

The Steelton-Highspire School Board met on the above date for the purpose of planning and developing the agenda for the regular meeting of February 20, 2019 with the following members present: Ms. Janice Elliott; Ms. Joyce Culpepper; Ms. Paula Sviben; Ms. Natalie Bowman; Ms. Karen Harris; Ms. Rachel Slade and Ms. Mary Carricato. Also present were Mr. Travis Waters, Superintendent; Mr. Vincent Champion, School Solicitor; Mr. Mick Iskric, Jr., Assistant to the Superintendent; Mr. Michael Simonetti, Business Manager; Ms. ShaQuita Burton, Board Secretary; Ms. Kate Gallagher, Senior High Principal; Mr. Terry Martin, Junior High Principal; Mr. Brian Woodfill, 8th Grade Math Teacher; Ms. Amanda Walk, 8th Grade English Teacher; Mr. Dustin Owen, 8th Grade Science Teacher. Attached is a copy of a list of names of the members of the public who were present.

Ms. Slade called the meeting to order at 6:51 PM

The meeting opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag”.

Executive Session

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATION

The first presentation was an academic achievement over the year from the school district, the first presenter was done by Ms. Megan Byrnes. The first was academic growth in reference to different programs that are now offered. Also Ms. Byrnes spoke about half day kindergarten and this year we have full day kindergarten and also we went from 3 classes to 5 classes. The academic growth between last year’s test scores at the beginning of the school and the middle of school year. Also from last year to this year we had increased education levels and decreased discipline incidents. Mr. Waters stated that he is trying to speak to senators and governors about how the empowerment fund are helping pay for. The state also spoke about paying for kindergarten, starting full day kindergarten is very important in education growth of the student’s long term. There are social and emotional growth involving music, assemblies, and parent and family engagement activities to promote a family atmosphere. This year we are doing a lot of social educations and lessons and we have different programs that come in to work with different students for many different reasons. Last year at this time we had 229 in school suspension now we are at 107, last year at this time we had 90 out of school suspension this year we are at 38, last year we had 1,447 referrals or write ups, this year we are at 560. While the number are definitely dropping as I believe as the kindergarten classes get older and because we

have so much to offer and education ally they are inclining, the discipline will decline, and when these kindergarteners are 4th and 5th grade these numbers we be really low.

The second presenter was Ms. Kate Gallagher and she presented the achievements and changes involving the high school. Ms. Gallagher stated, that her first part of her presentation was in reference to the Spring Keystone testing last year 7.3% Algebra, 3% Biology, 13% Literature passed. To change these numbers we implemented winter keystones to give the students extra opportunity to pass the test. We changed the structure of our math department to help the students have a better math education and opportunity to pass the test. You know longer wait until their senior year and have to pile up all the math cases. The students will take Math Algebra 1-A and you only got Algebra 1-B if you pass the first class, no more waiting until the next year. This will also help them do better on the keystones. Next year there will be an intervention class for all high school students and the intervention class will be based off what area the student needs help in. Lastly there was a student who asked for an achievement award ceremony, which we did and the turnout was great. We also have received a few donations for giveaways for A's and believe it or not the students loved it. Ms. Slade stated that this was a definite hit because parents were posting pictures of their students with their awards. Mr. Waters wanted everyone to know that we are working with teachers who leave the district in the middle of the school year or after the school year starts so the substitute teachers we get are not necessarily specializing in the class that they are teaching. As far as emotionally and social growth, we are trying to help our teachers understand trauma, cultural awareness, and several other topics. We had a specialist come in by the name of Steve Porr, who taught our staff different ways to deal with students who have social and emotional problems. As far as behavior and discipline two years ago 16-17 school year we had 728 major, last year we had 692 and this year we have 300 so far. In 16 -17 school year we had 292 write ups that led to in school suspension, last year we had 162, and this year so far we had 78. By looking at the numbers the numbers are lower which lets me believe that we are on the right track.

The third presenters were the junior high school representatives, the first to speak was Mr. Martin he spoke about the PVAS data, the averages are broken down in several different levels we are trying to keep our children moving forward. The first presenter to speak would be Mr. Woodfill who is the 8th grade Math teacher, then Ms. Walk our 8th grade Reading and ELA teacher will speak, than Mr. Owens our 8th grade science teacher will speak. Mr. Woodfill started off by saying that middle school is the transition period, but we need to bridge the gap between foundation skills into high school. The first goal was to break the cycle, therefore I started using an individual math curriculum because we had students all over the map. I started a program called ALEKS, over the last three years that I been doing this program we have been doing a great job at making sure that are students are not following off. As far as Keystones, we have been able to have our students who are a little more advanced can pass the Keystones early on. We have at least 12 students to take the Keystones before they get into high school. We have

split the Algebra 1 and 2 classes with the high school and it is working. We are hoping to improve and as the years progress we will have more students taking Algebra 1 sooner. The second presenter was Ms. Walk, stated a lot of success is dealing with relationship building. The test that is reflected is reading comprehension, I try to make sure that I do work with them to build their confidence. One of the areas that we need help with is writing, most of the students in 8th grade have a 5th or 6th grade writing level. Doing better at the elementary level will help once they get to 8th grade. As far as the TDA's we need to get away from text, in TDAs they have to pull text or quote from the passage to prove their point of what they are saying. Mr. Owens was third presenter and he started off by stating that last year was he first year that we as a school met the State's standard in Science. Meeting the standard was a huge accomplishment, but this was met because of several reasons; 1. We haven't had earth science in middle school at all but earth science is a part of the PSSAs so the students were being tested on area that they have not been introduced to, but now Earth science is being taught 2. The emphasis on reading has changed in the school and the science portion of the PSSAs are very reading based, so with the students doing more reading based instructions it makes the reading portion of the test easier to take as well as Math. 3. Incorporating Science Fair in the classes, by doing the science fair it helps the children mask areas in which they are typically struggling with but by doing these projects the student has to do each part of the science steps that are tested on the PSSAs. Mr. Martin finished by stating that we restructured our schedules and input an elective e in the schedules so we could add a STEM class for those students who did well on their testing to give them another avenue for their education.

The second presentation was by Mr. Richard Soto who spoke about the progress of the 12 students at Phase 4 and also about the 1 student who is transiting into the intake program. Three out of the 12 students are transitioning back into the school this week. We review with Mr. Slade before any student is transitioned back into the school. We had a student who was acting out because they didn't want to do the work on the computer so we called in Mr. Slade, the student, and the parents to figure what we need to do to support the student and figure out what is the proper support for the student to be successful. One student finished early and he received his diploma and he will be enrolling in college. 2 students that we are helping to get into a vocational trading school. Wanted to come and say thank you for your business and the students are great and we hope we can continue to work with your school for help of the children.

FOLLOW UP

Mr. Waters stated, there is movement in the state legislation, that is stating if a student wants to go to Cyber School, and the home district offers their own cyber school then the parent will have to pay for their student to attend another cyber school, this will help our school district. The Cyber School is not free and this is one of the reasons everyone's taxes are increasing. Also I am

trying to set something up where everyone can send their dates in and we can set up meeting and dates through that system.

Mr. Waters stated, the Sharks they use our field for football games and they need to practice and they wanted to know if they can use the field without paying the entire daily rental fee. Is there any cost to the school district, we have staff that is working anyway during the day so they can go and unlock the field for them.

Ms. Carricato made a motion to amend the price for the Sharks for the two days indicated for practice for \$100 each day. 2nd by Sviben. Second by Ms. Elliot. Ms. Carricato, Ms. Bowman, Ms. Harris, Ms. Elliott, Ms. Slade, Ms. Sviben, and Ms. Culpepper *All voted aye on roll call. (7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent)*

REVIEW OF REPORTS
CURRICULUM REPORT

No Report.

FINANCE REPORT

Financial reports for November 2018 General Fund, Cafeteria Fund, Student Activities Fund, and Athletic Fund will be brought forward for approval at the Legislative Meeting on February 20, 2019.

PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS REPORT

Personnel will be brought forward for approval at the Legislative Meeting on February 20, 2019.

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

No Report.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES REPORT

Student Activities Report will be brought forward for approval at the Legislative Meeting on February 20, 2019.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Personnel will be brought forward for approval at the Legislative Meeting on February 20, 2019.

PUPIL SERVICES REPORT

No Report.

PROPERTY AND SUPPLIES

No Report.

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

No content

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's report will be brought forward for approval at the Legislative Meeting on February 20, 2019.

Special Reports

- A. Athletic Association: Brief meeting tonight update at the next meeting
- B. PSBA Representative: Will update at the next meeting about a training.
- C. HACC: no report
- D. CAIU: no report
- E. Strategic Planning: Committee need a board member for comprehensive planning
8-10 am on the 27th, Ms. Slade volunteered
- F. Buildings and Grounds: no report
- G. Discipline: Mr. Waters will set up a meeting even for discipline there is a list
- H. Budget Planning: Working on it
- I. Policy: Met with Doug Brown and spoke to Brenda briefly. Our idea is to do
adhok meeting, sit down and give each other our dates, what going on, invites,
etc.
- J. Negotiations: no AFSCME cancelled the last one.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Brenda Hoerner, my platform for my position is about the students and the children. Initiatives I am working on Wednesdays 1-4 June 19 - August 14 ages 7-14, with a summer reading program at the playgrounds. October 19 I have a health and resource fair scheduled in Highspire.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM on a motion by Ms. Carricato. Second by Ms. Harris. All members present voted aye.

Steelton, Pennsylvania

February 13, 2019

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ShaQuita Burton

ShaQuita Burton, Board Secretary