

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Committee of the Whole Meeting
October 11, 2023 – Hybrid
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 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 7:28 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. James Fisher
 Mr. Tim Gapsky
 Dr. April Kwiatkowski
 Mr. Jason Machajewski
 Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich
 Mrs. Eileen Phillips
 Mr. James Tunstall

Board Members Absent: Ms. Elizabeth Dunn

Others Present: Dr. Sean Aiken, Superintendent
 Dr. Bryan O’Black, Deputy Superintendent
 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 7:28 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 a Settlement Agreement with Student #2.	<i>Board Only</i>	_____
A.2	Approve the Waterfront Learning Services Agreement with the AIU to provide virtual education options for the 2023-24 school year.	A.2	_____
A.3	Approve an agreement with Wesley Family Services to provide child/adolescent partial hospital services during the 2023-24 school year.	A.3	_____

- Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there were any questions from the board.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there were any changes to Waterfront Learning. Dr. O’Black stated no, they offer a full compliment of courses to Shaler Area students who receive a Shaler Area diploma. Dr. Kwiatkowski also asked if we could use Waterfront as a virtual option when a course is dropped. Dr. O’Black explained that online classes can be held in the library.

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

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

Marzolf Primary – October 20 – PTO Trunk or Treat; October 30 – Book Fair; October 31 – Halloween parade and parties.

Reserve Primary – Great start to the school year. New video cameras were installed over the summer. We have a new Facebook page for the Reserve families.

Burchfield Primary – Held a PBIS picnic last week.

Scott Primary – Excited for all that happened with Homecoming- crazy hair, mismatch day, Shaler Are Spirit Day, favorite team day, Scott Spirit Day – Students loved walking in the parade. Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. Music, art, and culture celebrations. English learners sharing their native languages as part of morning announcements. Preparing for the upcoming Battle of the Books. Practicing safety drills throughout the month. Safety week is the week of October 30.

Elementary School – House System kick-off last week. Our 12 houses came together for an assembly. Leaders discussed being Safe, Respectful, Ready and how to earn House points. Each House met outside and participated in team building activities.

Middle School – achieved all three tiers on positive behavior and will receive an award at a conference in Hershey in November.

High School – homecoming was very successful. The senior float was the winner and used AI for the first time. The Fall Play will be November 17 and 18. National Honor Society Induction will be on November 3.

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 – Mrs. Phillips reported that the committee met last night. There have not been a lot of grant applications coming in. Members will plan to attend teacher staff meetings to explain the grant application process to our teachers. The foundation had a table at Homecoming and at the middle school vendor fair. The Alumni Relations committee is conducting a survey of alumni to see what kinds of activities they would like to participate in. The next meeting of the Alumni Relations committee is October 16 at 6:00 p.m. and the next Foundation meeting will be November 6 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend these meetings.

3. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Aiken

- Please join us for “Literacy Under the Lights” on Friday, October 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Titan Stadium. Activities planned include: book bingo, read with therapy dogs, character toss, decorate a pumpkin and more. Performances by the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band, Little Tiran Cheerleaders, and the Sensations Marching Unit. Seven baskets will be raffled off with proceeds going to the Backpack Initiative. Free shuttle transportation with three bus routes running throughout the district. This is a family event and all students must be accompanied by a guardian.
- The district will be hosting a Health & Wellness Symposium on Monday, November 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 in the middle school cafeteria. Vendors both internal and external will be here to discuss a variety of health-related topics. Frank Velasquez, a former athletic trainer for the Pittsburgh Pirates, and Director of Sports Performance for the Allegheny Health Network, will be our keynote speaker. Some of the vendors include: UPMC athletic trainers, health & PE teachers, Nutrition Group, Breathe PA, Ready Nutrition Bars and Energy Drinks, Mercy Behavioral Health, Fit 4 Boxing, Shaler/Hampton EMS. DPC has agreed to donate gift cards to be raffled off. Childcare will be available. The event is free and open to the public.
- E-Sports: Over the past year, we have implemented a new initiative, starting in the middle school and now expanding to the high school – E-sports (think video games and gaming). The program is gaining popularity across the region and in our schools. This week the Shaler Area Middle School E-Sports team participated in their first ever competition. The Titans faced off against Brandywine Heights Middle School playing Rocket League in exhibition games. Both teams were victorious, with 3-0 records. The development of the E-Sports program gives our students time to engage in critical thinking, and how to problem-solve in a collaborative manner. We look forward to seeing growth in this program.

Dr. Aiken then announced the following Finance Items:

<u>ITEM</u> #	<u>FINANCE & OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP</u> #	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
C.1	APPROVE FUND PROFILES:		
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	_____
F.	Student Activity Funds & Investments – High School, Middle School and Elementary School – April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023.	C.1F	_____

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

- Dr. Aiken mentioned that we will have an addition to the finance agenda. The new cargo van is enroute from Maryland to Pennsylvania and it should arrive on Friday. The van will be inspected and if all is well the deal to purchase will be finalized.

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

- There was none.

➤ 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:

- There was none.

After no further items were presented, final adjournment occurred at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri M. Jaffee,
Board Secretary