

*Shaler Area School District
Committee of the Whole Meeting
January 12, 2022
Hybrid*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, in a hybrid format, in person at the Shaler Area Administration Building, Glenshaw, PA, and on Zoom, a virtual meeting platform, with Dr. April Kwiatkowski, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 7:25 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Ms. Elizabeth Dunn
Mr. Tim Gapsky
Mr. Edward Kress
Dr. April Kwiatkowski
Mr. Jason Machajewski
Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich
Mrs. Eileen Phillips
Mr. James Tunstall

Not Present:

Mr. James Fisher

Others Present:

Dr. Sean Aiken, Superintendent
Dr. Bryan O'Black, Deputy Superintendent
Mrs. Sherri Jaffee, Director of Business Affairs
Mr. Matt Hoffman, Solicitor
Avery Gallant, Student Representative

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

- Dr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski then turned over the meeting to Dr. Aiken who recognized the school board members as part of January's School Director Recognition Month. Dr. Aiken introduced Ms. Cynthia Foht, principal, Scott Primary School. Ms. Foht talked about the "Just Ducky Award" that her staff utilizes to give a shout out to each other for doing something that shows how they make our school a great place for kids to learn and people to work. Third grade students in Mrs. Barrett's class wrote reasons that they are "lucky ducks" to have you serve on our school board. Dr. Aiken then read a proclamation from Pennsylvania School Boards Association and thanked each member for his or her time and dedication and handed each member of certificate of thanks.
- Mrs. Jaffee introduced Mr. Matt Franz from HHSDR. Mr. Franz said that the high school air condition project I currently underway with piping being done now. The majority of the work will be done this summer. Mr. Franz then gave an update on 2022 projects:
 - Middle School Paving in the south parking lots, apply line striping and curb painting, replace concrete curbs and walks, and replace additional concrete curbs and walks at other district facilities. Estimated project costs \$668,000-\$778,000. Mr. Franz also gave more details on two voting items on the Finance Agenda: approval to Hillis-Carnes Engineering to conduct subsurface asphalt testing and approval to Murin and Murn to conduct underground exploratory work and remediation required to prepare accurate work scope for bidding/construction.
 - Reserve Primary School Retaining Wall – the 36-year-old retaining wall and playground above are experiencing deterioration/failure. Mr. Franz recommends approval to Geomechanics to determine condition and safety/timing of repair or replacement.
 - Update the 2015 Facility Study for all district buildings, identifying each building's infrastructure shortcomings, identifying short- and long-term priorities to assist in annual project planning and budgeting, allowing us to prioritize improvements and to develop a comprehensive plan (laundry list) of needed items 5-10 years out. Fee - \$9,500.

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Dr. Kwiatkowski questioned the fee of \$3,500 for bid/construction document printing allowance. Mr. Franz explained that this amount will probably be less as they are sending more documents electronically rather than printing. Dorothy Petracosta, of Skylark Drive, reminded Mr. Franz of cost overages with the track and field improvements and wanted Mr. Franz to make sure we are taking enough core samples.

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

<u>ITEM #</u>	<u>EDUCATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP #</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
A.1	Approve a Disciplinary Action for Student #3 for the 2021-22 school year.	<i>Board Only</i>	_____
A.2	Approve a Disciplinary Action for Student #4 for the 2021-22 school year.	<i>Board Only</i>	_____
A.3	Approve the Shaler Area High School Course Description Handbook for the 2022-23 school year.	A.3	_____
o Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if the high school administration looked carefully at the enrollment in all classes. Mr. Misko explained that in October the high school staff meets with department chairs to discuss current courses. Two new Art classes have been added, AP Chemistry has been approved for College in High School through the University of Pittsburgh along with Honors Spanish 4 and Honors Spanish 5. Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there was a projection on how many students will take Honors Spanish 5. Mr. Misko did not have an exact number but mentioned that Spanish teacher Mr. Leiden has done a great job of increasing student enrollment in the Spanish program.			

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

Information Items:

1. Student Representatives – Avery Gallant reported that the blood drive in November was very successful. Over 100,000 items were collected for the food drive. The spring musical, “Newsies”, will run the first two weeks in March. Mr. Gapsky asked if there has been an improvement in the cafeteria at lunch time. Avery feels that the changes the administration made have made things so much better and the atmosphere is much calmer. Dr. Kwiatkowski asked about the peer tutoring program. Avery reported that honors students are doing the tutoring, i.e., Japanese 4 students helping Japanese 1 students. Peer tutoring is done in person and is in addition to core tutoring. Mrs. Dunn asked if the tutors have adequate support. Avery reported that teachers are available to help.
2. Shaler Area Education Foundation – Mrs. Phillips reported that the foundation met on Monday, January 10. The Taste of Shaler Area will be held at the high school on Saturday, April 2. Tickets will be available online. The foundation is participating in the AmazonSmile program, and a portion of the sales will go to SAEF. The by-laws are being updated and an Alumni Relations group is being formed. The foundation is also working on the 50th anniversary Scavenger Hunt and Storytelling event. Dr. Aiken thanked the foundation for funding the 50th anniversary banners currently being displayed at each school, a \$2,000 grant for the STEAM competition taking place on March 4, 2022, with over 30 teams participating, and for funding the postcard initiative which will spread positive messages to staff and students.

3. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Aiken reported that the virtual tutoring program was launched this week K-12. Tutoring will be available for math, science, social studies and English Language Arts. The tutoring is two hours per day Monday thru Friday on days school is in session. These sessions are live and so far have been well attended. The 50th anniversary committee is planning the Scavenger Hunt and Storytelling event. Coach Nesbitt has organized a Response to Racism basketball doubleheader on Monday, January 17. Mr. David Fox-Estrin, grandson of four Holocaust survivors will be our guest speaker at the teacher in-service on Tuesday, January 18. He will speak on equity and belonging. Extra Mile Award – 85 nominations were received, and the five awardees will be recognized on January 18. Dr. Aiken also reported on the high school's Positive Painting Project. Over 120 students participated in the project which will be continued in the spring. We as a district are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students, especially those students struggling with mental health. COVID numbers have spiked coming off the holiday break. Mr. Kaib is urging the custodial staff to do extra cleaning. Our school nurses have been amazing with contact tracing. We are committed to keeping our students in school five days per week.
- o Dr. Kwiatkowski asked about masking and in-door athletics. Dr. Aiken stated that visitors are constantly reminded to mask and Mr. Rauscher is encouraging coaches to remind students to mask while on the bench.

Mrs. Jaffee then announced the following Finance Items:

<u>ITEM #</u>	<u>FINANCE & OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>SUP. #</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>																				
C.1	APPROVE FUND PROFILES: A. General Fund – Schedule of Bills and Addendum B. Cafeteria Fund – Schedule of Bills C. Bond Construction – Schedule of Bills D. Budget Transfers E. Year-to-Date Financial Reports F. Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1A C.1B C.1C C.1D C.1E C.1F	_____																				
C.2	Cafeteria Fund Operating Statement	C.2	_____																				
C.3	The Administration recommends acknowledging receipt of the lists of unpaid taxes as submitted and further, the Board charges the appointed Tax Collectors with the responsibility for delinquent tax collections. Collections will occur until the Administration advises the Tax Collectors the date of which they will turn over collections to Pennsylvania (PA) Municipal Services (PAMS).	C.3	_____																				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Municipality</th><th>Number of Properties</th><th>Face Value</th><th></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Etna Borough</td><td>265</td><td>\$ 280,726.52</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Millvale Borough</td><td>584</td><td>\$ 726,144.13</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Township</td><td>264</td><td>\$ 221,657.80</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Shaler Township</td><td>938</td><td>\$1,728,562.65</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>				Municipality	Number of Properties	Face Value		Etna Borough	265	\$ 280,726.52		Millvale Borough	584	\$ 726,144.13		Reserve Township	264	\$ 221,657.80		Shaler Township	938	\$1,728,562.65	
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C.4	Approve the use of national and state cooperative procurement programs for the calendar year 2022, including Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN) CoStars, PEPPM, and the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA) in addition to the attached listing. Approval of the use of consortium contracts, in no way, precludes obtaining quotes and negotiating price which assures fiscal responsibility for the district.	C.4	_____																				

C.5	Approve a resolution to authorize the district to not raise taxes in an amount that exceeds the Act 1 index for the 2022-23 budget.	C.5
C.6	Approve the bid for the copy center equipment to AmCom in the amount of \$4,195 per month for a five-year period beginning February 1, 2022 to January 30, 2027.	C.6
C.7	Reject the bid from Tri Star Ford Blairsville for a 2022 Ford F550 Super Duty Dump Truck in the amount of \$89,936 and trade in the amount of \$6,500.	C.7
C.8	Reject the bid from EH Griffith for an infield groomer in the amount of \$27,174 due to the utilization of CoStars pricing in the amount of \$21,467.	C.8
C.9	Approve the contract, as reviewed by the district solicitor, for DENTAL SERVICES AGREEMENT with Dr. Tera DePaoli D.M.D. (“DENTIST”) with its principal place of business located at 4984 Middle Rd, Gibsonia 15044 for state mandated student examinations in the amount of \$8 per exam through June 30, 2023.	C.9
C.10	Approve the contract with Murin and Murn for the Shaler Area Middle School underground exploratory work and remediation at the Middle School along Mt. Royal Blvd. in an amount to not exceed \$8.5K as drafted by the district solicitor.	C.10
C.11	Approve the close-out change order for the parking lot paving at Marzolf Primary School to Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc. for a deduction of \$14,973.12.	C.11
C.12	Approve the close-out change order the parking lot paving at Shaler Area High School to A. Folino Construction, Inc. for a deduction of \$9,752.	C.12
C.13	Approve the district-wide facility study with HHSDR Architects in the amount of \$9,500.	C.13
C.14	Approve the Reserve retaining wall evaluation with GeoMechanics, Inc. in the amount of \$13,035 with a not to exceed amount of \$15,000.	C.14
<p><i>Background: This work is necessary to determine the condition and safety of the existing wall and the timing of needed repairs or replacement. The work scope will include on-site drilling, analysis/testing of drilled core samples, and the preparation of a report of findings and recommendations for repairs or replacement.</i></p>		
C.15	Approve the Shaler Area Middle School subsurface asphalt testing with Hillis Carnes Engineering in the amount of \$4,899 with a not to exceed amount of \$6,000.	C.15
<p><i>Background: This work is necessary to determine the conditions of the existing soils and asphalt in the parking lot to accurately prepare a work scope for its repairs and/or replacement. The work scope will include on-site drilling, analysis/testing of drilled core samples, and the preparation of a report of findings and recommendations for repairs or replacement.</i></p>		
C.16	Approve the date, time, and place for regular meetings for February 2022 through December 2022. (See attached proposed schedule.)	C.16

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- Mrs. Phillips asked why we can't find a dentist in Shaler Area. Dr. O'Black explained that school dental work is not lucrative. Our school nurses reached out to local dentists and no one was interested. Dr. O'Black plans to reevaluate this contract at the end of 2023.
- Mr. Fisher asked about Items C.7 and C.8. Why are we rejecting these bids? Mrs. Jaffee explained that there was only one bidder for C.7 and is asking to reject C.8 so that we can accept the lower CoStar pricing.
- Mr. Kress asked about delinquent taxes. How does the system work – is there a follow-up letter? Mrs. Jaffee explained that we work closely with residents and the solicitor develops payment plans.

Mrs. Jaffee then announced the following Information Item:

1. Acknowledgement and thanks to the Shaler Area Education Foundation for the donation of \$1,000 in December 2021 for the Post Card Project Program.

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

- Mr. Gapsky asked who in the district is in charge of collecting keys. Mr. Kaib explained that Brian Boyle is taking over this responsibility from Bob Gasowski. Mr. Gapsky believes that coaches who are no longer employed with us are not turning in keys. Dr. Aiken will work with the Athletic Department and Human Resources to come up with a plan but did mention that the keys are stamped and a locksmith cannot duplicate.
- Mr. Gapsky asked about an App that parents could use to track their child's bus. Dr. O'Black and Mrs. Jaffee have been discussing this as we are looking to upgrade our transportation software program.
- Mr. Gapsky also asked about the graduation gowns at the high school. Dr. Aiken will speak to the high school administration for an update.
- Mr. Tunstall asked for an update on an additional school resource officer. Dr. Aiken and Dr. O'Black will be meeting with representatives from Etna Boro on January 24th and will have more information. Mr. Tunstall is very interested in expanding this program.

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

- Jodi Poniewaz, of Iola Street, would like the high school administration to review the requirement for PE. She believes that Shaler Area has a higher requirement than neighboring districts. She also believes that students are being short-changed in languages, art and technology because of the PE requirements. Dr. Kwiatkowski suggested having an Education meeting to discuss this.

After no further items were presented, final adjournment occurred at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri M. Jaffee
Board Secretary