

*SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Committee of the Whole Meeting
October 14, 2020 – Hybrid
Minutes*

The Board of School Directors of the Shaler Area School District held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, in a hybrid format, in person at the Shaler Area Middle School library, 1810 Mt. Royal Blvd, and on Zoom, a virtual meeting platform, with Mr. Jim Tunstall, School Board President, presiding. This meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

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

Not Present: Mrs. Jeanne Petrovich

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
 Catherine Clark, Student Representative

Notice of this meeting was posted as required.

➤ Mr. James Tunstall called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 an educational services agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s Alternative Education Program to provide special education and regular education services during the 2020-21 school year.	A.1	_____
A.2	Approve the agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Western PA to provide Before and After School Enrichment at Scott Primary School beginning on October 12, 2020 and ending on June 11, 2021.	A.2	_____
A.3	Approve the first reading of the following new policies: a. Policy No. 309.1 – Telework b. Policy No. 318 – Attendance & Tardiness	A.3	_____
A.4	Approve the first reading of the following revised policies: a. Policy No. 209 – Health Examinations/Screenings (Pupils) b. Policy No. 314 – Physical Examination (Employees) c. Policy No. 907 – School Visitors	A.4	_____

- A.5 Approve the second reading of the following new policies: A.5
- a. Policy No. 317.2 – Educator Misconduct
 - b. Policy No. 617.1 – Credit Cards
 - c. Policy No. 815.2 – Use of Livestream Video on School District Property
 - d. Policy No. 824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
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- A.6 Approve the second reading of the following revised policies: A.6
- a. Policy No. 203 – Immunizations & Communicable Diseases
 - b. Policy No. 803 – School Calendar
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- Dr. O’Black said the policies in A.3 and A.4 are PSBA policy recommendations related to the pandemic.
- Mr. Romac asked if parent permission is required to run livestreams on district policy referenced in Item A.5. Dr. O’Black said students connect in therefore it doesn’t explicitly require parent consent. Mr. Hoffman confirmed that it is not required.

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

Information Items:

1. Student Representatives – The board welcomed Catherine Clark who was present. She introduced herself as a high school junior and Burchfield alum. She said she enjoys being involved in the high school student government, is the vice president of LAMP and involved in many other clubs. Mr. Aiken added that she also has been involved in the student advisory groups for many years. Caty reported that the free breakfast and lunch program was going very well and it provides one less thing for students to worry about. Caty said in the high school cafeteria, all desks are spaced 6 feet apart and students must sit before eating. The administration dismisses 8-9 people at a time to go through the lunch line, and the process goes quickly. When students aren’t eating they are wearing their mask. She said she feels safe in the cafeteria.
2. Shaler Area Education Foundation – Dr. Kwiatkowski said she has nothing new to report. The meeting for October was postponed, and the grant applications remain open.
3. Transition to Hybrid Learning – Mr. Aiken & Dr. O’Black reported on the first two days of in-person instruction for Cohort A and the virtual day for all cohorts on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday will be the first in-person days for Cohort B. Mr. Aiken said they are excited to have students back in the schools. They have been very compliant with wearing masks and social distancing. A lot of time went into planning for the additional traffic for student drop off and pick up. The first two days went better than expected, and Shaler Area Elementary, the most challenging location, went as well as expected. The administration and local police are looking at ways to improve the traffic flow. Mr. Aiken also said the technology department has been working very hard to address all of the technology concerns. Mr. Aiken also reported that the free breakfast and lunch program was extended for the entire school year. Ms. Ludwig said they were very excited by that announcement and anticipates the formal approval for the program by the end of the week. Mr. Aiken said they are excited to transition to hybrid and are focused on success in the hybrid model before stepping through to transition to traditional instruction. Dr. O’Black said the staff, administrative team, parents and students have all been resilient. The students have transitioned very quickly. Cooperation and collaboration between home and school is more important than ever. He said the district wants students in all cohorts to feel part of the classroom environment. The ultimate goal is for all students to be in front of teachers but it’s not possible right now. Mr. Aiken said it is great to see the collaboration among staff, which sets the right tone for students. Mrs. Donahue said that from the perspective of a

parent dropping off a student at the Elementary School, she felt it went very smoothly. Dr. O’Black mentioned that the district released a video of some of the cleaning procedures via social media earlier that day. Dr. Kwiatkowski asked how the free meals affect the district contract with The Nutrition Group. Ms. Ludwig said the goal is that enough students take the free lunches. The district plans to meet with The Nutrition Group to look at the numbers. Mr. Aiken confirmed that students are not using lockers at the moment for safety reasons, but schools may revisit that later in the year.

Ms. Ludwig then announced the following Finance Items:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
#	#	TAKEN
<u>FINANCE & OPERATION ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</u>		
C.1 APPROVE FUND PROFILES:		
A. General Fund – Schedule of Bills and Addendum	C.1A	_____
B. Cafeteria Fund – Schedule of Bills	C.1B	_____
C. 2019 Bond Fund – Schedule of Bills	C.1C	_____
D. Year-to-Date Financial Reports	C.1D	_____
E. Fund Profiles and Investments	C.1E	_____
 C.2 Approve additional ABC Transit, Inc. Bus Drivers for the 2020-21 school year.	 C.2	 _____
 C.3 Approve change order RC-1 to TRS Roofing, Inc. for the final contract amount adjustment for unused field quantity allowances for the SAES Roof Replacement.	 C.3	 _____
 Deduct: \$91,416		 _____
 C.4 Approve change order PC-1 to Shipley Brothers Construction, Inc. for the final contract amount adjustment for unused field quantity allowances and the deletion of two roof drains for the SAES Roof Replacement.	 C.4	 _____
 Deduct: \$17,214		 _____

- Ms. Ludwig said the change orders/deducts are built into the contract for allowances if certain items aren’t available and substitutions need to be made.
- Mr. Romac asked about the invoices payable to TEN and if it is for the parking lot at the high school. Ms. Ludwig confirmed the project and gave an update on The Efficiencies Network projects in the school district.
- Mr. Romac also asked about which tree was removed. Mr. Aiken said it was a tree at Burchfield that came down in a storm.

- Mr. Romac also requested a comparison of the electric utility bill at the former Jeffery Primary school from now to the last time it was in session.
- Dr. Kwiatkowski commented on the significant difference the lighting has made at the high school and commended the job well done.

- Mr. Tunstall then invited the board to speak on any other business.
 - Dr. Kwiatkowski said in a time of greater focus on equality, Shaler Area may consider going to one color for its graduation caps and gowns. Mrs. Donahue agreed. Mr. Tunstall said the change would be a move to be more cognizant of transgender students. Mr. Aiken said he and Dr. O'Black would talk to the high school administration.

- Mr. Tunstall then recognized the public to speak on any other items:
 - Heather Schneider, of Wimar Circle, asked how many students were staying in remote and how many are in hybrid. Mr. Aiken said about 12 to 13% of were staying virtual. Those numbers are lower compared to other school districts. He said he believes they are lower because Shaler Area started in virtual and that gave the district time to see other school districts' approaches and time for parents to see what hybrid looks like. He said he expects the district to continue to be flexible and fluid to provide options for families. Mrs. Schneider said her family switched one of her children to hybrid. She asked if there is a difference with numbers at different levels. Mr. Aiken said some buildings have a higher number of students in remote, but it's fairly balanced. Dr. O'Black said there are some buildings where Cohort A and B are not split as evenly. All A.W. Beattie students are in Cohort A, and the number of students in Cohort C is slightly higher at the elementary and primary levels.
 - Steve Deal, of Hoffman Street, said he is happy to be back face-to-face. He said he has been blown away by all the players and all the moving parts with what has transpired in the last couple of months. He said he is beaming with pride of what Shaler Area has done and commended the district for the work its done. He recognized that no one has been trained for this. He said he has enjoyed watching his son collaborate with other students in his classes by picking up the phone or meeting outside. He is getting real life skills. He wants to be back full time, but is thriving in this environment.
 - Mr. Fisher reported that A.W. Beattie is doing fine in its hybrid start and has had no issues. The school is looking at some remodeling for the surgical prep/operating room technologies.

After no further items were presented, final adjournment occurred at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Baker
Assistant Board Secretary