

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2023**

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 7:25 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, Ms. Tricia Shank, Mrs. Nikki Watson, Mrs. LeeAnn S. Guido, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mr. Tom Deiseroth, and Mrs. Pam Key

Board Members Absent: Mr. Timothy J. Vinkovich and Mrs. Jean Schager

Quorum present

Others Present: Dr. Shannon L. Wagner, Superintendent and Mrs. Jennifer S. Callahan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Student Representatives Present: None

Executive Session

July 11, 2023 - 6:45 PM – Personnel Agenda

Comments from the Public - Agenda Only

None

Reports of Administration and Standing Committees

SUPERINTENDENT - DR. WAGNER

Approval of Revision of 2023-2024 School Calendar (Attachment 7-1)

Dr. Wagner explained there had to be a revision to the calendar to include two snow days since we are not able to use flexible instruction days. The calendar includes the addition of February 19 and March 18 as days off if there are no snow days.

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

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Kaczor asked what the last day for students will be.

Dr. Wagner stated June 6.

Mr. Kaczor stated that he does not like the fact that we are going later into June.

Mrs. Beveridge asked for clarification on the highlighted boxed Fridays.

Dr. Wagner stated they are early dismissals.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor except Mr. Kaczor voted NO Motion Carried

Permission to advertise for construction project bids: Air Conditioning at Huston Middle School

Dr. Wagner summarized the information provided regarding the potential air conditioning project at Huston Middle School. Architect of Record, Andreas Dometakis of HHSDR is here to explain further and/or answer questions.

Mr. Dometakis provided an overview of the potential construction project.

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Kaczor Seconded by: Ms. Shank

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Key asked about the potential timeline for air conditioning for other schools. She also expressed concerns over covering the cost.

Mr. Kaczor stated that this is why he wanted the Board to raise real estate taxes to the maximum amount to be able to increase revenue to cover costs.

Dr. Wagner stated that she asked HHSDR to look at Bon Air Elementary and the High School to provide estimates on costs of air conditioning projects at those schools as well.

Mr. Dometakis stated that the rough estimates on costs for air conditioning at the High School is about \$9.7 million for full air conditioning with system overhaul or about \$3.5 million for mini splits and classroom units. He stated that Bon Air Elementary would be approximately \$6.8 million for full air conditioning with system overhaul or about \$3.3 million for mini splits and classroom units.

Mrs. Beveridge asked if the Middle School project will disturb school or require closing school for construction.

Mr. Dometakis responded that the work would begin in April and end in August.

Dr. Wagner added that the work done during the school year would be mostly outside and not in classrooms so there would be minimal impact on students.

Mrs. Beveridge asked if the District can afford this project.

Mrs. Guido stated that she can see it is budgeted in the Capital Reserve Fund Budget for 2023-2024 with some other miscellaneous projects leaving a balance of about \$500,000.

Mrs. Callahan added that when we previously discussed consideration of this project in the spring, we talked about using Capital Reserve Funds to cover the cost. However, other school air conditioning projects beyond that will likely require a bond issue with a tax impact.

Dr. Wagner reminded the Board that the Middle School renovation project under a previous Board was over \$25,000,000 in cost and the additional cost for air conditioning at that time was approximately \$400,000. That Board chose not to proceed with that part. It is now estimated to cost over \$1,200,000. She added that air conditioning is now more of a necessity rather than a luxury - impacting the quality of education for our staff and students. Mr. Kaczor asked if we proceed with air conditioning in our buildings, will we consider other ways to schedule school in the future.

General discussion ensued regarding revising the schedule, year-round school, 4-day school weeks, trimesters, etc.

Dr. Wagner stated that she definitely wants to have meaningful discussions about those things and believes change is needed.

Mrs. Key asked Dr. Wagner to explain what the Board would be authorizing tonight by approving this agenda item.

Dr. Wagner explained this item is for permission to advertise but the Board would then still have to award the bids upon receipt in order to officially move forward with the project.

Mr. Kaczor asked if there are detailed specs for vendors.

Mr. Dometakis, Architect, responded yes there are specs that each vendor receives to use to prepare bids. He added that there is an add/alternate bid item included in bids if piping needs changed. The price estimates are without needing piping.

Mrs. Beveridge asked if the chiller goes on the ground or roof.

Mr. Dometakis stated it goes on the ground and weighs 300 tons.

General discussion ensued about the looks of the chiller and fencing, etc.

Mr. Dometakis stated fencing is included. He stated he is hopeful the District will receive bids. At this time, electrical contractors are not as available and since this is a smaller contract, large companies may not want to bid.

General discussion ensued about advertising requirements.

Mrs. Callahan indicated that the advertising will run in the Valley News Dispatch and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

OTHER ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL: Approval of Personnel Log dated July 11, 2023 (Attached)

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

BUSINESS - MRS. CALLAHAN

Approval of Capital Reserve Budget for 2023-2024 (Attachment 7-2)

Mrs. Callahan stated our Facilities Director had not prepared a Capital Reserve budget for the year in the spring, so she and Dr. Wagner reviewed items that need addressed and prepared the budget for Board approval. It includes new swim blocks, camera and security system, additional safety detectors, the Middle School air conditioning project, and stadium restroom upgrades.

MOTION: Motion by: Mr. Kaczor Seconded by: Ms. Shank

DISCUSSION:

Board members questioned the swim blocks and the total cost estimated at approximately \$40,000. General discussion ensued about the pool platforms regarding concerns with the cost, necessity, other potential options, etc.

Mrs. Callahan stated Mr. D'Angelo has requested new swim blocks. He indicated that they have been repaired several times, but because they are so old, it is getting more and more difficult to find parts and to keep them in good condition.

Board members stated they want more information prior to the District proceeding with the swim blocks.

Mrs. Callahan stated she will communicate this with Mr. D'Angelo and the Board can further discuss in August with Mr. D'Angelo.

Board members asked for details on the stadium restroom upgrades.

Dr. Wagner replied that they need updated including separating stalls with full partitions, and other upgrades.

Mrs. Callahan suggested that once a new Facilities Director is hired, they can also evaluate and recommend what is needed.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Comments from the Public

None

Adjournment at 8:11 PM

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

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried



Jennifer S. Callahan
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

JSC/mls