

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Committee of the Whole Meeting
November 9, 2016 – Administration Building
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at the Shaler Area Administration Building, Glenshaw, PA, with Mr. Steve Romac, School Board Vice President, presiding. This meeting began at 7:06 p.m.

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

Not Present: Dr. April Kwiatkowski

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
 Ms. Sage Wilson, Student Representative

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

➤ Mr. Romac called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Ms. Ludwig then announced 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	APPROVE FUND PROFILES:		
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.	Budget Transfers	C.1E	_____
F.	Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1F	_____
G.	Cafeteria Fund Operating Statement	C.1G	_____
H.	Student Activity Funds & Investments - High School, Middle School, and Elementary School Accounts – July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016	C.1H	_____
I.	Bond Proceeds – Schedule of Bills	C.1I	_____
C.2	Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Shaler Area School District’s Participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit #3 Joint Purchasing Board for year 2017.	C.2	_____

C.3 Approval of an extension of our current agreement The Western Pennsylvania Natural Gas Consortium Committee December 1, 2016 through August 2019 with a Basis price of minus \$0.48 cents per dth. Our current agreement has a Basis price of minus \$0.43 cents per dth.

C.4 Approval of the appointment of Jason Machajewski as the delegate and _____ as the alternate to serve on the Tri-Cog Land Bank School District Advisory Committee.

C.4

- Discussion occurred as to whether or not the Land Bank delegate needed to be a School Board member or someone employed by the District. Mr. Tunstall volunteered to be listed as the alternate for Item C.4.
- Mr. John Kaib, supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, gave an update on the Titan Stadium project. He said crews were cleaning the track to prepare it for striping, which will take 2 days of nice weather. He said it will hopefully be completed by the following week.

Dr. O'Black then announced the following Education 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 a Disciplinary Action for Student #2 for the 2016-17 school year.	Board Only	_____
A.2	Approve a Disciplinary Action for Student #3 for the 2016-17 school year.	Board Only	_____
A.3	Approve a Disciplinary Action for Student #4 for the 2016-17 school year.	Board Only	_____
A.4	Approve a Disciplinary Action for Student #5 for the 2016-17 school year.	Board Only	_____
A.5	Approve an agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide alternative education services for the 2016-17 school year	A.5	_____
A.6	Approve an agreement with MHY Family Services to provide educational services at Longmore Academy for the 2016-17 school year. Cost per student is \$85/day (Regular Ed.) and \$90/day (Special Ed.).	A.6	_____
A.7	Approve the following overnight/out-of-state trip: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Girls Varsity Basketball travel to Washington, D.C., December 10 to December 11, 2016, to participate in the "She Got Game Classic" basketball tournament. No cost to the district. 	A.7	_____

- Mr. Romac asked if there was any cost associated with Item A.7. Dr. O'Black said there was no cost to the district and the booster group would cover the cost to the participants. Mr. Aiken said the cost is less than \$100 to the students to be paid for by the booster group.

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

Discussion Items:

1. Student Representative – Sage Wilson announced the high school fall play to open the coming weekend. She also said she polled a group of juniors and seniors to see if they knew what the school board does or who its members were. Her findings indicated that few high school students could identify a school board member or what the board is responsible for. The Board members discussed reinstating the Adopt a Board Member program in which Board members go into the classroom to observe. The conversation also led to a discussion on when a course is closed due to low enrollment and the rigor in the upper level courses. Administration and School Board members discussed the differences between AP courses and College in High School courses. Mr. Brian Davis, a high school science teacher, said the department chairs are working on a proposal that would change the AP criteria to give more students the opportunity to take an AP course. The administration and School Board members expressed support of this.
2. Shaler Area Education Foundation – Mr. Aiken announced that the meeting was moved to Nov. 15, at 6:30 p.m. due to Election Day.
3. Live Well Allegheny – Mr. Mignogna said the Allegheny County Health Department developed the program to promote awareness and individual health. If the school board endorses the project, Shaler Area will provide information to the county and four action plans to improve student and staff health, many of which are already in place, he said. If approved, Shaler Area would become the 7th school district to earn the distinction. After a straw poll, the School Board agreed to add it to the voting agenda.
4. Grading Scale and Class Rank – Dr. O'Black and Mr. Aiken proposed moving to a 10 point grading scale and away from the current 8-9 point scale. Mr. Aiken said many school districts have gone to the 10 point grading scale and the administration doesn't feel Shaler Area students should be disadvantaged in any way or graded differently than their peers when competing for scholarships and opportunities. Mr. Aiken said in the 1990s there was a misguided notion that changing the grading scale would make education more rigorous. Sage Wilson added that the current grading scale has affected her QPA because so many of her grades are right on the line. The School Board expressed support and concern and questioned how soon the change could go into effect. Mr. Aiken said the change could happen next school year and with regards for changes to the class rank it would occur with an incoming 9th grade class. Mr. Aiken said he prefers to look at a student's next steps after graduating rather than focus on class rank. The class rank discussion looked at removing the ranking system from Shaler Area with the goal of encouraging students to take courses in a subject that may be a passion or would benefit them as they look at their post-secondary plans rather than students feeling dissuaded from taking such a course because it may negatively affect his or her class rank. Mr. Aiken suggested that if students achieve a certain GPA they could achieve a Distinguished Scholar distinction. Sage Wilson said college applications tend to ask for percentile ranks and to take that into consideration. The conversation closed with administration offering to come up with a proposal to bring before the board at a future date.
5. Titan Stadium – Dr. O'Black and Mr. Aiken presented ideas for public usage once the stadium project is completed. Mr. Aiken said he would like one clear sign to address the hours and usage of the track and field, establish the monitoring of the facility with police presence and cameras and designate one main entrance at the south end of the facility. The School Board members discussed their intent to close the facility to the public during school hours for physical education classes and expressed support for the administration's ideas.

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

Information Item:

1. Academic Spotlight Presentation – Wednesday, November 16th – Dr. Royall, High School Principal. Dr. O'Black said starting in November, there will be a monthly academic spotlight in which a building or program will present information to the School Board about the academic initiative. The first presentation will feature the high school's academic success.
- Mr. Romac announced that the following Tuesday would be an Athletic meeting for coaches followed by a meeting for parents.
 - Mr. Fisher said December 14 would be a Finance Committee meeting and a Buildings and Grounds meeting would be scheduled soon.
 - Mr. Gapsky questioned the apparel advertised for sale on the sports schedule page. The vendor is contracted through the scheduling site and a discussion surrounded the site and service. Mr. Aiken said the District doesn't have any control because it is using a service.
 - Mr. Steven Wilson, of Spencer Ridge Drive, said he supported the school board looking into the Live Well Allegheny program, which provides good information and applauded the district's effort to encourage kids to stretch themselves and not focus on class rank.

After no further items were presented, final adjournment occurred at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Baker
Assistant Board Secretary