

**Study Session/Budget Update
Tenth Street Elementary Auditorium
June 6, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

In attendance: M. Pallone, M. McClure, J. Miller, S. Garibay (via Boxcast), W. Wilton, B. Hawk, J. Chaparro, J. Hurt-Robinson, T. Schaaf, F. Muscante, N. English, D. Zolkowski, C. Monroe, R. Rizzo, A. Pater, D. Seropian, N. Paradise, P. Tomlinson, unnamed resident

Dr. English welcomed everyone in attendance to this evening's meeting. He mentioned that this marks the last week of school of the 2021-22 school year. Graduation is on Wednesday night. We have students that have chosen all paths – college, work force, armed forces. He hopes to see everyone at Riverside Park at 7:00.

To begin the Study Session discussion, Dr. English began with Mr. Pater, who will discuss The Energy Network data and review, which he will be recommending to continue with for the upcoming year only, to ensure the changes we make result in the energy savings we are expecting.

Presentation/Discussion

The Energy Network (TEN) Measurement/Verification Review – Mr. Pater

Mr. Pater presented to the Board the recent Measurement and Verification Report that Ten is contracted to provide to the District as post construction monitoring of energy usage. The information that is provided in the report is part of the Phase 3 Savings Monitoring and Savings Services. Mr. Pater mentioned that the services started in 2019 at a contracted fee of \$2,400. The services are to be provided for a 12-year period that can be cancelled at any time by a written letter to TEN. The service fee has a 3% increase per year from year 1-year 12.

Mr. Pater went on to say that the report has a starting guaranteed dollar savings that was calculated for each building with the reduction of energy (Electricity and Natural Gas) from the installation of Energy Conservation Measurement Equipment. The original guaranteed savings was calculated during the Investment Grade Audit with a base year of 2015-2016. The guaranteed savings amounts increase every year by 3% for inflation.

The year 4 report shows that the District is contracted to save \$105,593 in overall energy cost. The actual savings that the District received was \$127,211. The District has outperformed the contracted guaranteed amount by \$21,618. This is all stated on page 2 of the M&V report.

Page 3 has a spreadsheet with the overall savings from years 1-4. This shows that the District has outperformed the contracted guaranteed savings amount by more than \$85,069. The contracted savings was predetermined to be \$404,273; the District has saved \$489,342.

With the installation of new HVAC Equipment, the grow pod, and new electrical switch gear at the high school, this will increase the electrical load at that building. This year's M&V Report has only measured a partial year of energy usage increases. Mr. Pater recommended to the Board that we continue to have TEN complete the year 5 M&V Report to see how the increase in electrical load impacts the guaranteed savings. The District can use the findings in the year 5 Report to plan on installing any alternate equipment to reduce energy cost (Solar equipment).

Mr. Pater was asked by Mrs. Hurt-Robinson and Dr. Pallone why Verner has shown a much lower energy savings than Tenth Street and the High School. Mr. Pater responded that Verner was running already efficient in its energy usage before the energy savings equipment was installed. Verner has much less building use than the other two buildings. Verner also shuts down at 8:30 every night when the last custodian leaves. The high school and Tenth Street are occupied until 11:00 pm every night, which results in their higher energy usage.

K-8 ELA Materials Discussion – Dr. English then moved to the details of the work the ELA exploration committee for our five-year review cycle.

The ELA Exploration Committee consisted of Reading Interventionists, and grade level teacher representatives from all three schools, as well as all three administrators. Dr. English mentioned that he served on this committee as well. The process consisted of meeting monthly, researching multiple programs, hearing from staff developers, and taking teams of teachers and administrators to Districts working with the materials being considered.

After a long year of exploration, school visits, data analysis, and collaboration, these are the resources chosen by the ELA exploration committee for grades K-8. CKLA is a multi-disciplinary and knowledge-based approach to reading and writing that is research-based, studied, and highly ranked on EdReports (a third party non-profit curriculum assessment company that is an industry standard). The science of reading is based on Scarborough's Reading Rope, a theory of literacy acquisition based on the interconnectivity of language and word comprehension. The quote is a 5-year contract, and includes significant support by CKLA's staff development team for professional development throughout the implementation of the program starting in the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

Dr. English had a short informational video that the staff developers put together in order to provide a quick 7-minute overview. He mentioned that this is a solid program and one that the committee and teachers have endorsed. We have a comprehensive professional development package in order to ensure that implementation is well supported, especially in year one. All

three curriculum review documents will be included in your voting packet for June 20th, and a couple of the CKLA kits will be available for you to see in the Central Office conference room.

Twitter Discussion – Dr. English

Dr. English then added that we have been discussing in our public relations talks with Mr. Gonzalez about possibly utilizing an app that can also put out feeds for Twitter in case people prefer that over Facebook, etc. The upside is that information is being shared across a couple of different platforms. The downside is that it is another item for Junior/us to manage and possibly people to get upset about if things aren't posted right away, or equitably, etc. Dr. English asked Mr. Gonzalez to speak briefly about this.

Mr. Junior Gonzalez spoke about considerations to create a district Twitter account as a means to further broaden the District's reach online. Mr. Gonzalez noted the intent to use Hootsuite, a social media management service, in order to send district communications on both Facebook and Twitter. The basic tier comes at no cost to the District. Mrs. Chaparro added the District already has an athletic account and made sense to have a general district account for communication. Ms. Miller asked about the demographics of users on Twitter. In response, Mr. Gonzalez said he was unsure but believes the Twitter account audience would likely have a similar composition to the Facebook audience.

Hearing of Citizens -None

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

Dr. English then moved to the personnel items that will be appearing on the voting meeting agenda. He mentioned that they are fairly straightforward items in this section that are mostly yearly, and standard operating protocol.

Personnel

- Central Office Payroll/Accounting Clerk
- Athletic Director Posting
- Custodial Retirement
- Elementary Academic Coach – Tenth Street and Verner
- Elementary – Full Time Position
- Elementary – Long-Term Substitute Position
- Paraprofessionals – Class II Full Time – Verner
- Paraprofessionals – Class III Part Time 5.5 hour – Tenth Street two (2) positions
- Paraprofessionals – Class III Part Time 5.5 hour – Jr-Sr High School Transfer
- Summer Scholar Appointments – Verner Elementary
- REA Supplemental Positions

- Athletic Event Worker – Crowd Control
- Targeted Assistance – Jr Sr High School
- Precision Substitutes
- Athletic Supplemental Salary Adjustment
- Auditorium Manager 22/23
- Musical Director 22/23
- Student Teacher – University of Pittsburgh MAT Program

Dr. English mentioned that we have posted both the Central Office Payroll/Accounting Clerk position and the Athletic Director positions. As we just received the custodial retirement letter, we will be posting the anticipated opening shortly. He also shared that we have made significant progress on the open elementary, long term, and academic coach positions. Additional information will be shared in your voting meeting packets.

Dr. English then shared that as Ms. Good discussed prior to leaving, the upcoming budget includes a full time position at Verner, along with two, 5.5 hour positions at Tenth Street. If/when the budget is approved, the most senior para will be moving from the Jr Sr High School to Verner for the position. A Verner para, will then be transferred to the Jr Sr High School for that position. We have posted the 2 positions for Tenth Street; and if approved, we should be able to fill at least one of the positions with an internal candidate. So we have made progress there and that checker boarding/domino effect will ensure thereafter.

We will be asking for approval of the summer scholar appointments at Verner Elementary. We have 3 teachers and 1 para appointment at this time. Remember, this is a program we funded through the ESSER set aside funds designated for summer programming regarding Covid learning loss. This should be a great two weeks this summer, set to occur from July 11th to July 22nd.

We have posted the REA supplemental positions for the 2022-23 school year. Those letters of interest for re-approval are coming in. Those requesting re-appointment will appear on the upcoming voting meeting agenda. We will also be asking for approval of an athletic event worker that was not submitted previously, along with a change in the online teacher for targeted assistance at the Jr Sr High School.

He added that will be asking for approval of Precision Substitutes to close out the 2021-22 year. We will also be asking for a one-time adjustment to the Athletic Supplemental Salary Schedule for this year only, which we have discussed. This adjustment will make no increase to the 2021-22 salary schedule. We have also received letters of interest for the re-approval of the auditorium manager and musical director. Finally, we will be asking for approval of several University of Pittsburgh student teachers for the coming year. Both are for social studies.

Education

Dr. English shared that we will be adding an item for approval next week for Dena Huselton. She needs to update her AP Computer Science Status. A motion will appear next week.

Board Governance

- Donate/Scrap Non-Working 1975 Market Forge Convection Ovens
- Student Discipline Agreement

Included in your packet was a photo of the convection ovens Mr. Pater is requesting to be donated/scrapped. These are 4 non-working convection ovens. We have purchased a new combination oven and the old ovens need to be removed to –As part of the install Merritt Electric will be asked to disconnect the old ovens that do not work. Mr. Kvortek would like 2 of the 4. He would like to convert the ovens to a smoker for his camp.

Student Life

- Cross Country Retreat

Included in your packets was information from Mrs. Palma Ostrowski regarding the Cross Country Retreat at Pine Springs Camp in Jennerstown, PA (June 18-22), which included a tentative schedule. Please keep in mind that the trip will begin prior to your vote. However, this was approved last year, and Dr. English hoped that it will not be an issue this year either.

He added that will be asking for approval of a number of agreements which are standard renewal agreements. More should be submitted prior to our next voting meeting and may be included in the voting meeting packet. The agreements that we know of are included, but not limited to the following:

Agreements/Contracts/Resolutions:

- Children's Institute Agreement – Special Education School/Provider
- Phase 4 Agreement – This is a yearly agreement with our AEDY provider
- Forbes Road Anticipation Note - This is our yearly revenue anticipation note for payment to our CTC, as designated by law
- UPMC – Western Psychiatric Hospital – Student Assistance Agreement with the County/Dr. McCommons
- University of Pittsburgh Student Teaching Affiliation Agreement- Every 5-year contract in order to accept student teachers
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit Services Agreement This is for the program of services that mostly fall into special education services that we partner with AIU for.
- Eastern Area Extension Resolution Finally, you received the EAS extension agreement, for the duration of an additional two years, which will be formerly voted upon at the voting meeting on July 20th.

Dr. English mentioned to the Board that we will receive a number renewal agreements between now and the start of the school year, and told the Board to look out for those. Dr. English then turned the meeting over to Mr. Seropian, who will be discussing the budget prior to adoption on the 20th, and the Homestead Exclusion.

Business/Finance:

- Budget/Homestead Exclusion

Mr. Seropian discussed the budget that will be considered for adoption on June 20th. The preliminary budget was discussed by the Board in the May Study Session. Mr. Seropian made a slight change to the budget in order to balance the expenditures and revenues by moving approximately \$38,000 into the budgetary reserve to ensure that it was fully balanced. Other than that, the budget remained consistent with the preliminary. Mr. Seropian also explained the Homestead Exclusion numbers for this year, stating that those families that qualify will receive a \$203.60 decrease in their tax bills for the upcoming year.

Hearing of Citizens – The School Board email address had received a letter from Mr. Lee Huffman. Mr. Huffman had asked that the letter be shared with the Board as he was unable to attend. Dr. English then read Mr. Huffman's letter in its entirety. Mr. Huffman felt that our proposed budget posted on the website does not give enough information because it does not include any future forecast. He is requesting a change to improve that in the future and provide a sample template.

Mr. Seropian gave praise to Mr. Huffman, claiming that informed community members regarding the budget are appreciated. He made comments to suggest that school budgets are different from the corporate world in terms of the confounding and unknown variables. In an attempt to create transparency, an unintended consequence may be the opposite, and could be potentially irresponsible to provide to the public. Mr. Seropian mentioned that he would reach out to Mr. Huffman to discuss the budget this week.

Adjournment 8:40 pm