



## **Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

*Generated by Renai Cardillo on Monday, November 13, 2023*

**Members present:** Courtney Barbieri, Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, William Formica

**Others present:** Carleen Flansbury, John Franzen, Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Matt Montagna, Fran Masin-Moyer, Katie McCoy, Jeff Pammer, Michael Taylor, Sam Varano Megan Zweiback

### **1. Education-Personnel Committee**

Mr. Landis called the Education-Personnel Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. It was noted that Mr. Landis is the new Chairperson for the Education-Personnel Committee.

Director of Curriculum, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that the data being presented this evening is reflective of the Secondary program, noting that Elementary results would be reported at an upcoming meeting. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly shared a slide outlining the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and how those goals align with instruction.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly spoke briefly on learning loss and how it refers to any specific or general loss of knowledge or skills or reversals in academic progress. She indicated that during the first two years of pandemic-affected schooling, students made slower progress on math and reading test. This gap between where students are and where they would likely be without the pandemic is often referred to as "learning loss."

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also noted that learning losses are likely to show up differently across grades and subjects, with intensive recovery needs concentrated in the early grades among already struggling students.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also stated that studies have shown that a supportive school environment and strong teacher-student relationships speed recovery from learning loss, which Souderton has outlined in the most recent Comprehensive Plan. Those goals include cultivating belonging, strengthening mental health supports and services, and providing a strong education for all.

As Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed the slide presentation, multiple data points from state and national assessments were discussed. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly explained the complex results of MAP, PSSA, Keystone and National Norm RIT scoring. The desired result of student data is to show maintenance and growth in student achievement. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that use of real time data allows teachers to adjust their instruction immediately to benefit student growth.

Indian Crest Middle School Principal Mrs. McCoy spoke about establishing a sense of belonging in middle school, with a staff focus on supporting and connecting students. She indicated that academic growth is reflected in the secure learning environment. Mrs. McCoy also indicated that professional development focuses on instructional strategies to support teachers.

Indian Valley Middle School Principal Mr. Pammer spoke about the Multiple Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) which occurs in both middle schools and promotes co-teaching practices. In addition, Restorative Practices are taught in Advisory, promoting safe and nurturing classroom behaviors.

High School Principal Dr. Varano spoke to the implementation of a revitalized 5th Block program with primary focus on 9th grade students to assist in meeting their needs for time management, study skills, and purposeful conversations.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly closed the presentation reiterating the importance of meeting the needs of the whole child; social-emotional, academic, and behavioral in order to foster learning and achievement.

Mr. Landis and Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked administration for their work in the individual buildings. Mr. Landis reiterated the importance of the high level view of data and how it is utilized at the classroom level to improve student achievement.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that there is a wide range of need in various subjects due to the individual grade level impact of the pandemic. Some foundation skills were impacted which impede learning. Mr. Pammer spoke to the different types of interventions performed based upon the variable needs of the students. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also spoke about professional development among teachers in like grade levels which allows them to pinpoint particular areas of study that students may be having difficulty.

Mr. Keith asked about the growth of middle school math achievement and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that the shift of standards and pivots of instructional practices shows that students are responding well to the changes. Mr. Keith asked about the sharing of information between middle schools and Principal McCoy indicated that a shared staff developer works with both middle schools and administration simultaneously.

Mr. Keith also asked Dr. Varano about challenges that the high school is facing and Dr. Varano responded that mental health concerns remain prominent and that the High School has created an in-house support system for students to support as well as facilitate additional assistance when needed.

Mr. Nelson reinforced and praise for Pathway 360 program. Mr. Nelson also expressed concern for teacher health and wellness.

Mr. Formica asked about teacher evaluation and Dr. Hey explained how the PA Department of Education has a rating system based upon the reports from each classroom in every school.

A member of the audience asked about the learning loss and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that one of the things that makes learning loss so challenging is how each family and each student were impacted in very different and individual ways.

Mr. Landis adjourned the Education-Personnel meeting at 7:43 P.M.

## **2. Operations Committee**

### 2.1 Approve Oak Ridge Facade Remediation Bid

Operations Committee Chairperson Mr. Brong called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 7:50 P.M.

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Taylor reviewed the bids that were received for the Oak Ridge Elementary School Brick Facade Remediation. A slide presentation was presented which showed the project objectives, and goals as well as photos of the existing deteriorating brick. The presentation reviewed the base bid and alternates as well as a construction schedule for spring 2024.

Mr. Taylor also reviewed a letter of recommendation from Godshall Kane O'Rourke Architects to award the contract for Oak Ridge Facade Remediation to Penn Builders in the amount of \$1.5M. Mr. Taylor asked for questions and stated that the administration is suggesting approval at the November 16 Board Action Meeting.

Mr. Brong stated that all Board members had the opportunity to visit Oak Ridge and saw first hand the need for the remediation project. Mr. Keith and Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked the administration for their work and for bringing this project to a resolution.

The Committee agreed to move forward for a vote on Thursday at the November 16 Board Action Meeting.

### 2.2 Approve Paving Bid

Mr. Taylor continued to review the slide presentation outlining the objectives of the proposed paving projects at Indian Valley Middle School and Franconia Elementary School. Mr. Taylor indicated that the proposed paving at Indian Valley is all new paving for the entire site after building construction is completed. Alternates included the replacement of the gravel track with cinders and the demolition of the old tennis courts - replacing them with paving to create basketball courts and pickle ball courts.

The proposed paving at Franconia Elementary School is to provide new paving for the entire site after construction is completed.

Slides were shown showing specific detailed locations of proposed paving at each school. A brief discussion occurred regarding the specification of full depth paving and it was explained that it is necessary to accommodate bus traffic and is preferred over patching asphalt.

Mr. Taylor noted that a pre-bid meeting was held on October 5th, 2023 and bids were opened on October 19, 2023, from seven vendors. It is the recommendation of the administration to accept the base bid from Barker & Barker of Bethlehem, PA in the amount of \$1,301,691.

Mr. Taylor also stated that the administration is recommending the rejection of the alternate #1 for cinders on Indian Valley track, alternate #2 for Indian Valley tennis court refurbishment, and alternate #3 for Franconia playground resurfacing.

After some discussion the Committee has agreed to seek out estimates for paving the Indian Valley Middle School track at a later date and to move the recommendation to approve proposed paving projects to Board Action.

### 2.3 Multi-Purpose Field Discussion Update

Mr. Taylor stated that a district meeting was held with Franconia Township and the Montgomery County Conservation District to discuss the possibility of developing a multi-purpose field on the high school campus. He stated that the meeting went well and no rejections were heard. The next step of the process would be to receive zoning approvals prior to submitting a land development plan.

A brief discussion occurred about site development and wetlands restrictions. The Committee agreed to proceed forward to seek zoning approvals.

Mr. Brong adjourned the Operations Committee Meeting at 8:29 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Taylor, C.P.A.  
Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs