

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MONTHLY ACTION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 23, 2014

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Friday, October 24, 2014

Attendance:

Jennifer Arevalo, Jill Basile, Brandon Bilohlavek, Nick Braccio, Maryellen Brousseau, Janet Flisak, Henry Franz, Sharon Fuhrman, Frank Gallagher, Lisa Gurgick, Christopher Hey, Scott Jelinski, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Donna Scheuren, Lisa Snedaker, William Stone,

1. Welcome

1.1 Call to Order - Scott C. Jelinski, Board President

Mr. Jelinski called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

1.2 Meeting Protocol

Mr. Jelinski read the meeting protocol

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Jelinski led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance

1.4 Roll Call - William R. Stone, Jr., Board Secretary

Mr. Stone called the roll. Seven Board members were present. Messrs. Brong and Holliday were absent.

2. Souderton Spotlight

2.1 The Watershed Project

Mr. Gallagher introduced this month's Spotlight video. The Watershed Project was funded by the Indian Valley Education Foundation.

3. Report of the Student Representatives to the Board

3.1 Student Representatives Update on Activities and Events at Souderton Area High School

Senior student, Mr. Taylor DeSpain noted that senior project presentations have begun and the fall sports season is coming to an end. Junior student, Ms. Katie Offner commented on the upcoming National Honor Society Pie-A-Teacher fundraiser and other school activities including student council "Pink Out" day, and the Fall Play "Three Murders and It's Only Monday" on November 7th and 8th. Ms. Offner also mentioned that some members of The Arrowhead, yearbook staff and SATV would be attending The National Journalism Convention next month in Washington, D.C.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items

4.1 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

5. Report of the President

5.1 Report on Executive Session Meeting(s) held by the Board

Mr. Jelinski announced that an Executive Session was held on September 25, 2014 to discuss personnel matters. An Executive Session was held on October 8, 2014 to discuss legal matters. An Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and legal items.

6. Consent/Action Agenda

6.1 Consent/Action Agenda Protocol

Mr. Gallagher presented the items for the consent/action agenda.

6.2 Motion to Approve School Board Meeting Minutes from September 25, 2014

6.3 Motion to Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings

6.4 Motion to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

6.5 Motion to Ratify Conference / Workshop Attendance

6.6 Motion to Approve Request for Out of State Field Trip

6.7 Motion to Approve Professional Staff Personnel Items

6.8 Motion to Approve Support Staff Personnel Items

6.9 Motion to Approve Substitute Teachers

6.10 Motion to Approve Supplemental Contracts

6.11 Motion to Approve Board of School Directors Meeting Calendar

6.12 Motion to Approve Third Reading and Final Adoption of Fund Balance Policy #620

6.13 Motion to Approve Gilbert Architects to Complete a Feasibility Study for E.M.C. Renovation

6.14 Motion to Approve a Reduced Real Estate Tax Payment

6.15 Approve Release and Settlement Agreement

6.16 Motion to Approve Consent/Action Agenda Items

Prior to the vote, Mr. Jelinski provided comments about item 6.12, the third reading of the Fund Balance policy, from Mr. Holliday (who was absent). Mr. Holliday is in favor of the policy, but notes that he would be more comfortable if the range of unassigned fund balance were 6-8% rather than the proposed 4-8%. He noted concern about the rising costs of PSERS and special education as reason to be more prudent with the fund balance. He also complimented the administration on its new approach to budget development, which focuses on long-term plans in addition to the current year's budget.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Thomas Kwiatkowski, second by Donna Scheuren.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Donna Scheuren, Janet Flisak, Jill Basile, Ken Keith, Nicholas Braccio, Scott Jelinski, Thomas Kwiatkowski

7. Discussion/Action Agenda

8. Future Meetings

8.1 Future Meetings

Mr. Jelinski announced the future meeting dates for the Board, NMTCC and MCIU

9. Report of the Solicitor

9.1 Report of the Solicitor

No report from Mr. Sultanik.

10. Unfinished/New Business of the Board

10.1 New Business

Mrs. Basile provided an update from the (IVEF) Indian Valley Education Foundation, including the Farm to Table event and the upcoming Harlem Wizards game on March 20, 2015. She also discussed the IVEF's efforts to attract new business donors. The SAT Bootcamp hosted 82 students with proceeds benefiting the IVEF.

Mr. Jelinski complimented the IVEF on its recent successes.

Mr. Gallagher commended Franconia and Salford Hills Elementary Schools on their receipt of the Governor's Expanding Excellence Grant. Mrs. Ryan and Mr. Purnell presented programs that have led to high achievement at the annual PASA-PSBA Leadership Conference.

10.2 Presentation by Souderton Charter School Collaborative

Mr. Gallagher introduced Wendy Ormsby and Jennifer Arevalo from the SCSC (Souderton Charter School Collaborative). Ms. Ormsby led a presentation about the SCSC as an introduction to the SCSC's request to renew its five-year charter to operate its school. It is the SASD Board's responsibility to approve the charter renewal.

Mesdames Ormsby Arevalo made a presentation to the Board, covering an overview of the school's mission, its curriculum and academic performance data, use of technology, financial and facility planning, and extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Basile asked how other academic data is used to measure performance. Ms. Arevalo mentioned monthly check-ins, quarterly progress reports and Response To Intervention programs in the classroom.

Mr. Jelinski asked about how many students currently attend SCSC. The response is 212 students. How many teachers are employed at the SCSC? There are a total 26 part-time and full-time teachers. The percentage of students with IEP's is 13%. Mr. Jelinski discussed the concerns with cyber charters schools and discussed concerns about the funding for charter schools and how it affects taxpayers. He complimented SCSC on the presentation and supporting data. He noted Board will continue review.

Mr. Keith asked about SCSC's ending unassigned Fund Balance. Ms. Ormsby estimated over \$300,000. Mr. Kwiatkowski asked for clarification about how special education students are educated. Ms. Ormsby stated that there are no special education classrooms because students are integrated in regular education classes, and explained small group instruction settings. Mr. Kwiatkowski also asked about facility expansion - is there a formal plan for the future? Ms. Arevalo mentioned need to grow but they plan to stay between 250-275 students.

Currently, there are no plans to expand to K-12. Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about multiple age classes. Ms. Arevalo discussed the looping system used.

Mr. Braccio complimented SCSC on the presentation and a good job of educating children. He noted that SASD does a great job too. Can SCSC demonstrate why SCSC kids wouldn't excel in SASD? Ms. Ormsby noted the individualized learning plans for all students and the adult learning concepts discussed earlier. She also noted that teaching profession was isolating to her and that she wanted to start a school that fostered collaboration. She noted SASD is a great district.

Mr. Sultanik noted plan to increase SCSC enrollment - does it presume a new facility? The response was yes. Mr. Sultanik asked if a new facility would require renewal of charter? Ms. Ormsby practically believes that SCSC would come back to board for an amendment to its charter. Mr. Sultanik asked if the SCSC would be willing to allow the Board to review a new facility? Ms. Ormsby will check with their legal counsel. Mr. Sultanik asked about the pending application for North Penn Charter School Collaborative? Ms. Ormsby said the initial plan is for 125 students; K-3, with a projection of 250 by year 7. Their intention would be to replicate SCSC in the North Penn area. Mr. Sultanik asked about the possibility of SASD students going to a NP location? Mrs. Ormsby replied yes, there are SASD families on the wait list.

Ms. Ormsby would expect to fill with North Penn students. Currently, there are more than 200 students from North Penn on the waiting list. Mr. Sultanik asked about the total number of students on the North Penn wait list and the response was approximately 300. Mrs. Ormsby was unsure how many from each of the various districts - SASD, PSD, NPSD. Ms. Arevalo promised to get that information at the request of the Board. Mr. Sultanik noted that the Board would not be making decision based on economics, but expansion in SCSC and NPCSC puts additional stress on the SASD budget because of the demand. Ms. Ormsby reiterated that NP students would fill NPCSC, and noted charter school law dictates where students can be accepted from. Mr. Sultanik inquired as to who was responsible for the identification of special education students?

Mesdames Ormsby and Arevalo answered that the identification is done by a Special education coordinator and team, and a part time certified school psychologist.

Mr. Jelinski noted that a quick calculation shows a teacher student ratio of 1:8. Ms. Ormsby said the actual is 1:11. Mr. Jelinski inquired if the SCSC has investigated how they can afford the cost of having small class sizes? Ms. Ormsby noted lean administration, and a very plain facility. Mr. Jelinski asked if the SCSC has ever explored

increasing class size? Ms. Ormsby noted SCSC is strategically planning for the future and is aware of the possibility of funding formula changes. It was noted that our costs have increased \$1M in 5 years. Mr. Jelinski also expressed a concern for an increase in transportation if a school begins operation in the NPSD.

Mr. Sultanik noted that legislature deliberately forced competition and the funding system. The Board's choice is limited when a strong charter application comes before it. He noted that there are fewer restrictions on SCSC (e.g., special ed, unionized labor, facilities). This Board could also attempt to compete directly with SCSC. Ms. Arevalo sees it as educational innovation, not competition. She sees their collaborative as "our students" - they are all from SASD.

Mr. Jelinski noted that charters may have been originally designed for failing schools and that is obviously not the case in SASD. Mr. Jelinski acknowledged there is no easy answer to the question of needing other education options in the SASD.

Mr. Braccio inquired as to how many current North Penn students attend SCSC? The answer is 13. Mr. Braccio asked if a new facility was to open in the North Penn School District if those students would be moved to that facility? Ms. Ormsby couldn't move them back due to state law. Parents may individually elect to change schools by entering the lottery. Mr. Braccio asked for explanation on the increase in special education teachers year over year? Ms. Ormsby said the decision was made to increase reading support for students.

Mr. Kwiatkowski inquired what is the management structure plan if the North Penn school opens? Ms. Arevalo responded that there would be an initial increase in administrative staff by 1. Ms. Ormsby reinforced that they would not be looking to install upper management to oversee both schools.

Ms. Basile asked how SCSC develops curriculum. Ms. Arevalo noted that curriculum was developed using the National Core and subsequently alignment with PA Common Core standards.

Mr. Gallagher thanked the Souderton Charter School Collaborative and requested that they e-mail some of the requested data and answers from legal counsel. He also mentioned that a tour of SCSC would be scheduled.

11. Public Comments

11.1 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

12. Adjournment

12.1 Adjournment of the Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' MEETING.

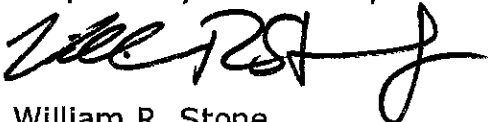
Motion by Jill Basile, second by Ken Keith.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Donna Scheuren, Janet Flisak, Jill Basile, Ken Keith, Nicholas Braccio, Scott Jelinski, Thomas Kwiatkowski

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



William R. Stone
Secretary

