

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
August 12, 2020 – Virtual  
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, on Zoom, a virtual meeting platform, with Mr. Jim Tunstall, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 8:00 p.m.

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

Others Present:                               Mr. Sean Aiken, Superintendent  
  Dr. Bryan O’Black, Assistant Superintendent  
  Ms. Sherri Ludwig, Director of Business Affairs  
  Dr. Kathleen Graczyk, Director of Student Services  
  Mr. Matt Hoffman, Solicitor

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

➤ Mr. James Tunstall called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. O’Black then 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 a settlement agreement for Student #1 for the 2020-21 school year.	A.1	_____
A.2	Approve the IDEA Section 619 Pass-Through Funds from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2018-19 school year in the amount of \$4,760. Funds will be used for contracted services for Kindergarten students who have an IEP.		_____
A.3	Approve an agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide Day Student Education during the 2020-21 school year.	A.3	_____
A.4	Approve the revised school district calendar for the 2020-21 school year.	A.4	_____
A.5	Approve the first reading of the following revised policies:	A.5	
	a. Policy No. 103 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students		
	b. Policy No. 104 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff		_____

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

Information Items:

1. Student Representative – Zoe Babbit was not in attendance.
2. Shaler Area Education Foundation – Dr. Kwiatkowski said the Foundation is working on its strategic plan and updating its bylaws. It also is looking at its next big fundraiser since the Taste of Shaler Area was canceled in the spring. Mr. Aiken added that the next meeting is Monday night.
3. Back to School 2020 – Mr. Aiken reported that the district hosted a series of Town Hall meetings on Monday to review the district plan and answer as many parent questions as possible. The administration spent about 8 hours in zoom meetings and spent time answering questions about how remote learning will be different from the spring. On Monday, the state Departments of Health and Education also shared a metric to help schools determine the appropriate instructional model. He reported that Shaler Area is currently where it needs to be. According to the metric, Allegheny County is in the moderate range and schools should work in a remote or hybrid setting. He added that the administration also has a meeting tomorrow with the Allegheny County Health Department. Mr. Aiken said the principals participated in Monday’s Town Hall meetings and in the coming weeks will host building specific meetings to share plans. He said that on Friday, he will share with the board an updated list of the PPE within the district and thanked the maintenance and custodial staff who have been working over the summer to prepare the buildings. Dr. O’Black said that the past two days have been full days of professional development for the staff, focused on moving to the remote setting, and later in the month, the focus will be on the hybrid model. The professional development was led by Eric Sheninger, associate partner with the International Center for Leadership in Education. The teachers will have a third day of professional development and there also is a plan for teacher-coaching sessions throughout the school year. Mr. Tunstall thanked the administration for giving the teachers the tools they need. Dr. Kwiatkowski mentioned the Back to School button on the website and asked about implementation of the Task Force Plan. Mr. Aiken said the FAQ document is one of the most important on the site. It is being updated regularly and encourage families to continue to submit questions. Mr. Aiken said the Task Force Plan needs to be submitted to the state. It contains a tremendous amount of information and encouraged families to look at it.

Ms. Ludwig then announced the following Finance Items:

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>SUP.</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
#	<u>FINANCE &amp; OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</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.	Bond Proceeds – Schedule of Bills	C.1C	_____
D.	2019 Bond Proceeds – Schedule of Bills	C.1D	_____
E.	Year-to-Date Financial Reports	C.1E	_____
F.	Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1F	_____
G.	Student Activity Funds & Investments – High School, Middle School and Elementary School – January 1, 2020 – March 31, 2020 – April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020.	C.1G	_____
C.2	Cafeteria Operating Statement	C.2	_____

C.3 Approve school of attendance exception applications for the 2020-21 school year (pending final enrollment). C.3

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C.4 Acknowledge receipt of the lists of unpaid taxes as submitted and further, the Board charges PA Municipal Service (PAMS) with the responsibility for delinquent tax collections. C.4

Background Information:

The tax collectors responsible for collection of the real estate taxes have submitted lists of unpaid 2019 taxes for exoneration from collection and appointing PAMS for collection.

The following represents unpaid taxes as of 06/30/2020:

Municipality	Properties	Amount
Etna Borough	217	\$ 183,211.71
Millvale Borough	347	\$ 232,464.79
Reserve Township	264	\$ 195,019.12
Shaler Township	646	\$ 1,070,361.12

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C.5 Approve change order HC-1 to Lugaila Mechanical, Inc. for unused field quantity allowances for the SAES HVAC construction. C.5

Deduct: \$3,100

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C.6 Approve ABC Transit, Inc. Bus Drivers for the 2020-21 school year. C.6

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- Mr. Romac asked about the invoice for advanced turf solutions for upkeep and general supplies at the high school. Ms. Ludwig said it was for soil testing at Matulevic Field. Dr. Kwiatkowski asked what the soil testing was for. Ms. Ludwig said she would ask Mr. John Kaib, supervisor of buildings and grounds, and get back to the board.
- Mr. Gapsky asked if the board would receive a list of names for Item C.6. Ms. Ludwig said the board approved a long list of names earlier in the evening and next week they would approve any additional drivers.
- Mr. Romac asked about the bill paid to TEN for the high school lighting project and if the project was complete. Ms. Ludwig itemized the work completed and said the district has paid all but \$9,000 of the \$226,000 project.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if ABC Transit has indicated any concerns with providing enough drivers. Ms. Ludwig said at this time, all of their drivers indicated they would return. She added that the district has a meeting scheduled with ABC Transit this week.
  
- Mr. Tunstall then invited the board to speak on any other business.
  - Mr. Clint Rauscher, athletic director, then gave an update on high school athletics because of Gov. Wolf’s recent recommendations and the pending decision by the PIAA. He said the district needs to look at its program in isolation because it doesn’t compare to professional or collegiate sports. Very few of the county’s positive cases have been as a result of summer youth sports or secondary preseason training. The coaches have been very diligent about maintaining all of the district’s mitigation efforts. Students do not use the locker rooms, they wear masks, have their temperatures taken daily, bring their own water, and are educated on the importance of all of the mitigation efforts in their programs. Mr. Rauscher said there have

- been 200 students involved in training and conditioning this summer and the district hasn't had any issues. He said his concern is that if the district does not provide sports, the students will play in other leagues that may not follow the same mitigation efforts as the district. He said the district has more control within its own program. Mr. Rauscher added that almost every fall sport is played outside. Mr. Fisher asked about wrestling. Mr. Rauscher said that is one sport in which students are in close contact for a longer amount of time. He said that they haven't crossed that bridge yet.
- Mr. Gapsky asked what the other athletic directors are thinking. Mr. Rauscher said during the Northern Athletic Directors Association meeting that morning that most of the directors are trying to maintain the season, however, the PIAA may dictate what will happen. Mr. Gapsky asked if the thought was to eliminate certain sports or all sports for the fall. Mr. Rauscher said he believes the PIAA is going for all sports then may pull back. They will vote on the 21st.
  - Mr. Gapsky asked what the transportation plan is if fall sports proceed. Mr. Rauscher said they may not be able to take the entire team and the department is looking at alternatives. He said volleyball will provide the biggest challenge because of the 25-person indoor limit.
  - Mr. Gapsky also asked about options for parents to watch their children since spectators will not be permitted. Mr. Rauscher said the district installed devices through the NFHS network that will allow the district to provide a live stream of any game played at Titan Stadium and Gym A at the high school. Mr. Rauscher said he will send the schedule and the system automatically films the athletic event. He said the problem with Biles Field is the distance from the building and access to WiFi.
  - Mr. Gapsky also asked about options for the band. Mr. Rauscher said there are some alternatives for the band to still be able to participate and perform.
  - Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there have been any issues with student compliance. Mr. Rauscher said a couple of coaches have had to address students, but the students have all been understanding and agreeable. Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if the district can put signs at all of its facilities to remind people to wear masks. Mr. Kaib said there are signs at Titan Stadium now, and Mr. Aiken said there are discussions about additional signs.
  - Dr. Kwiatkowski thanked the district doctor and trainers for making sure all of the students were able to get their sports physicals. Mr. Rauscher agreed that the district has been lucky for those resources.
  - Mr. Fisher asked about daily temperatures being taken since the student athletes are a small group; Mr. Rauscher confirmed that is happening. Mrs. Petrovich said she has seen a lot of compliance among the student athletes she's interacted with.
  - Mr. Gapsky asked about the middle school sports. Mr. Rauscher confirmed that they are following the same protocols just a couple weeks behind the high school sports.
  - Dr. Kwiatkowski asked about the volleyball team's option to play in an air-conditioned facility. Mr. Rauscher said that is a possible alternative but that the live streaming system is only in Gym A.
  - Dr. Kwiatkowski thanked Mr. Rauscher and the administration for the athletic resocialization plan and noted that it is very easy to follow.
  - Mrs. Donahue asked about the professional sports teams that have had difficulty addressing COVID-19. Mr. Rauscher said the main issue for them was a lack of compliance. He added that at the collegiate level there also is an element of how much revenue is lost with each game played without fans.
  - Dr. Kwiatkowski asked about the band students. Mr. Rauscher said they are just as important as the student athletes and while he doesn't oversee their program, they are going to figure out a way for them to perform.
  - Mr. Aiken commented on the dedication of retirees Ms. Finello and Ms. Sperling and their service to the district. He wished them well in retirement and said it was a shame that they aren't able to honor them in person at this time.
  - Ms. Ludwig said Ms. Sperling has been an exceptional employee and person to work with. She never missed a beat even as things changed quickly with the district shutting down.

- Mr. Tunstall then recognized the public to speak on any other items:
  - Ms. Mindy Thiel, high school activities director, said she has been working for the past two weeks with the band camp and the students are very excited to put on a show. They have been working very hard and following all mitigation efforts. Dr. Kwiatkowski asked if there were any issues with compliance. Ms. Thiel said there was one student who had their mask below their nose and had to be reminded. Other than that, the students have been very understanding with the temperature checks every morning and social distancing. Mrs. Petrovich asked how students play an instrument with a mask. Ms. Thiel said the student wear gators or a mask on a lanyard so that they can remove them to perform and put them in place when they are not. The auxiliary—dance team, silk like, etc.—are all wearing masks through performing.

After no further items were presented, final adjournment occurred at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Baker  
Assistant Board Secretary