

**CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP/SPECIAL ACTION MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES/DISTRICT ASSEMBLY ROOM**

**March 13, 2018**

**1.0 Meeting Opening**

A. Call to Order

The Workshop/Special Action Meeting of the Chartiers Valley Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Mazzarini in the District Assembly Room.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

**Present**

Mr. Tony Mazzarini, President  
Mr. Mark Kuczinski, Vice President  
Mr. Eric Kraemer  
Mr. Robert Kearney  
Mr. Brian Kopec  
Mrs. Sandy Zeleznik

**Also Present**

Mr. Scott Seltzer, Interim Superintendent  
Mr. Don Palmer, Solicitor  
Dr. Jillian Bichsel

**Absent**

Mr. Jeff Choura  
Mrs. Julie Murphy  
Mr. Darren Mariano

D. Public Comments

None

E. Recognitions

Mr. Seltzer said there was an article in the paper that Mr. McCartney has posted to the web site about a former student, Tyler Wilps. He is a medical student at the University of Pittsburgh who is doing some mission work in Ecuador. He is also one of the founders of the mission. As a student here, he also did some mission work and we want to applaud his efforts for going there and using the skills he's learning at school there.

Mr. Mazzarini said it was a neat article, stating that his father is a physician as well, so dad, mom and little sister went as well.

Mr. Mazzarini stated that there was an executive session prior to the meeting.

**2.0 Superintendent's Reports/Presentations**

None

### **3.0 Consent Agenda**

3.1 Motion to approve Meeting Minutes: February 13, 2018 and February 27, 2018.

3.2 Motion to approve the Human Resources Report.

**Motion to approve items 3.1 and 3.2 listed above.  
MOVED by Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mrs. Zeleznik.  
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

### **4.0 Action/Discussion**

4.1 Motion to approve PlanCon Part 1 - revised, which includes the cumulative list of Change Orders.

Mr. Seltzer said a lot of this had to do with the change orders, so we had to resubmit with the change order amounts.

**Motion to approve item 4.1 listed above.  
MOVED by Mrs. Zeleznik, seconded by Mr. Kearney.  
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

4.2 Motion to approve Monthly Construction Report-March, 2018.

Mr. Del Re said that they are really close to getting the Middle School wrapped up. The gymnasium has been turned over and we're still working on the punch list items. There is still some paving and landscaping to do on the outside.

In the High School, the learning community is basically complete. We started the concrete slab installation, doing the 3<sup>rd</sup> pour today and the 4<sup>th</sup> tomorrow. The interior framing layouts will begin on Monday along with preparing for the spray on fire proofing. The MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) contractors have begun installing hangers in preparation for the fireproofing work and the roof drains and rain conductors are in the rough-in phase. The project is moving well and looking good.

Mr. Mazzarini thanked Mr. Del Re for taking the time to spend with him and Mr. Seltzer at Mt. Lebanon. Mt. Lebanon used the same type of flooring system that we're using in our building and we had some questions and concerns about the amount of cracking that is going on in the cement. It is a natural thing for cement to crack and we wanted to make sure that what was going on was acceptable and part of the design. When we made the decision 3 years ago, when all this planning was going on, our architects, our stake holders, our teachers and all of the people that attended the sessions concerning the aesthetics, the decision was made to go with exposed concrete so that money could be put into the educational portions of our buildings. To satisfy us and make sure this was ok and the way it was supposed to look, PJ Dick took the time to take us to Mt. Lebanon who has the same exact floor system and they had the same exact results. There are no structural issues,

**Motion to approve item 4.2 listed above.  
MOVED by Mr. Kuczinski, seconded by Mr. Kearney.  
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

- 4.3 Motion to approve February, 2018 Pay apps.

**Motion to approve item 4.3 listed above.**

**MOVED by Mr. Kopec, seconded by Mr. Kraemer**

**On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

- 4.4 Motion to approve Rycon Construction Change Order #20 as listed for an add of seventeen thousand eight hundred thirty-three dollars and zero cents.
- 4.5 Motion to approve Rycon Construction Change Order #21 as listed for an add of eighteen thousand on hundred forty-eight dollars and zero cents.
- 4.6 Motion to approve Rycon Construction Change Order #22 as listed for an add of fifty-five thousand nine hundred fourteen dollars and zero cents.
- 4.7 Motion to approve Merit Electrical Group High School Change Order #08 as listed for an add of twenty-four thousand four hundred fifty-four dollars and zero cents.

**Motion to approve items 4.4 through 4.7 listed above.**

**MOVED by Mr. Kuczinski, seconded by Mr. Kraemer.**

**On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

- 4.8 Discuss Referendum.

Mr. Palmer added the motion:

**Motion to approve the submission to the County Board of Elections of the following referendum question seeking voter approval in the upcoming primary election of a tax increase in excess of the Act 1 Index plus permitted exceptions. The Act 1 referendum questions would be:**

**Do you favor the Chartiers Valley School District increasing its real estate property tax by an additional 1.0 mill above its Act 1 Index and permitted exceptions? The revenue generated from the increased tax rate will be dedicated to the implementation of measure to increase school safety through enhancements to operation and infrastructure including additional security staff, counselors, psychologists, assistant principals and equipment (including additional security cameras, metal detectors, building door access and electronic gates).**

Mr. Palmer said that the back ground of this question as everyone knows, adopting our budget, we're permitted to increase the budget up to the Act 1 index if the board chooses. There are some exceptions that the district could apply for to the Department of Education for approval. Beyond those, you're limited from raising your budget above the rates unless you go to a public referendum and the public votes in the election to permit the increase of millage above the Act 1 index. To have that happen, the board has to adopt a referendum question and provide that to the county board of elections by March 16<sup>th</sup>. If the board wanted to have a question placed on the ballot, it has to specifically approve the question and the question can be no more than seventy five words. Because of the timeline, we have drafted a referendum question for consideration of the board.

Mr. Seltzer said that reason that they have come to this point was because of requests from our parents concerning school safety. This is not only to help in the form of equipment, but in our student's social and emotional wellbeing and the staff to do that. This will be a recurring cost, especially with the personnel aspect.

Mr. Mazzarini said that he thought there was a benefit to taking it to the public, because it is for their kids and for people that don't have kids in the district, it's also a decision that they have to make. We are trying to address the concerns that came to us, but it does take money.

Mr. Dodson asked if this kind of information can be posted at least 6 months ahead of time so the communities and townships know what you are trying to accomplish as far as generating more tax revenue to fund security. My belief is the security should be funded by the parents of the students that are here and the employees and administration, because that's who we're securing. Not the people that don't, we are tasked with securing our own homes. He also mentioned that the agenda should be approved and made public so that there is time to investigate what is on the agenda.

Mr. Kuczinski offered to Mr. Mazzarini a long term vision of the board engaging with the public with a pilot seminar program. It would consist of school finances, how they work, not a seminar that debates opinions, but factual, to engage and increase transparency.

Mr. Kuczinski said that this came up two weeks ago and started with the school security meeting that occurred with parents. At our last board meeting, there was a mom that sat in the audience and it's the first time since I've been on the board and I'm starting my third year, stand up and say, "I'm willing to go door to door to collect money and have other parents that are willing to do the same, how can we help." It was the first time a parent stood up since I've been here and asked, how can I help. People want a voice, and these are the things that they want, and it's not my right to keep them from speaking. These are unusual times, we've been asked to think outside the box, be creative and give them a voice is a great thing. It's going to create dialogue in the community, but that's a good thing as long as it's done constructively.

**Motion to approve item 4.8 listed above.  
MOVED by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mrs. Zeleznik.  
On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 6-0.**

Mr. Palmer stated that in executive session they discussed litigation matters, following up on our discussions and if it meets board approval, I'd ask to add item 4.9 and 4.10 to the agenda.

- 4.9 Motion to approve the tax appeal stipulation for the 2016 through 2018 tax years related to commercial property located in Scott Twp., known as block and lot # 99F18.

**Motion to approve item 4.9 listed above.  
MOVED by Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mr. Kuczinski.  
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

- 4.10 Motion to approve the filing of 2018 real estate tax assessments appeals based on the neutral and objective criteria identified by the solicitor and discussed with the board.

**Motion to approve item 4.10 listed above.  
MOVED by Mr. Kopec, seconded by Mr. Kearney.**

**On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Mazzarini said they held a special meeting last week to hire our Superintendent and this is our second meeting of the month. The board has put a lot of time in together over the course of the last three months, getting us to this point with a new Superintendent and a lot of construction issues. My suggestion to the board was to cancel our next meeting, let our new Superintendent get on board and then have our next meeting/public session on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**5.0 Public Comments**

Mr. Dodson stated that the board knows how he feels especially concerning the referendum. He stated that it was frustrating for him not having any children in the district, not to have a say. I respect everyone here, putting your time in and doing the right thing for education, there has to be a limit sometimes. It hurts a lot of people that struggle to pay an exorbitant amount of school taxes. Your hands are tied too, and it's a vicious cycle.

Mr. Mazzarini said that you have to respect the fact that we've controlled our millage over the years. We are the lowest of all.

Mr. Dodson said that he understands that comment, but that there is a lot of development in this community. Where is that money going? I've seen all the development since I've moved into the district and that's great for school districts, but here we are again. The assessments were done in 2012, the millage was high at that point, it went down and now it's going back up. You've invested in new schools and you're carrying a debt that the tax payers have to pay for. To me, the children aren't going to be better educated in a better facility. The bottom line is the teachers should get that money.

Mr. Kuczinski said that when we built these facilities, the idea was to put it into the learning capacity of the rooms and we did not tack anything on to the stadium or anything else.

Mr. Dodson then commented on the turf and discussed how he had played on grass fields.

Mr. Mazzarini said that our turf gets so much use. When you talk about grass vs. turf, grass fields are great for playing games, but not great for practicing. With the amount of teams that use it, grass is not realistic.

Mr. Kuczinski stated that this was the last meeting that Mr. Seltzer is going to be in the Superintendents chair. When Dr. White left and went to Butler, Mr. Seltzer was unequivocal in standing up and raising his hand and saying, I'm all in, I will help do what I can, I will take that chair until you tell me not to. He took the bull by the horns, he has led people and he has really put a calm over the district when things could have gone crazy. He has done an absolutely, positively fantastic job and I know he's going to continue to do so.

Mr. Seltzer said that it's actually pretty easy here, we have great people, we have great kids and it's a great community to be a part of. I'm thankful, I get up every day and come here and it's always a positive. I enjoy the people I work with and like I said before, the kids are better than places I have been before, they're just great. So, thank you for the opportunity to do this, to have

this experience and I think Dr. Vanatta and I will work very well together.

## **6.0 Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.**

**MOVED by Mr. Kuczinski, seconded by Mr. Kearney.**

**On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Wiseman  
Acting Board Secretary