris and the Peirce Center to train teachers with how to address dyslexia in the classroom. Mr. Aiken said it is something the district can look into.
- Jason Fedorek, of Lily Drive, said he supports smaller class sizes. He also questioned if Biles Field would be unsafe for athletics in the spring if youth programs that already are scheduled to play on the field would have to pay the new fee outlined in Item A.5 if they were forced to play on the Louis C. Martig Field at Titan Stadium on a Sunday due to scheduling conflicts. Mr. Kaib explained the fee structure. Mr. Aiken said if that happened, then the district would look at the teams and outside groups affected and explore all options.

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After no further items were presented, final adjournment occurred at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Baker  
Assistant Board Secretary