

**An executive session was held beginning at 6:00 pm to discuss legal matters and to receive information.*

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

Study Session of the Board of School Directors

February 6, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria - 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

In attendance: M. Pallone, M. McClure, J. Miller, A. Paris, B. Hawk, J. Chaparro, N. English, D. Zolkowski, C. Monroe, E. Hewitt, D. Turk, R. Rizzo, C. Thomas, Solicitor M. Fuscante, N.

Paradise, E. Sattler, T. Galluze, T. Lynskey, H. Biehl

Teleconference: J. Hurt-Robinson, W. Wilton

Absent: S. Garibay

Dr. English welcomed everyone to our February study session. Dr. English hopes the new year has been fruitful for everyone, and that defrosting can begin over the next few weeks and look forward to some warmer spring weather. The second semester is in full swing and students are working hard both in and out of the classroom. Winter sports teams are working hard to both make the playoffs, and perform well in the playoffs, hopefully. As you can see, meetings will be here in the cafeteria for the next four board meetings to clear out space for our musical, Young Frankenstein! The production is in full swing and we look forward to the performances to occur from March 16th through March 19th. Please also note that we have two Senior Night sporting events this week. Wrestling will be on Wednesday night at 6pm and Boys Basketball will be this Friday (JV at 6 and Varsity at 7:30). We have senior recognition scheduled for both nights. So come out and watch the students perform and celebrate our seniors. Finally, as many of you know, February marks National Black History month, which is a time to celebrate, honor, and reflect on the immeasurable contributions of Black people in the U.S. Thank you. Please note that an executive session was held from 6 pm-7 pm to discuss legal matters and receive information. Let's begin tonight's meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations begin this evening with Weiss, Burkhardt, and Kramer. Ms. Elizabeth Sattler will be providing the board with a brief update and report on our Act 20 delinquent tax collection.

II. Presentation(s)

- a. Elizabeth Satler of Weiss, Burkhardt, Kramer, LLC to discuss Act 20 Delinquent Tax Collection

Ms. Satler discussed the Act 20 delinquent tax collection and fee schedule. Attorney fees were discussed and it was explained that the District does not have to follow the County's attorney

fees. Weiss, Burkhardt, Kramer (WBK) concern is the fees have not changed in a considerable amount of time. WBK collected \$861k in 2022 and \$949k in 2021. Discussion on whether there is an indemnification clause in the agreement to protect the District against reasonableness of the fees. WBK will be looking into this and provide feedback.

Tax Assessments:

County council passed an ordinance that allows the taxpayer to appeal their tax assessment for 2022. They were challenged on the CLR (Common Level Ratio). The CLR was changed from 81.1% for 2022 to 63.6% for 2023 and taxpayers can go back to 2022. WBK is recommending the District consider filing appeals of the properties that are at 50%.

The second presentation tonight will be given by Mr. Tom Galluze, Assistant to the CFO for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and Mr. Tom Lynskey, who serves as the Senior Account Executive for Direct Energy will be providing a brief update to the Board regarding the AIU consortium electric contract.

b. Tom Galluze and Tom Lynskey to discuss Electric Contract update

Mr. Galluze is a Consultant for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) and spoke about the services for the AIU. Mr. Tom Lynskey presented information on the electric contract, specifically the fixed adder. Renewable Energy Prices (REC) prices have increased in November 2022 due to increase in demands. The fixed adder would be district specific as every school district has their unique set of buildings and use of energy.

The final presentation will be from Mr. Hewitt who will provide the board with a brief overview of the Jr-Sr HS program of studies.

c. Jr-Sr. High School Program of Studies

The Program of Studies, as stated by Mr. Hewitt, was similar to that of last year. He spoke about the importance of providing an overview of how grades were calculated in the Princeton Review grading system, so that parents can understand the process in a more meaningful way. Mr. Hewitt explained that credit changes did not affect the Program of Studies. The credit requirements only affected Forbes students and electives, creating a better match in terms of allowing them to take what they are interested in, rather than what they have to take to meet credit requirements. Board members also commended the new integrated math course, which they expressed was a better match for some students. *Mr. Paris asked questions about the biology and chemistry courses, and the possibility of adding weights to them. Mrs. Wilton discussed this issue as well, and also acknowledged that the breakdown of GPAs would be appreciated by the parents.*

Next is the first hearing of the citizens. The first hearing is for agenda items only. If you would like to speak, please come to the microphone, state your name and address, and do your best to keep your comments to under 3 minutes.

III. Hearing of Citizens

No citizens spoke.

Approval will be requested for two pay apps next week. One for First American Industries and the other for Merit Electrical Group as included in your packet.

The renewal process for the Food Service Management Contract, which is a highly regulated process directed by the Department of Education. Districts are required to bid every 5 years.

The 2023-2024 school year will be year 4 renewal option out of the 5 years. The Department of Education would have to grant approval prior to a presentation to the school board, so it is likely that the renewal will be reviewed by the school board at the March or April meeting.

Budgetary transfers will need approval from the Athletic Department.

Budget Update – currently in the process of meeting with Principals and Directors regarding their budgets. The Governor’s budget address is not scheduled until March this year, instead of the normal February time frame.

Lastly, we will be asking for approval of adjusting the board agenda item for the Electric Contract Extension as discussed earlier in this meeting.

IV. Discussion/Review of Potential Motions for Approval for Regular Voting Meeting

A. Business/Finance

- a. Pay App. #7, First American Industries, Inc. \$23,845.00
- b. Pay App #5, Merit Electrical Group, \$20,545.52
- c. Food Service Management Contract – beginning renewal process
- d. Budgetary Transfers
- e. Budget Update

We will start in this section with the 2022-2023 Riverview Health and Safety plan. The Health and Safety plan, by federal ESSER requirements, must be reviewed by the board every six months, and posted on our website henceforth. This does not require a board vote. The plan was reviewed in September at the start of the school year. There have been no changes to the plan as of today, except for a few grammatical changes. Therefore, we are asking for your review this evening, in order to adhere to federal guidelines and to subsequently repost on our District website accordingly. We will also be asking for your approval of the Act 20 resolution for delinquent tax collection, which was discussed earlier in the meeting by Ms. Sattler from WBK. *Mrs. Wilton also suggested a correction in the health and safety plan regarding visitors, stating that the language should read, “visitors are limited to **scheduled personnel** only.” Mrs. Wilton also asked that for budgetary transfers to be transparent in how money was moved around.*

B. Agreements/Contracts/Resolutions:

- a. Health & Safety Plan – Six-month review
- b. Resolution 2223-013: Act 20 Resolution Delinquent Tax Collection

February’s voting meeting will support the official first reading of Policy 249 on bullying and cyberbullying, and discussion thereto, as well as the second reading of policy 907.1 regarding

school visits by board members. Is there any questions or discussions on these two items? You will be officially discussing these policies at our meeting on February 13th.

Board members pointed out a couple of grammatical and form and function edits to the plan, and no board members discussed the resolution because they were able to discuss questions with Ms. Sattler during the presentation portion of the agenda.

C. Board Governance/Regulations

a. Board Policies:

- i. First Reading, Policy 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying
- ii. Second Reading, Policy 907.1/School Visits by Board Members

The next subsection this evening is personnel. In personnel, approval of two coaches will be needed for JV wrestling and assistant baseball. Approval of three unpaid paraprofessional leaves. There will be a resignation of the wrestling JV coach, and the consideration of the usual precision substitute paraprofessionals, which as you know, we desperately need.

D. Personnel

- a. Supplement Athletic Coach: JV Head Wrestling Coach
- b. Supplement Athletic Coach: Asst. Baseball Coach
- c. Paraprofessionals: unpaid leave (3)
- d. Resignations: Wrestling JV Head Coach
- e. Precision Substitute(s): Paraprofessionals
- f. Demonstration Period – Administrative Assts. elementary schools

Typically, in the February study session, our administrators provide a mid-year education and academic update.

Each administrator provided an update to the board of the status of education in each building. They discussed their iReady results as well as other academic focused items. They also gave an overview of some upcoming events in each building.

E. Education

a. Building Updates

As you know, our administrators work hard, and hold additional duties that administrators in larger districts are not responsible for. As such, we appreciate their leadership in ensuring that our schools run smoothly and our staff and students are well cared for. Thank you, administrators! Finishing the agenda tonight with student life. The Athletic Director, Mr. Thomas, will discuss the current state of girls' softball and a possible co-op with Allegheny Valley School District for golf. After multiple attempts to register sign-ups for softball, there are not enough girls to field a team. A co-op with AVSD in both softball and golf would enable our teams to function. Mr. Biehl also spoke regarding the golf team number and the benefit of having a co-op with AVSD. The board approved the commission to explore the two co-op options further.

F. Student Life

- a. Corey Thomas, report by AD, regarding Golf and Softball
- b. PMEA Orchestra Band Trip to State College, March 8 – 10, 2023.

Next is the second hearing of citizens. The second hearing is for any school related topic. If you would like to speak, please come to the microphone, state your name and address, and do your best to keep your comments to under 3 minutes.

No Citizens spoke.

V. Hearing of Citizens

Thank you, citizens. That's the end of our agenda this evening. We thank everyone in attendance, and thank our school community for their continued support of the Riverview School District. Please continue to stay happy, peaceful, and safe!

VI. Adjournment - 9:08pm