

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 14, 2018 – Administration Building
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at the Shaler Area Administration Building, Glenshaw, PA, with Dr. April Kwiatkowski, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 7:27 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. James Fisher
 Mr. Tim Gapsky
 Dr. April Kwiatkowski
 Mr. Jason Machajewski
 Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich
 Mrs. Eileen Phillips
 Mr. Steve Romac
 Mr. James Tunstall

Not Present: Mrs. Suzanna Donahue

Others Present: Mr. Sean Aiken, Superintendent
 Dr. Bryan O’Black, Assistant Superintendent
 Mr. Gary Mignogna, Director of Human Resources
 Ms. Sherri Ludwig, Director of Business Affairs
 Ms. Kathleen Graczyk, Director of Student Services
 Mr. Matt Hoffman, Solicitor
 Sophia Kachur, Student Representative
 Jake Solomon, Student Representative

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

➤ Dr. April Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:27 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 purchase of the following textbooks for high school Social Studies AP American History and AP European History classes: | A.1 | |
| | a. <i>The American Pageant</i> 16 th edition by Cengage Learning ©2016. 65 student texts @\$170.50 for a total cost, including shipping and handling of \$11,525.80. | | |
| | b. <i>Western Civilization</i> 10 th edition by Cengage Learning ©2018. 45 student texts @\$140 for a total cost, including shipping and handling, of \$6,552.00. | | |

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

Discussion Items:

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1. Student Representatives – Jake Solomon reported on the successful blood drive at the high school, Shalerpalooza, and the varsity swim team’s success at WPIAL and the wrestlers who made it to PIAA. Sophia Kachur reported on the large school safety event organized by students to bring awareness to school safety and discuss ways their school environment could be safer. Sophia said the Stand Together group, a mental health awareness group at the high school had formed, students participated in a survey about school safety during homeroom and a lot of good discussion occurred throughout the day. Dr. Kwiatkowski said she is fascinated that the high school students had the wherewithal to organize an event like that. Sophia said the students came away from the day wanting to do something more and are looking at future events that would grant them more time to prepare something even more impactful. Mr. Tunstall said he is excited to see the positive things the students doing. Sophia added that one thing the students were looking for was some feedback from administration to their suggestions or questions.

2. Shaler Area Education Foundation – Dr. Kwiatkowski announced this year’s Taste of Shaler Area event and highlighted some of the event’s features. Mr. Aiken added that the Foundation would be auctioning two scholarships: one for Duquesne University and one to La Roche College. He added that the student performers and student artwork will be a nice component.

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

Information Items:

1. A Taste of Shaler Area – Saturday, March 24th – 6:00-9:00 PM – Shaler Area Middle School

2. Opioid Town Hall Meeting – Thursday, April 19th – 6:00-9:00 PM – Shaler Area High School Auditorium
 - Mr. Aiken said the school board had challenged the district administration to address the issue of opioid abuse, so the district will again host an opioid town hall event that will feature vendors, a speaker series with breakout sessions. Additionally, this year the district would hold assemblies in the schools for students in grades 7-12. Mr. Gapsky said the event last year really opened his eyes and that it is not an event where vendors try to sell you something. He thanked Mr. Aiken and Dr. O’Black for what they are doing to address this crisis. Mr. Aiken said the district is doing things at all levels, and the event is for students in grades 7 and up.

Ms. Ludwig then announced the following Finance Items:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUP.</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| # | # | TAKEN |
| <u>FINANCE & OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u> | | |
| C.1 APPROVE FUND PROFILES: | | |
| A. General Fund – Schedule of Bills and Addendum | C.1A | _____ |
| B. Cafeteria Fund – Schedule of Bills | C.1B | _____ |
| C. Bond Proceeds – Schedule of Bills | C.1C | _____ |
| D. Construction, Repair & Renovation – Schedule of Bills | C.1D | _____ |
| E. Fund Profiles and Investments | C.1E | _____ |
| F. Budget Transfers | C.1F | _____ |
| G. Year-to-Date Financial Reports | C.1G | _____ |
| C.2 Cafeteria Operating Statement | C.2 | _____ |
| C.3 Approval of the proposed 2018/19 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget as presented. The Budget totals \$2,086,190. The Shaler Area | C.3 | _____ |

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School District's expected contribution to the AIU Program of Services budget is estimated at approximately \$59,032.

- C.4 Approval of the following construction change directives for the extension of the substantial completion date to March 31, 2018 for the Scott Primary School construction project for the following contractors: C.4
- A. Gito, Inc. d/b/a Nello Construction
 - B. East West Manufacturing & Supply Co., Inc.
 - C. Sargent Electric Company
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- C.5 Approval of the Master Service Agreement with Infinite Campus Inc. for purchase, training and support for the new student information software program. Annual costs as outlined in the contract are budgeted in the technology department budget. C.5
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- Ms. Ludwig said Item C.3 is a slight decrease from the previous year. Dr. O'Black said a few months ago the district gave a presentation to the Education Committee regarding the student information system and Item C.5. He said that anything the district or state needs to know about Shaler Area students is housed in a system. The gradebook portion is at end of life and the rest of the system is outdated. A team of staff looked at different software packages and the committee had a unanimous recommendation. It includes a real-time mobile app approach. After the initial implementation, the district will see a savings of about \$7,000 to 8,000 per year. It will be implemented in the 2018-19 school year. There will be one year in which it will run parallel with the current system.

Ms. Ludwig then announced the following Discussion Item:

Discussion Item:

1. Renaming of Hilltop Field – Dr. O'Black

- Mr. Aiken said that former softball coach Skip Palmer passed away and shortly thereafter the district was approached with a recommendation to rename the hilltop field for him. As per board policy, the district convened a committee and the committee made a recommendation to rename the field to the superintendent and now it is Mr. Aiken's position to bring it before the board. Mr. Aiken and Dr. O'Black met with Mr. Kevin Morgan who made the initial recommendation about letting some time pass before a facility is renamed for an individual. Mr. Aiken said it is good practice to have this discussion with the board. Mr. Palmer has been nominated into the Athletic Hall of Fame and maybe it should be a consideration for that to happen first. Mr. Gapsky said he thinks the district should wait for a later date before making the decision. Dr. Kwiatkowski said she agrees. She is not ready to rename a facility at this time. Mr. Gapsky asked if there were any letters of support; Mr. Aiken said not at this time. Mr. Tunstall said the committee gave the information they had but he would also like to hear from the community, including other people involved in the program. Mr. Gapsky said Mr. Palmer was a great guy and he doesn't want to make the decision based on sentimental reasoning. He would like to wait a year. Mr. Aiken said Mr. Morgan asked the question about what waiting would do for us. Mr. Aiken said he feels waiting would give perspective for the board and administration. Dr. Kwiatkowski added that the decision was still an emotional one. Mr. Aiken concluded that the decision is to wait.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski then invited the public to speak on any item.
- Dorothy Petrancosta, of Skylark Drive, said she was at the Shaler Township commissioners meeting the previous night and wanted to preface the women who came to speak about the sidewalk along Clare Street, at the new Scott Primary School. She said there was a sidewalk in the early plans for the school and then there wasn't and the women were looking for perspective on why the sidewalk was taken out.

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- Julie Power, of Hodil Rd, and Katie Smith, of Phillips Ave, asked about including a sidewalk along Clare Street at the new Scott Primary School. They attended a Shaler Township commissioners' meeting and they supported the sidewalk and blamed the school district for not having a sidewalk. That being said, they asked if there was any opposition to adding a sidewalk and asked if it could be added back into the plan. Mr. Aiken said he spoke with the township as well. A sidewalk was originally in the construction project but was removed at the request of the township planning commission when they noted it as a safety concern because it eventually has to end. However, Mr. Aiken said he is willing to take this suggestion back with the school board and township to look at it. Ms. Powers and Ms. Smith said they agree the sidewalk will have to end but it seems like a good opportunity to increase sidewalks in the community. Mr. Aiken said the district will see if there is a way to do it safely.

- Chris Chirdon, who represents Walk Bike Shaler and is also a member of the township planning commission since January, said Shaler is now part of Live Well Allegheny and that includes a focus on including safe walking areas. He said he is at the meeting to show support for the sidewalk. He said if the school district does not provide a sidewalk, children will probably walk on the road. He said the group also is pushing for sidewalks between Kiwanis Park and Mt. Royal. He also asked that as a parent of a child in the district, would the new student information system replace Edline. The answer was "yes."

After no further items were presented, final adjournment occurred at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Baker
Assistant Board Secretary