

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
C.O.W. Meeting  
September 9, 2015 – Administration Building  
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 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  
   Dr. April Kwiatkowski  
   Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich  
   Mr. Steve Romac

Others Present:                   Dr. Vic Morrone, Acting Superintendent  
   Dr. Bryan O'Black, Interim Assistant to the Superintendent  
   Mr. Charles Bennett, Director of Business Affairs  
   Mr. Gary Mignogna, Director of Human Resources  
   Mr. Matt Hoffman, Solicitor

Not Present:                       Mr. Tim Gapsky  
   Mrs. Susan Hunt

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

- Mr. Fries called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Vic Morrone who presented the following students with awards commending their heroic actions this year:
  - For assisting during a bus emergency on the first day of school (Aug. 26): Shaler Area Middle School students Emma Dischner, Daniel Evans, Aaron Glusic, Austin Henne, Jennifer Raymond, Devon Scarramuzzo and George Vassilev
  - For assisting with a student who was choking in the cafeteria (Sept. 3): Shaler Area Middle School students Heidi Scherrah and Caelin Stewart.
- Mr. Fries then opened the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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

<u>Item</u> #	<u>EDUCATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP</u> #	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
A.1	Approve the date of the Shaler Area School District's Kennywood School Picnic for Saturday, May 7, 2016	A.1	_____
A.2	Approve the first reading of the following revised policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Policy No. 916.1 – School Volunteers</li></ul>	A.2	_____

- Mr. Mignogna outlined the changes to the revised School Volunteers policy, including when the tuberculosis examination is required and how often the clearances need to be renewed. Mr. Mignogna then asked the board members if they want to continue to require all clearances for single-day field trips, which is no longer required by the state. There was consensus to continue the requirement for single-day field trips.

- Mr. Fries asked Eileen Phillips, president of the District Parent Council, if the requirement would be a hardship for parents and if the buildings would lose single-day field trip volunteers as a result of requiring all three clearances. Mrs. Phillips said that is what the DPC has heard from the building PTO representatives. After additional discussion, Mr. Fries asked that the school board review the policy in 6 to 12 months to determine if it was affecting volunteers.
- Mr. Fisher then asked to look at Policy 818 Contracted Services/Background Checks to see if the policy needs to be updated in light of the state's new requirements.
- Mr. Fries said he wanted the district to look into the track use to ensure the public only is using it before and after school. Dr. Kwiatkowski also asked if the lights are on later to allow the public to use the track later into the evening.

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

Discussion Items:

1. Student Representative – James Belany said that preparations are being made for homecoming. He also said that all of the seniors had received their iPads during distribution that week. He said that they haven't been used in class yet, and he feared they would be more of a distraction than a help. Dr. Morrone asked James for an update on the student schedule concerns he brought to the board last month. James said he met with Dr. Royall who told him similar problems occur every year. James suggested that the district not offer a class in the course description if there is not a plan to hold the class.
2. Maxim Staffing Solutions Agreement – Mr. Watson said the district has three bus runs this year and all are more than 3 hours long so there is not an issue of losing money this school year. Last year, there were 8 nurses who quit and during that time, there were 105 substitutes who came in for shifts. Mr. Watson said that number does not include the number of times he had to call a family to tell them the district did not have a sub for the day. He added that districts, which adopted the 3-hour guarantee, had 0-3 nurses turnover as opposed to 8.

Mr. Fries said the company is entitled to make a profit on an employee who only works for 2 hours. After the school board members asked additional questions, Mrs. Petrovich said she has no problem with the change when the board is discussing a new Rogers building and a new stadium. Mr. Watson said the company is not doing it to make a profit but to provide a better service and more consistent service for the students.

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

Information Items:

1. Shaler Area Education Foundation Update – Dr. Kwiatkowski said the foundation met last night and they will have a presence in the parade and at the homecoming picnic where members will begin to collect information for an alumni database.
2. Enrollment – Dr. O'Black said Day 3 enrollment numbers totaled 4,502. The kindergarten position was posted for the additional kindergarten section at Marzolf and Mr. Jeff Rojik and Mr. Rick Pelkofer, primary school principals, will conduct the search.
3. ESEA Waiver – Dr. O'Black said the Department of Education received the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) waiver. Dr. O'Black said that Shaler Area and the entire state's scores dropped significantly on the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) tests because of the process of level-setting the PSSA scores and resetting all cut scores, coupled with it being the first year students took the test aligned to the PA Core. This also was to be the first year the PSSA scores were to be used in teacher and principal evaluations, so the state decided it wouldn't be fair. Therefore, the waiver allows for a one-year pause in the SPP (School Performance Profile) scores in buildings that took the PSSA test. In Shaler Area School District, only the high school will receive an SPP score.

4. ASSET's STEM Scholarship Program – Dr. O'Black said this \$4,800 grant will be used to train middle school and elementary school science teachers to infuse writing into their lessons.
5. The PA Department of Education has determined that Shaler Area has met the requirements of Part B of the IDEA for 2013.
6. Additional Americorps teachers for 2015-16: *(Resumes posted on BlackBoard)*

Justin Yeckel	Slippery Rock University	Rogers Primary
Andrew Lenz	Slippery Rock University	Elementary School
Jessica Roos	Penn State University	Elementary School
Hayley Ross	LaRoche College	Burchfield Primary

7. Education Committee – Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

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.	Year-to-Date Financial Reports	C.1C	_____
D.	Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1D	_____

- Mr. Bennett said the district is OK moving through the next three to four months despite the state budget impasse.

Mr. Bennett then presented the following Discussion items:

Discussion:

1.) Presentation on upcoming Bond Issue for Rogers Primary Project, Representatives from Piper Jaffray (Randy Frederick) and Bond Counsel from Grogan & Graffam, PC (Ron Brown) will be there.

- Mr. Randy Frederick, of Piper Jaffray, said it would be best to focus on a \$10 million bond issue at this time because the rates are so low. He added that a \$10 million bond or less has an interest rate benefit and is bank qualified. In April or May, the district can do another refinance issue for the remaining balance on the project. Mr. Frederick then reviewed the rate, rate trends and existing district debt. He said the additional bond issue could be wrapped around the existing debt to make the debt payments level. Mr. Frederick said the optimal wrap would take the new debt out to 2033 with room remaining to wrap around that for future bond issues. He estimated the debt would go out 25 years for the full project. Mr. Bennett said the District would look at the affordability and may push it out 35 or 30 years but it would be built within the district's budget. Mr. Frederick said the district would have to close the issue before Dec. 31. Ron Brown, of Grogan & Graffam, PC, then explained the process. On Sept. 16, the school board will need to pass a resolution to give direction to the staff to go out for the bond. There is a 20-day review period to make sure all requirements of the debt are actually met. The final closing would be the latter part of October. Mr. Bennett added that a lot of work has gone into the process.

- Mr. Fries then asked how the summer feeding program went. Mr. Bennett said for the first year it went well. It was a lot of work but a good experience. He said the district will look at it again for next year.

2.) Mr. Greer Hayden will attend the September 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting to update board on the Rogers Primary Project and to review athletic field upgrade options.

Mr. Bennett then presented the following Acknowledgement item:

Acknowledgement:

Reserve Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant \$11,328 – Mr. Bennett added that this is the third grant of this kind that Reserve Primary has received.

- Dorothy Petrancosta, of Skylark Drive, said there was an incident the second day of school with her student that she wanted to bring to the school board's attention. Her student didn't make it back inside the building after an outdoor physical education class and got locked out. Another student let her student back in the building. Mrs. Petrancosta said the entire situation was disturbing to her and her family. She questioned if the doors had cameras and how "a stranger" could be prevented from mistakenly being admitted into the building.
- Mr. Coutts added that security isn't about physical barriers; it's about a culture.

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 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Baker  
Assistant Board Secretary