

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
January 10, 2024 – Hybrid  
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, in a hybrid format, in person at the Shaler Area Administrative Offices, and on Zoom, a virtual meeting platform, with Dr. April Kwiatkowski, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 7:28 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Ms. Elizabeth Dunn  
Mr. James Fisher  
Mr. Tim Gapsky  
Dr. April Kwiatkowski  
Mr. Jason Machajewski  
Ms. Dorothy Petrancosta  
Mrs. Eileen Phillips  
Mr. James Tunstall

Others Present:

Dr. Sean Aiken, Superintendent  
Dr. Bryan O’Black, Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Joseph Testa, Director of Student Services  
Mr. John Kaib, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds  
Mr. Thomas Misko, Assistant Principal, High School  
Mr. Erich Kaiser, Health & PE Department Chair 7-12  
Mr. John Vogel, Solicitor  
Isabelle Dutkovic, Student Representative  
Eleni Karnavas, Student Representative

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

Dr. O’Black introduced new hires Lorraine Cacciatore, Payroll Specialist, and Ryan Reicoff, Custodial Maintenance, to the board. Both Lori and Ryan are excited to begin employment with the district.

Dr. Aiken introduced Andy Sieber, Elementary School Counselor, and advisor to the Shaler Area Elementary School Student Ambassadors. The student ambassadors are current sixth graders who participate and organize fundraising activities such as food drives for the Backpack Initiative, volunteer with North Hills Community Outreach and Animal Friends. This year there are 23 student ambassadors, 7 were in attendance to honor the school board members during School Board Appreciation Month.

➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:57 p.m.

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

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>SUP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>#</u>	<u>EDUCATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>TAKEN</u>
A.1	Approve the Shaler Area High School Course Description Handbook for the 2024-25 school year.	A.1	<hr/>
A.2	Approve the following out-of-district travel: a. Shaler Area High School Holocaust, AP U.S. History, and LIGHT classes travel to U. S. Holocaust Museum and tour of monuments – March 15, 2024. Cost to the district four substitute teachers for one day.	A.2	<hr/>

Dr. O'Black asked Mr. Misko to give a summary of the changes to the course description handbook:

- Essentials of Firefighting – partnership with Allegheny County Fire Academy, students learn entry level fire training, CPR and first aid.
- Community College of Beaver County Dual Enrollment offering – Aviation Academy – for students in grades 11 and 12 preparing for professional pilot, air traffic control, or aerospace management careers. Students who complete 2 years of this program can graduate from high school with up to 28 college credits toward their associate degree.
- English Language Arts – Offer Drama/Theatre 2 and close Stage Craft.
- Family & Consumer Science – College in High School Advanced Preschool Lab through Carlow University
- Health & Physical Education – Eliminated Physical Education 10-12 and Advanced Physical Education. New Course Offerings: Pickleball, tennis, badminton, table tennis, disc golf, mountain biking, volleyball, strength and conditioning, football, soccer, handball, basketball, volleyball. Mr. Kaiser explained that the department wants to give students the opportunity to participate in lifetime activities, sports performance, and team sports. The graduation requirement hasn't changed.
- Mathematics – rename Algebra 1 Fundamentals – Essentials of Algebra 1, and eliminate Honors Calculus CHS since AP Calculus AB/CHS covers the same University of Pittsburgh curriculum while preparing for the AP exam.
- Science – Honors Organic Chemistry from 1.5 credits to 1 credit.
- Social Studies – New Course Offering – Advanced Topics in Psychology.

➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there were any questions from the board.

- Mr. Kress believes that physical activity makes you feel better and these new courses are good.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski asked what we are doing to promote CHS courses. Mr. Misko reported that the High School is hosting “Curriculum 2 Career Expo” on February 22 from 6-8 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about high school curriculum, workforce skills, career pathways and employment opportunities. Designed for students in grades 8-12.
- Mr. Fisher asked if our calculus and math teachers encourage students to select the correct courses. Mr. Misko explained that teachers will talk to individual students to get them in the right courses.
- Mr. Kress would like to see courses in financial literacy. He believes students should be taught how to manage a checkbook and credit card debt. Mr. Misko said that these are taught in Family & Consumer Science classes.

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

1. Student Representatives – Isabelle Dutkovic & Elena Karnavas

**Burchfield Primary** – November 6-11 we are celebrating “Gratitude Week” each day with a theme of things we can be thankful to such as our classmates, our country, our school. Carnival Night is November 10 at 6:00 p.m. High School students will be volunteering.

**Reserve Primary** – Our parent club held a Fall Festival last Friday with games, pumpkins and face painting. We had a huge community turn out and Police, EMS, Fire and maintenance department all brought vehicles for students to tour. These groups also came to safety week and taught lessons and answered questions.

**Scott Primary** – Halloween parades were live-streamed so relatives could be part of celebrations. Grade 3 students made friendship bracelets to share with local veterans at the middle school breakfast. Students from Thailand and Ecuador were welcomed – our school is comprised of almost 11% English learners. Students are collecting food for North Hills Community Outreach.

**Middle School** – On November 8 we will host our annual Veteran's Day breakfast from 8-10 in our cafeteria.

**High School** – “The Homecoming” will be presented November 17 & 18. The first blood drive is this Friday. Winter sports physicals were yesterday and winter sports parents meeting is next Tuesday. Carson Pierce was

named to the Steelers All-Peer Team. The Powder Puff game is November 21 and seniors will be hosting a bake sale. Seniors are starting a Sarris candy fundraiser and a Moe's fundraiser to raise money for class funds. Dr. O'Black mentioned that students who took AP tests in the spring should be receiving their reimbursement checks sometime next month.

2. Shaler Area Education Foundation – Dr. Aiken reported that the committee met on Monday night. One of the discussion items was how do we promote scholarships to the teaching staff. Kimberly Reed plans to come to the mid-year gathering on January 16 to get the word out. The Taste of Shaler Area is scheduled for Saturday, April 6 at Scott Primary School.
3. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Aiken
  - We are hosting a parent education night on Monday, January 15 at Scott Primary School. Gregg Behr will discuss his book "When you Wonder, You're Learning." Childcare will be available. The next day Mr. Behr will meet with teachers during the mid-year in-service at the high school. This year's Kim Baysek-Young Extra Mile Award winners will also be announced.
  - On Wednesday, January 24, Scott Primary and the elementary school will be hosting administrators as part of AASA's Learning 2025. The group will learn about Scott's House System and Project ENGIN, and the elementary school will showcase the IKS Titan Dream Flight Simulator.

Mrs. Jaffee then announced the following Finance Items:

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>SUP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>#</u>	<u>FINANCE &amp; OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>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.	2019 Bond Proceeds – Schedule of Bills	C.1C	_____
D.	Bond Transfers	C.1D	_____
E.	Year-to-Date Financial Reports	C.1E	_____
F.	Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1F	_____
C.2	Cafeteria Operating Statement	C.2	_____
C.3	The Administration recommends acknowledging receipt of the lists of unpaid taxes as submitted and further, the Board charges the appointed Tax Collectors with the responsibility for delinquent tax collections. Collections will occur until the Administration advises the Tax Collectors the date of which they will turn over collections to Pennsylvania (PA) Municipal Services (PAMS).	C.3	_____

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Number of Properties</b>	<b>Face Value</b>
Etna Borough	278	\$ 262,759.48
Millvale Borough	934	\$1,075,169.75
Reserve Township	373	\$ 315,976.56
Shaler Township	940	\$1,837,452.21

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| C.4 | Approve the use of national and state cooperative procurement programs for the calendar year 2024, including Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN) CoStars, PEPPM, and the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA) in addition to the attached listing. Approval of the use of consortium contracts, in no way, precludes obtaining quotes and negotiating price which assures fiscal responsibility for the district. | C.4   |
|     |  | _____ |
| C.5 | Approve the contract with CSM Consulting, Inc. for ERATE consulting services for the period retroactive to July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$2.5K for inter-school fiber connection and internet services and \$3K plus 1.5% of requested amount for core switch replacement.   | C.5   |
|     |  | _____ |
| C.6 | Approve the contract, as reviewed by the district solicitor, for DENTAL SERVICES AGREEMENT with Dr. Tera DePaoli D.M.D. (“DENTIST”) with its principal place of business located at 4984 Middle Rd, Gibsonia 15044 for state mandated student examinations in the amount of \$9 per exam through June 30, 2026.  | C.6   |
|     |  | _____ |

➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there were any questions from the board.

- Mr. Kress asked about Item C.3. When will these unpaid taxes be turned over to PAMS? Mrs. Jaffee stated that this is done in July. Mr. Kress would like to modify the installment plan to give people an extra month to pay, possibly by the end of February. Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if the numbers have changed over the last few years. Mrs. Jaffee stated that the numbers have changed, especially in Millvale. Mr. Vogel stated that a lot of these properties have been delinquent for years. Mr. Fisher feels that looking at a different payment plan is good but we don’t want people taking advantage.
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Discussion Items:

1. Demographer’s Study: Dr. Aiken explained that the administration is recommending a demographic study is necessary as it provides valuable information for educators, board members, and the larger school community. These studies are essential for making informed decisions, promoting equity, and improving the overall quality of education by tailoring programs and policies to meet the diverse needs of students within a particular district.
2. Scott Primary Sink Hole: We have asked KLH Engineering to give the district an estimate of the cost of repairs. We should have this information next week. Mr. Kaib reported that it is being measured weekly and the weather is making it wider. Dr. Kwiatkowski would like to see a sturdier fence. Mr. Kaib and his team will look into installing a more substantial fence.

➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there were any questions from the board.

- There were none.

➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski invited the board to speak on any other business.

- Mr. Gapsky announced the passing of Mr. Frank Pecman on December 26, 2023. Mr. Pecman taught history and psychology for 32 years. He also coached track and football.

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➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski then recognized the public to speak on any other items:

- There were none.

➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski then invited the remote public to speak on any other items:

- There were none.

After no further items were presented, final adjournment occurred at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri M. Jaffee,  
Board Secretary