

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
September 13, 2023 – Hybrid  
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, in a hybrid format, in person at the Shaler Area Middle School Auditorium, and on Zoom, a virtual meeting platform, with Dr. April Kwiatkowski, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 7:41 p.m.

Board Members Present:               Ms. Elizabeth Dunn  
  Mr. James Fisher  
  Mr. Tim Gapsky  
  Mr. Edward Kress  
  Dr. April Kwiatkowski  
  Mr. Jason Machajewski  
  Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich  
  Mr. James Tunstall

Board Members Absent:               Mrs. Eileen Phillips

Others Present:                         Dr. Sean Aiken, Superintendent  
  Dr. Bryan O’Black, Deputy Superintendent  
  Mrs. Sherri Jaffee, Director of Business Affairs  
  Mr. John Kaib, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds  
  Mr. John Vogel, Solicitor

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:41 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 an agreement with Southwood Psychiatric Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA, to provide the district with academic tutoring services during the 2023-24 school year.	A.1	<hr/>
A.2	Approve an agreement with Aquinas Academy for their students to participate and play on the Shaler Area Boys and Girls Varsity Swimming Teams during the 2023-24 school year. <i>(Pending solicitor review)</i>	A.2	<hr/>

- Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there were any questions from the board.
- Mr. Gapsky asked how many students were involved in A.2. Dr. O’Black stated that he didn’t know the number of students from Aquinas Academy who would be participating but will keep the board informed as he gets more information.

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

1. Student Representative – Isabelle Dutkovic read the building reports:

**Marzolf Primary** – We had a great start to the school year. We were moved to Level I fidelity for our PBIS program.

**Reserve Primary** – Currently doing a variety of activities to raise money for the Caring Foundation. We currently have an auction with donated prizes to raise money for the program.

**Scott Primary** – Scott welcomed the year by hosting four grade level specific “Popsicles on the Playground” family events. Ms. Foht and Mrs. Swartz hosted two evening parent “Welcome to our School” informational meetings for kindergarten and new families. The school celebrated “Passport Day” on August 29. All students had an opportunity to learn about school expectations and our PBIS system. Students collected colorful stamps on their school passports as they moved through stations. Our English as a Second Language program continues to grow. There are currently 15 different languages heard in our school.

**Elementary School** – We’ve had a successful Back to School Night, students have been learning Titan Tips and focusing on rules, expectations and procedures. Our House kickoff is on September 29.

**Middle School** – the middle school has achieved PBIS Level II status. Two middle school students will be performing in the high school play, “The Homecoming”.

**High School** – students are busy getting ready for Homecoming – the theme is “Level Up”. The senior float is Minecraft; the junior float is Pac Man; the sophomore float is Wii Sports; and the freshman float is Pokemon. Seniors had the opportunity to get yearbook headshots in August and last week. Fall play practice has started. Students are planning a special surprise for Mrs. Miksic, activities secretary, who is retiring and her last day is Friday.

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. A middle school teacher came to talk about how she will use the grant given to her by the foundation. The Alumni Committee will meet next Monday and is currently working to connect with alumni. They will have a tent at Homecoming and are working on the results of the alumni survey.

3. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Aiken and Dr. O’Black met with county election officials on Tuesday evening to review details about the Special Election on September 19. Voting will be held in Burchfield, Marzolf, elementary school, middle school, and high school. Portable bathrooms will be placed at these locations for poll workers. A security guard from Capital Asset will be assigned to each polling location. A communication will be sent to all families. Schools will use partitions to create boundaries.
- Angela Evans, Marzolf music teacher, is planning a “Literacy Under the Lights” program on October 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 at Titan Stadium. She plans to partner with DPC to plan reading activities geared to K-6. Free shuttle service will be available.
- Planning has begun for a Health & Wellness Symposium in November. One of our parents is working on a final graduate project for insight into public school’s staff’s willingness to initiate CPR in a medical emergency situation. The project consists of a survey which will be voluntary and anonymous. This survey will be conducted the afternoon of the early dismissal on September 29.
- Dr. Joseph Testa, Director of Student Services, will be starting in the district very soon. He also plans to be in the district on September 29 to meet with some of the staff and will be at Homecoming on Saturday.

Mrs. Jaffee then announced the following Finance Items:

<u>ITEM</u> #	<u>FINANCE &amp; OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP</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 – Schedule of Bills	C.1B	_____
C.	2019 Bond Proceeds – Schedule of Bills	C.1C	_____
D.	Year-to-Date Financial Reports	C.1D	_____
E.	Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1E	_____
C.2	Approve the attached list of Bus Stops for the 2023-24 school year.	C.2	_____
C.3	Approve additional ABC Transit personnel.	C.3	_____
C.4	Approve the contract with Trimark SS Kemp for the Shaler Area Elementary School Steam Jacket Kettle in the amount of \$33,050.00.	C.4	_____
C.5	Approve the contract with Millvale Borough for a School Resource Officer beginning August 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028 upon solicitor review.	C.5	_____
C.6	Approve the disposal of excess furniture from Burchfield Primary School.	C.6	_____

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

- Dr. Aiken reported that we are currently investigating opportunities to use a charter company to get our athletic runs done.
- Mrs. Petrovich asked about C.4. Mr. Kaib explained that it is a cooking device to make large quantities of food. Mrs. Jaffee stated that the funds were coming from the cafeteria account.
- Mr. Kress asked Mr. Vogel if he drew up the contract for the SRO. Mr. Vogel said the agreement was done by Millvale. Mr. Kress asked how the salary was determined. Mrs. Jaffee explained that it is based on the SRO's police contract with a 3% increase each year.

➤ Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Kaib reported that they are finishing up the punch list on the press box. A locking gate will be installed to keep students out. The high school pipe project is done for the year with close to 60% of the work completed. The company will begin again sometime in the spring. Mr. Gapsky expressed concerns about the van for food service. Dr. Aiken explained that he wanted to get board approval but unfortunately the van was sold. In the future if Mr. Kaib sees a good opportunity Dr. Aiken will speak to each board member to get approval to purchase.

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

- Mr. Kress asked Dr Aiken to explain the circumstances surrounding the visit from the San Francisco 49ers football team. Dr. Aiken stated that the 49ers were scheduled to walkthrough at another district's practice field, but after visiting the site they determined it was not adequate. The team Googled other local school districts with a turf field in proximity to downtown. Our athletic director received a phone call from the team late on Thursday afternoon. They inquired about conducting a walkthrough at our site on Saturday between 12:00 and 2:00 and asked if they could walk the site with Mr. Rauscher on Friday afternoon. After walking the facility, they determined it fit the needs and expectations of their head coach and general manager. Dr. Aiken then informed the board in their weekly report and contacted Mr. Machajewski and Mr. Gapsky who are on the athletic committee. If the team was charged a rental fee, it

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would be \$350. Under special circumstances we have waived fees and chosen to use administrative discretion. The 49ers security detail asked us to keep this information confidential, but Dr. Aiken thought it was important to inform the school board. The team provided an insurance liability policy prior to entering the stadium. Mr. Rauscher purchased several different items for the team to autograph and gave these items to the football boosters to auction off. A follow-up letter was sent to the general manager to thank them for utilizing our facility and to inquire about a donation to our athletic department. Mr. Rauscher has been contacted by the Jacksonville Jaguars about using our facility in late October.

- Dr. Aiken announced that there will be a Transportation Committee meeting on September 27 at 6:00 p.m. ABC Transit will be here. A Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting will be held on October 25 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the feasibility study.

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

- There was none.

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

- Sarah Nelson, 2710 Oakmoor Drive., asked about a sewer at Burchfield Primary need replaced. Mr. Kaib stated that a new catch basin is being installed this week.

After no further items were presented, final adjournment occurred at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri M. Jaffee,  
Board Secretary