

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 13, 2021**

**- VIRTUAL -**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Burrell School District Board of Directors Agenda Meeting was held virtually/streamed live on YouTube and called to order at 7:02 PM by President Key.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Key asked all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following responded to Roll Call: Mrs. Gretchen V. Beveridge, Ms. Tricia Shank, Mrs. LeeAnn S. Guido, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mr. Christopher S. Wojcik, Mr. Tom Deiseroth and Mrs. Pam Key. The following members were absent: Dr. Rachel Linderman and Mrs. Genia Koziarski. Also in attendance were: Dr. Shannon L. Wagner, Superintendent, Dr. Gregory Egnor, Director of Student Services, and Mrs. Jennifer S. Callahan, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-**

**APRIL 13, 2021 – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING – PERSONNEL AGENDA**

**APRIL 20, 2021 – 7:00 PM – PERSONNEL AGENDA**

Mrs. Key announced the Board’s Executive Sessions.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

The Board reviewed items scheduled for the regular meeting to be held on April 20, 2021.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Agenda Meeting – March 9, 2021

Regular Meeting – March 16, 2021

**TREASURER’S REPORT – MARCH 2021**

**FOOD SERVICE FUND REPORT – MARCH 2021**

**STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND REPORTS – MARCH 2021**

**NURSE’S REPORT – MARCH 2021**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ONLY**

There were no comments from the public.

**REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

**SUPERINTENDENT – DR. WAGNER:**

**STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

**APPROVAL OF NON-RESIDENT GENERAL EDUCATION TUITION RATE \$4,000 EFFECTIVE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dr. Wagner explained she is asking to increase the tuition rate for non-resident students who attend Burrell School District. She reviewed a history of the rates since implementation in 2012-2013.

Ms. Shank asked if we are considerably lower than other districts.

Dr. Wagner replied yes, our rate is comparable to other parochial schools in the area. We do not use the state public school tuition rate.

Ms. Shank commented that at \$4,000 it is still a great deal.

Mr. Kaczor stated he thinks that cyber school should be done this way; you should have to pay out of your own pocket.

**PERMISSION TO PLACE ONE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDENT TEACHER FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AT MIDDLE SCHOOL, STEWART SCHOOL AND BON AIR SCHOOL FOR FALL SEMESTER 2021-2022**

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE - INFORMATION**

Dr. Wagner stated Board members had asked about having a student representative for Board meetings. She and Dr. Boylan discussed the idea and plan to have two students ready to begin in September. They intend to do an application process at-large through social studies classes and there will be an anonymous selection process. A junior and senior, along with alternates, will represent the student body.

Mr. Kaczor asked if the process is open to any student, not just student government.

Dr. Wagner replied that is correct.

Mr. Kaczor asked who will select students.

Dr. Wagner replied most likely the principals, guidance and social studies departments.

Mr. Kaczor asked if students will learn about the opportunity this year so that they can be informed if interested.

Dr. Wagner intends to have the student representatives at Agenda meetings since that is when most of the work is done and to get feedback on any items.

Mrs. Guido thanked Dr. Wagner for looking into this.

Mr. Kaczor stated he feels it will be good for students.

### **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT – INFORMATION**

Dr. Wagner stated that although the School Resource Officer (SRO) agreement with the City of Lower Burrell extends through June 30, 2022, she wants to provide some feedback since we have had some change:

- Officer Rob has been focusing on building relationships to be seen as SRO not a police officer
  - Mental health is important and he works with us on the Safe2Say reports and can visit the home to check on a student
  - Officer Rob enjoys being the SRO because it is more rewarding to work with children; there are more mental health issues with adolescence than he realized coming into the position; he would like to continue in this roll.
  - Dr. Wagner added that administration is very happy with him and his performance in this roll has been exceptional
- Safe2Say reports and tips
  - 2019-2020: January 18-August 2020 – 69 reports; mostly cyber and bullying; no suicide reports
  - 2020-2021: September 2020 through present – 64 reports; 25% drug related, 12.3% depression/anxiety; 9.2% suicide related

Mr. Wojcik asked about trends and prior data; he stated he would assume anxiety, depression and suicide are up since March 2020.

Dr. Wagner stated there is definitely a difference in what is reported, but not sure it is a trend since Safe2Say has only been up and running since 2018. She reported we are shifting our focus to help support the students with mental and emotional health. The social worker and licensed counselor started and they are getting assigned to students and groups as well as working with principals and guidance.

Mr. Kaczor commented that Officer Rob is excellent.

Dr. Wagner stated that she will invite Officer Rob to attend and meet the Board once meetings are open face to face with the public.

**APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE PAY RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021**

Dr. Wagner explained that she is asking the Board to increase substitute and hourly pay rates effective July 1, 2021.

- Asking Board to increase substitute custodians, recess aides, seasonal pay, etc. to \$12 per hour. It has been \$9 per hour and the District is having a difficult time finding people to fill positions. Recess Aides have been an issue and it causes principals and guidance counselors to be pulled from other daily tasks.
- She explained substitute teacher rates and the recommendation to increase to: \$110 daily rate until day 90, then increase to \$135; \$135 for long-term consecutive positions; \$150 for substitutes placed for full school year
- District has lost a few subs to other school districts since they pay more and it is hard to fill the gaps to fill in for teachers.

Ms. Shank asked if we increased substitute pay rates last year.

Dr. Wagner stated that she believes rates were increased two years ago, we changed the rates slightly for certain number of days teaching resulting in increase.

Mr. Kaczor asked about long term vs. school term.

General discussion ensued regarding long term vs. school term rates, rate amounts and defining long term.

Ms. Shank commented about the union's opinion relating to temporary vacant positions.

Mr. Kaczor asked about building substitutes so that someone is available at all times.

Dr. Wagner explained how we utilize people who are willing to work all days, although they are not titled building substitutes.

**APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND BURRELL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING JULY 1, 2021**

Dr. Wagner stated that the agreement is still being finalized and that she is hopeful to have a final agreement in order to vote next week.

**APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BURRELL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REGARDING PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION**

Dr. Wagner stated we will discuss this as part of negotiations and hopefully have an MOU to approve next week.

**APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH BURRELL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dr. Wagner explained the MOA which indicates that Social Emotional Learning (SEL) will be done during a period of day. She stated the language also reflects what Middle School is doing with regard to SEL time. She stated that everything else is the same as it has been this past year, but the MOA expands for the 5-year period and allows us to continue moving forward with what we are doing relating to SEL. She added there is no need to address elementary students since SEL is administered through health and physical education classes.

**DISTRICT MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS) - INFORMATION**

Dr. Wagner reported the following:

- Will be providing draft information regarding the significant federal funding that the District will receive over the next few years.
- Planning to present a District blueprint that will include Leadership, PLC's, MTSS, and Google Classrooms
- Explained information that administrative academic team is using to move forward including the book *Transforming School Culture* by Anthony Muhammad
  - Ms. Shank asked for a copy
  - Dr. Wagner suggested all Board members could have one to read and Board members could do a book study if they want
- Reviewed an overview of the plans and that she will continue to provide more detailed information over the next several months.
- Will discuss how we plan to spend some of the ESSER federal funds to help with this process; will review that information during the April 27 budget workshop meeting
- Goal at end of Comprehensive Plan is a curriculum hub document that would contain much of the information

Mr. Kaczor asked if this means a group of teachers will basically have their outline of their plan for teaching.

Dr. Wagner responded yes. She added that peers can work together to help kids with what they need and lessens work of staff, but increases what the students are getting.

Ms. Shank commented this sounds like it can also help challenge children so that they are prepared for advanced classes.

Dr. Wagner explained that it is all about the power of working teams, which is different than what educators have been taught.

Dr. Wagner added that the academic approach team is also beginning to work on sketching what instruction will look like next year as it relates to virtual learning, etc.

Ms. Shank added that the virtual today option should be adjusted going forward.

Dr. Wagner added that administration is very excited to be able to have the mental health support going forward.

Ms. Shank asked if there are students who have been able to be successful in an all-virtual environment.

Dr. Wagner responded that there are some students who succeed in that environment.

Ms. Shank indicated that there should be some requirements for students to remain virtual students in order to make sure that they are successful.

Dr. Wagner stated yes, we are looking at that as part of this plan.

General discussion ensued regarding student performance.

Dr. Wagner summarized that she intends to continue to provide Board members information as we move forward.

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES – DR. EGNOR:**

**APPROVAL OF LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT FOR PENNSYLVANIA’S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (ECYEH) PROGRAM**

Dr. Egnor explained the agreement and that it is required by the state to have in place.

Mrs. Guido indicated it appears there is no cost.

Dr. Egnor responded that is correct, this agreement has no cost.

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ARIN INTERMEDIATE UNIT FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dr. Egnor explained the school psychologist services agreement with ARIN Intermediate Unit.

Mr. Kaczor asked if it would be better to hire a school psychologist.

Dr. Egnor indicated that this is still cost effective since the services, supplies, and supervision are also included.

Mrs. Guido asked if we can bill ACCESS for this.

Dr. Egnor stated yes, we can for the applicable services and we use those funds to offset costs.

Dr. Wagner added that each year she and Dr. Egnor evaluate this to see if it might be better to hire a school psychologist.

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH GRADE POINT RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dr. Egnor explained the SEL specialist agreement for next school year.

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS WITH IXL LEARNING FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SOFTWARE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND STEWART SCHOOL FOR PERIOD FEBRUARY 28, 2021- FEBRUARY 28, 2024 WITH FREE EXTENSION THROUGH JULY 1, 2024**

Dr. Egnor explained that we have been using the program under a pilot program. It is a digital learning program for Tier 1 and Tier 2 levels. He indicated it will be a very useful tool for next year, and he will be asking Board members to approve a three-year agreement next week.

Mrs. Beveridge indicated that her children used it at home and it is a well-rounded program. It provided information for what the kids needed more focus on, and it was well worth it for her family.

Dr. Egnor added that it is a great resource and the program is widely used across the country.

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ADELPHOI EDUCATION, INC. FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dr. Egnor explained the agreement. He also provided information on the Life Skills Class Student Cookbook that was done by the class and is available for sale if anyone is interested. He commended Kourtney Kobelenske for her work on this project.

Ms. Shank added that Cora Lee cupcakes is a great place to get tasty treats.

**PERSONNEL – MS. SHANK**

**NORTHERN WESTMORELAND CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER REPORT – MR. WOJCIK/DR. LINDERMAN**

**WESTMORELAND INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT – MRS. BEVERIDGE**

**PSBA LIAISON LEGISLATIVE REPORT – MR. DEISEROTH**

**BUSINESS – MRS. CALLAHAN:**

**APPROVAL OF BUDGETARY TRANSFERS (Attachment 4-10)**

**AWARD BIDS FOR PURCHASE OF JANITORIAL AND ATHLETIC SUPPLIES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Mrs. Callahan explained that because we spend substantial amounts on janitorial and athletic supplies each year, we bid these items to meet school code requirements and to obtain the best pricing. She provided Board members with the summary by vendor of the low bid items that they will be asked to award next week. Mr. D'Angelo and Mr. Ploskunak prepare the list of items for their department needs. The Athletic total is approximately \$7,500 less than the prior year bid amounts. Janitorial supplies have increased approximately \$18,000 over the prior year bids because of the additional cleaning supplies such as disinfectant cleaner, extra paper towels, hand sanitizer needed for Covid which we are currently expecting to continue some mitigation efforts next year. The total amount you are being asked to award is \$56,389.

Mr. Kaczor stated this may be the new normal.

Dr. Wagner discussed the health and safety task force and consideration for going forward that some of this will be done to keep healthy and safe.

**RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT WITH WESTMORELAND INTERMEDIATE UNIT FOR CISCO SECURE ENDPOINT AND CISCO DSN ADVANTAGE FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024**

Mrs. Callahan explained that this agreement is for the continuation of the existing Cisco Secure Endpoint Security (AMP) network protection; it is the District's anti-virus package with the Cisco umbrella filtering and storage and it secures internet access and controls cloud app usage for students and staff on networks. It also supports CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) compliance as required for K-12 schools. She stated Board members are being asked to ratify the agreement with WIU to continue the service through June 30, 2024.



**APPROVAL OF EXPENDING \$100,000 COMMITTED FUND BALANCE FOR PSERS STABILIZATION FOR COST OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION TO PSERS**

Mrs. Callahan stated the District's required contribution to PSERS has gone from 8.65% to 34.51% of wages in the last nine years. In order to soften the impact, the district has maintained the Committed Funds for PSERS Stabilization and have used funds over this time to offset the impact of the substantial increase in District contributions. The 2020-2021 budget included using \$100,000 of Committed Funds to offset costs this year, but official approval is needed.

**APPROVAL OF DESIGNATION OF \$400,000 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE AS COMMITTED FUND BALANCE FOR REAL ESTATE TAX APPEALS**

Mrs. Callahan reviewed the following:

- Last month we reviewed the 2019-2020 year end financials. We ended the year with revenues approximately \$400,000 more than budgeted. It was the direct result of two specific unanticipated tax revenues received from commercial properties. It included a property transfer of a large property and a prior year tax settlement payment for back taxes.
- We are currently in the process of defending the property tax appeal filed by the District's single largest commercial property tax owner.
- Unfortunately, we know that it is possible that the end result of that appeal, plus another outstanding commercial property tax appeal, could be a devastating loss in real estate tax revenue to the District of up to nearly half a million dollars.

Mrs. Callahan explained that as a result, she is recommending that Board members approve the designation of \$400,000 Unassigned Fund Balance as Committed Fund Balance for real estate tax appeals, which currently has \$130,000 committed for this purpose. Adding the additional funds allows the district to use the money to offset any potential loss over time if needed. She stated that the Board can at any time choose to undesignate the funds, which then returns those funds back to Uncommitted Fund Balance to be used for any other purpose.

Ms. Shank asked what it does to overall Fund Balance.

Mrs. Callahan responded that the overall Fund Balance is higher than original anticipated.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Board members have three items of communication for review.

**REQUESTS FOR USE OF BUILDINGS**

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Courtney Kobelenske, 422 Violet Drive

- I wanted to thank Dr. Egnor, Ashley Shields, & Hannah Cress for going on this cookbook idea for the life skills classrooms. Also, our school board members who have stopped in to purchase one. We have only been selling them for 7 days and our goal was 100 at \$10 a piece. We are at 82 at the moment. The kids had a great time doing it. Thank you again for always supporting my crazy but fun ideas. Always working for the kids! Especially my Cora.

No other comments were received.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Key asked about attendance and how it works. She commented that as a parent, she has received a letter about absences that she knew were doctor excused. When she called the school, she was told that they do have a doctor's excuse and that they look and enter that after the letter is issued. She stated it seems backwards. Why is the process to go back and check doctor excuses and then input them after sending a letter? She asked why is it not entered as missing school but has a doctor excuse.

Dr. Wagner replied the letter is a notification. She explained the 10-day letter is a warning letter regardless of if absences are excused by a doctor. Once a student reaches 15 absences, then it is sorted out to see which ones count or which ones do not.

Mrs. Key commented that she does not like getting the letter.

Dr. Wagner stated it is just a warning letter. The letter indicates how many of each type of absence.

Mrs. Guido commented that it also happens at her school. She added that many hours are spent counting absences and it will take more time to do it differently. But she suggested maybe to look into it to see if the software can be set up differently.

Dr. Wagner stated that she believes the student handbook/policy indicates it is done this way.

Mrs. Key reiterated that it seems backwards.

Ms. Shank asked if there is a musical or play coming up.

Dr. Wagner responded yes, the High School musical is April 22, 23, 24. She will check to see if parents will be permitted to attend since we are in substantial community transmission.

Ms. Shank suggested spacing people out over the three performances.

Dr. Wagner will find out and will announce next week.

Mrs. Key added that the shows are being streamed.

Dr. Wagner stated Middle School is doing all streaming at this point for their performance which will be during the beginning of May. It will be recorded and shared with parents. There will be no public performance shows but they will perform it for the students in school.

General discussion regarding

Dr. Wagner added that one of the principals confirmed that 15-day letters do NOT include medical excuses; 10-day letters do.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Deiseroth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kaczor, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM.

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

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Jennifer S. Callahan  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mrs. Callahan/lew

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 20, 2021**

**- VIRTUAL -**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Burrell School District Board of Directors Agenda Meeting was held virtually/streamed live on YouTube and called to order at 7:40 PM by President Key.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Key asked all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following responded to Roll Call: Mrs. Genia Koziarski, Mrs. Gretchen V. Beveridge, Ms. Tricia Shank, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mr. Christopher S. Wojcik, Mr. Tom Deiseroth and Mrs. Pam Key. The following members were absent: Dr. Rachel Linderman and Mrs. LeeAnn S. Guido. Also in attendance were: Dr. Shannon L. Wagner, Superintendent, Dr. Gregory Egnor, Director of Student Services, and Mrs. Jennifer S. Callahan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. Lee Price, Solicitor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-**

**MARCH 9, 2021 – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING – PERSONNEL AGENDA**  
**MARCH 16, 2021 – 7:00 PM – PERSONNEL AGENDA**

Mrs. Key announced the Board’s Executive Sessions.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Agenda Meeting – March 9, 2021  
Regular Meeting – March 16, 2021

**TREASURER’S REPORT – MARCH 2021 (Attachment 4-1)**

**FOOD SERVICE FUND REPORT – MARCH 2021 (Attachment 4-2)**

**STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND REPORTS – MARCH 2021 (Attachment 4-3)**

**NURSE’S REPORT – MARCH 2021 (Attachment 4-4)**

Motion by: Mrs. Koziarski

Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ONLY**

There were no comments relating to agenda items.

**REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

**SUPERINTENDENT – DR. WAGNER:**

**STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

Dr. Wagner announced a fundraiser for the Giordano family to raise funds for a recent accident a family member faced.

Dr. Wagner recognized the following:

Unique ways teachers are instructing through the pandemic:

- High School teachers – Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Rudolph, Mr. Grantz, Mrs. Petrosky: Software program to explore learning for digital simulations for science concepts; these teachers appreciate the purchase since it has been helpful in this environment
- Mrs. Aranyos – Burrell Bookaneers, grades 9-12, participated in Westmoreland Interscholastic Reading Competition; Team members included Olivia Cedar, Maranda Fitzgerald, Alanna Leslie, Emily Marchlewski, Ashtyn Polk, Amelia Sallach, Bella Seidel, Jayden Smalling, Kierra Smalling, Jesse Wheeler
- Mrs. Kulick – in conjunction with 3rd grade reading series, students met Travis Woodall via Google Meet and discussed mountain climbing and his journey

**APPROVAL OF NON-RESIDENT GENERAL EDUCATION TUITION RATE \$4,000 EFFECTIVE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mr. Deiseroth

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**PERMISSION TO PLACE ONE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDENT TEACHER FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AT MIDDLE SCHOOL, STEWART SCHOOL AND BON AIR SCHOOL FOR FALL SEMESTER 2021-2022**

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge

Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE - INFORMATION**

Dr. Wagner stated that last week she provided Student Government representative information and hopes to have them in place for fall.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT – INFORMATION**

Dr. Wagner stated she shared information last week and expressed we are delighted to have Officer Rob.

**APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE PAY RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021**  
**(Attachment 4-5)**

Dr. Wagner explained that she clarified some of the descriptions under teacher substitute pay rates.

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mr. Deiseroth

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND BURRELL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING JULY 1, 2021**

Dr. Wagner stated that after months of negotiation, an agreement with Burrell Education Association was reached.

Motion by: Mr. Deiseroth

Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

Dr. Wagner thanked Board members for their hard work, for how genuine they are in the process and how they value our people. She thanked the Burrell Education Association for trying to meet the Board in the middle. Dr. Wagner reported the union ratified the agreement so we have an official agreement at this time.

**APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BURRELL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REGARDING PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION**

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge

Seconded by: Ms. Shank

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH BURRELL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026**

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge

Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**DISTRICT MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS) - INFORMATION**

Dr. Wagner stated that last week she reviewed plans for the District and will continue to provide details and action plans moving forward.

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES – DR. EGNOR:**

**APPROVAL OF LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT FOR PENNSYLVANIA’S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (ECYEH) PROGRAM (Attachment 4-6)**

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge

Seconded by: Ms. Shank

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ARIN INTERMEDIATE UNIT FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR (Attachment 4-7)**

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge

Seconded by: Ms. Shank

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH GRADE POINT RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR (Attachment 4-8)**

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge

Seconded by: Mr. Wojcik

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS WITH IXL LEARNING FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SOFTWARE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND STEWART SCHOOL FOR PERIOD FEBRUARY 28, 2021- FEBRUARY 28, 2024 WITH FREE EXTENSION THROUGH JULY 1, 2024 (Attachment 4-9)**

Dr. Egnor explained this agreement is for additional school psychologist services that the District currently uses. He stated that this group fills in the gaps when the District has an overload of needs. He added that he is anticipating a need in the upcoming months due to the COVID-19 closure.

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge

Seconded by: Mr. Deiseroth

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ADELPHOI EDUCATION, INC. FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR (Attachment 4-10)**

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**PERSONNEL – Ms. Shank (Attachment 4-11)**

Motion by: Mr. Wojcik

Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Callahan thanked Linda Weston for all of the wonderful work she has done in the Business Office and with Board meeting preparations. She congratulated Mrs. Weston on her upcoming retirement.

**NORTHERN WESTMORELAND CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER REPORT – MR. WOJCIK/DR. LINDERMAN**

Members received a summary of the March 18, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Wojcik reported the following:

- Zoom meeting to be held this week
- Hiring a new teacher for technology education to assist with applications
- Mr. Hockenberry, a NWCTC teacher, has arranged for a donation of two \$40,000 CNC machines; students are getting more modern equipment to work with



- Automotive students are third highest in Pittsburgh region for having students certified as mechanics by Ford Motor Company
- Enrollment up by two
- Visit by New Kensington-Arnold School District Superintendent, Mr. Chris Sefcheck

Dr. Wagner stated she met with Mr. Sefcheck today and believes they will be able to work together for our area.

**WESTMORELAND INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT – MRS. BEVERIDGE**

Members received a summary of the March 23, 2021 meeting.

Mrs. Beveridge reported the following:

- Deep cleaning of school to return students to class; currently on 4-day in person class
- Looking to hire social worker due to services increasing caused by pandemic; anticipate schools will want to subcontract services using ESSER funds
- Planning to include licensed school social worker and to post position soon
- Beginning transition plan for WIU employees to begin working in the administration building
- PA IU executive director meeting held April 7, 2021 in conjunction with the day on the hill; centered on charter school reform
- Trying to make sure schools continue to be funded and students are back in school and getting the services they need

**PSBA LIAISON LEGISLATIVE REPORT – MR. DEISEROTH**

Mr. Deiseroth presented the PSBA Legislative Report:

- House legislation for temporary immunity for lawsuits
- SB312 regarding Right-To-Know requests
- Public Utility Commission – emergency broadband for eligible families
- Wednesday, April 28, 2021 spring legal round up for directors

**BUSINESS – MRS. CALLAHAN:**

**APPROVAL OF BUDGETARY TRANSFERS (Attachment 4-12)**

Motion by: Mrs. Koziarski

Seconded by: Mr. Wojcik

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**AWARD BIDS FOR PURCHASE OF JANITORIAL AND ATHLETIC SUPPLIES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR (Attachment 4-13)**

Mrs. Callahan stated athletic and janitorial bids were reviewed last week and that the supply items are bid in compliance of Pennsylvania School Code in order to obtain the best price for items requested.

Mrs. Callahan asked Board members to award bids as presented in total amount of Athletics \$22,255 and Facilities \$56,389.

Motion by: Mrs. Koziarski

Seconded by: Mr. Deiseroth

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT WITH WESTMORELAND INTERMEDIATE UNIT FOR CISCO SECURE ENDPOINT AND CISCO DSN ADVANTAGE FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024 (Attachment 4-14)**

Mrs. Callahan explained that this agreement is for the continuation of the existing Cisco Secure Endpoint Security (AMP) network protection to secure internet access and cloud app usage for students and staff on networks and to support CIPA (Children’s internet protection act) compliance as required for K-12 schools.

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF EXPENDING \$100,000 COMMITTED FUND BALANCE FOR PSERS STABILIZATION FOR COST OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION TO PSERS**

Mrs. Callahan reported the 2020-2021 budget includes using \$100,000 of the Committed Funds to offset the District contribution to PSERS costs this year as part of the plan we implemented many years ago to soften the impact of the increase over time.

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mr. Deiseroth

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF DESIGNATION OF \$400,000 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE AS COMMITTED FUND BALANCE FOR REAL ESTATE TAX APPEALS**

Mrs. Callahan summarized last week’s discussion as follows: Fiscal year ended 2019-2020, the District ended the year with revenues approximately \$400,000 more than budgeted. It was the

direct result of 2 specific unanticipated tax revenues received from commercial properties. She stated that because we are defending the property tax appeal filed by largest commercial property tax owners, she is recommending setting aside these funds to offset any potential loss over time.

Mr. Kaczor asked if in the future the Board can use the money elsewhere if not needed for this purpose.

Mr. Price responded yes.

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Callahan stated that wanted to inform the board of one other matter that will likely be presented for consideration in May. The matter has been discussed publicly by City Council and the Township of Upper Burrell, so it is important that Board members also have the information. She indicated that the City of Lower Burrell approached her about changing the payment due dates on the Per Capita Tax. The total tax bill is \$15 per each district adult resident of which \$10 goes to the district and the other \$5 to Lower Burrell or Upper Burrell. Currently the tax is collected from July through the following June. The proposed change is to collect from July through the end of December. Mrs. Callahan informed the tax collectors that if both municipalities approve the change, it will be recommended for approval by the school board.

Mr. Kaczor asked why make the change.

Mrs. Callahan explained that it will be consistent with real estate tax collection dates. Also, overall it is a shortened collection period to provide for revenue sooner, but it only shortens the time during the penalty payment period. She stated is more efficient to collect over the shorter period of time. Additionally, since the bills are currently combined with municipalities, it would be additional cost and time if we had to issue separate bills with a different payment period.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received three items of communication.

## **REQUESTS FOR USE OF BUILDINGS (Attachment 4-15)**

Mr. Kaczor asked if groups are permitted to use the concession stand.

Dr. Wagner stated concession stands have not been used all year and Mr. D'Angelo will make sure it is communicated to the group because we have not used them in any areas.

Mr. Kaczor stated he would like to amend the motion to include any restrictions as follows:

**APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR USE OF BUILDINGS - CONCESSION STAND USE  
SUBJECT TO COVID RESTRICTONS**

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mr. Wojcik

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS (Attachment 4-16)**

Motion by: Mr. Deiseroth

Seconded by: Ms. Shank

Roll Call: All in favor

Motion Carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mrs. Callahan read the following comments from the public:

Nikki Watson, Burrell School District resident

Mrs. Callahan asked Mrs. Key if she should proceed with the comment since no address is provided.

Dr. Wagner replied yes please, she is a parent of students and district resident.

Nikki Watson, Burrell School District resident

- Thank you for taking consideration and probable action to open up meetings for those who want to attend them. I think it's important to hear our voices and perspectives. Many of us have questions about this past year, and continue to have them. We are concerned about our children, their education, how they interact with their peers and develop at this time. We are taxpayers, local business owners, home owners, investors, active community members and parents. We have four children who make positive contributions to their peer groups, organizations, school environment and neighborhood. I am homeschooling our 1st grader, due to the mandates and aside from missing what school used to be like, she is thriving. I have a preschooler who I am also homeschooling. If he were to start public school in fall of 2022, he would need an IEP. It concerns me for the future of my two youngest children, who I want to send to school. My oldest is in 8th grade, and after getting the option of what she wanted to do, she decided to be in school with her friends. She learns best in school. Even with the virtual option sometimes, she knows she learns best in school. She is also mature enough to understand sovereignty. She can communicate with me throughout the day and I worry more about how social media affects her than anything else. She wears disposable masks, which I bought in bulk at the beginning of the year. My 5th grader is in the gifted program and has always loved school. Virtual was not a good option for

him and I could not, in good conscience, send him to school with the mandates in place. After homeschooling him for the first semester, I sent him back at the end of Feb. this year. He really wanted to go back and see his friends. He is in the gifted program and that's always been a passion of his. Of course school is different and it's an adjustment. However, he comes home from school with a soaking wet mask. He uses a cloth one that I wash each night. We tried different ones until we found one he likes. He says it is hard to catch his breath after recess and afterwards when he has to go back to class after being outside. I have considered having him wear the disposable masks, and I recently bought some that were made locally, as new reports have come out about the safety of ones made overseas. I shared a video link with the board via email that included a long round table discussion with the Governor of Florida. I do understand the politics of this situation, but the conflicting information is frustrating. A medical professional spoke on his panel and said, "There is no reason to wear a mask outside. The safest place to be if you don't want Covid is outside." There has to be a choice for parents who don't have a medical exemption for their child but for moral and health concerns cannot in good faith have their child wear a mask at school. Virtual learning is not an option for so many as we know it doesn't replace in person learning or learning via home school where screens are used sparingly if wanted. Our children are entitled to a free and fair education that our tax dollars fund. Forcing children to wear a covering over their face is not a long-term solution and we must act now. Forcing educators to police mandates and removing choice for parents is not a long-term solution. We must have a contingency plan should the state continue to drag their feet on this issue. Thank you.

Mrs. Key thanked Ms. Watson for her comments.

### **OTHER REMARKS**

Mrs. Key stated whole school year has been difficult for the seniors this year. We received an email about purchasing yard signs and thinks it would be a really nice idea if this was done by the school district as a small gesture for these kids. They have really had such a hard few years. They have lost a lot and it would be nice to do something extra and special for them.

Dr. Wagner stated the district can do so if Board members would like. The signs in the email are \$14 each.

Mrs. Koziarski asked what was done last year for seniors.

Dr. Wagner stated employees made signs using our make space equipment last year. Mrs. Koziarski asked if that can be done this year as well.

Dr. Wagner yes, but not personalized because of amount of work and time needed.

Mrs. Key stated parents could purchase the personalized signs from the email if they want, but the school could provide the general signs at a lower cost to all seniors.

Ms. Shank asked about facemasks that were given to seniors last year for graduation. She suggested considering this as well again this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kaczor made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Koziarski, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

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Jennifer S. Callahan  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mrs. Callahan/lew

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 27, 2021**

**- VIRTUAL -**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Burrell School District Board of Directors Budget Workshop Meeting was held virtually/streamed live on YouTube and called to order at 7:09 PM by President Key.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Key asked all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following responded to Roll Call: Dr. Rachel Linderman, Mrs. Gretchen V. Beveridge, Ms. Tricia Shank, Mrs. LeeAnn S. Guido, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mr. Tom Deiseroth and Mrs. Pam Key. The following members were absent: Mrs. Genia Koziarski and Mr. Christopher S. Wojcik. Also in attendance were: Dr. Shannon L. Wagner, Superintendent, Dr. Gregory Egnor, Director of Student Services, and Mrs. Jennifer S. Callahan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ONLY**

There were no comments from the public.

**BUDGET 2021-2022 DRAFT – INFORMATION**

Mrs. Callahan presented the budget information as follows:

Status:

- Prior year 2020-2021 budget preparation included impact of COVID-19 including expected decreases in revenues, uncertainty of finances, and uncertainty about education and academic design
- 2021-2022 budget includes a better idea about finances, but still a bit uncertain; YTD data shows negative impact on our local revenues was less than originally predicted.
- Planning to make up for any learning loss and to increase support for mental and emotional health that has resulted from the last 18 months; have been allocated federal funding (ESSER II and III) to use for this
- New issue facing in this budget is the substantial impact of the Real Estate Tax Appeals of three large commercial properties.

Summary of Draft Budget:

- Total Revenue \$32,363,498 including tax increase of 3.5 mills, planned use of Fund Balance \$477,000, estimated decrease in revenue for commercial real estate tax appeals \$-360,000; Total Expenditures \$35,758,832; Results in deficit of \$-395,334.

Details of Expenditures \$32,758,832 increase of \$618,782 or 1.93% over prior year:

- Payroll/Wages total \$14,258,734; increase over prior year of \$271,414 +1.9%
- Health Insurance benefits total \$2,520,057; increase over prior year of \$10,303
- Retirement Contribution \$4,957,259; increase over prior year \$150,398 +3.1%
  - PSERS planned use of Committed Funds complete; Balance \$555,000
  - Suggested reducing committed fund amount

Mr. Kaczor asked if PSERS is changing for teachers as new teachers come in; if we had all new teachers, would that have a difference in PSERS cost?

Mrs. Callahan explained that the district contribution rate does not change for new employees. However, new employees have a different retirement benefit structure and more cost sharing, so in the long-term, the new employees will cost the program less, which will likely result in lower district contribution rates. She added that the rate is determined by the actuarial cost of what is needed to fund the program at any given time. Over time, the costs should decrease.

- Reviewed each of the following areas budgeted amount, change from prior year and explanation of each: Debt Service \$2,559,352; Building Budgets \$570,757; Vocational Education \$696,250; Cyber/Charter School Tuition \$456,300; Special Education \$879,433 and Placements \$286,404

Dr. Wagner explained the addition of an instructor at NWCTC and that a new teacher for the technical parts of courses will be used to increase capacity in shops like welding & automotive that have had to consistently limit student numbers.

- Reviewed information relating to other educational services including Psychologist Services; Online Education; Safety & Security Services; Social Work Service; Staff Development; Tax Collection; Community Relations and Services, and Athletics.

Dr. Egnor explained that some students shifted from one school to another causing a change in cost and budget areas. Additionally, one student exited based on age and another student returned to one of our district schools causing further decreases in overall costs.

Ms. Shank asked if students are currently scheduling classes for next year, would this mean we have more information about their intentions for next year. Or can we put out a survey?

Dr. Wagner responded that she is planning to put out a survey next week.

Dr. Egnor added that he did a preliminary quick survey weeks ago to try to get an idea for budget purposes.



Mrs. Callahan added that any changes relating to costs that are known by early June will get factored into the final budget presented for approval.

Mrs. Guido asked what are the 72 additional courses.

Dr. Egnor explained that there are certain students who need a course or a few courses based on scheduling, special situations, etc. so he plans for those as well.

- Reviewed Transportation total \$1,659,422; increase over prior year of \$25,244 or 1.5%
- Includes increase because removed sharing of runs with NKASD since they are reviewing their carrier proposals

Mr. Kaczor asked if New Kensington-Arnold School District does continue to contract with the same bus company, would it result in a \$91,000 decrease in expenditures.

Mrs. Callahan responded yes, if we have that information.

- Reviewed Facilities/Maintenance budget \$890,155
- Reviewed expenditure reductions over the past 9 years at a total of \$6,177,000.

Details of Revenues \$32,363,498; increase of \$223,448 or 0.7% over prior year:

Local Revenue totals \$18,421,418; increase of \$409,476 or 2.3% information:

- Real Estate Tax total \$15,107,418 - increase of \$248,076
- Earned Income Tax \$1,710,000 - increase of \$185,000
- Real Estate Transfer Tax \$170,000 - increase of \$17,000
- Delinquent Real Estate Tax \$550,000 - increase of \$75,000
- Interest Income \$55,000

Mrs. Callahan provided a summary of estimated decrease for current year due to Covid and evaluation of YTD shows overall less negative impact than originally expected.

Real Estate Tax total \$15,107,418 details reviewed:

- Largest revenue source 48% of total
- Act 1 of 2006 limit tax increase to 3.9 mills
- Assessed Value total \$163,627,020 is a decrease from prior year
  - Includes Commercial Property Tax Appeal reduction \$-518,710
- Collection rate decrease to 94.8% results in decrease \$-32,468
- Reduced revenue budgeted for pending tax appeals \$-360,000
  - Largest commercial property taxpayer; likely will reduce revenue substantially;
  - Budgeted 60% reduction at this time
  - Discussed this issue and the burden it puts on smaller taxpayers/homeowners when large commercial property taxpayers have substantial reductions
- Reviewed assessed value history and leveling off

- Tax increase of 3.5 mills equals approximately \$80.15/year or \$6.68/month for average homestead

Mr. Kaczor asked why not increase millage to maximum 3.9 mills since we need it.

Mrs. Callahan responded it is an option that can be considered and it is ultimately board decision.

State Revenue total \$12,490,930; decrease of \$-124,400; reviewed details:

- Basic Ed subsidy, Special Ed subsidy, and Ready to Learn funds total \$7,476,112
  - No increase budgeted;
  - Reviewed Governor's proposed state budget; very bold proposal; has some controversial concepts; was prepared before large federal funding amounts were allocated to districts; believe it is unlikely, so not budgeting at this point.
- Transportation budget \$650,000; increase of \$162,000.
  - Increase because it is based on prior year expenditures so last year figure was much lower due to 57 days of no in-person school with no transportation. Total still approximately \$70,000 less than normal level due to 23 days of virtual only during 2020-2021 school year.
- Bond payment reimbursement \$242,538; Property Tax Reduction estimate \$701,541; Social Security Reimbursement \$583,864; Retirement Reimbursement \$2,633,875

Federal Revenue total \$1,044,150; increase of \$550,840 reviewed details:

- Title I, Title IIA, Title IV and Access typical funding budget total \$339,200
- ESSER Funds budgeted \$704,950

ESSER II and ESSER III Funding and plans reviewed:

- District allocated ESSER II \$721,471 and ESSER III \$1,459,160 for use through 2023-24
- Plan to use \$704,950 in 2021-2022:
  - Offset Revenue Loss \$180,000; Special Learning Programs \$ 30,000; Social Worker \$ 76,000; Licensed Counselor \$ 37,150; Sub Teacher-Instructional Tech Coach \$ 41,350; 4 Sub Teachers-PLC/Individualized Learning \$165,400; Professional Development Instruction Support \$45,000; eAcademy cost increase \$55,000; Additional cleaning supplies \$30,000; Instructional Technology \$45,000
- Plan to continue to use funds similarly over 2 additional years:
  - Develop individualized instruction plans to recoup learning loss (employ sub teachers to release staff)
  - Strengthen PLC process through Professional Development
  - Provide social/emotional services to students by employing or contracting Social Worker and Licensed Counselor
  - Provide Instructional Technology Coach for teachers
  - Continue additional cleaning efforts
  - Continue to offset revenue loss and eAcademy cost as needed
  - Provide technology for student use and/or Capital improvements related to ventilation and spacing

Dr. Wagner explained the details of the plans for use of ESSER funds as they directly relate to the instruction and services for students as well as professional development and PLC work.

Ms. Shank added that it is important that people understand that ESSER funds have limitations on what the district can use it for.

Mrs. Callahan agreed and added that it is also important to understand that the funding ends after the three years, so it is important to carefully plan the expenditures based on current needs.

Dr. Wagner added that we are grateful for the funding which is being provided to help with needs that have developed from Covid, but it also allows the District do develop some of the things that we have been working toward that align with these needs as well.

Fund Balance budget 2021-2022 review:

- Estimated beginning balance \$2,300,051
- Planned use of \$477,000 as follows: Instructional Technology Equipment \$109,000; Budgetary Reserve if needed \$300,000; Transportation Reimbursement offset \$68,000
- Estimated ending balance \$1,823,051 which is 5.6% of expenditures
- Explained that if budget deficit is not reduced, then deficit reduces fund balance so ending result of fund balance is then estimated at \$1,427,717 or 4.4% of expenditures
- Showed if reduce committed PSERS funds \$255,000, those funds get added to uncommitted/unassigned fund balance resulting in estimated ending fund balance with existing deficit at \$1,682,717 or 5.1% of expenditures
- Discussed hope budgetary reserve is not used; results in ending balance of \$1,982,717

Summary of Budget:

- Reviewed why real estate tax increase is needed
- Reviewed next steps including adopting Proposed Final Budget at May 11 agenda meeting and Final Budget at June regular meeting to meet legal requirement of 30 days between them.

### **BUDGET 2021-2022 DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Guido asked what will happen if in 3 years we can't fund the items planned with ESSER funds. Will we have to eliminate these things? She added that she believes some of these things are very important.

Dr. Wagner stated yes, things would have to be eliminated, but there are some that she feels strongly about and would intend to make other adjustments to continue them. She added that we always try to reallocate funds and think creatively in order to have things we need.

Dr. Egnor added that we have three years to plan for the needs.

Mr. Kaczor asked if we have mental health help in place for staff.

Dr. Wagner responded that similar to the Student Assistance Program, we have an Employee Assistance Program in place for employees. Information is communicated regularly to employees regarding the plan.

Mrs. Callahan explained that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is provided to employees through the WCPSHC at no charge to employees or the District. The Trust implemented the program several years ago and covers the costs. Employees and their families have access to counseling sessions and resources through the program.

Mrs. Guido commented that it appears that Ms. Callahan plans for the worst-case scenario.

Mrs. Callahan responded that although she is conservative with District funding and plans, she tries to prepare the most accurate estimates with the information available in the timeframes required.

Mrs. Guido stated she appreciates all of the work Mrs. Callahan puts in; our district is fortunate to have someone who explains it all and provides the detail and is invested.

Mrs. Key stated she would not like for us to raise taxes any more than already entered. She added that if taking the increase to the max, she believes it will be difficult for her and people like her, with multiple properties and will be no income. She added that she believes it could be a hardship. Mrs. Key stated that she accepts that we need to increase and there is no way to run the district without it, but to increase it even more than what we have been talking about might be a hardship.

Ms. Shank commented she would like to see if there is any way we can maybe reduce the tax increase number.

Mrs. Key responded she thinks it is ok where it is, but suggests not taking it to the maximum.

Ms. Shank stated no, not the 3.9%; she would like it lower.

Mrs. Callahan added that yes, we will make any potential changes to budget which hopefully will decrease the deficit. She stated that the tax increase is not set until June, so Board members can continue to evaluate it in order to make a decision.

Dr. Linderman asked about difference in revenue.

Mrs. Callahan replied \$60,000.

Mrs. Guido stated she thinks maybe the additional amount of tax revenue is not worth it because of the perceived perception of going to the maximum. She believes it is more compassionate if we keep it less than the maximum. She would like to go lower if possible, but not to the point that it will affect the District and ultimately the children would suffer. She indicated she believes that the budget and plan are responsible.

Dr. Linderman stated she thinks we have been as conservative as possible.

Mr. Kaczor stated hopefully it is only for one year; and hopefully we see some growth in the community. He asked who is responsible for getting that to happen.

Mrs. Callahan responded that if the one large property tax reduction had not occurred, there would have been a slight increase in assessed value showing some natural growth. She added that unfortunately, it seems like every time we take one step forward financially, there are things that cause us to take two steps back.

Mrs. Key commented that businesses that are multimillion-dollar companies seem to get the reduction when the smaller businesses and/or homeowner doesn't. She added that she feels our district doesn't waste money and that the budget is appropriate.

Dr. Linderman asked Mrs. Callahan what her opinion is about ideal Fund Balance amount.

Mrs. Callahan explained that she would prefer the Fund Balance to be around \$1.8 - \$2 million for a district budget our size. This is about 6% of total expenditures so it is not really that high when recommended rate is 5-8%. She stated the Fund Balance can serve as cash flow as needed when revenues are not steady and shows financial stability.

Mr. Kaczor asked what are your feelings about the \$300,000 committed funds; is it for potential tax revenue decreases?

Mrs. Callahan responded that the District currently has \$530,000 committed for real estate tax assessment appeals. She added that by the recommendation to move \$255,000 out of commitment for PSERS, it leaves a balance of \$300,000 committed for PSERS stabilization. She stated that she is suggesting to keep that just for now until we see where things are in about a year. Those funds could then be allocated toward something else as needed per Board decision.

Dr. Linderman stated the budget presentation provided good details.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mrs. Callahan stated a public comment was received from Nikki Watson, no address provided, but stated she is a district resident. Mrs. Callahan asked the Board president if the comment should be read.

Mrs. Key said yes, she is a resident.

Mr. Kaczor said we should require address and asked if we have to accept comment.

Mrs. Callahan responded that she believes solicitor would advise that it is up to the Board to decide if they choose to hear the comment if no address is provided or if the person is not resident of the District.

Mrs. Beveridge stated she thinks we should require residents to state name and address. She asked what is stated in our bylaws.

Mrs. Callahan replied that Board policy indicates the address be provided, but Board members can choose to waive policy.

Mrs. Shank suggested that if she is online now, maybe she can provide her address.

Mr. Kaczor stated he thinks we are heading down a slippery slope.

Mrs. Callahan reviewed the comment forms and stated that Ms. Watson has now provided her address. She thanked Ms. Watson for supplying her address.

Nikki Watson, 235 Claremont Drive

- On Sunday, Dr. Anthony Fauci told George Stephanopoulos that the risk of outdoor transmission is “really, really quite low... I believe what the country is going to be hearing soon is updated guidelines from the CDC. The data backs it up.” Key points made on CNBC: Dr. Scott Gottlieb told CNBC outdoor mask mandates are no longer necessary. “We have the opportunity to bring more activities outside. We know activities outside are lower risk than things done indoors,” the former FDA chief said. “People could choose to wear a mask if they want to. I think there shouldn’t be requirements” for masks outdoors, Gottlieb said. Last month, Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD - Professor of Medicine, Stanford Medicine says, “There is no reason to be wearing a mask outside. The safest place to be if you don’t want Covid is outside.” - With the weather getting nicer out, it’s imperative we give our children freedom to breathe fresh air while outside at recess. This is the first step of many that is necessary and required. We have a few choices: 1) Advise teachers to limit the enforcement of masks during recess. Children are being yelled at to put their masks up, while they are running around and playing at recess. 2) Edit the health and safety plan in place to reflect our interpretation of new guidelines, which basically admit that wearing a mask outside has been completely unnecessary for months, and at this point officials are announcing publicly what the public has already known for months. 3) Leave things the way they are and continue to completely disregard the following information: • the data has always proven children are at very minimal risk of transmitting this virus and rarely show symptoms • outdoor transmission risk in the general population is very rare • anyone who wants to get vaccinated can, including teachers and school personnel - children should absolutely not continue to remain a perceived threat. Even the implication of this that sparked the mask mandate last fall is incorrect and negligent. It’s the wrong message for our children entirely. • children have already been the scapegoat for these mandates and it’s time to stop ignoring all the signs that it’s beyond time to unmask our children. • the state of Florida lifted their state of emergency last night and that includes all mask mandates. Our Pa legislature tried to lift our state of emergency twice and was vetoed. The politics of this is unprecedented. • children and adults should be allowed to wear a mask if they choose to, but it cannot be a requirement to receive a free and fair education. We must start somewhere to

communicate to our children that it's ok to run around freely outside, with their friends, at school, without a covering over their nose and mouth. The weather has already turned hot and it's disgusting to force this continually on our children. This is not normal and we must start the process of helping our children regain their sovereignty, autonomy and natural development. The time is now. Thank you for the time and effort you take on the matters of our district and I appreciate your consideration of this imperative matter.

Dr. Wagner responded that if CDC puts something out, PDE will likely change the recommendation for school districts and then we would follow those recommendations.

Mrs. Key stated that she also looked it up today and the CDC has not yet provided direction.

Nikki Watson, 235 Claremont Drive

- An edit to my last comment: I just saw the retraction for the state of emergency being lifted in Florida. It expired last night and was reinstated today. This is not very concerning because federal funds are the monumental component of this extended state of emergency. Florida lifted their mask mandate already and their Department of Education advised all schools to do the same. I'm sorry for the additional comment, I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

Nikki Watson, 235 Claremont Drive

- The presentation is unreadable, is there a way to see it after the meeting? How would the state's formula make a difference for Burrell School district?

Mrs. Callahan stated she is not sure what formula Ms. Watson is referring to.

Mrs. Beveridge stated it is likely the formula referenced regarding the governor's proposed budget.

Mrs. Callahan explained that it is based on the funding formula that a small portion of Basic Ed currently uses. She doesn't have all of the factors that are included, but it has to do with size, enrollment, LEP, etc. in addition to other things. Mrs. Callahan commented that it is not clear if it is actually equitable because there was an estimated amount per school district provided and looking at that list, it shows Burrell getting 2.11% increase over 2019-2020 amounts. For example, some of the other district increase are much higher like Upper St. Clair 7.8% increase, South Fayette 116.7% increase, Fox Chapel 76.48%. Again, she stated she has not budgeted the 2.11% increase because she does not believe it is likely to be received.

Mrs. Beveridge added that districts are funded at drastically different amounts.

Nikki Watson, 235 Claremont Drive

- Yes I am online and yes you've listened to my comments before

**OTHER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Key stated the musical was amazing. She thanked Mr. Connelly and said it was amazing based on the circumstances. The kids did phenomenal and they were so happy to be able to do it, and it showed on stage. Mrs. Key also commended the students and staff. She added she is very emotional since it was her last one.

Mrs. Key reported that Interact Club has been doing a lot of work and she gave them kudos because those kids are volunteering time and helping other people in the community.

Mrs. Key commented on public comments regarding the School Board on Facebook, and she doesn't usually make comments regarding that. She stated a comment made that Dr. Wagner wasn't happy that it was brought up. Mrs. Key wants to make the point that it is not the case and is publicly saying that it is not the case that. She stated sometimes virtual meetings are difficult and she wants to say that Dr. Wagner is supportive of it and asked what is the progress.

Dr. Wagner stated signs and masks have been ordered and will be here before graduation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kaczor made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Beveridge, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:13 PM.

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

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Jennifer S. Callahan  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mrs. Callahan/lew