

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2024**

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 7:04 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, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mr. Tom Deiseroth, Mrs. Jean Schager and Mrs. Pam Key

Board Members Absent: Mrs. LeeAnn S. Guido

Quorum present

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

Student Representatives Present: Jason Wagner

Executive Sessions

January 9, 2024 – Immediately following meeting - Personnel Agenda
January 16, 2024 - 7:00 PM - Personnel Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Agenda Meeting – November 14, 2023; Regular Meeting – November 21, 2023
Reorganization and Regular Meetings – December 5, 2023

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

Student Representatives Report

School Director Recognition

Termination of Agreement with KAN Investigation and Security Agency LLC effective December 22, 2023 Guards

Dr. Wagner explained that Officer Noble with KAN has indicated that due to health issues, he must discontinue the service provided to the District.

Dr. Wagner reviewed the details of the agreement regarding notice of termination.

Approval of Agreement with Kelly Morrissey, Contractor for School Security Guards

Dr. Wagner stated one of the gentlemen providing work under KAN, Kelly Morrissey, is interested in picking up the contract. He has worked evening events and meets all of the criteria. He has met with Administration at Bon Air and we are recommending approving a contract with him through June 2024. She stated that she would like to get him started right away, so she is recommending approval this evening.

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

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Watson asked if Mr. Morrissey was originally working for us through KAN.

Mr. Kaczor stated yes, he worked at some of the football games and the kids seemed to like him.

Mrs. Watson suggested doing a longer term agreement.

Dr. Wagner stated that Chief Marhefka also stated that he is comfortable with this person.

Dr. Wagner stated will likely pursue that with the budget process but federal funding grant ends this fiscal year.

Dr. Wagner also explained that she is looking for an event security agreement and has a vendor that submitted a proposal. She will likely ask the Board to approve that agreement next week.

Mrs. Watson asked about the officers' background.

Dr. Wagner explained that they have to have all of the required trainings in order to be in these positions as armed guards in a school.

Mrs. Beveridge asked about future funding for safety items.

Mrs. Callahan replied that the 2023-2024 state budget items were recently finalized and includes funding for safety and security and mental health through various grants. We will be applying for additional funding to continue this service for additional years if possible.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Permission to place two student teachers from Carlow University at Bon Air Elementary for the Spring Semester 2024

Dr. Wagner stated we will be adding an IUP student at Huston Middle School for approval next week as well.

Mrs. Watson asked if they get paid.

Dr. Wagner responded no.

Acceptance of one Foreign Exchange Student from Slovakia at Burrell High School for 2024-2025 school year through AFS Intercultural Program

Dr. Wagner explained this is one of the approved agencies that we accept students.

Approval of First Reading of Revisions to Policy 210 – Medications

Dr. Wagner stated these are policies that are being considered for revisions.

Dr. Egnor stated that the policies are in need of revision based on PSBA recommendations.

Mrs. Watson asked for highlights and strike throughs to see what is different in the policy.

Student Representative, Jason Wagner asked what is the basic idea of the changes.

Dr. Egnor stated it is about permitting things like epi pen, etc.

Mrs. Callahan asked Dr. Egnor to explain how he provided documentation of changes.

Mrs. Watson stated she wants to see differences.

Dr. Egnor stated most all of the language is changed so he provided a new recommended policy along with the prior existing policy.

Mrs. Watson would like to see the differences side by side.

Mrs. Key provided input as a nurse, she believes that students should be provided information about what they are taking and why. She believes that should be part of the policy.

General discussion ensued regarding self-administering and students learning and the information provided.

Mrs. Key added that she is talking about the other students not the self-administering.

Approval of First Reading of Revisions to Policy 210.1 – Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Dr. Egnor summarized the policy changes.

Approval of First Reading of Revisions to Policy 819 - Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response

Dr. Egnor summarized the policy changes.

OTHER ADMINISTRATION - DR. TURK / DR. EGNOR

Finland Trip Information

Dr. Turk stated that next week she will be providing some information about the trip and the educational information.

Adopt ELA Resources: Amplify CKLA grades K-5 and Amplify ELA Grades 6-8 effective for the 2024-2025 school year

Dr. Turk presented the following information regarding the recommended resource adoption:

- the committee make up - includes representation from multiple grade teachers and administrators
- the resource review process and steps taken since June 2023
- used reading leagues and Board policy curriculum review tool
- commended the committee for their substantial time and effort
- Evaluated the following:
 - Amplify CKLA (K-5)
 - Wonders (K-5) with ECRI Overlay (K-2)
 - Amplify ELA (6-8)
- Reviewed the Reading League Curricular resource evaluation guidelines and the alignment with the science of reading
- Reviewed the surveyed teachers which resulted in 88.5% that chose Amplify CKLA for K-5

Dr. Turk asked some of the teachers to share and/or answer questions.

ELA Coach Alicia Rupert stated that she is excited about the chosen resource.

Mr. Kaczor asked if they believe it will make it easier to work together rather than individually in classrooms.

Mr. Kaczor thanked the teachers for putting in so much time and that it will hopefully make a difference for the students.

Mrs. Watson asked if there are any concerns that the teachers have about the choice.

Morgan McClafferty stated that when she first saw Wonders it was being supplemented substantially. The biggest barrier will probably be the rigor jump. She believes the teachers will be learning along side the students.

Mrs. Watson stated that this is new even at the places visited so it would be hard to assess how it is working. She asked for any perspective on the unknown and moving forward.

Pam White stated that she sees Wonders as a repeat of what we have always done and Amplify is really a great way to meet the needs of every child and how to teach that and it aligns with LETRS so it is everything you would want to see. If we can't change, we will just be stuck in the same place, so it feels like this is a great series to move forward with. It provides teachers with all of the different things they will need for small grouping, differentiating, etc. and all of the things that teachers have had to do on their own. So now all children will have the same opportunity.

Mrs. Watson thanked Mrs. White for her summary.

Mrs. Watson asked if we will have some educator feedback on things and if they are working.

Dr. Turk stated she will do staff surveys twice per year, so it gives them opportunity to provide feedback and to ask for coaching or Professional Development. Amplify provides some Personal Development built in so it will

provide support the first 2 years. She added that the quality of the teacher resources was much better than others that they have seen. She explained that teachers are often going to other places to get those additional resources.

Mrs. Watson asked if there are ways to communicate with the parents if they would want to understand the process in a way that they can help their child at home.

Dr. Turk explained that for each unit there is a caregiver letter that gives the family information and conversation starters, etc. She will send information to parents at the beginning of the year about the new resources and new series.

Amy Lenart, Bon Air Principal, stated she will continue with Title I because it is specific to assessing entire population, so the data goes back years that can be compared. She stated we have always had a process to follow when adopting a series, but this is the most thorough that she has ever experienced. She explained that it is important that the teachers need to be ready to go to instruct students with it next year. These teachers know great ways to teach, so she feels confident that they will be able to use this to support what they are teaching. She commended Dr. Turk for her guidance in the process and thanked the committee for the time and effort.

Dr. Turk showed a glimpse of the teacher side.

Mrs. Watson asked for confirmation that this will include print and not go all to digital.

Dr. Turk explained that the 5 year agreement includes both print and digital. She showed examples of a few different options that the system can do to be interactive.

Mrs. Watson asked if there is a specific standard on writing/reading and how much they should be doing paper vs digital.

Dr. Turk stated there are recommendations that exist. This curriculum teaches the handwriting alongside with the letter sound and use, so it is intentional about handwriting being important. It provides consistent ways of how to write and form letters. Dr. Turk added that it is about integration.

General discussion ensued about handwriting and cursive.

Pam White added that it is intentional in the 2nd grade portion of the new resource.

Alica Rupert added that there are little books for the kids with some workbooks and it is a smaller/lighter form of resources so it is not a big heavy book for little ones to take home.

Dr. Turk summarized:

- Recommended Amplify ELA for grades 6-8
- 78% of the teachers chose Amplify ELA as top choice
- 7th grade team likes what they currently are doing so not quite ready for the change
- Provide 100 minimum day standards coverage so that provides them time to do that

Ms. Shank asked if there is an opportunity to get copies of full text at upper levels.

Dr. Turk stated that there are a lot of passage readings and there are 2 novels. There is a trade book library with so many titles and it is digital. Novels read in class are actual books.

Dr. Turk suggested that Ms. Kaufman would likely search for it if requested as well.

Ms. Shank asked if there are kids at the High School who need this level for reading.

Meghan Nese stated that there is not currently a High School component so it will be a challenge because some of this material is above level. It will provide more foundational and background knowledge and more rigorous vocabulary. We would then look at it potentially for the High School later on. She believes that having this in the Middle School will benefit the students.

Ms. Shank asked if it can be used in the high school for students who are in need of additional support.

Dr. Turk stated that we are purchasing license numbers which tie to a specific building, but she will look into it further. She believes that the teams can collaborate and share information between teachers for those High School students who might need some support. Dr. Turk provided some information on the ELA topics in 8th grade as an example.

Mrs. Watson asked if this would change the number of novels the students are currently doing.

Dr. Turk responded not necessarily but we don't want to be doing what we were previously doing and not using the full resource. She stated she will check into that and the passage based studying helps with deep dive thinking content and then students can pull the full novel to read if interested.

Dr. Turk provided the cost summary which was a total one time \$420,000. She showed the cost of items that will no longer be needed so it will decrease.

General discussion ensued about the costs, etc.

Mr. Kaczor asked if we usually pay for it all up front.

Mrs. Callahan responded yes, since it is not an annual operating cost, and is a large amount, we typically use the fund balance for these kinds of purchases. She recommends doing that for this purchase as well.

Mrs. Watson asked does this obligate us to any type of surveys, etc.

Dr. Turk replied no.

Mrs. Watson asked is there any kind of guarantee if we are not satisfied and are both 5 year contracts.

Dr. Turk replied no and stated that change takes 3-5 years to see effects so it is important to implement with fidelity. We can then look at the data after that.

Dr. Turk stated we can get a better rate by doing a multi-year purchase because the cost would be much higher if not.

Mrs. Key thanked Dr. Turk and all the teachers for their time and research. She appreciates that they are trying to make the education better for the kids and stated that teachers deserve the help and support in the classrooms.

Dr. Turk stated that the committee was very consistent and it was all voluntary time. She believes they are an exceptional group and feels strongly about the decision.

Mr. Kaczor thanked them for coming to the Board meeting and spending their time. It shows their support for the program.

Approval of Agreement with Westmoreland Intermediate Unit for Use of Funds IDEA-B for the 2023-2024 school year

Dr. Egnor stated these are yearly agreements of special education funds under IDEA, the law that governs special education. This is an allocation of the funds and it goes through the IU to the District. This is the larger amount which totals \$348,000.

Approval of Agreement with Westmoreland Intermediate Unit for Use of Funds IDEA-619 for 2023-2024 school year

Dr. Egnor stated this is for use of funds totaling \$700 which is used specifically for certain purposes.

Mrs. Beveridge asked for specifics for the funding use.

Dr. Egnor stated that the IDEA-B is for pretty much any costs for special education students and IDEA-619 is specific for kindergarten and pre-k so we use it for autistic support materials for kindergarten and some of the costs of pre-k requirements.

Approval of Addendum to Individual Student Enrollment Agreement with Wesley Family Schools for Kindergarten Readiness Program for 2023-2024 school year

Dr. Egnor stated this is for a specific student program for students who need additional preparation for Kindergarten. We have experienced students not being ready so this program assists by providing additional supports. He explained there is not a special education qualified student at this time, but it is to provide support.

Mr. Kaczor asked if we could start a pre-school at Burrell School District to offset the cost.

Ms. Shank asked if this is a case where a child needs the other services at this kind of placement.

Dr. Egnor stated that sometimes students do not need to be there for an entire year, sometimes it is for several weeks.

Mr. Kaczor asked if payment is for full semester.

Dr. Egnor stated we get a monthly bill and it is prorated on a daily rate.

Student Representative Jason Wagner stated that he is familiar with Wesley. He asked is this for students who are developmentally delayed.

Dr. Egnor stated in the last few years we are having more students not prepared for kindergarten and it is then falling on the Kindergarten classroom. This program helps provide them skills in a smaller environment and they can provide a psych evaluation if needed. It is all to help set the students up better.

Mrs. Key referenced that if we could develop a pre-k program to help students learn how to be students before they come into kindergarten, it would be wonderful. We would possibly then pick things up earlier for these kids.

Mr. Kaczor suggested there are likely families who can't afford pre-k.

Dr. Turk stated that she will discuss this further in her Finland trip information.

Dr. Egnor added that the state provides some pre-school and it is not universal.

Dr. Wagner stated that successful building blocks for education includes pre-school for everyone.

General discussion ensued about early intervention, pre-k programs, funding and costs and the significant impact on education.

Mr. Kaczor stated we should consider offering it even if it is funded by parents. It may help get the students on the path of where they should be earlier.

Dr. Turk referenced proposed legislation HB 957 that could require pre-k for all school districts.

PERSONNEL: Approval of Personnel Log dated January 16, 2024

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

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Report - Mrs. Watson

PSBA Liaison Report - Mr. Deiseroth

BUSINESS - MRS. CALLAHAN

Approval of budgetary transfers

Budget 2024-2025 - Tentative Timeline Review

Mrs. Callahan stated she provided the tentative 2024-2025 budget timeline for the Board. The process started in November with the review of the Act 1 index and will continue through June when the Board will be asked to adopt the final budget. She stated she tentatively set the Budget workshop for Tuesday, March 26 which is the public meeting that is devoted solely to reviewing all of the details of the draft budget. She stated as we face a decrease in federal funding this coming year and likely no substantial natural growth in real estate revenue, we may have some difficult decisions to make so it is important to have some additional time to work through that in April and May. She added that the Board would be asked to adopt the proposed budget at the Agenda meeting in May and then will make the final changes to discuss in June and the Board will be asked to adopt the final budget at the June 18 Board meeting.

Mrs. Callahan stated that the timeline shows the process includes work and input from several groups. Principals work with teachers and department heads to determine what is needed instructionally and administrators are responsible for the oversight of the building and department budget requests. Dr. Wagner reviews every account budgeted in detail and Mrs. Callahan compiles the revenue and salary/benefits and other District related contracted/legally obligated costs. So, a lot of time and effort goes into the budget preparation and it gets reviewed and adjusted multiple times to develop draft for the Board to then review in detail and provide input and make decisions over a 3 month period prior to finalizing the budget and any real estate tax increase.

Communications

Requests for Use of Buildings

Mrs. Callahan presented the building use requests for the Board's approval as prepared and recommended by Mr. D'Angelo, Athletic Director who manages building use per current Board policy.

Payment of Bills

Additions to Agenda (Agenda Meeting only)

None

Comments from Public

Leslie Walton, President of Swim Team Boosters

- *Speaking on behalf of varsity swim team*
- *Wants to discuss co-op agreement with Kiski*
- *Did not know about it until after so would like to discuss next week*

Kate Spiering, Parent

- *Looking for guidance about speaking to the Board about the Swim Team co-op with Kiski*
- *Concern because no knowledge or communication with parents by anyone at District*
- *Not certain that co-op is right decision for all swimmers so would like to pursue other options or co-ops*
- *Concerns discussed by Mr. D'Angelo and Dr. Wagner about pool and boiler and cost impact and failed inspections*
- *Many questions needed answered*
- *Team is small and it is hard to build it up but the 8 students are dedicated and working hard*
- *Want to see the students have the best experience and want the potential to be there for the kids*
- *Seems didn't explore options and ideas and grants before merging with Kiski*

Rachel Sassani, Parent

- *This is impacting not just the 8 kids on swim team, but will impact all students in the District regarding swim class and learning how to swim*
- *Wants to find out how to keep a pool and a swim program in the District for the students at Burrell*

Mrs. Key thanked them and recommended they bring questions/concerns to the Board at meeting next week.

Adjournment at 8:47 PM

MOTION: Motion by: Ms. Shank
VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich
Motion Carried



Jennifer S. Callahan
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

JSC/mls

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2024**

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 7:37 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 Andy Evankovich

Student Representatives Present: None

Executive Sessions

January 9, 2024 – Immediately following meeting - Personnel Agenda
January 16, 2024 - 7:00 PM - Personnel Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Agenda Meeting – November 14, 2023; Regular Meeting – November 21, 2023
Reorganization and Regular Meetings – December 5, 2023

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

Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

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

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

Comments from Public - Agenda Items Only

Mrs. Key stated since there are so many people here for swim she offered to let them speak now rather than wait. She asked them to please keep speaking to a minimum and to state name. She also referenced that there are 2 pieces of communication regarding swim for Board review.

Chloe Walton, Senior, swim team

- *Swim team – mental aspect of the sport*
- *Difficulty of sport and commitment*
- *Discipline, time management skills that will last the rest of her life*
- *Learned so much from coaches, teammates, and sport*
- *Supports swim team at Burrell*

Morgan Swahn, Senior, swim team

- *Swim has taught her so much*

Emma Spiering, Sophomore

- *Importance of swimming and the sport*
- *Certified Lifeguard and referenced importance of knowing how to swim*
- *Urged Board to save the pool and team*

Joseph Roos, Freshman

- *Would like to know what if pool breaks and why maintenance not done to support pool*

Andrew Beveridge, Sophomore, swim team

- *Joined Swim and learned so much already*

Lily Sassani, Sophomore, swim team

- *First year swimming with team*
- *Truly beneficial*
- *Hopes future generation have the fun and ability to continue*

Byler Spiering, Freshman

- *Doesn't love to swim, but believes it is important to swim*
- *Swimming is helping him*

Sheena Walton, 7th grade, swim team

- *Middle School swim team, happy having the opportunity to swim*
- *Thinks Double A would be better than Triple A with Kiski*

Leslie Walton, President of Swim Team Boosters

- *Requested meeting with Administration but feels unsatisfactory plans and answers*
- *Hopes that information provided will allow discussion and unresolved issues will be met with options for students*
- *Asked why students were not involved in the co-op decision*

Mrs. Key referred questions to Dr. Wagner.

Dr. Wagner stated Mr. D'Angelo came to the Board in October to request having Middle School students swim as a club with Kiski to help build the program since numbers are down significantly.

Dr. Wagner stated we are also dealing with pool issues, so Mr. D'Angelo talked with the swim coach and then discussed it as an option that evening in November 2023.

She explained Kiski was chosen because it would not increase their level from Triple A. This was provided as an option so the team can still swim while we look into the pool issues and get some answers on what will be needed to sustain the pool. The Board will then have to consider what is needed, but this allows the students the ability to have the team with Kiski for the 2 years.

Dr. Wagner added we are looking at all options while still providing options to students.

Discussion about Highlands using our pool.

General discussion ensued about various other swim teams and ways to build teams.

Kate Spiering, Parent

- *Perception that Swimming has been de-prioritized in this community and this District*
- *Wants to make sure Board has information about the support that the community has for the program*

Dr. Wagner thanked her for the information and stated the Board will have all the information to make any future decisions.

General discussion ensued about the boiler and chemicals and piping issue and inspection.

Dr. Wagner confirmed that the District has until July 2024 to renovate the boiler issue and where it sits in relation to the pool. They had originally given her 30 days but she requested extension.

Kate Spiering, Parent

- *Pool is a valuable resource and the health and well being of swimming to youth and adolescence that carries over to adulthood*
- *Wants to work with the Board and District leaders to find a way to continue the pool and swimming*

Derrick Christopher – Highlands Assistant Swim Coach

- *Discussed the state inspection information he found online*
- *Suggested a variance request*

General discussion ensued about the inspection and/or certification and a variance.

Dr. Wagner responded that the variance does not apply to us since it was replaced since installation and the state indicated it would not necessarily approve the variance due to this.

Erin Roos, Parent

- *Questioned how the installer of the boiler put it in a place where it should not be*
- *Questioned who in the District is in charge of the installation and placement*
- *Believes that a variance would apply*
- *Believes someone should be accountable*

Mr. Kaczor explained that the rules changed since it was installed.

Ms. Shank stated the Board does not install or inspect boilers and she asked Dr. Wagner to clarify why this issue exists and when was it installed.

Dr. Wagner provided detailed information about the boiler and the issue.

Erin Roos, Parent

- *Indicated support for co-op with Kiski because it pushes the students to be better*
- *Expressed concerned that District dropped ball on maintenance done on the pool*
- *Expressed frustration that pool has not been maintained appropriately*

Mrs. Key reminded public that only residents of the District can speak at the meeting.

Rachel Sassani, Parent

- *Students push themselves by being in a lot of different activities*
- *Appreciate the co-op option if unable to have District swim team*
- *Concern with time of Kiski practice 3:00-5:00 after school which conflicts with other school activities in the arts such as drama and marching band*

Diane Swigart, Coach at Burrell and at Valley, parent of a swimmer, was a swimmer

- *Expressed concern how to grow Burrell team if co-op with Kiski*
- *Not uncommon to have students who are new to swimming*
- *Swimming is individual sport – you against the clock; type of students who swim*
- *Urged Board to reconsider*
- *Wants to know if Valley was asked; Coached there for years.*

Dr. Wagner stated we don't know the amount or what all is needed so it could be a major issue and bigger expense. So before moving the boiler, we are looking at the other issues to see what is needed. We are trying to get all of the information to make an informed decision based on all the facts.

Kate Spiering, Parent

- *Questioned the inspections and schedules*
- *Asked about money in budget to fix pool*
- *Suggested looking at grants and other creative options*
- *Requested that the Board revisit the co-op*

Dr. Wagner stated the Department of Labor and Industry does the inspection. They contact the District and show up the next day. She explained that our pool has been maintained by our Facilities Department. She stated that if our pool would go down mid-season, we would ask another school to allow our swimmers to use their pool. We have provided that opportunity to other schools over the years.

Lisa Paglia, Parent

- *Daughter is Middle School swimmer, thanked Board for that opportunity*
- *Works in special education, questioned if current students have IEPs regarding swim, should be considered*

Lilly Walker, 2009 graduate and swimmer

- *Requested price to fix pool*
- *Suggested football and wrestling higher on list of District support*

Dr. Wagner stated according to our Board policy the District provides uniforms, equipment, and transportation for all sports. Other things provided are through booster groups.

General discussion ensued regarding other sports and other District facilities used and maintained as well as how costs for major repairs are covered.

Ms. Shank stated that this Board views swimmers and families with respect. She was a swimmer and she stated she understands their feelings. However, she said every group feels neglected but the District provides the same things across the board.

Mr. Kaczor stated that the turf field is a stadium field – used by many sports and students daily. He added that at this time, the response is that we don't have all of the information relating to the pool needs and costs so we can't make a decision on the long-term pool plans.

Erin Roos, Parent

- *Discussed locker room issue during basketball game*
- *Swimmers had to leave locker room for a basketball game*
- *Concerned with swimmers having equal rights as other sports*

Samantha Callen, Head Swimming Coach

- *Discussed pool challenges*
- *Discussed locker room sharing and swimmers being kicked out of locker room by an opponent coach; Stated that she spoke with Mr. D'Angelo to address the issue*
- *Many people have been positively affected by swim team*
- *Team has existed since 1963*
- *Wished team would have been approached about the co-op*
- *Asked to discuss co-op and other options to remain a Burrell swim team*
- *Requested adding District Middle School swim team*
- *Swim is an important life safety skill*
- *Requested adding a District Middle School swim team*
- *Swim doesn't feel as important as other sports*
- *Requests Board void the co-op agreement and include swim proponents in the options*
- *Indicated team is willing to travel, but want support for what is best for students.*

Maura Johnson, 2016 graduate and swimmer

- *Found news of co-op and potential decision to close pool disheartening*
- *Swimming skills and friendships have continued into adult life*
- *Discussed the health benefits of swimming*
- *Indicated benefits outweigh the costs*
- *Suggested Board consider everyone's opinions*

Mr. Vinkovich stated the Board did not decide to close or fill in the pool or disband swimming.

Mrs. Guido added that every decision made was to prevent Burrell NOT having a swim team. She stated that the Board listened to what Coach Callen stated at the prior meeting. She indicated students needed to feel connected so the Board added that the Co-op would include a Burrell coach. She stated that the Board saw the options as having a swim team with limited options or temporarily join forces so that students could have more opportunities while sending the coach with the students for 2 years.

Mrs. Guido stated that the information and opinions provided tonight have convinced her to see if there are other ways to save the pool and/or District swim team. She explained however, that if people come to a budget meeting and/or came to budget meeting in prior years, people would hear that we raise taxes to provide things needed for students and continue to operate at a deficit. We do not have additional natural real estate revenue coming in and have lost revenue from large commercial property tax appeals.

Mrs. Guido continued that we do not have all of the information needed regarding the pool and what is needed at this time, but she believes that if repairs are approximately \$45,000, we would likely find a way to do it. If we are talking about \$300,000 it may need to sit. We believe we put a contingency plan in place supporting the swim community as best we can at this point.

Mrs. Guido stated that the speakers have been heard and that the Board values them and sees the positive impact of swim. We don't want to raise taxes. We are happy to hear viable options and we will consider them.

Mrs. Key added she doesn't care if it is 2 kids or 100 kids on a team. All of the kids and what they do matter. She stated she knows it is the Board's responsibility to try to keep the swim team going. We need all of the information we can get to make sure we can make the decision as fiscally responsibly as we can. It is important what the kids feel and think. It means a lot to hear from them. She stated we will see what we can do and come up with.

Mrs. Beveridge added if you know of any grants, we will look at them and to send them to her.

Mrs. Key added to also send any ideas for younger feeder program.

Dr. Wagner stated boosters do the summer camps for the other sports programs.

Leslie Walton

- *Concern with the start time of practice at Kiski if co-op proceeds*
- *Concern with students being pulled from school each day*

Dr. Wagner stated the start time is a logistical item that athletic directors and coaches would work on and decide. She stated it is a legitimate concern.

Erin Roos, Parent

- *Would like swim to be in Burrell yearbook*

Dr. Wagner replied that other clubs and similar groups are in the yearbook.

Reports of Administration and Standing Committees

SUPERINTENDENT - DR. WAGNER

Student/Staff Recognition and Reports

Dr. Wagner reported:

- Thank you from Bon Air Elementary for Jordan Perry, Prevention Specialist; grateful for the work he is doing at the school
- Students at Stewart raised \$3,020 for Children's Hospital with holiday market; Instead of Santa's Workshop, the students make/bring and sell items and the money goes to Children's Hospital
- Parent expressed appreciation – On Dec 21st the day of the tragic event and sad loss of a community member, a parent was at Stewart Elementary during the event and lock down; She sent written message that she witnessed staff spring into action with confidence and efficiency; She expressed appreciation of the faculty for keeping the kids safe
- An article in the paper recognized the District; a family was here at High School for pre-school program during call for lock down in December; Situation was handled quickly, calmly and efficiently; Recognized how quickly the police and District acted to protect the safety of the students and faculty; Thanked everyone for making safety of the children the priority
- Commended our faculty and administration for the work done to keep kids safe

Student Representatives Report

None

School Director Recognition

Dr. Wagner thanked the Board members for their time devoted to the role and for listening and navigating the world of education. This Board and District have always had the best interest of the kids. We don't always agree, but we do what is required to put kids first.

Dr. Wagner provided certificates to Board members and a token of appreciation.

Termination of Agreement with KAN Investigation and Security Agency LLC effective December 22, 2023

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

Approve Agreement with Kelly Morrissey, Contractor for School Security Guards

Dr. Wagner stated this agreement was approved last week.

Permission to place the following student teachers for the Spring Semester 2024:

- Two student teachers from Carlow University at Bon Air Elementary
- One student teacher from Indiana University of Pennsylvania at Huston Middle School

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

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Watson asked if they are recommended from teachers or from the school and is there a relationship with the college.

Dr. Wagner responded yes, we have affiliation agreements with the schools and we welcome student teachers in our District to help.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Acceptance of one Foreign Exchange Student from Slovakia at Burrell High School for 2024-2025 school year through AFS Intercultural Program

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

Approval of First Reading of Revisions to Policy 210 – Medications (Attachment 1-6)

Dr. Wagner stated it is the first reading of the policy and that the document is compiled to show all changes in the language.

Dr. Egnor added that Mrs. Key asked about being able to provide information to students and we will have it ironed out by final reading.

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

Approval of First Reading of Revisions to Policy 210.1 – Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors (Attachment 1-7)

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

Approval of First Reading of Revisions to Policy 819 - Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response (Attachment 1-8)

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

Approval of Security Services Agreement with RIP USA subject to Solicitor approval of form

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

OTHER ADMINISTRATION - DR. TURK / DR. EGNOR

Finland Trip Information

Dr. Turk stated she will report on this at the next meeting.

Adopt ELA Resources: Amplify CKLA grades K-5 and Amplify ELA Grades 6-8 effective for the 2024-2025 school year

Dr. Turk and committee members presented information at the Agenda meeting. She clarified that grades 6-8 currently read 3-5 novels per year and a lot of short stories and Amplify is pretty similar. It is pretty comparable and Middle School teachers were cognizant of it.

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

DISCUSSION:
Mrs. Watson asked if there will still be books in hand novels.

Dr. Turk responded yes there will be both print and digital for all stories.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Approval of Agreement with Westmoreland Intermediate Unit for Use of Funds IDEA-B for the 2023-2024 school year (Attachment 1-9)

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

Approval of Agreement with Westmoreland Intermediate Unit for Use of Funds IDEA-619 for 2023-2024 school year (Attachment 1-10)

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

Approval of Addendum to Individual Student Enrollment Agreement with Wesley Family Schools for Kindergarten Readiness Program for 2023-2024 school year

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

Approval of Agreement with Serendipity Speech Solutions for Virtual Speech-Language Therapy Services (Attachment 1-11)

Dr. Egnor explained that we have approximately 34 students who qualify for speech but have not yet received services since we have not been able to secure a speech pathologist. WIU typically provided a person for the itinerant services to fulfill all of the needs. They have not been able to staff it this year. It is now a common issue across the state of Pennsylvania because there is a shortage. This agreement allows us to quickly have a qualified SLP pathologist to provide services as soon as possible.

MOTION: Motion by: Mrs. Guido Seconded by: Ms. Shank

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Beveridge asked what level of care these student need.

Dr. Egnor responded the majority of the students receive service increments of 30 minutes a few times a week with either individual sessions or group sessions, but most are individualized.

Mrs. Beveridge asked is it face to face or online.

Dr. Egnor stated it is virtually but face to face. It is an accepted and approved model from ASHA (American Speech and Hearing Association) to provide speech services. It is very affective.

Mrs. Guido stated she is on the fence about virtual therapy but reading research has found it is sweeping the nation. She also asked about adult supervision of the students for virtual sessions.

Dr. Egnor thinks this can allow for current teacher to be in the room. For other ones such as individual sessions, adults in the building can assist with that and most of the students are 4th and 5th graders so they could be alone.

Mrs. Watson stated she is glad we have something to fill the need. She would not want the virtual to be a long term option. She stated is okay to supplement the service but not take the place of it. She advocates for in person as much as possible. She understands the model and believes it is helpful but advocates for in person support.

Dr. Egnor stated he agrees and believes it is a short-term fix to a long-term problem. He added that the agreement goes through end of school year and into ESY.

Mrs. Key stated she is not in support of virtual sessions for most learning sessions. She does not think children learn as well over the computer as they do face to face. She stated she is glad that this is not intended to be long term plan.

Dr. Egnor again stated that it is an accepted model and the advantage to have someone quickly is very helpful and necessary.

Mrs. Schager asked about the term of the agreement.

Dr. Egnor responded it is through the end of this school year and through ESY.

Mrs. Watson asked is there a price difference between in person and virtual.

Dr. Egnor stated because it is an accepted model, it is the same price.

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

PERSONNEL: Approval of Personnel Log dated January 16, 2024 (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

Mr. Kaczor reported:

- Reorganization Meeting in December; New Treasurer – Tim Vinkovich, New President – Rick Kaczor, Vice President – Kathy Snyder from Kiski
- Accepted the audit report
- January is the first month the new Director, Dr. Hicks was on his own; expects good things to come

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Report - Mrs. Watson

Mrs. Watson asked Mr. Rice to report.

Mr. Rice reported:

- Alice training done at NWCTC Friday

PSBA Liaison Report - Mr. Deiseroth

Mr. Deiseroth reported:

- HB 957 – preschool and kindergarten
- House not going in session until March 18
- Representative Jill Cooper town hall January 25 at Kinloch firehall from 6:00-8:00; if you have questions, email to Tom and he can ask

BUSINESS - MRS. CALLAHAN

Approval of budgetary transfers (Attachment 1-12)

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

Budget 2024-2025 - Tentative Timeline Review

Mrs. Callahan provided the 2024-2025 budget timeline. As mentioned last week, the process begins in November and continues through June when the Board is asked to adopt the final budget. The Board already approved the Resolution indicating that we will not exceed the index, which as you know is set at 6.9% equating to about 7.5 mills of taxes. We have tentatively scheduled the Budget workshop for Tuesday, March 26 to spend a public board meeting going through all of the details of the first draft of the full budget for the next school year.

We are facing a substantial decrease in federal funding this coming year and likely no substantial natural growth in real estate revenue as well as substantial increased costs due to the additional and different needs of students which have grown substantially in the past 2 years.

Communications

Megan Koscianski

- *Hopes Board listens to speakers and sees the support for our swim team and pool*
- *Asks Board to find a solution that will benefit everyone*

Courtney & Emma Kobelenske

- *Hope the pool and swim team are saved*
- *Pool is vital and meaningful to more kids/parents than you know*

Requests for Use of Buildings (Attachment 1-13)

Mrs. Callahan presented the building use requests as prepared and recommended by Mr. Drake D'Angelo, Athletic Director who oversees building use per Board policy.

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

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor Motion Carried

Payment of Bills (Attachment 1-14)

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

VOTE: Roll Call: All in Favor except Mrs. Guido abstained from item 88887996 and 88888034
Motion Carried

Additions to Agenda (Agenda Meeting only)

None

Comments from Public

Erin Roos

- *Questioned shortage of speech therapist*
- *Suggested Carlow has a program and possible internship type program*

Dr. Egnor explained that their route is different than teachers. They have to get clinical hours. There are typically many graduates but they seem to be going into private practice rather than education.

Mrs. Guido asked does our current speech person have certification to supervise.

Dr. Egnor responded not yet, but when she has level 2, she could supervise.

General discussion ensued about the requirements of speech and language pathologist.

Kate Spiering

- *Indicated that SLPs are drawn to the clinical world so recruiting is important*

Adjournment at 9:36 PM

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

Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge
Motion Carried



Jennifer S. Callahan
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

JSC/mls