

Study Session / Finance Committee/Tax Meeting
October 12, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Remote Access via ZOOM
as a result of necessity due to coronavirus pandemic sanctions

****An Executive Session was held on Monday, October 5, 2020, from 7:00 pm to 9:45 pm to discuss personnel matters and to receive information.***

****An Executive Session will be held on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 6:15 pm to discuss personnel matters and to receive information.***

In attendance: N. English, L. Ashbaugh, M. McClure, A. Loeffler, M. Pallone, J. Miller, B. Hawk, J. Chaparro, T. Schaaf, T. Good, F. Muscante, D. Zolkowski, E. Hewitt, C. Monroe, R. Rizzo, A. Pater, J. Cordier, L. Solden, C. Maisto, C. Warren, K. Surra, B. Gross, S. Ogradowski, W. Wilton, C. Tsambis, V. Costa, M. Walewski, J. Clontz, J. Srodes, K. Roller, K. Krajca, K. Lape, K. Walker, L. Carney, M. Hopple, N. Talpas, R. Highberger, R. Yorio, V. Pomerantz, J. Jackson, K. Prybok, A. Hoolahan, A. Manifest, D. Schenle, M. DeLuca, A. Toland, a. Davis, B. Huffman, E. Morobitto, E. Levarse, J. Fleming, P. Tomlinson, W. Hudak, A. Truby, M. Harden, P. Polesiak, O. Slagle, E. Phillipps, K. Bonicky, H. Dawson, L. Lowe, J. Durzo, J. Loughren, J. Boyer, K. Davidson, K. Monroe, L. Loughren, G. Kocur, C. Favo, E. Richman, M. Metz, A. Quinlan, H. Fichte, K. O'Block, M. Nese, M. Walsh, C. Cecere, D. Aaron, R. Poth, M. Smith, J. Hood, S. Sullivan, S. Vespi, additional unnamed residents

Announcements

University of Pittsburgh Vaping Study, 6th Grade – 2021-2022 school year – Dr. Kar-Hai Chu

Dr. English presented to the board a unique opportunity for next year's 6th grade students and families to participate in an intervention consisting of one peer opinion survey, two class periods of instruction and two surveys about e-cigarettes. This is set to occur in the 2021-2022 school year. This would be another partnership with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. This will consist of a confidential health behavior intervention based on the evidence-based program, CATCH My Breath. The intervention will be administered by either (1) an adult content-expert or (2) a peer-nominated opinion leader. The surveys are based on the National Youth Tobacco Survey. The research team from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine will administer the surveys. The surveys will help the district learn more about our students' opinions about e-cigarettes and will provide the School of Medicine guidance on the types of support to provide. He asked for the board to consider approving a letter of support for next week's voting meeting.

Presentation

End of Semester School Transition Plan / REA Recommendation – Dr. English presented to the Board in regarding a possible transition to additional learning options for students to occur at the start of the 2nd nine weeks of school. In the presentation, he combined the findings from Epistemix (a grant funded public health company that provides scientific transmission data projections) with fully in person, remote, and hybrid options. The Board heard the presentation, and asked questions regarding each option.

After Dr. English's presentation, REA President, Mr. Kevin Krajca made a statement supporting the hybrid option, with the understanding that health, safety, and technology needs continue to be addressed by the teachers and administration in collaboration.

Epistemix presentation – John Cordier, CEO of Epistemix, and his Lead Scientist, Dr. Lindsey Solden, presented to the Board of Education. They provided an overview of the company, and discussed how

their process works. Epistemix discussed the nature of the partnership, and that they will be providing projection models and recommendations throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Personnel

- Supplementals:
 - Annual Athletic and/or Athletic Event Worker Approvals
 - Academic
- Sabbatical and/or Leave Requests
- Paraprofessional – Unpaid Day Request (3 days)
- Paraprofessional – 5.5 replacement
- Substitutes
- Bus Driver Approvals
- Business Office Hire –Cori Fye

Dr. English reviewed the potential personnel motions with the Board. He explained that we may have some fall/winter coaching positions on next week's agenda; but as of today, there are none. Ms. Morascyzk will be listed for approval as the Guidance Department Chair. He also explained that we will be voting on a few sabbatical and other leave requests along with requests for Leave of Absence under the Family First Coronavirus Response Act. One of our paraprofessionals is in need of three unpaid days due to unforeseen circumstances. Due to the resignation of Lynn Rogalsky, Dr. English mentioned that there will be a motion requesting the approval of Stacey Galata to transfer to that position. In addition, he mentioned that we will be asking for the approval of any new substitutes and bus drivers.

Dr. English asked Mrs. Schaaf to address the board regarding the Use of School Facilities.

Student Life

- Limited Use of School Facilities Discussion

Mrs. Schaaf explained to the board that both the RAA and the PTO Dance were interested in limited use of the facilities. Details of their requests were included in this week's Study Session Packet. Mrs. Schaaf reviewed information for both groups with the board. The topics included the wearing of masks, hand sanitizer, temperature checks, etc. Additional information and discussion is needed regarding age limitations and residency requirements.

Board Governance

- Budgetary Outline-Booster and Student Club Annual Approvals
- Annual Approval of Small Games of Chance Licenses

Dr. English mentioned that this is the time of the year that we approve booster groups and student club budgetary outlines. We also approve Small Game of Chance Licenses for our booster groups. There may be some included in your board packets next week for their annual approval.

Agreements/Contracts:

- Ricupero, Inc. – Agreement for snow removal 2020-2021 season
- People's Gas – Easement Agreement
- Wesley Schools – Individual Student Agreement
- Forbes National School Lunch Program Agreement

Dr. English mentioned that we will be asking for approval of Ricupero, Inc. for snow removal for the 20-21 season. According to Mr. Pater, there is a \$20.00 increase in services at the high school due to additional plowing that is needed. Additionally, as discussed in the past, we have an agreement with Wesley for one of our Special Education Students. This is an addendum to that agreement. Dr. English asked Dr. Monroe to provide additional information. She explained that this student was no longer attending Forbes Road which was the reason for the addendum. Ms. Good mentioned that the People's Gas Easement Agreement is in the process of review and will not be ready for a motion at the voting meeting.

Business/Finance:

- Little Free Library – Verner PTO Purchase

Ms. Good mentioned that the Verner PTO is planning to purchase the Little Free Library to replace the one that is currently at Verner and in disrepair. Tenth Street already has this same Library which is not yet installed.

Finance Committee / Tax Meeting

Ms. Good reviewed the topics listed below and indicated that at the November meeting, as a result of state timelines and election year timeline implications, the board will need to consider whether or not they want to pass a resolution in November pertaining to whether they want to pass a resolution not to exceed the index.

- Local Audit finished up middle of September. The District will see a positive change of fund balance at approximately \$1.1 million. A fund balance designation will need to be completed at the November meeting. The local auditor stated his firm would issue a management comment due the inability of the general fund bank reconciliations being complete as of June 2020. Ms. Good expressed her displeasure in this management letter, saying that with the death of an employee and Covid-19 hitting in March, her staff worked tirelessly to attempt to keep up with everything and did so with the exception of getting the one bank reconciliation into balance. Local auditor also stated he was to issue a clean unqualified report.
- 2021-2022 Act 1 Index and Budget Process o Index = 3%, Ms. Good reminded the board that again the index fell short of the predictions of the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) o Need to consider whether or not to increase millage beyond index in November in order to meet the timelines under Act 1. Ms. Good went over some past comparisons of the state index as well as a countywide comparison with the board.
 - Discussion of potential exceptions, Ms. Good explained that likely the District would not qualify for the Retirement Exception and the Special Education Exception would have minimal impact to a tax increase. o Act 1 Budget Timeline
 - New Facilities Master Plan is almost finalized. Dan Engen, VEBH Architect is attending November study session. He will want a motion on the agenda to permit both Mr. Engen and Ms. Good to move forward with the bidding process for the 2021 summer projects. We have roofs, bathroom updates, windows, HVAC units, Controls, etc. on the project list.
 - Food Service Investment Projects – Ms. Good reminded the board about the \$100,000 investment from Metz via their contract agreement. Explained how the payback works over 5 years with no interest. Potential replacement of carts, freezer, ice machine, new flattop grill and serving line
 - Interim Tax Update and again briefly explained the lag with the county rolls but expressed it is getting better.

- Fund Balance – Ms. Good supplied the board with fund balance designation definitions in preparation of the motion need in November.

Dr. English closed the Study Session/Finance Committee/Tax Meeting at 10:20 pm and moved to the Regular Voting Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mrs. Chaparro, Mr. Hawk, Dr. Loeffler, Dr. McClure, Ms. Miller, Dr. Pallone, Mrs. Schaaf, Mrs. Ashbaugh; Dr. English, Superintendent; Ms. Good, Business Manager; Mr. Muscante, Solicitor; Mrs. Tamburro, Recording Secretary

Absent: Mrs. Hurt-Robinson

Hearing of Citizens: A resident welcomed Ms. Fye to the District in advance of the motion.

Personnel Motion (L. Ashbaugh)

Upon the recommendation of Mrs. Ashbaugh, Mr. Hawk moved that the following Personnel Item be approved:

- A. Approval of Cori B. Fye as a Central Office Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager and Director of Technology/School Safety and Security Coordinator at a salary of \$58,152.60 with a thirty (30) working day performance probation, effective October 6, 2020, replacing Elissa Miller.

Mrs. Schaaf seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Dr. Pallone moved that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 pm.