

Regular School Board Meeting

September 12, 2023

A regular meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jason Barnett, Heidi Byers, Ann Kopnitsky, Donald Nair, Bill Reddinger, Brent Wile, John Kimmel, and Darren Bain. Absent: John Sayers

There was a moment of silence for Karla Hilliard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Brent Wile to approve the Minutes of the Work Session on Tuesday, August 1st 2023 and Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 8th 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Shirey had nothing to add to her report. No questions.

Mr. Hartle had nothing to add to his report. No questions.

Mr. Temchulla had the nothing to add to his report. No questions.

Mr. Jones had nothing to add to his report. No questions.

Mr. Reitz had nothing to add to his report. No questions.

Mrs. Reitz stated she is working on finalizing the 22-23 school year. Dale Hirsch is still assisting with items needed to prepare for the annual audit. Mrs. Reitz and Kim Turnley are in discussions for when the field work will be done for this audit. Mrs. Reitz brought up a previous motion by the board concerning the amount of money to be invested in the Capital Reserve Account back in 2021. She is concerned about accessing the funds if they would be needed because the money is specifically for Capital Projects. Mr. Barnett emphasized that once money is placed in a capital reserve account, it can only be used for capital reserve projects. The board further discussed the status of this money/past motion. Dr. Rupp questioned what kind of investment returns we would get investing in the Capital Reserve Account. Mrs. Reitz responded with the rates/returns. Mrs. Reitz stated that revenue was 3.3 million and the expenditures were 2.5 million. Mr. Barnett believes that further research is needed comparing numbers from previous years. He further talked about revenue vs. expenditures. No further questions.

Dr. Rupp brought up the trauma training that was going to take place on the Act 80 Day. Outside agencies will be taking advantage of this training as well. No further questions.

Mrs. Byers had nothing to add to her report. Mr. Reddinger noted that the October meeting is scheduled to be at the Career Center.

Mrs. Kopnitsky had nothing to add to report.

Board Committee Report: There will be a meeting next week to get the first mailing out for the Education Foundation.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to approve the second reading of the following policies: 335-340, 342-351, 616, 800, 830, and 830.1. Motion carried unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Don Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the first reading of policy numbers 601-612. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Don Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the bussing contract with Barrett Bussing and Valley Lines as presented. Motion carried unanimously

FINANCIAL MATTERS

A motion was made by Don Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the August 2023 Treasurer's Report, for the Consideration to approve the August 2023 General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$1,788,689.07, Consideration to approve the August 2023 Cafeteria Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$31,395.13, and for the Consideration to approve the Business Manager to perform 22-23 adjustment of budgetary transfers. Mr. Barnett wanted to further talk about the Treasurer's Report due to the earlier discussion about the investment in the Capital Reserve Account. He reviewed the balances of the various district financial accounts and what that meant for the district. Mr. Barnett also mentioned other investment opportunities that may exist such as a money market account. No further questions. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to give permission to the Clarion County Tax Claim Bureau to exonerate/delete the taxes and fees against a parcel that has been verified by the assessment office as removed and/or gone including the current request to allow any changes that are \$100 or less as presented. Motion carried unanimously

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration was made to approve the MOU between the Redbank Valley Education Association and the Redbank Valley School District regarding the Athletic Director position. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to add Larry Boddorf to the substitute list for custodians. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Don Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve Joe Harmon's attendance at the National World War 2 Museum Weekend on November 10-13, 2023. Total cost to the district is \$238.32. This will be paid by Title 2A funds. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the music department field trip to Toronto, Canada on April 4-7, 2024 as presented. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to hire Angie Shilling as a Head Cook at an hourly rate of \$16.02 per hour. Total cost to the district is \$48,894.52. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to hire Kristina Wegley as a 4.5 hour food handler at the rate of \$11.24 per hour. Total cost to the district is \$10,257.66. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to hire Java Bell as a 2.5 hour cafeteria aide at a rate of \$11.24 per hour. Total cost to the district is \$5,698.70. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Anne Kopnitsky seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to transfer Bobbi McGuire from a 4.5 hour cafeteria aide to 4.5 hour food handler at no cost to the district. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to hire Diana Walker as 4.5 hour food handler at a rate of \$11.24 per hour. Total cost to the district is \$10,257.66. Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Reddinger questioned if that fills the need for cafeteria workers and Dr. Rupp responded that there are still five job openings available in the cafeteria.

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to approve the MOU with Support Staff regarding secretarial compensation. Dr. Rupp mentioned that this resolves the questions surrounding the job responsibilities and duties of the accounts payable position. The position will not be grieved and the secretary in question is moved up to a higher step of payment to compensate for the extra work. Mr. Bain asked for clarification concerning a comment about not

realizing what was happening with the current position. Dr. Rupp explained that over the last several years, many of the responsibilities of the business manager were placed on the secretary in the office. While the duties were performed by the secretary, they really weren't a secretarial task. The main secretarial task that was solely done by the secretary that was hired was transferred to the other person. It was decided that to keep the confidentiality in the business office, that position could remain a non-union position and we could shift the tasks with a small adjustment and not have to replace that secretarial position. Mr. Barnett questioned what task she was referring to, and Dr. Rupp said that this is for the Special Education ACCESS billing. Dr. Rupp explained that throughout the course of the time, things have been made more electronic and tasks are done more quickly, so it was a nice compromise because we don't have to fill a new secretary spot by putting the duties where they were supposed to be. Mr. Barnett questioned the salary scale of this position and Dr. Rupp responded that there will be an increase of \$2 per hour for the Special Education Secretary. Mr. Barnett brought up the fact that were paying additional money, but no increase in hours. Mr. Reddinger called an executive session on this matter. 6-2 (Barnett, Nair)

A motion was made by Don Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to hire Maggie Bohlander as a substitute nurse. Motion carried unanimously

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS

Matt Darr addressed the board concerning the athletic trainer position. He presented information to the board for them to review about the possibility of hiring an athletic trainer for the district. Mr. Barnett commented that he believes there is a public misconception that the trainer position was eliminated completely because of financial reasons. He said that the district regularly revisits this issue and that the biggest hurdle is that there aren't any trainers available to hire. Mr. Darr went on to present what companies may be available to offer trainer services to the district and what their services would entail/cost. Mr. Darr thinks that Penn Highlands would be an ideal fit for Redbank considering their relationship with Moore Physical Therapy. Mr. Barnett questioned the difference between having a doctor on site for games versus an athletic trainer. Mr. Darr suggested that hiring an athletic trainer may help prevent sports injuries to the students via proactive measures such as taping. He also stated that a coach questioned what kind of personal liability they have in student injuries if they don't have the proper training to deal with them. Mr. Bain challenged the board to go back and look at the budget to see if there was anywhere we could find money to make this trainer position happen. He said that there has been a notable uptick in student injuries in local sports so this needs to be addressed. Mr. Darr has been researching grants to help pay for an athletic trainer. However, options were very limited. His official recommendation to the board is to hire a trainer. Mrs. Kopnitsky emphasized that whoever is hired for the athletic trainer position needs to be aware of the students' medical needs/issues and be familiar with them. The board members mentioned the budgetary reserve as an option to pay the trainer. However, Mr. Barnett questioned having another expenditure taking away from other educational costs. At the core, the focus needs to be on the education of the students. He noted that several positions have been hired recently and that very few of them have been teachers. He feels that the district will have some financial decisions to make once the Covid funds have been

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depleted and that we need to be careful with our resources. Further talk ensued with the board of what it would cost per year to either hire or contract a trainer for the district. Mr. Barnett thought that the total cost to the district could be \$85,000 to \$90,000 a year. Dr. Rupp said that she and Mrs. Reitz would take a look at the budget to see what funds would be available. Mrs. Kopnitsky questioned how long it would take to hire a trainer for the district as an employee versus CHAMPS having a trainer available immediately. Further talk ensued about short/long term solutions to the trainer issue. Mr. Bain questioned pushing the trainer issue to next month's meeting because that would be another four weeks of sports without any resolution. Mr. Barnett stated we haven't had an athletic trainer for years, so the Board needs to decide what they want to do. Mr. Barnett said he would like to make a motion that the Board direct Mr. Darr to bring the board proposals that they could select concerning this issue. This motion was seconded by Donald Nair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Don Nair and seconded by Brent Wile to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Reitz

Rochelle Reitz
Board Secretary