



Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Monday, December 10, 2018

Members present: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

Members absent: Scott Jelinski

Others present: Frank Ball, Lisa Ball, Todd Brown, John Franzen, Frank Gallagher, Matt Haines, Catherine Heller, Christopher Hey, Raymond Kase, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Katie McCoy, Jeremy Miller, Jeff Pammer, William Stone, Geri Wilkocz and Megan Zweiback

1. Education-Personnel Committee

1.1 Middle School Schedule Update

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Dr. Gallagher announced the agenda item as a follow up to the original presentation that was given in September.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reiterated the goals of the Middle School Schedule change, which are grounded on being developmentally appropriate for each grade level and focusing on the transitions in middle school. The proposed new schedule provides interventions, support, increased instructional time and a greater variety of related arts for adolescent learners. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed a presentation that highlights the priorities of the revised schedule, including maintaining teaming, a more responsive approach to 6th grade transition, a balance of instructional time in core content areas and a daily Focus Period. In addition, it will expand social and emotional learning opportunities for students and offer increased opportunities to teachers to review data and implement best practices for child study.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed a side-by-side comparison of the current middle school schedule and the proposed changes which include a change to an A-B cycle from the current six-day cycle. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also reviewed sample schedules by grade, indicating that English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Math will be on team. The proposed schedule also supports students in sixth grade to have only two core teachers, which is a proven method to deliver material and promotes the transition from elementary to middle school.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed current and projected middle school enrollment, and noted an increase in the number of core teachers to implement the new schedule. However, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also noted the adaptability of the proposed schedule for enrollment changes. The schedule is structured to strengthen student supports, including guidance counselors, reading specialists, student support teachers, gifted teacher, ESL teacher and special education. In addition, the daily Focus Block will allow for identification and emerging needs of all students.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed the updated timeline, which includes parent communication and student communication and curriculum revisions. The timeline suggests Board Approval in May 2019 and ongoing professional learning opportunities.

Mr. Kwiatkowski acknowledged the volume of information and the depth of research and planning to implement a new schedule. Indian Crest Middle School Principal Mrs. McCoy noted that challenges have been addressed through the development process and noted the input that has been received from parents and teachers. Mr. Kwiatkowski also asked about other middle schools functioning with a similar schedule, and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that some schools mirror this format while others differ. Mr. Brong commented that it resembles block scheduling and would appear to help prepare students for the high school.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the needs for re-written curriculum and the extended time of instruction. Indian Valley Middle School Principal Dr. Pammer commented that some courses, including Science with the IQWST program, will actually work best in a 70-minute class and that only minor revisions will be needed to the existing curriculum. Additional concerns were expressed about instructional time and student-to-teacher ratios. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that the total amount of instructional time during the day is the same, just dispersed differently, and the ratios could be managed by overall team assignments. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also noted that with new teams in all grades, they will also have new team names.

The discussion concluded with Mr. Braccio inquiring on the specifics of the related arts electives and Dr. Pammer responded that the proposed schedule will actually encourage students to experience a variety of related arts.

1.2 Future Ready PA Index

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly gave an overview of the PDE Future Ready PA Index, which is a new school measurement tool that might replace the School Performance Profile. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that it is a one-stop location that has been created to be user-friendly with a dashboard model approach. It has an emphasis on student growth measures, English language acquisition and incentivizes career awareness. Screenshots of the various pages were highlighted as well as the search engine within the website.

Dr. Gallagher noted that PDE Secretary Rivera met with the superintendents of Montgomery County explaining that it initially appears to be a much fairer way to report and evaluate data.

Mrs. Flisak inquired about the analytics that may be collected on the site and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that there is an option for users to select their relationship to a school district. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also gave an update on several grant applications.

Mr. Kwiatkowski adjourned the Education-Personnel Meeting at 7:22 P.M.

2. Finance Committee

2.1 2019-2020 Budget Development Update

Mrs. Scheuren called the meeting to order at 7:28 P.M.

Mr. Stone stated the objective of this first look is to reiterate budget priorities, review the major budget factors for revenue and expenditures and present several preliminary budget scenarios.

The presentation reflected major revenue budget factors. Mr. Stone presented the budgetary impact for different scenarios including real estate taxes, other local revenue sources and basic and special ed subsidies.

On the expenditure side the major budget factors were identified as staffing, medical costs, and technology. The expenditure factors were detailed as new teacher positions, a site technology technician and support staff. Projections were indicated for medical insurance and options for partial and full funding of technology needs.

Mr. Stone presented several budget scenarios based on the various revenue and expenditure factors. Mr. Stone also reviewed the next steps of the budget process, including dates for preliminary budget approval.

A discussion occurred regarding the projections for the medical fund and a request for additional data from the medical provider. Mrs. Scheuren commented positively about the proposed real estate development and the potential for additional revenue to the school district.

Board members commented on the budget scenarios and there were several questions of clarification on the technology budget and costs associated with building operations. Mr. Braccio inquired about a possible first look beyond the 2019-2020 budget in an effort to determine how decisions made for the current budget may impact future years' budgets. At the request of Mr. Keith, Mr. Stone explained how the budget process evolves over the course of several months and the decision dates as required by the PA School Code.

Mrs. Scheuren adjourned the Finance Committee Meeting at 8:03 P.M.

3. Operations Committee

Mr. Brong called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 8:05 P.M.

3.1 Approve the Proposed 2019-2020 School Year Calendar

Dr. Hey announced the annual review and approval of the 2019-2020 school year calendar noting the first day of school as August 27, 2019, and other key dates.

The committee agreed to move forward for Board action.

3.2 Approve SAHS Greenhouse Project

Dr. Gallagher commented that the update on the proposed Greenhouse Project was to answer any outstanding questions that the Board may have as well as request that the Board move to take action for approval of the project. Mr. Stone reiterated that although the project is being funded by the Indian Valley Education Foundation, an approval is prudent because the construction of the greenhouse will occur on school district property.

Mr. Stone reviewed a slide presentation that gave a Construction Overview of the kit to be purchased and associated start-up costs. An annual estimated budget was also reviewed along with plans for sustainability. Mr. Stone noted that as of November 1, 2018, \$83,000 had been raised for the project, making it fully funded as proposed. The plan for sustainability has been charged to the student S.A.V.E. organization and student club F.B.L.A., (Future Business Leaders of America) to develop a business plan.

The Committee had several questions regarding the materials used to construct the greenhouse and a rainwater plan. Mr. Haines answered questions and noted that the greenhouse budget includes site preparation and the relocation of the existing Little Red Schoolhouse playground.

Mr. Stone noted a scheduled meeting with the township for final approvals and asked for Board approval at the December 20th meeting.

The Committee praised the project and agreed to move forward for Board Action.

3.3 Approve Agreement for Design and Consulting Services

Dr. Gallagher commented that the high school turf field and running track were installed 11 years ago (prior to the opening of the new school) and both surfaces have useful lives of 8-10 years, and are beginning to show their age.

Mr. Stone noted that the turf, in particular, has significant flattening of the fibers and UV damage. He also commented that while the efforts of the maintenance staff have prolonged the life of the turf field, the summer's wet weather impacted the seams and there is cause for concern that further separation may occur with continued heavy use. In addition to the High School turf field, the track at Indian Crest Middle School running track has not been resurfaced since its original installation in 2004.

Having solicited proposals from three firms to prepare design specifications and estimated project budget, it is the recommendation of the Administration to approve an Agreement for Design and Consulting Services with ELA Sport of Lititz, PA.

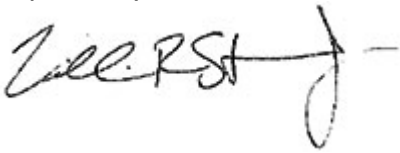
Mr. Stone said that Administration is also recommending that an "a la carte" bid package containing all three components of the project, (High School turf field, High School track and Indian Crest Middle School track) be created giving the District flexibility.

There was discussion from Board members about project oversight and pre-construction testing. Mr. Stone agreed to follow-up with the consultant to obtain more information.

The Committee agreed to move for Board action.

Mr. Brong adjourned the Operations Committee Meeting at 9:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.R. Stone', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William R. Stone
Board Secretary