



WORK SESSION

03/03/2025 [07:00 PM-09:00 PM]

WORK SESSION

1. Call to Order

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge to the flag.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Minutes

Melanie Gurgiolo (President), Meredith Bowen, Josceylon Buchs, Neil Connelly (Vice President), Randall Gale, Melissa Howard, Greg Lamay, Karen Mallah, Geoffrey McInroy, Dan Serfass (Superintendent) and Kerry Martin (Secretary).

All members were present.

Community/Staff Attendees are available on the attached list.

4. Remarks

4.a. President

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that there was an executive session of the Budget, Finance, and Personnel Committee following its February 25th meeting and that an executive session of the Board was held prior to this evening's meeting to discuss the Superintendent's goals and a possible legal matter.

4.b. Superintendent

Minutes

Mr. Serfass shared that he attended the regularly scheduled Borough Safety and Security meeting with Mrs. Gurgiolo and Ms. McNamara where they discussed student safety issues on roads around Hoover. He highlighted that Camp Hill wrestling received the Mid-Penn Conference Sportsmanship award and shared

that mini-THON took place this past weekend. He also shared that History Day was held with nine student projects going on to the state competition.

5. Information Only

5.a. Student Liaison Report to the Board

Minutes

Mr. Baturin shared his student liaison report with the Board.

5.b. Camp Hill mini-THON Presentation

Minutes

Mrs. Bauman recognized the mini-THON leadership and the students' work to fundraise and prepare for Camp Hill's mini-THON event over the past year. She shared that the District was recognized as a top ten fundraiser in recent years. She highlighted that the planning team will have seventeen seniors graduate this year out of a team of 25. She highlighted that \$110,845 was raised through this school year's fundraising. Mrs. Bauman also recognized the Board and community for its support of mini-THON.

Mrs. Gurgiolo recognized Mrs. Bauman for her vision and leadership surrounding the event.

Students Hayden Ziegler, Quin DeCavalcante, Kate Bruder, Cate Johnson, Ian Lentz, Dylan McInroy, Kate Chaplin, Jack Bender, and Austin Shore shared their experiences leading the Camp Hill mini-THON fundraising and event this year.

Mrs. Gurgiolo gave a shout out to all of the students for their work in preparing and carrying out the event.

5.c. Tenure

Minutes

Mrs. Russell outlined the requirements for a teacher to be awarded tenure and shared that Sara Benson, Special Education Teacher at Camp Hill Middle School/High School, has met the requirements for tenure.

5.d. Stock and Leader merges with Saxton and Stump

Minutes

Mr. Serfass shared the February 28th press release announcing the merger of Stock and Leader with Saxton and Stump. He shared that this will expand education services to Camp Hill School District and confirmed that Mr. Pahowka and Ms. Say will continue to support the District following the merger.

5.e. Budget Overview

Minutes

Mrs. Martin shared a budget preview with the Board. She shared that the Act 1 index is at 4.0% and that the Board passed a resolution in November 2024 not to exceed the index for 2025-26. She shared that administration continues to review the budget and review staffing plans. She shared that Earned Income Tax and interest earnings are leveling off after recent growth and highlighted that, although health insurance costs will not finalize until April, we anticipate an increase in costs of at least 8.18%. She also

shared that administration is anticipating one-time expenses from fund balance for a curriculum purchase and the use of the Giant funds.

Mrs. Martin shared information regarding the Governor's proposed budget, including a \$75 million increase for the Basic Education Funding (BEF) formula, a \$40 million increase for Special Education Funding (SEF), a \$526 million increase in adequacy/tax equity investment formula, an \$11 million proposed increase for physical and mental health/targeted grants, and a \$125 million increase for school facilities improvement grants. She pointed out that two funding areas--cyber charter reimbursement and PlanCon funding and Hold Harmless--were not included in the proposed budget for 2025-26. Mrs. Martin also shared that there is a proposal to set a \$8,000 base tuition for cyber charter schools. Mrs. Gurgiolo asked for a comparison between the Governor's proposal for 2025-26 and previous years. Mrs. Martin shared that this proposal represents the smallest proposed increase for BEF in ten years, other than the COVID year. She also shared that the proposed increase in special education funding is also the smallest since 2014-15 with an increase in SEF funding to the District of \$44,482 from last year.

Mrs. Martin presented charts showing overall expenses for the District compared to state and federal funding. Mr. Serfass pointed out that this slide is good to share with legislators in an upcoming meeting.

Mrs. Martin shared the known changes for the 2025-26 school year include an increase of \$890,000 for salaries and benefits; a \$60,000 increase in energy costs; a \$42,975 increase in CTC costs; a \$400,000 increase in charter school costs; and a \$77,000 increase in safety costs, which includes evening security and crossing guards. She shared a potential small increase of \$50,000 in interest earnings, and a proposed but unknown increase in state revenue. She shared that administration is hoping for the return of the cyber charter reimbursement funding.

Mrs. Martin shared that there is still moving pieces with the budget planning, including medical benefits, EIT, and state funding. She shared that a proposed budget will be brought forward to the April 1st Budget, Finance, and Personnel Committee meeting and then shared with the full board in April. She highlighted that each 1% tax increase generates about \$150,000 and an increase to the Index will generate about \$630,000. She shared that reassessments and appraisals have been discussed at previous committee meetings with resulting decreases in assessed value. She pointed out that the 4% increase in salaries will increase expenditures by \$890,000.

Mrs. Martin shared the breakdown of revenues and expenses and pointed out that 77% of revenue is from local sources and 73% of expenditures are salaries and benefits.

Mrs. Gurgiolo asked Board members to review the slides again following the meeting and reach out to Mrs. Martin with questions. She also highlighted the role of the Lion Foundation and its impacts on student opportunities.

Mr. Gale asked about charter expenditures and the comparison to cost of educating a student in the District. Mrs. Martin shared that the District spends about \$20,000 per student. Mrs. Gurgiolo pointed out that we pay charter school tuition even for kindergarten students even though their attendance in school is not mandated by the state and that she will share this information with the local legislator.

Mr. Lamay pointed out that we should not spend money just because it is available. Mr. Serfass shared that the District is conservatively reviewing expenses to see what the District's revenue needs are. Mr. Lamay pointed out the surplus as of the end of several previous years. Mrs. Martin shared that she is planning to review where the District is in the current school year versus what was budgeted for in the current school year to assist in the budgeting process for next year and shared that she does not anticipate

a significant surplus because charter school expenses will exceed what was included in the current year's budget.

Mr. Lamay thanked the administration for the work put into the budgeting process.

6. Report of Committees

6.a. Athletic (Mr. Gale)

Minutes

Mr. Gale shared that there was no February Athletic Committee meeting and that the next meeting is scheduled for March 13th.

6.b. Budget and Finance/Personnel (Mrs. Buchs)

Minutes

Mrs. Buchs shared that there will be an advocacy meeting tomorrow with the District's state representative to discuss potential funding changes. She thanked the District administration for the work put into tightening expenditures given limited funding increases. She shared that many of the items discussed at the February meeting will be up for discussion in this evening's meeting.

6.c. Building and Grounds (Mr. Lamay)

Minutes

Mr. Lamay shared that the February 24th Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting was cancelled and that the next meeting will be held on March 31st at 7:30 AM.

6.d. Community Engagement/Governmental Relations (Dr. Mallah)

Minutes

Dr. Mallah shared that there was no meeting in February but that the Committee will meet in March.

6.e. Curriculum and Extracurricular Activities (Mr. Connelly)

Minutes

Mr. Connelly shared that the Committee met on February 13th and that the meeting minutes are attached. The next meeting will be on March 20th.

Mr. Connelly shared his thoughts about the Latin program and shared that both Mr. Snider and Mr. Ziegler reported on its status as a part of the Committee meeting. He pointed out that administration and Board appreciate the value of Latin and all of the other languages offered, and that parents and students should be able to choose the language they wish to take. He pointed out that he is unaware of the source of the understanding that Latin is on the "chopping block" and that in-person instruction is preferable to online instruction. He shared that the request to end the seventh grade exploratory class was made by the World Language teachers to allow students to take Level 5 languages five days per week and that the course was only changed due to that request. He shared that the current group of World Language teachers are now requesting that the exploratory course be reinstated but that the recommendation came in too late to be implemented for the 2025-26 school year but will now be considered moving forward. He highlighted the tradeoffs of reinstating the exploratory course and shared that enrollment numbers will continue to be

reviewed as changes are considered moving forward. He expressed appreciation for the messages and Board comments from the community and highlighted the responsiveness of Mr. Serfass to community requests to discuss the issue.

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that the Latin program and exploratory course has been discussed at previous Board meetings and the Curriculum Committee meeting and shared that Mr. Serfass has invited concerned community members to meet with him. She pointed out that there are potential trade-offs for any changes moving forward to both the exploratory language course and Level 5 courses. She shared that there would be concerns over the impact on students should administration move students out of their first choice language course to level language class enrollment numbers. She highlighted that the School Board trusts the District's administration and the Superintendent to make decisions based on what is best for scheduling and students.

6.f. Policy (Mr. McInroy)

Minutes

Mr. McInroy shared that the Committee met on February 10th and the minutes from the meeting are attached. He shared that the next meeting is scheduled for March 10th.

7. Policies

7.a. First Read

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that Policy 226 Searches; Policy 702 Gifts, Grants, Donations; Policy 718 Service Animals in Schools; and Policy 911 News Media Relations are being brought forward for a first read at tonight's meeting.

7.b. Second Read

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that Policy 106 Guides for Planned Courses and Policy 107 Adoption of Planned Courses were brought forward as a first read at the February Work Session and are being brought forward this evening for a second read. Mr. Serfass shared that no public comments have been received about either policy since posted as a first read.

8. Measurable Results Assessment (MRA) Dates

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that the administration is recommending administration of the Measurable Results Assessment (MRA). Mrs. Gurgiolo asked if this survey is the same as what is administered to parents. Mr. Serfass shared that correspondence will be sent out to Eisenhower, Middle School, and High School parents to allow them to opt their children out of the survey and that parents may also choose to come into his office to review the survey questions to help them to decide their children's participation in the survey.

9. 2025-2028 K-12 Guidance Plan

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that administration is recommending approval of the 2025-28 K-12 Guidance Plan as required by the state.

10. CAIU Budget 2025-2026

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that administration is recommending the approval of the attached 2025-26 CAIU budget as attached. She shared that the budget impact remains at or near last year's costs. Mrs. Gurgiolo pointed out that the budget summary was attached to last month's meeting agenda and is attached tonight.

11. Giant Food Insecurity Funds

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that administration is recommending using Giant Funds not to exceed \$11,000 per year for various food insecurity initiatives at all buildings, including grab-and-go breakfast items in nurses' offices, the Lions Lead Program at the Middle School, and the Homework Club. She pointed out all funds come from Giant.

12. Budgetary Transfers

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that administration is recommending the budget transfers listed in the agenda. Mr. Connelly asked for clarification on the Library Instructional Materials transfer, and Mrs. Martin shared that they requested to move money to the new line item to pay for the replacement of the 3-D printer in the library, which broke.

Mrs. Gurgiolo thanks Mrs. Martin for her work in bringing these forward.

13. Personnel Report

Minutes

Mrs. Russell reviewed the draft personnel report.

Mrs. Russell shared the recipients of the February 2025 Lion Pride Excellence Award Winners:

- Heidi Myrick, Reading Specialist at Eisenhower Elementary School
- Mark Ziegler, Principal at Camp Hill High School

Mr. Gale asked what the recipients receive for the award. Mrs. Russell shared that they get an unannounced visit from the Superintendent, Board President, and HR Director to present the award to the recipients. Mrs. Gurgiolo shared students' excitement at their teachers being recognized.

14. Public Session for Comment

Minutes

Mr. Connelly read the Public Comment guidelines.

1. Geoffrey Forest - spoke in support of the exploratory language course and shared information about a community petition.
2. Mary Kane - spoke in support of the exploratory language course and expressed concerns over online delivery of world language courses.
3. Lindsay Taylor - spoke in support of the exploratory language course.

15. Adjournment

Minutes

Mr. Gale motioned for adjournment, Mr. Lamay seconded. Mrs. Gurgiolo adjourned meeting at 8:19 PM.

In-person attendees:

Dr. Borrelli

Ms. Reely

Mrs. Ivey

Mrs. Rhinehart

Mrs. Russell

Mark Ziegler

Nick Snider

Kate Bruder

Cate Johnson

Kathy Bruder

Dave Myers

Quin DeCavalcante

Jack Bender

Paul Bruder

Ian Lentz

Corrine Bauman

Maria Lopez

Geoffrey Forest

Lindsay Taylor

Kate Chaplin

Dylan McInroy

Austin Shore

Ashley Gabrielle

Alex Baturin

Online Attendees:

Mary Kane

Micki Kautz

Amy Gaudion

Bree Bosso

Sharon Hanson

Betsy

AA

CM