

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The Burrell School District Board of Directors Agenda Meeting was held in the High School Boardroom and was called to order at 7:06 PM by President Shank.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Shank asked all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following responded to Roll Call: Dr. Rachel Linderman, Mr. James D. Kunkle, Mrs. Gretchen V. Beveridge, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mrs. Pam Key, Mr. Christopher S. Wojcik and Ms. Tricia Shank. The following members were absent: Mrs. Jane A. Kinter 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:
AUGUST 13, 2019 – 6:30 PM AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING –
PERSONNEL AGENDA
AUGUST 20, 2019 – 7:00 PM – PERSONNEL AGENDA**

Ms. Shank announced the Board's Executive Sessions.

The Board reviewed items scheduled for the regular meeting to be held on August 20, 2019.

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 ATHLETIC EVENT TICKET FEES EFFECTIVE 2019-2020

Dr. Wagner stated the proposed increase for athletic events and proposal of free admittance for High School and Middle School students with Burrell School District student ID is to increase student participation.

Mr. Kaczor asked if all students have identification.

Dr. Wagner stated yes, they will have identification badges this year.

Mr. Kaczor stated that if approved, the ticket fees should be publicized.

APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE PAY RATES

Dr. Wagner stated the proposed increase is for Cafeteria and Recess Aide substitutes rates to \$9/hour to match custodial and secretarial support staff substitute rates.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CATAPULT LEARNING FOR NON-PUBLIC TITLE I SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Wagner explained the agreement and that the District is required to provide Title I services for qualifying students that attend private schools.

APPROVAL OF AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH CARLOW UNIVERSITY FOR STUDENT TEACHING THROUGH 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

RATIFICATION OF BON AIR SOFTBALL FIELD RESTORATION PROJECT CHANGE ORDER GC-1 FOR W.G. LAND COMPANY, LLC IN AMOUNT OF \$1,836

Dr. Wagner explained that the Change Order was needed to improve the drainage in an area of the field due to the soft spots in the outfield. This Change Order covers the cost of the additional/different stone to that area.

Mr. Dometakis, Architect, stated that hopefully at the end of the project some funds will be returned because of the stone being used.

Mr. Dometakis asked John Carly, site engineer, to provide an update of project.

Mr. Carly provided an update of the project. He indicated that the project was on schedule a week ago, but due to the rain they are about a half week behind. He stated that there were two

areas that needed additional larger rock to make the on-site soil area work. He added that the field will drain uniformly based on the new drainage system installed and that there may be a few \$1,000 savings at the end of the project due to drainage setup.

Mrs. Beveridge questioned if the Board actually has to approve the change order since it is less than \$2,000.

Dr. Wagner stated that because the original contract amount has changed, the Board must approve change orders.

Motion by: Mrs. Key

Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: HIGH SCHOOL TRACK REPLACEMENT AND STADIUM RENOVATIONS – INFORMATION

Dr. Wagner stated that in May the Board discussed potential projects to consider which include track and stadium field. She asked architects Andreas Dometakis and John Carly of HHS DR to come to this meeting to discuss the potential project knowing that if the Board decides to proceed with work next spring, we would need to approve bid specification preparation in September and start the bid process in the fall to be ready for construction in the spring.

Mr. Dometakis stated that at a previous meeting he talked about resurfacing the track and either artificial turf field installation or regrading and updates to the current natural grass field. He stated that the estimate for the track replacement is approximately \$760,000. For the field, it would be approximately \$350,000-\$400,000 for natural grass field repairs and regrading, and with new drainage or for artificial turf it would be approximately \$1,200,000-\$1,350,000.

Mr. Dometakis provided a proposed timetable if the Board decides to proceed with the project and he provided a drawing of the track and field.

Mr. Carly stated that the District has attempted to repair the track several times but there is a drainage issue. Additionally, a track with six lanes should have a certain tilt and this one does not, causing additional drainage issues. He added that there is not an ADA entrance, so we must provide that upgrade in the project. He stated that the best way would be to revise the ramp and provide railings. The stairs near the concession stand are also a concern based on the steepness and tread. Mr. Carly suggested to bid a change to the steps as an alternate. He added that the playing field actually has an invert as opposed to crown.

Ms. Shank summarized that to replace the track and make field upgrades, the total estimated cost is either \$1.2M or \$2M based on the decision of the Board.

Mr. Kaczor asked how long upgrades to the natural turf would be expected to last.

Mr. Carly stated that with good draining and good crown and depending on usage and rain, it could potentially last 40-50 years if the District maintains it properly at an estimated cost of \$40,000-\$50,000 maintenance per year.

Mr. Kaczor asked about the recommended usage on a natural field.

Mr. Carly replied that it is hard to estimate.

Mr. Kaczor asked architects about the cost of replacing artificial turf and how often it would be required.

Mr. Dometakis replied approximately 12-15 years and about \$400,000 to replace the carpet.

Mr. Kaczor asked what is estimated maintenance per year on artificial turf.

Mr. Carly replied that with substantial use, natural grass will cost 4 times more to maintain than artificial turf. He added that usage on synthetic field is unlimited.

Mrs. Key stated the District only has so much money.

Mr. Wojcik asked if we the District could pursue the NFL grant.

Dr. Wagner replied that the Board must have official commitment to proceed with the project prior to applying for the NFL grant.

Mrs. Callahan reminded the Board that the NFL grant is not guaranteed and some local districts have received it while others have been denied. She suggested the Board not make the decision relying on NFL grant funds.

Board members had general discussion regarding making a decision.

Dr. Linderman stated that although it is a high cost now to do the project, it appears the maintenance and upkeep of the fields are approximately the same. She added that an artificial surface provides more opportunity for use and that the condition of facilities can be important in attracting or deterring students and residents to our community.

Board members had general discussion regarding uses of the field/space and how the field is used and could be used if an artificial surface.

Mr. D'Angelo stated that the field is used not only by football teams, but also for many soccer teams, band, rugby, track & field and gym classes.

Dr. Wagner added that soccer teams would likely be able to use an artificial field in poor weather conditions which would help with the District's limited gym space. She added that softball and baseball teams would likely use the surface rather than the gyms as well which

would help by alleviating some of the issues resulting from baseballs/softballs being thrown or hit in the gyms.

Mr. D'Angelo stated that about 30 contests are recommended per year on natural grass. We have about 58 total football/soccer, etc. He added that in October, we basically have a mud bath each year due to overuse in a short amount of time. Mr. D'Angelo stated certain areas are worse than others. For example, sidelines for football are beat down but are part of field for soccer play.

Mrs. Key asked how much does the drainage issue have to do with this project.

Mr. D'Angelo stated it would be helpful, but the crown seems to be the problem.

Dr. Wagner stated that the Board had asked for local district information. In Westmoreland County there are only three districts that do not have artificial turf. She provided information on other local districts also indicating that most districts have artificial turf and only a few do not.

Mr. Kunkle stated that the District already has debt and that the Board should only do what we can afford. He stated that he believes the District should do what is cheaper.

Dr. Linderman asked how much money the District has available for this project.

Mrs. Callahan stated that the District currently has Capital Reserve Fund balance of approximately \$780,000. Adding the planned and budgeted transfer from the General Fund Budget in 2019-2020 in the amount of \$1,469,000, less the Bon Air softball project contract cost of approximately \$278,000, it leaves approximately \$1,970,000 available. Mrs. Callahan added that she is recommending the Board consider bond refunding this month which could result in an estimated savings of \$560,000 cash at closing. Those funds taken at closing are required to be used for capital improvements and must be spent within three years. With those expected funds, the District would have approximately \$2.5M for capital expenditures.

Dr. Linderman summarized the finances by indicating that the District has funds available for the project. She added that she agrees the District should not spend money unnecessarily; however, she stated that she believes we need to keep Burrell up to par. She stated that infrastructure and facilities are aging and that it is important to do things correctly the first time around if money is available as opposed to doing things the cheapest way.

Ms. Shank asked if administration can prepare a chart on yearly maintenance costs and overall cost and how often replacement/maintenance is needed including financial figures and costs.

Mrs. Callahan stated yes, we can work with architects and administration to prepare that information.

Dr. Linderman indicated that the maintenance costs seem to be similar over the course of years so it is only the initial construction costs that are higher if the Board decides to install artificial turf. However, because of the use and needs of the District, it makes sense to pursue.

Mr. Kunkle asked if those funds from refunding be used on other things such as the pool, windows, etc.

Mrs. Callahan replied yes, they can be used for capital expenditures including pool renovation and/or window replacement, etc.

Mr. Kunkle would like to see estimates on how many kids will be professional athletes as opposed to academic. He stated that he believes the District should not be extravagant.

Dr. Linderman replied that she doesn't believe anyone is looking at this as a way for students to become professional athletes. She stated that athletic participation tremendously helps the students be better students/people. She stated that our district has struggled to have students participate at times and if we don't have the appropriate facilities, they may not want to participate.

Mr. Kunkle stated that he believes that is an extreme view.

Dr. Linderman replied that she believes the Board should keep it desirable to be here. She stated that if we have the funds to upgrade the field, we should do it right. She stated that there is great benefit to putting in artificial turf. She reiterated that the maintenance costs seem to be about the same and although the initial cost is higher, it appears we have the funds to do it, so it should be seriously considered.

Mr. Kunkle stated that he agrees that to do it the right way is appropriate, but believes there is a difference of opinion as to what is appropriate. He acknowledged that the maintenance cost is about the same each year, so it is only the initial cost that is higher.

Dr. Wagner stated the Board is not being asked to approve the project tonight.

Mr. Kaczor asked architects to attend next week for additional questions.

Mr. Dometakis replied that they would attend the following meeting in an effort to keep things moving along. He stated that the sooner the decision is made the better. He added that if the Board chooses natural grass, it takes longer and will be recommended to wait several weeks before use, so it is possible the District could have no home games in the 2020 fall season in that instance.

General discussion ensued about usage and timing of seasons and other school district fields.

Dr. Wagner stated that information will be gathered and provided to the Board. She asked the architects to provide a written summary of maintenance cost of each option. She asked Board members if they want to consider the item at next week's Board meeting.

Ms. Shank replied yes, please put the item on agenda for Board consideration.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES – DR. EGNOR:

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH CLELIAN HEIGHTS FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Egnor stated that we have a student attending Clelian Heights.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH AXIOM FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES, INC. FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Egnor stated this agreement is for drug and alcohol counseling to be provided if and when recommended.

Mrs. Key asked if this is an outpatient program.

Dr. Egnor replied that this is a school-based program so it is considered outpatient.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH WESLEY FAMILY SERVICES FOR SCHOOL BASED OUTPATIENT SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Egnor stated we currently allow them to provide counseling on the premises as an outpatient service.

APPROVAL OF PROVIDER AGREEMENT WITH WESTMORELAND CASEMANAGEMENT AND SUPPORTS INC. FOR TERM JULY 16, 2019 TO JULY 15, 2021

Dr. Egnor stated this agreement outlines collaboration between WCSI and Burrell School District for Westmoreland Casemangement.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH WESTMORELAND INTERMEDIATE UNIT FOR ESL SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Egnor stated this agreement is provided each year for students who need ESL services.

APPROVAL OF DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR BURRELL HIGH SCHOOL, HUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL, STEWART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND BON AIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Egnor stated the discipline guidelines have been reviewed by student and parent advisory groups and building principals collaborated.

PERSONNEL – MS. SHANK (Attachment 8-1A)

Motion by: Dr. Linderman

Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

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

WESTMORELAND INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT – MRS. BEVERIDGE

PSBA LIAISON REPORT – MRS. KEY

BUSINESS – MRS. CALLAHAN:

APPROVAL OF BUS ROUTES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Callahan indicated that the Transportation Secretary is still working on bus routes with our contractor, WL Roenigk. The listing will be posted by end of this week as routes are finalized. There are typically no route or stop changes other than ones affected by enrollment location changes.

APPROVAL OF BUS DRIVERS FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Callahan stated as required by school code, the Board is asked to approve bus drivers each year. The current list is provided for Board approval next week.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH COMBUSTION SERVICE & EQUIPMENT COMPANY FOR BUILDING AUTOMATION SYSTEM PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE FOR THREE-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

Mrs. Callahan stated that Facilities Director, Dave Ploskunak, is requesting the Board consider this three-year agreement for preventative maintenance service.

Ms. Shank if this service that is provided each year for the furnaces.

Mr. Ploskunak stated it is maintenance on the boilers at the High School and all of the computerized systems at Middle School. He added that if there are funds remaining, we are able to obtain parts for use.

BOND REFUNDING – INFORMATION

Mrs. Callahan stated that the District has outstanding debt in the form of bonds. Occasionally we have the opportunity to save money by refunding existing bonds. The District currently has outstanding bonds of 2013, 2014, and 2017. The 2013 and 2014 bonds have just become callable (able to be refunded). Bonds can only be refunded early once (before call date) and then one current refunding (after call date). These were early refunded in 2013 and 2014 as the bonds were originally issued in 2005.

Mrs. Callahan explained that depending on the market and bond payment structure, debt payments remaining, there is not always the opportunity to generate savings. She works with our underwriter, PNC Capital Markets, to monitor our debt and the market to try to take advantage of opportunities at the best time. She explained at this time the opportunity for refunding to generate savings exists. Mrs. Callahan stated that the outstanding debt on the 2013 and 2014 bonds totals \$19,800,000, after payment made in July 2019. The worksheets show the refunding of these bonds and issuance of \$18,045,000, which reduces the overall outstanding debt.

Mrs. Callahan added that more importantly, the current estimates show savings of about \$556,000 taken as cash at closing. Because the market changes daily and this process takes about eight weeks, changes will occur and this number is not guaranteed and hopefully the savings will increase.

Mrs. Callahan stated that bond refunding savings taken at closing are required by law to be used for Capital Improvements within three years. Since some capital improvements such as the track and football field are being considered by the Board, the timing on this is ideal.

Mrs. Callahan reported that over the last six years, the District has saved over \$2.2 MM by refunding bonds in 2013, 2014 and 2017. She added that this may be the District's last opportunity for several years; however, based on the market, estimated savings, and capital improvement needs, she recommends proceeding at this time.

Mrs. Callahan explained the worksheets from PNC Capital Markets in detail including total debt service, bond payments and bond rates. The worksheets also show approximately \$556,000 cash at closing, which is net of costs involved which are estimated at \$193,000. Also shown is cash flow payment savings of about \$24,000. Mrs. Callahan added that the Net Present Value savings is 2.93%, which is above the industry standard of at least 2% to consider refunding.

Mrs. Callahan stated that at this time she recommends proceeding with the refunding. She reviewed the process and timeline if the Board decides to move forward. The process is to first adopt resolution (next agenda item); next Mrs. Callahan would work with underwriter and bond counsel to prepare several documents and conduct a rating call to explain the District's financial status. Then the Board would be asked to adopt the bond resolution in September - not to exceed a minimum savings of \$500,000; lastly closing on bonds.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOND FINANCING PROFESSIONALS

Mrs. Callahan explained the Resolution which names the underwriter, PNC Capital Markets and Bond Counsel, Clark Hill, to work with District administrators and identify the work that will be done in order for the District to proceed with bond refunding. She stated that upon approval of the resolution, she will work directly with these professionals with the intention of bringing the Bond Resolution to the Board for consideration in September. At that time, PNC and Clark Hill will attend the Board meeting and provide a brief presentation/summary of the bond financing.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kunkle made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Key, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM.

Roll Call: All in Favor.

Motion Carried.

Jennifer S. Callahan
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

JSC/lew

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The Burrell School District Board of Directors Board Meeting was held in the High School Board Room and was called to order at 7:33 PM by President Shank.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Shank asked all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following responded to Roll Call: Dr. Rachel Linderman, Mrs. Jane A. Kinter, Mr. James D. Kunkle, Mrs. Gretchen V. Beveridge, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mrs. Pam Key, Mrs. Genia Koziarski, Mr. Christopher S. Wojcik and Ms. Tricia Shank. 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:

**AUGUST 13, 2019 – 6:30 PM AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING –
PERSONNEL AGENDA**

AUGUST 20, 2019 – 7:00 PM – PERSONNEL AGENDA

Ms. Shank announced the Board's Executive Sessions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda Meeting – June 11, 2019

Regular Meeting – June 18, 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT – JUNE/JULY 2019 (Attachment 8-1)

SCHOOL LUNCH REPORT – JUNE/JULY 2019 (Attachment 8-2)

STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND REPORTS – JUNE/JULY 2019 (Attachment 8-3)

NURSES' REPORTS – NO REPORT

Motion by: Mrs. Key

Seconded by: Mr. Wojcik

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

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

Dr. Wagner recognized the following:

Rodney Shaffer – His Rocketry Team finished 2nd in nation

Bowling Club – Girls Team placed 5th in state competition; Carlee Hummel and Lydia Flanagan made All State Team and placed 3rd and 4th respectively

Lower Burrell Junior Firefighters – Travis Newell, Savannah Faybik, Aaron Gates, Adam Bettinelli, Daniel Murrin and Ethan Spaid helped to rescue kittens trapped in a storm drain

Ms. Shank commented that it is commendable to have that many junior firefighters from our District.

**APPROVAL OF ATHLETIC EVENT TICKET FEES EFFECTIVE 2019-2020
(Attachment 8-4)**

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Dr. Linderman

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE PAY RATES (Attachment 8-5)

Motion by: Dr. Linderman

Seconded by: Mrs. Kinter

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CATAPULT
LEARNING FOR NON-PUBLIC TITLE I SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL
YEAR**

Dr. Wagner stated she discussed the agreement at last week's Agenda meeting.

Motion by: Mrs. Key

Seconded by: Mr. Wojcik

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH CARLOW UNIVERSITY FOR STUDENT TEACHING THROUGH 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by: Mrs. Koziarski

Seconded by: Dr. Linderman

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

RATIFIED BON AIR SOFTBALL FIELD RESTORATION PROJECT CHANGE ORDER GC-1 FOR W.G. LAND COMPANY, LLC IN AMOUNT OF \$1,836 - INFORMATION

Dr. Wagner stated that the Board ratified the Change Order at last week's Agenda meeting.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: HIGH SCHOOL TRACK REPLACEMENT AND STADIUM RENOVATIONS – INFORMATION

Dr. Wagner stated that Mrs. Callahan compiled a document which summarizes information from Architects, financial data, and Athletic Director information for review.

Dr. Linderman asked the Architects if artificial carpet replacement is good for approximately 12-14 years at \$400,000, which would equate to about \$30,000 cost per year over the 12-14 years.

Mr. Dometakis stated that some projects may get many years but typically it is 12-14 years. There can be a 10 year warranty which is typically provided after acceptance of the field.

General discussion ensued regarding warranty and replacement of field.

Mrs. Koziarski asked how many years use is typical for crowning/grass.

Mr. Kaczor suggested usage would be substantially more with artificial turf. The weather and rain tear up natural grass but not artificial.

Mr. Kaczor asked about the band using the field.

Mr. D'Angelo, Athletic Director, stated they practice elsewhere but perform on the field at football games.

Mr. Kaczor stated that baseball and softball could use the field if it were artificial turf.

Mrs. Key stated her research indicates injury and concussion rates are higher on synthetic field than on a grass field so she is concerned about the health and safety of the kids.

Mr. D'Angelo stated that a perfect grass field is the best scenario, but after a heavy rain there could be as many injuries on a grass field that is in bad shape.

Mrs. Koziarski stated she understands the additional usage of a synthetic field, but wants to make sure it is worth the \$800,000 additional cost.

Ms. Shank stated she does not think it is worth the \$800,000 and believes those funds could be used towards education. She believes it is more fiscally responsible not to proceed with artificial turf and we could upgrade and crown/field. She stated there is a list of capital items that need addressed. The Board is primarily focused on education, so safety and health is important. She stated she believes using the funds elsewhere might be more fiscally wise. She indicated the District has functioned well over past 50 years and she doesn't want to think we passed up an opportunity, so we need to consider all options.

Mr. Kunkle stated that when the District was presented with the problem of the track and draining, they were provided two estimates for natural or artificial turf. He asked the architect if this is correct and do they still stand by those options?

Mr. Dometakis replied yes.

Mr. Kunkle stated he is the most fiscally conservative Board member, and if we take the \$800,000 difference in cost and add potential bond refunding savings, we could potentially have near \$1M remaining in capital funds for spending on some of the other projects that may need addressed within the next several years. He stated that he is considering the future of the District. He believes Burrell is not a big school district and we don't have a lot of money. This project would absorb almost everything we have in capital funds. He added that we have used grass forever, and doesn't think the artificial field is necessary at Burrell. Down the road we may have to issue bonds, but if can save a bit here, it would behoove us.

Dr. Linderman stated she sees we have never budgeted correctly to maintain a grass field and it is a significant increase to correctly maintain the field at \$70,000 as recommended by architects. She indicated that she doesn't think the price difference over the 10-year period is significant and believes in fixing something right the first time. Because the maintenance cost is slightly lower, including the carpet replacement, there is not much difference in cost over 10 years. It is only the initial cost that is the consideration.

Mrs. Key asked what happens if we spend all of our money and then the pool goes, where do we get the money to fix the pool, or the roof, etc. She stated she agrees with Dr. Linderman about doing the job correctly, but if we spend all of the available funds, we won't have much money sitting in the bank. It is not just us, but we must also consider the taxpayers. She added that she sees the educational uses of additional funds; however, she understands that we can't spend capital funds on that. She indicated that people move here for the District, not the

extracurricular activities, and that is where she focuses. She stated she feels nervous about spending all of the money.

Discussion ensued about a machine to groom the turf.

Mrs. Koziarski asked about list of other projects.

Dr. Wagner reviewed the summary of capital improvement projects that have been discussed. She listed Bon Air softball field project, High School track and field, Bon Air paving and the High School pool.

Mr. Kaczor stated that if we are concerned about everything that we need to do, then we don't do anything. He believes we must maintain the field properly in order to get use out of it. He stated if the concern is the list, then maybe we just do Bon Air paving and let everything else go. He stated the Board is at a point of needing to make a decision.

Mrs. Key stated the Board is having a discussion.

Mr. Kunkle stated we are having a discussion about the other things that might need done in the near future but still need to improve the problem of the track/field. He stated that we are nine different people with nine different opinions and that every Board member is trying to do the right thing for the District.

Ms. Shank asked if anyone has additional input.

Mr. Ploskunak stated that if something goes wrong with the pool, our maintenance staff can typically repair the problem, so would not necessarily require full pool replacement.

Harold Beattie, 151 Craigdale Road

- If artificial turf is the answer, why do Steelers and Pitt play on natural grass
- Recent news report StoRox district able to get to \$200,000 - \$300,000 funding
- Consider life expectancy of artificial vs. grass turf
- Questioned tax increase from the project

Ms. Shank stated we are aware of a potential grant and have discussed the issue. She explained the grant is not guaranteed, and we would consider applying for any grants possible if we proceed with artificial turf.

Ms. Shank stated we are trying to use funds on hand for capital improvements to avoid the tax impact. She asked the architect if in 12 years the field wears out and we can't afford the \$400,000 to recarpet, how much would it cost to change back to grass.

Mr. Dometakis stated it would probably cost the same and/or additional costs.

Harold Beattie, 151 Craigdale Road

- Proper preparation under the field to take care of drainage

Ms. Shank stated the architects have planned for drainage because it has been such an issue.

George Plumbo, 3073 Mintwood Drive

- Suggests Board choose natural sod and use the savings from bond refunding

Ms. Shank asked how long the natural grass would last because it seems the field is 50 years old and no work has been done.

Mrs. Callahan stated that she believes some work was done to the field possibly when the sprinkler system was first installed approximately 15 years ago.

Dr. Linderman asked if we refund bonds and have to spend the funds within 3 years, what happens to remaining money because all the projects outstanding cost more than remaining funds.

Mrs. Callahan stated we would spend the bond refunding money first and the remaining balance can sit in Capital Reserve Fund. She indicated there are no time restrictions on spending funds that the Board has set aside for capital expenditures.

Mr. Wojcik stated Penn State personnel are experts and suggests that we ask them for assistance or advice on maintenance of our field.

Mr. Ploskunak stated that we work with a vendor, EH Griffith, who also works on Penn State fields and they provide the knowledge for our field maintenance.

General discussion ensued regarding care of field.

Dr. Wagner stated the issue is that the amount of usage always affects the field.

Mr. Kaczor stated the Steelers have natural grass at the stadium. He asked what type of surface is on their practice field.

Mr. D'Angelo stated our teams do not practice on our fields.

Mr. Kaczor asked if it would benefit our kids to practice on the field.

Mr. D'Angelo replied yes. He also added that Heinz Field is resodded every year.

Bill Marmo, 22 Cayuga Trail

- Asked how many events per year

Mr. Kaczor stated the report shows 58 contests plus 29 practices per year mostly in the first 8 weeks of year.

Bill Marmo, 22 Cayuga Trail

- Field will not handle all of those contests. In the past, only about 9-10 football games per year were on the field. Now many other contests were on the field.
- Board must consider the number of events played on the field. It doesn't matter how well you maintain the field and what kind of grass, it's a mess after a few weeks. The field will be terrible and things must change.
- As prior Board member, he understands you have to spend money and make difficult decisions
- Believes in this case you get the benefits and advantage of having artificial field
- Think about the amount of money that Board spent on softball field, consider the number of students that will use or play on that field compared to football field

Mrs. Key thanked Mr. Marmo for his good feedback.

George Plumbo, 3073 Mintwood Drive

- 87 events are taking place on grass; field can't handle it
- How long will artificial turf last

Mr. Wojcik asked if the artificial turf warranty addresses the number of contests.

Mr. Dometakis replied no, but most schools use it every day a few times a day.

Dr. Linderman asked about the hours of usage and what you should have on the field.

Mr. Kaczor stated soccer and football could practice on the field instead of Kotecki Park if it is artificial turf.

Ms. Shank asked if artificial turf comes pre-lined.

Mr. Dometakis replied yes, the lines are sewn in for football and soccer.

Mr. Kaczor asked how do you reduce costs by having modest endzones.

Mr. Dometakis suggested having a logo in the middle of the field. He indicated most districts do graphics.

Mr. D'Angelo stated the District could consider have just the logo in the middle of the field.

Mr. Wojcik asked Mr. D'Angelo if he sees any sport like lacrosse in the horizon?

Mr. D'Angelo stated he would not advocate lacrosse because it would take the limited number of athletes and spread them thinner. He added that it would deplete our strong spring programs.

Mr. Kaczor asked if there is potential to rent out the field.

Discussion ensued regarding field rental.

Mr. Kunkle asked the Solicitor to explain how to vote if want to vote opposing synthetic turf but want to support track replacement.

Mr. Lee Price, Solicitor, said Mr. Kunkle can make motion to split motion.

AUTHORIZATION OF HHS DR ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS TO PREPARE CONSTRUCTION BID DOCUMENTS FOR TRACK REPLACEMENT AND STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS WITH SYNTHETIC TURF PROJECT

No motion made.

MOTION TO SPLIT TRACK REPLACEMENT AND STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS INTO TWO ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Motion by: Mr. Kunkle

Seconded by: Mrs. Koziarski

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR HHS DR ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS TO PREPARE CONSTRUCTION BID DOCUMENTS FOR TRACK REPLACEMENT

Motion by: Mrs. Koziarski

Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR HHS DR ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS TO PREPARE CONSTRUCTION BID DOCUMENTS FOR STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS WITH SYNTHETIC TURF

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Dr. Linderman

Roll Call: Voting Yes: Kaczor, Linderman

Voting No: Kinter, Kunkle, Beveridge, Key, Koziarski, Wojcik, Shank

Motion failed.

AUTHORIZATION FOR HHS DR ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS TO PREPARE CONSTRUCTION BID DOCUMENTS FOR STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS WITH NATURAL GRASS TURF

Motion by: Mr. Kunkle

Seconded by: Mrs. Koziarski

Roll Call: All in Favor, except Mr. Kaczor and Dr. Linderman Voted No.

Motion carried.

Board members directed HHS DR to combine track and field to one project but separate bids so vendors can bid on both or just one. Board members requested to review final drawings and specifications and authorization to advertise for bids at the November Board meeting.

Dr. Wagner complimented the Board on their discussion and deliberation and thanked them for investing time and effort into making decisions for the District.

Mrs. Koziarski asked if equipment and filler for the field is included in cost of bid.

Mr. Dometakis replied yes.

PERMISSION TO ENROLL TWO NONRESIDENT STUDENTS TUITION-FREE THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2019, PENDING CONTRACTED PURCHASE OF HOME

Dr. Wagner stated the request is made according to Board policy.

Mrs. Koziarski asked if there was an issue.

Dr. Wagner replied no.

Motion by: Dr. Linderman

Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES – DR. EGNOR:

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH CLELIAN HEIGHTS FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR (Attachment 8-6)

Motion by: Mrs. Key

Seconded by: Mrs. Kinter

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH AXIOM FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES, INC. FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR
(Attachment 8-7)

Motion by: Mrs. Kinter

Seconded by: Mrs. Key

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH WESLEY FAMILY SERVICES FOR SCHOOL BASED OUTPATIENT SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR
(Attachment 8-8)

Motion by: Mrs. Key

Seconded by: Mr. Wojcik

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PROVIDER AGREEMENT WITH WESTMORELAND CASEMANAGEMENT AND SUPPORTS INC. FOR TERM JULY 16, 2019 TO JULY 15, 2021 (Attachment 8-9)

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge

Seconded by: Mrs. Koziarski

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH WESTMORELAND INTERMEDIATE UNIT FOR ESL SERVICES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by: Mrs. Key

Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR BURRELL HIGH SCHOOL, HUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL, STEWART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND BON AIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge

Seconded by: Mr. Wojcik

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

PERSONNEL – MS. SHANK (Attachment 8-10)

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mrs. Kinter

Roll Call: All in Favor.

Motion carried.

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

Members received a summary of the August 8, 2019 minutes in their packets.

Mr. Wojcik reported the following:

- New roof project 98% complete
- Watermain in loop is being replaced
- Welding program and students able to get college credit
- Pursuing LPN program with Harmar Village
- Bachelors and Master's degree, student debt summary
- College education pursuit and student debt vs leaving CTC with skill, have career and no debt
- Overcoming the stigma; turning out professionals

Dr. Wagner added that students can also get close to an Associate's degree by earning college credit in High School at a reduced cost due to the courses the High School has implemented.

Mrs. Key asked if they cooperate with companies in the area.

Dr. Wagner replied yes we have tried.

Mrs. Key asked what we are doing as a district to get students more excited about this and take advantage of the opportunity.

Dr. Linderman stated she believes it is the parents/guardians/family that affect those decisions.

Dr. Wagner stated that she and Dr. Boylan are meeting with Premier Automation in September regarding opportunities for students to begin working there and having further education paid for.

Mrs. Koziarski stated she believes earning college credit in High School needs to be marketed better to kids and parents.

WESTMORELAND INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT – MRS. BEVERIDGE

Members received a summary of the June 25, 2019 minutes in their packets.

Mrs. Beveridge reported the following:

- Act 44 Grant part A and part B: WIU received \$323,300 Part B funds to be used for planning school safety
- Step-UP program continues

PSBA LIAISON REPORT – MRS. KEY

No report.

BUSINESS – MRS. CALLAHAN:

APPROVAL OF BUS ROUTES FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Callahan indicated that the Transportation Secretary provided the bus routes for approval.

Motion by: Mrs. Key

Seconded by: Dr. Linderman

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BUS DRIVERS FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Callahan stated that bus drivers must be Board approved per school code.

Motion by: Mrs. Koziarski

Seconded by: Mrs. Key

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH COMBUSTION SERVICE & EQUIPMENT COMPANY FOR BUILDING AUTOMATION SYSTEM PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE FOR THREE-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 (Attachment 8-11)

Mrs. Callahan stated that at last week’s Agenda meeting Mr. Ploskunak explained the 3-year agreement for preventative maintenance service on equipment at the High School and Middle School.

Motion by: Dr. Linderman

Seconded by: Mrs. Key

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

BOND REFUNDING – INFORMATION

Mrs. Callahan stated that last week she explained the bond refunding and the District has the opportunity to refund outstanding bonds and generate savings to be cash at closing in the currently estimated amount of \$560,000. The District has refunded bonds over the past six years generating about \$2.2M in savings to the District.

Mrs. Callahan stated that worksheets provided from PNC show refunding of the outstanding debt on the 2013 and 2014 bonds in the total of \$19,800,000 by the issuance of \$18,045,000 which reduces the District's overall outstanding District debt, but also current estimates show savings of about \$556,000 taken as cash at closing and an additional \$24,000 savings over the life of the bonds. Because the market changes daily and this process takes about 8 weeks, changes will occur and this number is not guaranteed.

Mrs. Callahan reiterated that bond refunding savings taken at closing are required by law to be used for Capital Improvements within three years.

The process/timeline if the Board chooses to move forward would be to adopt the resolution appointing bond financing professionals tonight and then adopt the bond resolution next month with a minimum savings threshold included.

Mr. Price added that when the Board adopts the actual debt resolution, you would put in a floor or minimum savings threshold.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOND FINANCING PROFESSIONALS (Attachment 8-12)

Mrs. Callahan explained the resolution which names the underwriter, PNC Capital Markets and bond counsel, Clark Hill PLC to work with the District to proceed with bond refunding. She stated that the intention is to bring bond resolution to the Board for consideration next month with a minimum savings threshold included.

Mr. Price stated a bond rating fee would be incurred even if the Board does not proceed with refunding. He asked Mrs. Callahan if PDE reimbursement factored into the estimated savings.

Mrs. Callahan replied yes.

Motion by: Mrs. Key

Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REQUESTS FOR USE OF BUILDINGS (Attachment 8-13)

Motion by: Dr. Linderman

Seconded by: Mrs. Kinter

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

Mr. Wojcik asked what is BYW.

Mrs. Shank replied Burrell Youth Wrestling.

PAYMENT OF BILLS (Attachment 8-14)

Motion by: Mrs. Key

Seconded by: Mrs. Kinter

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kunkle made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kinter, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM.

Roll Call: All in Favor.

Motion carried.

Jennifer S. Callahan
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

JSC/lew