

Board Workshop (Tuesday, May 24, 2016)

Members present

Rick Rabinowitz, Matt Alexander, Patti Grimm, Diane Cherico, Ashley Custer, James Lopic, Al Leach, Bill Parker, Robert Lindgren

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - No public comment

4. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion: A. SRO Protocols

Superintendent Feola, responding to a prior request from the Board reported about the cost and other parameters associated with School Resource Officers at the Middle High Schools. The Board discussed other issues related to student discipline and public reporting.

Action, Discussion: B. Restorative Practice

Superintendent Feola briefed the Board on Restorative Practices and other strategies to proactively address student discipline and the schools' response to disciplinary infractions. Restorative Practices is an internationally recognized program used in schools and the justice system to create a positive environment that rebuilds relationships damaged in the act and aftermath of negative behavior. Training costs would be covered by Federal Title II funds. The Board discussed the program and its anticipated outcomes and future costs. The Board requested more information before taking action.

Discussion: C. HS Renovation Update

Mr. Jim Hanna and Mr. Jim Kieffer provided a monthly update on the high school renovation project. The District Office should be completed in June and the engineering labs and auditorium should be completed by mid-August. Work on the turf field continues. Mr. Hanna showed photos of the work currently in progress. He also reviewed the costs associated with the project to date and the current financial status and potential future costs in the final phase of the project. Mr. Hanna described two change orders for unanticipated duct work and HVAC controls in the District Office. The Board discussed the overall financial position of the district in the project. The project is still expected to stay within budget.

The Board approved both change orders order for a total of \$72,000.

Mr. Nester discussed what is anticipated to be the final furniture request for the project to outfit certain instructional spaces renovated over the course of this school year and to be renovated this summer. The Board discussed the request in some detail before approving the associated motion by a vote of 7-2 to purchase the furniture.

5. ACTION ITEMS - PERSONNEL

All personnel items were approved

6. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

Action: A. A PGHS Change Order to permit payment for additional work conducted last summer was approved.

Action: B. An Extended School Year Agreement was approved

Action: C. A Discovery Education Contract was approved

Action: D. A Power School Contract was approved

Action: E. PGHS Construction Invoices were approved

Action: F. ECRA Group

The Board discussed contracting with the ECRA group for tools and consulting to improve district analytic support and goal

setting. The Board approved the associated motion 7-2.

7. ACTION ITEMS - EDUCATION

Action: A. The Board approved conference attendance as presented.

8. ACTION ITEMS - POLICIES - No policies were on the agenda for approval

9. ACTION ITEMS - MISCELLANEOUS

Action: A. The Board approved the MCIU Board of Directors

10. COMMITTEE ITEMS

Discussion: A. Curriculum/Technology/Student Affairs Committee (5-17-16)

Mr. Leach provided summary of last week's meeting that covered revisions in the elementary gifted program. The committee also discussed grading practice and course enrollments, specifically Advanced Placement courses, which was discussed again this evening. The committee also discussed the time lapse between assignment due dates and posting grades in the grade book.

Action: B. Operations/Facilities Committee (5-10-16)

The Board approved the minutes of the May 10 meeting of this committee.

Discussion: C. Policy Committee (5-24-16)

Mr. Alexander reviewed the policies discussed at the Policy Committee meeting held earlier this evening. Discussions focused on revisions to policies related to tobacco use for students, professional staff, and support staff. New policies included compliance with federal rules on and the administration of Naloxon, an opiate antidote.

New and revised policies will be posted on the website for public review.

The Committee started discussion on policies addressing transgender and related civil rights issues.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Information: A. New Business

Mrs. Grimm invited Board members to the Western Center Senior Recognition. 47 Pottsgrove students will be receiving awards.

Mrs. Cherico addressed a concern raised by a parent regarding the age cutoff for attending kindergarten.

Mr. Parker inquired about a demographic study, a need identified by the administration, given possible new housing in the district over the next five to ten years. As an extension of this inquiry, Mr. Leech raised the question of school district representation at planning commission meetings.

Mr. Leech congratulated the new National Honor Society members.

Mr. Leech invited the Board members to attend the Booster Club athletic award banquet.

Mr. Parker inquired about current levels of nursing coverage in Pottsgrove schools and plans to provide additional nursing coverage, particularly at West Pottsgrove.

Mr. Rabinowitz reported on his experience serving on an interview committee seeking a special education supervisor. Mr. Rabinowitz also expressed a concern that the Pupil Services division may be under-staffed.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT - A tenth grade student spoke to the Board regarding student representation for next school year and expressed his appreciation for the work the Board does for the community.