

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
February 8, 2023 – Hybrid  
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, in a hybrid format, in person at the Shaler Area School District Administrative Offices, 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:                   Mrs. Elizabeth Dunn  
  Mr. James Fisher  
  Mr. Tim Gapsky  
  Mr. Edward Kress  
  Dr. April Kwiatkowski  
  Mr. Jason Machajewski  
  Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich  
  Mrs. Eileen Phillips  
  Mr. James Tunstall

Others Present:                               Dr. Sean Aiken, Superintendent  
  Mrs. Sherri Jaffee, Director of Business Affairs  
  Mr. John Vogel, Solicitor  
  Avery Gallant, Student Representative  
  Isabelle Dutkovic, Student Representative

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

➤ Dr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Dr. O’Black announced the following Education Items:

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>SUP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
#	<u>EDUCATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>	#	<u>TAKEN</u>
A.1	Approve the Shaler Area School District Calendar for the 2023-24 school year.	A.1	_____
A.2	Approve the PA School Code, Section 1502 Resolution – Official Local School District Holidays for the 2023-24 school year as follows: November 24, 2023 December 23, 2023 December 26, 2023 March 29, 2024	A.2	_____
A.3	Approve a two- year contract with Grade Point Resources to provide four behavior specialist consultants during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.	A.3	_____
A.4	Approve the dates of Shaler Area’s STEM Camp for July 12-15, 2023 to be held at Scott Primary School	A.4	_____

February 8, 2023 – Committee of the Whole Meeting

- A.5 Approve the second reading of the following revised policy: A.5  
a. Policy No 006 – Meetings \_\_\_\_\_
- A.6 Approve the second reading of the following new policy: A.6  
a. Policy No. 006.1 – Attendance at Meetings via Electronic \_\_\_\_\_  
Communications
- A.7 Approve the following overnight/out-of-district trips: A.7  
a. LIGHT/Holocaust Classes – travel to Washington, D. C. – March 3,  
2023 to tour the Holocaust Museum and other monuments and  
memorials. Cost to the district 4 substitute teachers for one day.  
b. Shaler Area Boys Volleyball – travel to State College, PA – April 28  
& April 29, 2023 to participate in a volleyball tournament. Cost to the  
district 2 substitute teachers for ½ day. \_\_\_\_\_

- Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there were any questions from the board.
- Dr. O’Black reviewed the 2023-24 calendar with the board. The first day for students is Thursday, August 24 and the last day and graduation is Friday May 31, 2024. Three early dismissals have been built in – Friday, September 29 for Homecoming; Wednesday, November 22 for Thanksgiving; and Friday, December 22 for the holiday break.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if October 9<sup>th</sup> was being recognized as Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Dr. O’Black explained that this day, an alternative to Columbus Day, is typically a teacher in-service day and not recognized as a holiday.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski asked about Item A.3 wondering if four behavioral specialists was enough. Dr. O’Black explained that we could do an addendum if additional behavioral specialists were needed.

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

1. Student Representatives – Avery Gallant and Isabelle Dutkovic reported on the following building activities:
  - High School – The musical “Catch Me if You Can” will be the first two weekends of March. The cafeteria has transitioned from typing in lunch codes to scanning them on students’ phones/ID. Boys and Girls basketball teams play at Fox Chapel this weekend and track championships are next weekend.
  - Elementary School – The newly established House system is working well. Students are sorted into 12 different houses based on elements of nature. House meetings are held once a month and promote school wide positive behavior.
  - Marzolf – Students celebrated random acts of kindness month – students are given pompoms for their acts of kindness and the grade that reaches 100 pompoms will get a special reward.
  - Burchfield – The month’s theme is kindness. Activities include: special guest readers, students creating Valentine’s cards for Children’s Hospital patients, and raising money for Animals Friends
  - Scott – Each Friday is a Fun Friday after school. Parents and students are celebrating Black History Month with a wide variety of activities. The Vision Van came to Scott to provide glasses for students free of charge to those in need.
2. Shaler Area Education Foundation – Mrs. Phillips reported that The Taste of Shaler Area is Saturday, April 1 at Scott Primary. Early Bird tickets are \$25 (until March 17) after that general admission tickets will be \$30. Entertainment will be provided by Dale Mangold and Jim McDermott.

3. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Aiken reported that the district and DPC hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> parent education night this past Monday. Dr. Lori Stollar from Resonance Ed Consulting was the presenter. The presentation focused on the key components of SEL and helping to provide our students with a voice to express their feelings and emotions. Over 30 parents attended and the discussion was meaningful. The next parent education night is scheduled for March 15 at Scott Primary. Dr. Katie Martin will speak on learning-centered classrooms.
- The Spring issue of In Shaler Area magazine will soon be released. The district has purchased four pages in each issue. Every community member in the district will receive a copy. Several of the cast members of the high school musical will be featured on the cover.
- Mrs. Milligan and I met with a staff from Carnegie Mellon University to discuss a possible partnership with Shaler Area. We had a partnership with them a few years ago involving Reserve and Marzolf primary schools. This educational opportunity involves middle school students and parents around the topic of math homework support and digital remediation for pre-Algebra and Algebra content. We believe partnerships like this could provide a great opportunity for our students. Dr. Kwiatkowski suggested that Dr. Aiken invite CMU to a school board meeting to further discuss the partnership. A middle school student from Troop 138 asked for more details. Dr. Aiken explained that we are in the very early stages and will share more information in the future. Ms. Dunn believes that these types of partnerships are very valuable.

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.	Bond Construction – Schedule of Bills	C.1C	_____
D.	Year-to-Date Financial Reports	C.1D	_____
E.	Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1E	_____
G.	Student Activity Funds & Investments – High School, Middle School, and Elementary School – October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022.	C.1G	_____
C.2	Cafeteria Operating Statements (September)	C.2	_____
C.3	Approve additional ABC Transit personnel.	C.3	_____
C.4	Approval to dispose of technology surplus equipment as per attached list	C.4	_____
C.5	Approve additional Attendance Exceptions for the 2022-23 school year.	C.5	_____
C.6	Approve Change Order GC-2 for cement and paving work at Shaler Area Middle School and Reserve Primary (Deduct \$11,550.80)	C.6	_____

C.7 Approve a contract with Hadfield Elevator Company for repairs to the middle school elevator in the amount of \$48,611.00. C.7  
(Note: The total cost of the project will be covered by our insurance carrier, less a \$5,000 deductible.)

C.8 Approve the continued participation of the Shaler Area School District in the Western Pennsylvania Electricity Consortium for the purchase of electricity from Direct Energy. This extension to the original agreement will begin in January 2024 for a period of thirty-six (36) months. The contract will set a price for fixed adders (capacity, transmission, renewable portfolio standards, etc.). Wholesale electricity purchases subsequently will be made and matched with the fixed price adder to provide a final price. C.8

➤ Mrs. Jaffee then reviewed the following Discussion Items:

1. Middle School Paving Project - Mr. Kaib reported that the entrance to the middle school parking lot is getting worse and patching is a temporary solution. Mrs. Petrovich asked when the parking lot was last resurfaced. Mr. Kaib explained that it has been sealed a few times. Mr. Fisher asked if sealing again would be a good alternative. Mr. Gapsky asked if we could bundle the middle school and Reserve projects to save money. Dr. Aiken said that we would have to look at the previous bid. Ms. Dunn feels that the work done was a band-aid approach and we would have to look again next year
- Dr. Kwiatkowski asked about C.1G. She believes there were significant expenses. Mrs. Jaffee explained there are three levels of approval on the student activity accounts.
2. Mrs. Jaffee announced that there will be a Finance Committee Meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Duss Board Room.

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

- Mr. Gapsky asked about a backstop at Marzolf. Mr. Kaib doesn't believe that it would not cost that much to make it look nice and will look into it.
- Mr. Gapsky attended the Wizard of Oz show at the middle school. He said it was a great show but the sound system didn't seem to be working properly. Dr. Aiken will speak to Mr. Stivason. Mr. Kaib said the sound board was replaced about six years ago and he will evaluate the speakers.

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

- An elementary school student from Pack 138 asked about the partnership with CMU and how do you start them and how do they work. Dr. O'Black explained that in order to establish a partnership we must first start talking about the great work that is going on in the district to make them want to partner with us. It also has to fit into our current curriculum. He also mentioned that we have a good grant writer who has helped us receive many grants over the years.
- Dorothy Petrancosta, 148 Skylark Drive, listened to the banter about the asphalt project. She feels that the board doesn't have a plan for projects such as these and is not following the recommendations of the facilities study.
- Courtney Long, 104 McGinley Drive. She is representing a group of parents inquiring about how budgets are determined for sports teams, GATE, etc. She wants to make sure our students are getting the services they need. Dr. Aiken stated that he has received communications from GATE families and some of the information is inaccurate. Dr. Howard, Dr. Graczyk and Mr. Reagle have spoken about the problem. Mrs. Long asked if a meeting could be set up with the parents. Dr. Aiken suggested a Zoom call with Dr. Howard and Dr. Graczyk to explain the process.

- 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 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri M. Jaffee  
Board Secretary