

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
C.O.W. Meeting  
October 14, 2015 – Administration Building  
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at the Shaler Area Administration Office, Glenshaw, PA, with Mr. John Fries, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 7:34 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mr. William Coutts  
Mrs. Suzanna Donahue  
Mr. James Fisher  
Mr. John Fries  
Mr. Tim Gapsky  
Mrs. Susan Hunt  
Dr. April Kwiatkowski  
Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich  
Mr. Steve Romac

Others Present:

Dr. Vic Morrone, Acting Superintendent  
Dr. Bryan O'Black, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Charles Bennett, Director of Business Affairs  
Mr. Gary Mignogna, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. John Vogel, Solicitor

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

- Mr. Fries called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and introduced Dr. Vic Morrone and Dr. Bryan O'Black who presented the following students with awards:
- Zachary Hughes, Commended Student in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program
  - Adam Bleil, National Association for Music Educators (NAfME) All-National Honor Ensembles—Jazz Band
  - Tori Lorenz, National Association for Music Educators (NAfME) All-National Honor Ensembles—Mixed Choir
  - David Berdik, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the Desktop Application Programming category at the Future Business Leaders of America's National Leadership Conference
  - Isabelle Dutkovic, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the National Garden Club's annual poetry contest
- Mr. Fries then opened the Committee of the Whole meeting.

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

<u>Item</u> <u>#</u>	<u>EDUCATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP</u> <u>#</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
A.1	Approve the second reading of the following revised policy: a. Policy No. 916.1 – School Volunteers	A.1	<hr/>

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

Discussion Items:

1. Student Representatives – James Belany & Sage Wilson: James Belany said homecoming went well. He reported that there would be a coat drive at the North Hills football game to benefit the North Hills Community Outreach. There is also a new club called SPACE, Student Political Action Committee for Education, to help increase

student awareness of politics and government. The club will help seniors sign up to vote and hold mock presidential debates. The second student representative, Sage Wilson, also introduced herself to the school board. Dr. Morrone added that in early November, students would sponsor events for National Recycling Day.

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

Information Items:

1. Shaler Area Education Foundation Update – Dr. Kwiatkowski said about 125 people registered during homecoming events to start the alumni database. The foundation also is looking to use the Rogers Primary School demolition as a fundraising effort by saving bricks to sell or having people purchase bricks or plaques for the new building.
2. Student Trip to France – June 22, 2016 to July 12, 2016 – Andrew Koller said the trip is language intensive and focuses on using the French language.
3. Student Trip to Peru – June 21, 2017 to July 1, 2017 – Rachel Anton pointed out that the trip she is proposing is in 2017.
4. Carnegie Science Center STEM Excellence Pathway Court – Dr. O’Black said Shaler Area is one of 10 schools accepted to the Carnegie Science Center STEM Excellence Pathway program.
5. PDE Approval Letter regarding Burchfield/Rogers closing on 9/30/15 – Dr. O’Black said the waiver was to approve the District’s need to close the Burchfield/Rogers building due to a water main break.

Mr. Bennett then presented the following Finance items:

<u>Item</u> <u>#</u>	<u>FINANCE AND OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>Sup.</u> <u>#</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
C.1	<b>APPROVE FUND PROFILES:</b>		
A.	General Fund – Schedule of Bills and Addendum	C.1A	_____
B.	Cafeteria Fund – Schedule of Bills	C.1B	_____
C.	CR&R Fund – Schedule of Bills	C.1C	_____
D.	Year-to-Date Financial Reports	C.1D	_____
E.	Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1E	_____
C.2	Approval to re-appoint Debra Kriete as its agent for purposes of providing E-rate services to the District.	C.2	_____
C.3	Approval of resolutions as recommended.	C.3	_____

- Mr. Bennett said the state is now more than 100 days without a budget. He said while the district is OK with cash flow at least through January, the district could take out a line of credit if it comes to it. Mr. Fisher said from January through March he expects to see 90 percent of school districts in Allegheny County to be out of money.
- Mr. Bennett said the resolutions for C.3 came late yesterday from HHSDR and are available on Blackboard for the school board members to review. The first is for asbestos removal and the second is for the geotechnical services for the new Rogers school. Mr. Fries asked if the resolution would hold if something were to go wrong. Mr. Bennett said those assurances will come to the board when it receives proposals.

- Dr. Morrone said the process to strip Rogers has started and there is a meeting on Friday to look at things like library books. Mr. Bennett said the cafeteria equipment still is stored in Rogers and some of the equipment has been cannibalized to repair other district equipment. Dr. Morrone said the district is looking at April 2016 as a possible time to use Rogers as a training site for volunteer fire departments.
- Mr. Bennett said the district has used Citizens Bank for a number of years free of charge. Citizens Bank said its services no longer will be free to the district, so Shaler Area is moving its banking services to Liquid Asset Fund, backed by PNC bank. Mr. Bennett said long term, the district may go out with an RFP for banking services—possibly next spring.

Mr. Bennett then presented the following Acknowledgement item:

Acknowledgement:

1. Adjusted Index for Fiscal Year 2016-17 as prepared by the PA Department of Education, 3.2% or .70 mills.

Mr. Bennett then presented the following Information items:

Information item:

1. The Bond closing is scheduled for October 22, 2015 at the offices Bond Counsel, Grogan, Graffam, P.C.
2. Discussion which may lead to an approval item:

Approval to replace the running track surface and to install artificial turf on the playing field at the Mt. Royal Stadium complex. Funding to come from a bond issue in the spring of 2016, which will also finish the funding for Rogers Primary School Project.

- Mr. Bennett said funds for the track and turf will have to come from a bond issue. He said the board needs to decide how far it wants to carry the first phase, and there needs to be a consensus between now and the first of the year. Dr. Morrone said the board asked for more information about the proposed phases of the athletic facilities' updates and HHSDR said it would have something available by next week. Mr. Fries said he is off the board in 1.5 months and he doesn't know that the board has enough information to make a decision. After some discussion by the board, Dr. Kwiatkowski said the board has not held one public meeting where it has talked about just this project. Mr. Fries asked for a meeting to be scheduled on Nov. 4 to discuss the athletic facilities in public.
- Walt Banze, of Moonstone Drive, said he thinks the board is jumping ahead of everything and doesn't think there is a need for an artificial turf. He agrees there is a need to replace the track, but he argues the field is fine. Mr. Banze said the bottom line is that the school district has something that will survive and a magic carpet is not the answer.
- Jon LeDonne, football coach, said there are safety concerns. The practice field is in terrible condition and the team recently had an injury. Mr. Coutts said the rates of injury are the same, but the types of injury are different on grass vs. turf.
- Justin Eskra, track and field coach, said sitting through meetings he has no idea of the cost for the projects or what they look like and that is a concern.

- Dr. Kwiatkowski pointed out that the board has not voted to do either project, the turf or track, formally. Mr. Bennett said that was his intent of having it as a discussion item to see if there was an interest to move forward. Dr. Kwiatkowski said the people have not had the opportunity to touch and feel and talk about the turf. Mr. Bennett said the district could schedule the Nov. 4 meeting to discuss it.
- Mr. Fisher suggested the district talk to North Hills who just put in a track. He also said the problem going from grass to artificial turf is what is used for infill. He said the district almost needs a sports consultant. After additional discussion, administration said it would arrange for presenters for the Nov. 4 meeting.
- Mr. Bennett then gave an update on the football game in which the school board said \$1 from gate tickets would be used to create a scholarship in Ava Campbell's name. He said 916 tickets were sold, so \$916 would go to the foundation. He added that Clint Rauscher, athletic director, had a concern about the complimentary tickets given out for this game. Dr. Morrone said he wanted to know if it is OK to divert the money to a scholarship. Mr. Vogel said generally a school district is not encouraged to donate money to an outside organization. If the money is coordinated with a booster group, it drops that issue. After additional discussion from the school board members about the legality of transferring the money, Mr. Fries offered to write a personal check for \$916 and give it to the foundation for the scholarship.
- Dr. Morrone said there was a suggestion made to have a bonfire pep rally in advance of Shaler Area's football game vs. North Hills. Mr. Bennett said he signed the county permit to do so and gave it to Mr. Rauscher today. The pep rally will be held on the Thursday before the football game and be held on the middle school campus. Volunteer fire fighters will be at the event to control the bonfire. Mr. Fries said he was all for it but wanted to make sure all the Is dotted and Ts crossed. There was a consensus of the board to move forward with organizing the pep rally.

Mr. Fries then recognized the public to speak:

- Dorothy Petrancosta, of Skylark Drive, said the most recent homecoming event was the smoothest in recent years. She said if the district is doing something different to keep doing it. Ms. Petrancosta suggested the district look at doing something for students in the Free and Reduced Lunch program to give them a pass into athletic events. The stands are not full and it would be nice to do something for those students. She recommended not just giving them tickets because they could be sold.
- Mr. Eskra said over the summer there were discussions about track items that were needed and wanted to know if they had been approved for purchase because the team would be starting indoor track season in November. Dr. Morrone said he would talk to Mr. Rauscher and report back to the coach. He admitted that part of the issue is that it was not understood what needed to be ordered immediately or that there was a need for the equipment before the spring season.

After no further items were presented and no one from the public addressed the Board, Mr. Fries adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Baker  
Assistant Board Secretary