

Work Session Poland Board of Education held February 7, 2024

A Work Session of the Poland Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the McKinley-Poland Middle School Connector, 47 College Street, Poland, Ohio.

President, Dr. Dinopoulos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members present for roll call and answering their names were Mr. Sabrin, Dr. Dinopoulos, Mr. Riddle, Mrs. Elia, and Mr. Warren.

Tour: Poland Middle School

Discussion of Tour – A lengthy discussion was held regarding the tour of the Poland Middle School. All board members, some administration and members of the community went on the tour. Discussion/comments were as follows:

- Larry Dinopoulos – Work with the Architects and the Experts moving forward to meet are long term needs.
- Jeff Sabrin – Agrees with prioritizing and understanding the reality of our funds and developing a plan to do the best within our funding available.
- Larry Warren – Prioritize and find out the cost of those priorities and then explore the options to accomplish those goals.
- Gregg Riddle – Important to watch our cash flow and focus on renewals to ensure passage of renewals. Utilize the OFCC, federal monies and options. Explore all funding options available to the district. Believes a budget is necessary first and then move forward. There has been a commitment to maintain the middle school.
- Michelle Elia – Reminded everyone that all facilities discussion needs to be about ALL students and not just the areas that are not accessible for students with disabilities. Expressed concern that renewals must always pass. Applauded the staff for their accomplishments in not ideal situations. Decisions must allow for growth.
- Craig Hockenberry – There are 225 – 4-year-olds live in Poland attending nine (9) preschools. Unsure of how many are coming to Poland as kindergarteners; could present an immediate issue. Our target number (KDG) is 170 students, more than 170 is an immediate issue. March 2 and March 9 – Kdg. Registration dates. If more than 170 students enroll for kindergarten, major commandeering would need to take place. Enrollment projections indicate a large bubble coming through. Investing in personnel for class size reductions. Grade 6, 7 and 8 are larger class sizes, need additional classrooms.
- Larry Dinopoulos – March work session? Moving work session to March 13th and Regular meeting to March 20th
- Bob Mastriana – Architect/Poland Resident– Commented that students attending neighborhood schools are back in and perform well. The citizens of Poland do not want to lose the historic buildings we have. Recalled the conversation with Supt. Hockenberry about how students would be distributed if all schools were utilized. Commented about replacing

roofs by utilizing solar panels and utilizing government funds. Expressed that these decisions should not be rushed.

- Missy Broderick – Commented on concern with commandeering technology and library and other specials. Also, commented about the district’s method of communication to voters regarding levy renewals
- Chappie Bair – Expressed that the districts’ levy renewal levies are not a given. Concerned that people will vote emergency levies down so their tax will go down considering recent reappraisal in Mahoning County.
- Community Member – Expressed that 6th grade with 7-12 on same campus is not a good idea from social emotional or mental standpoint.

Treasurer - Janet Muntean

- Tuesday, March 19 EMERGENCY LEVY/RENEWAL – Treasurer Muntean reviewed the upcoming levy renewal process and presented the facts pertaining to the levy renewal which will be on the March 19, 2024, ballot.
 - This renewal was first placed on the ballot in the 1980’s
 - It has renewed six (6) times – 5-year increments
 - The renewal generates approximately \$1,068,055 annually
 - Board Resolution #1 – Adopted November 15, 2023
 - November 22, 2023 – Millage certified at 1.77 mills
 - Board Resolution #2 – Adopted December 13, 2023
 - December 15, 2023 – Certified documents filed with the Mahoning County Board of Elections
 - January 29, 2024 – Ballot proof was reviewed and approved
 - All emergency levy renewals are included in the total district general fund operating revenue as presented in the five-year forecast.
 - All district Emergency Renewals are used for district operating expenses.
 - The district would have only one (1) more opportunity to renew this levy should it fail on March 19, 2024.
 - Without passage, collections will end in the calendar year 2024.
- Fair School Funding Plan - Non-Profit WorkGroup Formation - Membership Discussion – Treasurer Muntean shared information regarding the newly formed Non-Profit WorkGroup for the Fair School Funding Plan.

Superintendent - Craig Hockenberry

- GR. 6 Discussion
 - Superintendent Hockenberry spoke with all administrators and 6th grade teachers to get feed back
 - Pros
 - Instructional alignment and collaboration with teachers
 - PSHS designed well.

- Curriculum and access to foreign language and advanced courses.
- Cons
- 6-7 additional classrooms would need to be added.
 - High cost of this additional space
 - The current 7/8th grade wing could not be utilized, reconfiguration would need to take place.
 - Grades 4-6 have block scheduling.
 - HS schedule goes from 90 minutes to 45 minutes.
 - Seeing slight downward trend on test scores
 - Additional parent concerns adding 11- and 12-year olds.
 - Grades 4-6 in current setting, extremely high achieving.
 - Move would result in other grade bans movement, socialization issues, bussing, possible master schedule concerns.
- Poland Schools Foundation Dinner of Excellence March 7, 2024 – Tickets are available.
 - Review HR Timeline & anticipated postings for March 14, 2024
 - a. GR. 1 - Retirement
 - b. GR. 3 – Class Size Reduction
 - c. GR. 6 – Class Size Reduction
 - d. GR. 7-8 – Class Size Reduction
 - e. GR. 7-8 – Class Size Reduction
 - ERC recommendation discussion -Evaluation Review Committee – Recommend amending Board Policy so accomplished teachers could utilize a cycle rather than being evaluated each year. Our current board policy is antiquated. The state does not require or mandate. Approximately 70 out of 120 teachers are accomplished. Sample amended policies will be forthcoming for reviewing.
 - Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024 – Decision needs made regarding April 8th due to the timing of the eclipse. Time of eclipse is scheduled at approximately 3:16 – 4:20 p.m., which means Poland students will be either walking home or in route on a bus at this time.
 - Options include:
 - Schedule/Call a Calamity Day
 - Earlier dismissal
 - No School – Waiver Day – Would require amending the calendar.

At 8:28 p.m., Mrs. Elia moved, and Mr. Riddle seconded with all members present signaling aye to enter executive session to consider matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes.

Reconvene and Adjourn Work Session

At 9:15 p.m., Mr. Riddle moved, and Mrs. Elia seconded with all members present voting aye to reconvene and adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Treasurer

President