

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2022**

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 7:09 PM by President Pam Key.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mrs. Gretchen V. Beveridge, Mr. Timothy J. Vinkovich, Ms. Tricia Shank, Mrs. Nikki Watson, Mrs. LeeAnn S. Guido, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mr. Tom Deiseroth, Mrs. Jean Schager and Mrs. Pam Key

Board Members Absent: None

Quorum present

Others Present: Dr. Shannon L. Wagner, Superintendent, Dr. Gregory Egnor, Director of Student Services, and Mrs. Jennifer S. Callahan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Executive Sessions

September 13, 2022 – 6:45 PM – Personnel Agenda

September 13, 2022 – Immediately following meeting - Personnel Agenda

September 20, 2022 - 7:00 PM - Personnel Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Agenda Meeting – August 9, 2022; Regular Meeting – August 16, 2022

Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. General Fund Report
- c. Capital Reports
- d. Food Service Reports
- e. Student Activity Reports

Comments from Public - Agenda Items Only

None

Reports of Administration and Standing Committees

SUPERINTENDENT - DR. WAGNER

Student/Staff Recognition and Reports

GoFan Digital Ticketing Agreement with Huddle Tickets Information

Dr. Wagner stated the Board was provided information, the agreement and a recommendation from Mr. D'Angelo. The Board can review information and can address any questions. She stated we would not need to start before November for winter sports so the Board could approve in October.

Approval of Alle-Kiski Academy of Excellence Articulation Agreement with Derry Area School District, Kiski Area School District, and Hempfield Area School District for 2022-2023

Dr. Wagner explained this is the backbone with the virtual academy that we have built for elementary students. Each school district is providing some of the curriculum and instructors and have some students enrolled. Burrell is currently providing two teachers and financial administration. Each school is contributing some instruction and other services. For example, Kiski is providing two teachers and a principal. She stated the agreement is broad and only for one year since we are working with the other districts to build the program. She stated she will ask Melinda Kulick to provide some survey information throughout the year in regards to students and their performance.

Mrs. Guido asked about staffing because the agreement does not state how many instructors or students each school will provide. She expressed concern with the cost of our contribution – the amount of two teachers with only four Burrell students currently attending. She expressed concerns about that moving forward.

Ms. Shank asked if these four students originally cyber students which would then be a cost savings to the District to offset the expenditures for two teachers.

Dr. Wagner responded that the students were previously eAcademy students and once the program is built, the intention would be to attempt to draw cyber students back to this program to reduce overall costs and provide better instruction. She explained it is a journey and we need the partnership because we can not afford to do it on our own due to the cost.

Mr. Kaczor asked how much is it per student and can each of the four districts send as many students as needed at this point. He also asked if schools joining the group later would have to pay an additional cost or provide a teacher or anything similar.

Dr. Wagner stated the rate in the agreement is \$6,500 per student. She also stated that what has been most difficult is the sharing of resources because of the domain name and student information software system and curriculum online access. She believes we are going to build something very good, a synchronous option, but there are still families who want something asynchronous. She stated she would like to get it closer to a place where it can sustain itself in the future.

Dr. Egnor added there are about seven cyber charter students that would qualify for this program and that he will be reaching out to in an effort to draw them back into our new program.

Mrs. Guido stated she is concerned because as a District we tend to be generous.

Acceptance of proposal from Artuso Construction Engineering Consultants for Geotechnical Investigation and authorization to proceed with stadium slope investigation

Dr. Wagner stated that this proposal is to investigate an issue that has come up with the land around the stadium and track and field at the high school. She provided pictures of the issue and would like to have the investigative work done to see if there is something we need to do to protect our land.

Mr. Kaczor asked if the proposal is to do borings.

Dr. Wagner responded yes.

Mrs. Beveridge asked if this was not part of the original proposal for the project.

Dr. Wagner stated borings were done for the track and field but not the area in question with issue.

Ms. Shank asked wasn't there a hold up with the conservation and that area back there.

Dr. Wagner responded that was not in this area.

Mr. Kaczor believes the issue is around the 10 or 20-yard line of visitor stands.

Dr. Wagner believes the issue runs about five sections of fencing and does not go past the 50-yard line.

Mrs. Guido asked if the Board accepts this proposal, will the results determine what the problem is, how to fix it and the estimated cost. She also asked about insurance on something like this. She also asked about insurance coverage if there is a bad storm and the hill slides and causes damage to track and field.

Mrs. Watson asked if results will also provide information on whether it is safe to use.

Dr. Wagner responded that the first recommendation was to fill the crevices and that was done but it happened again. She recommended proceeding with the proposal for next week so that we can determine the cause of the problem.

Mrs. Watson asked if we received quotes.

Dr. Wagner stated our architects obtained quotes for companies that provide this service.

Mrs. Watson asked if our architects are appointed annually.

Mrs. Callahan stated no, they were appointed several years ago as architect of record and are contacted as needed for services.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES - DR. EGNOR

Approval of Agreement with Family Counseling Center of Armstrong County for the purpose of providing child and adolescent partial hospitalization services for 2022-2023

Dr. Egnor stated this is a program that our families utilize closely and it is located in Leechburg. We currently have students there and will likely have additional students attend as needed for partial services.

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Special Olympics Pennsylvania to create a unified indoor bocce team

Dr. Egnor explained that this proposal is to have an indoor bocce team here at the High School which would be a PIAA team. The agreement provides that the Special Olympics cover the cost for the first two years of the program including payment for coaches and uniforms as well as a court and supplies. They also provide technical assistance and training as needed to get the program started. The District is responsible for creating a schedule and for transporting students to competitions. Teams can be up to eight students per team which must include at least half of the students having cognitive disabilities. This provides inclusion opportunities for our students. Mr. D'Angelo has worked closely with Hannah Cress, one of our special education teachers. It is a great opportunity and provides meaningful inclusion for students.

Mr. Kaczor asked if this will be a spring sport and where it will be held. He also asked if it is co-ed.

Dr. Egnor responded it will be a winter sport and could be held in a gym, cafeteria or large hallway because it is played on a hard surface. He stated yes it will be co-ed.

Mrs. Key asked who provides the coach.

Dr. Egnor responded we provide the coach and the Special Olympics will pay the cost.

Mrs. Key asked if we have people who will be willing to coach.

Dr. Egnor responded yes, we have two people who are interested and ready to roll with it upon approval.

Mrs. Watson asked if there is any bocce program that is not through Special Olympics.

Dr. Egnor stated he would have to ask Mr. D'Angelo but does not believe there is one other than the unified program.

Mrs. Watson asked about the \$1000 to pay toward one or more coaches indicated in agreement. She asked how much the District really needs from Special Olympics organization.

Dr. Egnor responded that the funds cover the cost that we will pay \$500 per coach. He stated that Special Olympics provides the supplies needed as well and the assistance with setting up the program and learning how to operate.

Mrs. Guido stated it sounds like we could have a program without the Special Olympics organization, but then it would cost the District more and they would not provide the support. She stated she thinks it is a fabulous program and is excited to support it with an affirmative vote next week.

Mrs. Watson stated that it is exclusive within its own culture.

Mrs. Guido disagreed and stated that at her school district it is so inclusive and supported by the entire school so it includes everyone becoming a part of the activity.

General board discussion ensued about inclusion and bigger picture.

Mrs. Beveridge asked about the four competitions and what other schools are doing this program.

Dr. Egnor stated Shaler, Franklin Regional and Hempfield School Districts.

Mr. Kaczor asked how many teams can you have.

Dr. Egnor responded he believes that we can have two teams.

PERSONNEL: Approval of Personnel Log – dated September 13, 2022 (Attached)

MOTION: Motion by: Mrs. Guido Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Northern Westmoreland Career & Technology Center Report - Mr. Kaczor/Mr. Vinkovich

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Report - Mrs. Watson

Mrs. Watson reported:

- September 8th was Superintendent Meeting for county Superintendents
- Early childhood services and transition work
- Curriculum services
- Matt Thomas met with the members of RAND corporation to conclude a project alert program
- Applying for mental health and physical security grants

PSBA Liaison Report - Mr. Deiseroth

BUSINESS - MRS. CALLAHAN

Approval of PSBA election voting for the following candidates as PSBA Officer/Trustees:

President-Elect: Michael Gossert
Vice President: Allison Mathis
Insurance Trustees: Kathy K. Swope -AND- Roberta M. Marcus

Mrs. Callahan explained PSBA requests that member boards cast a vote for officers at a public meeting. She provided the list of positions and candidates as well as candidate profile information as posted on PSBA site. Our District can vote for officers if Board members choose to officially approve any or all of the candidates listed.

Approval of Educational Services Agreement with Catapult Learning, LLC for Non-public Title I Services for 2022-2023 school year

Mrs. Callahan explained because our District receives Title I funds each year, we are required to use a portion of those funds to provide services to students from our District who are in non-public schools. This agreement covers those services and the allocated amount of \$2,285.

Approval of Request to Establish Student Activity Account – BHS Light

Mrs. Callahan explained that as required per Student Activity Fund guidelines and Board policy, any student group wishing to establish funds within the District operated Student Activity Fund must request approval. At this time, a student group BHS Light is requesting to establish an account. The request and explanation of the group was provided to the Board.

Communications

Requests for Use of Buildings

Payment of Bills

Additions to Agenda (Agenda Meeting only)

Mr. Kaczor asked the Board to look at policy 707 to allow Tri-City Soccer to use the High School field and stadium on Saturdays and Sundays at no cost since they can no longer use Valley High School's Field. He suggested to either approve a certain period of time at no cost or to revise Board Policy. He believes it would be good for our students since there are many who participate.

Mrs. Callahan suggested that some idea of the amount of days and hours needed would be useful for determining costs, etc.

Dr. Wagner stated a request for use of field with dates and times from the organization would be helpful if they want the Board to consider a request.

Mrs. Watson added that there is no boys middle school soccer team so those kids could go there and play so it would be for them as well.

Comments from Public

Cybil Federer, BEA President

- *Asked about field and any safety issue with students*

Dr. Wagner stated there is no concern about safety issue for students using the track and field at this point.

Courtney Kobelenske, Violet Drive

- *Excited about the bocce team and asked that Board members vote yes*
- *Inclusion Games: Highlighted some teachers and Board member volunteers who helped with the first event that she organized; 25 students from all over the area participated; a wonderful day; thankful that teachers who just started their busy stressful school year took their day to help*
 - *Volunteers: Hannah Cress, Deanna Lott, Justin and Brooke Miller, Tricia Shank*

William Marmo, Cayuga Trail

- *Stadium Field issue: As a former Board member when light poles were put on field approximately 30 years ago, recalls they were secured deep because there was 12 feet of fill so had to go down further*

Mrs. Key thanked him for that information.

Mrs. Key stated the Famers Market has four more weeks through October 8th which will be a Fall Fest.

Mr. Kaczor stated October 8th is also the car show for Burrell Band which will be held in Lot A and Lot B.

Dr. Wagner stated there is a homecoming dance on October 8th being held by student government.

Adjournment at 8:10 PM

MOTION:

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich

VOTE:

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion Carried



Jennifer S. Callahan
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

JSC/mls

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2022**

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 7:31 PM by President Pam Key.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mrs. Gretchen V. Beveridge, Mr. Timothy J. Vinkovich, Ms. Tricia Shank, Mrs. Nikki Watson, Mrs. LeeAnn S. Guido, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mr. Tom Deiseroth, Mrs. Jean Schager and Mrs. Pam Key

Board Members Absent: None

Quorum present

Others Present: Dr. Shannon L. Wagner, Superintendent, Mrs. Jennifer S. Callahan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Dr. Gregory Egnor, Director of Student Services, Dr. Autumn Turk, Director of Curriculum and Development, and Solicitor Lee Price

Student Representatives Present: None

Executive Sessions

September 13, 2022 – 6:45 PM - Personnel Agenda
September 13, 2022 – Immediately following meeting - Personnel Agenda
September 20, 2022 – 7:00 PM - Personnel Agenda and Other Personnel Matters

Approval of Minutes

Agenda Meeting – August 9, 2022; Regular Meeting – August 16, 2022

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Kaczor Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

- a. **Treasurer’s Report (Attachment 9-1)**
- b. **General Fund Report (Attachment 9-2)**
- c. **Capital Reports (Attachment 9-3)**
- d. **Food Service Reports (Attachment 9-4)**
- e. **Student Activity Reports (Attachment 9-5)**

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Kaczor Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Comments from Public - Agenda Items Only

None

Reports of Administration and Standing Committees

SUPERINTENDENT - DR. WAGNER

Student/Staff Recognition and Reports

Dr. Wagner reported/recognized:

- Shawn Liotta, Varsity football coach - honored at the Steeler game as the Pittsburgh Steelers coach of the week; Receives a \$1000 donation to football
- Sickle Cell Disease - Varsity football game will highlight sickle cell disease; Student athlete Nijere Floyd has sickle cell; District is supporting raising awareness
- Jennifer Callahan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary – PASBO PA Association of School Business Officials certify Business Professionals who demonstrate excellence; Recognized Mrs. Callahan as a Certified School Business Official; Dr. Wagner acknowledged her accomplishment and her work to support the education goals of the District financially; Presented a certificate from PASBO; Thanked Mrs. Callahan for the excellent work she does

GoFan Digital Ticketing Agreement with Huddle Tickets Information

Dr. Wagner stated the Board has been provided information regarding the Agreement. Mr. D'Angelo will attend meeting next month to ask for approval.

Mrs. Watson expressed her concerns with putting the cost on the District.

Mr. Kaczor stated it will be better if Mr. D'Angelo is here to answer questions.

Approval of Alle-Kiski Academy of Excellence Articulation Agreement with Derry Area School District, Kiski Area School District, and Hempfield Area School District for 2022-2023

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Kaczor Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich

DISCUSSION:
Mrs. Key stated one of the parents of a student that went through her preschool program stated that her son is having a better experience than eAcademy and that the program is excellent. She hopes it grows and develops more.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Acceptance of Proposal from Artuso Construction Engineering Consultants for Geotechnical Investigation and authorization to proceed with stadium slope investigation

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Deiseroth Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

DISCUSSION:
Mrs. Callahan stated that last week she was asked to verify with insurance carrier that there is coverage if the hillside would slide or collapse from a storm/mudslide. She stated that she was able to verify that the District has Earth Movement Coverage with a \$100 million limit so it would provide coverage for damages determined to be due to earth movement. Mrs. Callahan added that she will check again with the insurance carrier once we have results from investigation to see if any type of coverage for the current issue, but doubtful.

Mrs. Watson asked if this vendor actually does the work to fix any issue found.

Dr. Wagner responded no, they investigate the issues then it goes out for bid.

Mrs. Watson asked if we should be getting the workers to give a recommendation.

Dr. Wagner explained that the engineers review the issues to determine what is needed.

Mr. Kaczor stated that he believes it may be similar to an insurance adjustor for a car.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Approval of Revision to Substitute Teacher Daily Rates effective October 1, 2022 (Attachment 9-6)

Dr. Wagner stated that our substitute rates are currently in line or less than other districts so recommends adjusting the rate in order to try to secure enough substitutes.

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Vinkovich Seconded by: Mrs. Schager

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES - DR. EGNOR

Approval of Agreement with Family Counseling Center of Armstrong County for the purpose of providing child and adolescent partial hospitalization services for 2022-2023 (Attachment 9-7)

MOTION: Motion by: Mrs. Guido Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Special Olympics Pennsylvania to create a unified indoor bocce team (Attachment 9-8)

MOTION: Motion by: Mrs. Schager Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Key stated that there are teachers who are very excited about this program.

Mrs. Watson provided information that there are objections to the Special Olympics organization but stated that she intends to support this item because all are interested.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

PERSONNEL: Approval of Personnel Log – dated September 20, 2022 (Attached)

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Kaczor Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Northern Westmoreland Career & Technology Center Report - Mr. Kaczor/Mr. Vinkovich

Mr. Vinkovich reported:

- CTC Director retiring December 31, 2023
- Awarded \$24,000 grant for welding class
- Looking for an auto body instructor

Mrs. Guido asked about qualifications for auto body instructor.

Solicitor Lee Price responded that the instructor does not have to have teaching certificate.

Mr. Vinkovich stated one must have experience and have knowledge of their equipment. He stated the program includes collision repair and painting and estimating. He stated that there is a substitute hired pending clearances.

Mr. Kaczor added that there is a 10-year time period to obtain certification when teaching at CTC.

Mr. Vinkovich stated there are issues with the salary because typically having all the skills needed are making more working in the field.

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Report - Mrs. Watson

Mrs. Watson reported:

- Meeting next week

PSBA Liaison Report - Mr. Deiseroth

Mr. Deiseroth reported

- Pennsylvania Department of Education announced Act 1 index 4.1% for 2023-2024
- America 250 campaign:
 - Keystone classroom initiative
 - Special presentations through 2026

Mrs. Beveridge stated that New Kensington-Arnold School District has a person who does reenactments.

Ms. Shank asked if possibly the Social Studies Department head would apply for this.

Dr. Wagner stated Dr. Turk can look into this.

BUSINESS - MRS. CALLAHAN

Approval of PSBA election voting for the following candidates as PSBA Officer/Trustees:

President-Elect:	Michael Gossert
Vice President:	Allison Mathis
Insurance Trustees:	Kathy K. Swope -AND- Roberta M. Marcus

<u>MOTION:</u>	Motion by: Ms. Shank	Seconded by: Mrs. Schager
<u>VOTE:</u>	Roll Call: All in Favor	Motion Carried

Approval of Educational Services Agreement with Catapult Learning, LLC for Non-public Title I Services for 2022-2023 school year (Attachment 9-9)

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Deiseroth Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Approval of Request to Establish Student Activity Account – BHS Light

MOTION: Motion by: Ms. Shank Seconded by: Mrs. Guido
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Approval of Tri-City Soccer use of Stadium field at discounted rate

Mrs. Callahan explained that during Agenda meeting, Board member Mr. Kaczor requested that this item be added to the agenda for consideration. It is a request from Mr. Sean Guido, President of Tri-City Soccer, asking for the Board to approve use of the stadium and field at no charge. She stated as a reminder that the current Board policy identifies Tri-City under group 3 which results in fees. The request is for 13 Sundays for 7 hours each.

Ms. Shank asked about total costs for custodial fees.

Mrs. Callahan responded that the estimate based on information provided and current Board policy would be approximately \$4,186 to cover incurred custodial fees to bring in staff member and an additional \$4,550 for other fees per Board policy.

Mr. Kaczor suggested that the group cleans up themselves so no custodian would be needed.

Solicitor Lee Price mentioned it is a union issue that a staff member is required to be here.

Mr. Vinkovich asked if union would cause an issue if they were not called in to work events.

Dr. Wagner stated yes.

Dr. Wagner suggested that the District could possibly have an employee here to do some work that needs done during that time in order to be efficient and not absorb extra costs. She stated the Board could approve it now for this purpose and continue to evaluate this issue since other groups would want same benefits.

General discussion ensued about the use of the stadium.

Mrs. Guido stated she is concerned with the fact that we approved a tax increase and then to approve this would be absorbing additional cost of over \$4,000. She asked Dr. Wagner to clarify if an employee is called in to do other work that is needed, then that would not be an additional cost and Tri-City would not need to pay since the employee is doing other district work.

Dr. Wagner stated yes, that is the idea, but asked Mr. Ploskunak, Facilities Director to confirm that he could give them tasks to do.

Mr. Ploskunak, Facilities Director replied yes, he could probably find work for them.

Dr. Wagner suggested the Board consider approving for Tri-City to use the field for free for the 2 upcoming dates in October and have a custodian do work that needs done as best as possible and then District can try to come up with a solution that does not cost the District additional money for the remainder of the dates that begin in April.

MOTION: Approve Tri-City Soccer use of facilities at no cost on Sunday 10/9/22 and 10/23/22 in conjunction with custodian performing district work and to revisit additional dates requested in January 2023.

MOTION: Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Communications

Mrs. Callahan stated one item for review.

Requests for Use of Buildings (Attachment 9-10)

Mrs. Callahan clarified that the Building Use list prepared by Athletic Director, Mr. D'Angelo includes Tri-City Soccer and the Board already approved the two dates at no cost. The remainder of time requested and listed for Tri-City would be approved per current Board policy but could be changed prior to April date if the Board chooses at some point prior to April.

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Deiseroth Seconded by: Ms. Shank
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Payment of Bills (Attachment 9-11)

MOTION: Motion by: Mrs. Guido Seconded by: Ms. Shank
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Additions to Agenda (Agenda Meeting only)

Comments from Public

Jenna Golem, Donnell Road

- *AKAE program – positive feedback*
- *Volunteers – requested information on when paperwork must be submitted for volunteers to be approved next month*

Dr. Wagner responded that the volunteer application and the three clearances need to be submitted and if there is an event that the volunteer wants to attend before approval, the person can contact her office to determine if appropriate.

Mrs. Watson asked for information relating to booster organization costs and funding. She questioned who oversees them and how they run.

Dr. Wagner stated they run their own organization and can make their own decisions. They are required to report their expenditures for the year that gets included in the athletic report each year that is posted on website.

Mrs. Guido replied that booster groups should have meetings and go over those things so parents can address concerns and be part of the process.

Dr. Wagner added that the District is not responsible for booster groups and does not obtain information regarding the funding or fundraising they require of families.

Mrs. Watson expressed concerns with all of the fundraisers and students who may not be able to afford to participate. She expressed concerns and that maybe they should develop best practices.

Mrs. Key stated it is important as a parent to be involved and vocal about any decisions that booster groups make so that it can be addressed. She agreed that some of it is getting out of hand and financial burdens are real so she stated that people should speak up at those group meetings.

Mrs. Watson added that it seems to be a lot of emails, payments, fundraising, all of the time. She assumes she is not the only one who feels this way.

Mrs. Guido stated some groups are more expensive than others.

Mrs. Beveridge stated that this is not our item as a Board. She asked if there are bylaws for PTA or similar organizations.

Mrs. Key stated PTAs are governed by National PTA so they do have bylaws and it trickles down. She added that PTO is different and they can make up their own bylaws.

Mrs. Beveridge asked if there is some District requirement for the organizations.

Solicitor Lee Price stated boosters are their own organization and can do what they want. Mr. D'Angelo is only an intermediary, not the manager.

Mr. Kaczor suggested Mrs. Watson speak up because booster organization is basically their own board.

Jenna Golem, Donnell Road

- *Transportation issue last week with young students*

Nicole Edwards, Mintwood Drive

- *Transportation issue – young students were let off the bus at the incorrect place and parents had to go get them. Typical driver was not there.*

Dr. Wagner stated she will look into it because she has not heard anything.

Mrs. Key asked for information about the fall play.

Mrs. Guido stated it is the weekend after Thanksgiving and it is called *Once in a Lifetime*. It will be a cast of 35 students.

Mrs. Watson asked if there is a process for discussing the SEL program and how it is assessed.

Dr. Wagner stated we have a curriculum in place to help build emotional intelligence in our students. It is the Choose Love program that focuses on the pillars: courage, gratitude, compassion, forgiveness. It is done with grades K-12. She summarized how the program is implemented in each building and added that Mrs. Ameris, the District Behavior Specialist, oversees the program.

Mrs. Key stated that it would help if Mrs. Ameris came to speak about it.

Mrs. Watson agreed.

Dr. Wagner stated that Mrs. Roland and Mrs. Ameris talked about it a bit in June, but we could have them come back and discuss it further along with members of the student leadership group.

Mrs. Watson stated that it can be controversial in some areas, so she thinks it is important to discuss the potential arguments against the program as well to make sure we hear both sides. She stated that there are some concerns about what is happening with it.

Dr. Wagner stated that parent advisory would be the place to start with any concerns regarding curriculum. She stated there is a lot of political landscape that has warped the benefits of the program. She believes we cannot rely on families to develop students' emotional intelligence, so this program helps with that. She added that we are trying to teach the students to be critical thinkers, be able to solve problems, to be compassionate, and to understand having compassion for others.

General Board discussion ensued regarding opportunities, the program, the approach, the beliefs, and arguments and how to cover all of the items.

Dr. Egnor stated that Mrs. Ameris is undertaking an evaluation of the SEL program and how it compares to STAR data.

Mr. Kaczor stated that his children have learned more from SEL than they realize because they are able to deal with him in a way that is much better emotionally than prior to SEL. He asked if a parent who does not want their child to participate can opt out.

Dr. Wagner stated yes, any program that a parent does not want their child to participate in can be opted out and the student will be given an alternate assignment.

Dr. Wagner stated she appreciates Mrs. Watson asking for an evaluation of the program so that we have evidence to back up what we are doing. She stated that it is simply about building strong human beings.

Mr. Kaczor stated that the Administration is hired to do the work and the Board is only to assess and evaluate the program.

Mrs. Beveridge asked Mrs. Watson to explain what she wants.

Mrs. Watson asked if there could be another approval by the Board. She asked how are we assessing the program and she would like some feedback. She also asked are we looking at it from all viewpoints, objectively. She asked who does this and what does it look like.

Dr. Wagner stated we are working on evaluating the program. She stated they could share some information and an overview of the survey to inform the Board including the PASS survey that is done from 4th-12th grade.

Mrs. Schager stated she thinks the students who started SEL in Kindergarten will benefit the most by going the whole way through.

Mrs. Watson stated there are arguments regarding the survey and the questions and where the information goes and if it is necessary.

Jenna Golem, Donnell Road

- *Questioned SEL curriculum and if it is standard*

Dr. Wagner responded we use Choose Love curriculum and it is available for other schools and families. She stated that Mrs. Ameris then goes through the curriculum and determines how to provide the information so that part is not the same across the state. Our District started the program in 2018-2019 based on the emotional needs of our children so we began that journey earlier. The state is now recommending a SEL program be implemented in all schools at this point.

Mrs. Watson asked if state offers a certain amount of funding for other SEL programs.

Dr. Wagner stated that Title IV funding can be used because student wellness is one of the allowable uses of those funds. This year, recent funding is now directed toward mental health.

Mrs. Watson asked if SEL is mandated or required by the state.

Dr. Wagner responded it is highly recommended and will likely become mandated.

Dr. Egnor stated that the ideas are immersed in the educational standards and the preschool standards.

Adjournment at 8:52 PM

MOTION: Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge Seconded by: Mrs. Schager
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried



Jennifer S. Callahan
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

JSC/mls