



**LEECHBURG AREA BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
PUBLIC WORK SESSION/AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017
7:30 PM - J. D. ORR BOARD ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER: The Public Work Session/Agenda Setting Meeting of the Leechburg Area Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:35 PM in the J. D. Orr Board Room of the Parker D. Baker Building by Ms. Terri Smith, Board President.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF REFLECTION: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison and a Moment of Reflection was observed.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Megan Hamm, Ms. Angelique Richards, Mr. Anthony Shea, Ms. Terri Smith, Ms. Jean Stull, and Mrs. Kathryn Vargo.

Mr. Neill Brady, Mr. Joseph Michadick (medical reason) and Mrs. Helen Yurjevich (work commitment) were absent.

Also present were: Mr. David Keibler-K-6 Principal/Curriculum Director/Federal Programs Coordinator, Mr. William McNamee-PSBA Business Manager Consultant, Attorney Patricia Andrews-Solicitor, Ms. Patricia Camp-Board Secretary, and Ms. Tiffany Nix-Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD SECRETARY UPDATES:

- Inventionland Chain Reaction Contraption Competition Winner-Monica Robinson – Ms. Robinson, an LASD and Lenape junior, demonstrated and explained her Inventionland Chain Reaction Contraption Design “Jungle Contraption” project, which placed 4th out of 42 entries and 8 finalist teams in a competition held at the Pittsburgh Carnegie Science Center. Each project required 20 non-electric chain reaction steps based upon an “Unlock and Lock it Up” theme and constructed with recycled materials. In a two-month long process in Materials and Design class, they used skills such as teamwork, presentation and non-mechanical power to design and develop their projects. Monica was also awarded a special tour of facilities from Inventionland in RIDC Park.

Board and Administration congratulated Ms. Robinson on her awards and thanked her for participating. Ms. Nix noted demonstration of 21st century hands-on learning, Inventionland tours offered and using semester-long curriculum at \$5,000 cost. Thanked Mr. Kulick and Ms. Ferragonio for working with students.

Inventionland Student Presentation: Mr. Kulick and Ms. Ferragonio introduced Inventionland opportunities, nine-step student projects from inception to completion and curriculum. Provided video presentations on career readiness and Inventionland opportunities. Students Jeffrey Wadsworth, Trent Foster, Roman Yurjevich, Andrew Pallus and Alexis Price discussed their positive opinions and interest in offering STEAM philosophies labs and curriculum, using their abilities in art, creative thinking, teamwork, communication, workforce experience and problem solving in a creative and positive atmosphere building skills, resiliency and motivating students to learn in the proposed “Creation Nation”. Programs offered at other local schools including Avonworth, Kiski Prep and Ligonier Valley.

Ms. Nix and Mr. Keibler attended competition at Kiski Prep for Ligonier Valley student presentations and competition including collaboration and noted dynamics of the different students. Opportunities for 6-12 grade students in semester long student-driven course, scheduling discussions occurring and includes one nine-week rotation for grades 6-8. "Creation Nation" for hands-on experience, program of studies will be presented at next meeting, expanding and recreating curriculum, collaboration between education disciplines, equipment necessary for labs including 3D printers, tour of Inventionland at beginning of semester and competition at end of semester and video presentations on communication, presentation and marketing inventions and real life inventing at the end of the course.

- Transportation Procedures Agreement (ESSA) Memorandum of Understanding and Transportation Plan for Students Placed in Foster Care -Armstrong County Children, Youth & Family Services (CYF) and Westmoreland County Children's Bureau-Ms. Nix reported on Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Memorandum of Understanding with local CYF agencies cross-county, best plans for every homeless or foster care student, Armstrong County cooperating and Westmoreland County continues discussions with deadline of January 30, 2017. Also reviewed transportation plan. Submission of MOU and Transportation Plan to state for both Armstrong and Westmoreland Counties in good faith.
- Principals' Monthly Updates: Mr. Keibler getting to know staff and community, conducted grade-level meetings, identified need for math and reading professional development, offering free teacher-driven assessment and small group instruction professional development on January 16th, connecting with resources needed. Participated in K-6 Mobimax Webinars last week, student abilities testing support and remediation, standardized test prep modules for grades 3rd-6th grades, phonics platform and several elementary classes currently utilizing on 30-day trail, proposing to replace Study Island with 6 month contract at cost of \$5,000 with weekly webinars for teachers and 24/7 call capability. Change in lunch schedules to two half hour blocks, restructured now rotating lunch schedules and reestablished seating arrangements to reduce noise. Truancy policies have been reviewed, currently 20 elementary students with 5 or more truanancies and reviewing unexcused truancy elimination program. Continuing with Title I reporting. Recent and upcoming elementary events include 5th- 6th grade band concert on December 6th, Choral concert on December 21st with great turnout and teachers/student participation, 3rd-4th grade chorus concert tomorrow and "Guy with the Birds" presenting to K-2nd and 3rd-6th grades in two separate sessions. Focusing on parent and community involvement, data analysis, assessments, identify result of assessments, administrative control and data available.
- 2016-2017 Title I Distinguished School Award-David Leech Elementary – Ms. Nix reported criteria being top 5% of performing Title I schools in state, Math and Reading scores and underachieving and growing students. Congratulated students and staff on award and for hard work in achieving it.
- PMEA Distinguished Teacher Award – Ms. Nix congratulated Mr. Robert Reams, who was awarded the PMEA Distinguished Teacher Award. Mr. Reams will be honored with a plaque at the annual All-State In-Service this April. Mr. Reams dedicates hours to our students' growth and development in the art of music. He is truly an asset to both our District and the community.

- Ms. Nix reported that Facebook and Twitter accounts have been implemented and staff, students and parents/guardians/community already utilizing.
- Ms. Nix reported on the implementation of the Leechburg Area Welcome Center, a storefront centered information center, non-profit and also on Facebook. Students can earn community service hours by volunteering at the center.
- Full-Day Kindergarten Proposal-Mr. David Keibler, K-6 Principal/Curriculum Director/
Federal Programs Coordinator- Mr. Keibler presented proposal to increase kindergarten staff to three teachers, moving 6th grade to middle school concept on 4th floor of high school and realign current K-2 Learning Support position to kindergarten and establish K-2 and 3-5 Learning Support structure with funding through teacher retirements to cover costs.

Discussion ensued regarding students entering kindergarten and offered services, one-hour intervention program, reading program highest numbers in first grade through Journeys curriculum, double time for offering extra practice and teaching time needed. Pre-K funding 5.5 billion but not full-day kindergarten, implement K-1 focus, grade reconfigurations needed and moving 6th grade to 4th floor of high school and elementary classrooms to elementary building. Recommending full-day kindergarten for all students to positively impact math and reading scores, research does not show benefit but does not show long-term impact on students, students needing Title I services due to lacking kindergarten offerings and Early Intervention extensions at elementary level. Board requested full cost presentation at future meeting.

PERSONNEL:

Substitute Positions:

- Custodial Substitute
- Cafeteria Substitute

Board recommendation to place on the January 25, 2017 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Agenda.

Supplemental Positions:

- Drama Club Sponsor Assistant
- Softball Girls' Varsity Assistant Coach
- Volunteer Softball Girls' Varsity Assistant Coach

Board recommendation to place on the January 25, 2017 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Agenda.

BUDGET AND FINANCE:

- Resolution 2016-2017-04 Accelerated Budget Opt Out Certifying Tax Rate Within Inflation Index for 2017-2018 School Year-Mr. McNamee, PASBO Business Manager Consultant, reviewed revenues, state Basic Education Subsidy formula changes, funding remains same as last fiscal year, 2.5% Act 1 index, LASD 3.6%, \$34,000 referendum exceptions applied for last year, pass resolution to not raise above index to eliminate proposed preliminary budget due in January prior to state funding figures availability. Additional review of new courses, retirements, etc. Budget and Finance Committee meetings will be scheduled to review proposals, assessed valuation in Westmoreland and Armstrong Counties increasing, healthcare costs increases will be tentatively released in April, Governor's budget presentation in February and January 26th deadline for resolution or publish Preliminary budget.
- Walsworth Publishing Yearbook Three-Year Agreement-Extension of current agreement through 2020 at no additional costs.

Board recommendation to place on the January 25, 2017 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Agenda.

USE OF FACILITIES REQUESTS:

- Larry Henry-Leechburg Area Little League-Baseball Registration-Cafeteria-02/08/17 (6-8 PM), 02/11/17 (9 AM-12 PM) and 02/15/17 (6-8 PM)
- Larry Henry-Leechburg Area Little League-Baseball Practice-Gymnasium and Field-02/18/17, 02/25/17 and every Saturday in March and April (weather permitting) 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
- Bill Pierce-Leechburg ASA-Softball Practice Gymnasium-03/04/17, 03/11/17, 03/13/17 and 03/25/17

Board recommendation to place on the January 25, 2017 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Agenda.

FIELD TRIP REQUESTS:

- Amy Barley-Physics, Materials and Design, Pre-Calculus Classes-Tour of Inventionland, RIDC Park, Pittsburgh, PA-TBD January 2017
- David Ritzel-9th Grade Chorus-Armstrong County Jr Chorus Festival, Armstrong High School-02/14/17
- Amy Barley and Patty Osborne-Student Council-PASC D2 Spring Leadership Conference, Union High School, New Castle, PA-02/17/17
- Rob Reams-Taiko-Taiko Performance, Shannock Elementary, Rural Valley, PA-03/17/17
- Rob Reams-Taiko-Taiko Performance, Slippery Rock University-03/30/17
- Rob Reams-Jr/Sr High Bands-Adjudication, Kiski High School-05/03/17

Board recommendation to place on the January 25, 2017 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Agenda.

FUNDRAISING REQUESTS:

- Amy Barley-Student Council-Snowball Dance Ticket Sales-12/21/16-01/21/17-Ratify
- Patty Osborne-Junior High Student Council-Valentine Messages and Candy/Rose Sales-01/26/17-02/10/17

- Amy Barley-Student Council-Kings of the Court Volleyball Tournament to benefit “We Serve First”-02/01/17-02/28/17

Board recommendation to place on the January 25, 2017 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Agenda.

BOARD RELATED ISSUES

- Lenape JOC Election of Officers Ballots
- PSBA Liaison Appointment
- Emergency Operations Plan-Grant for plan reviewed and revised, several grant meetings and expert redeveloping manual and next meeting on procedures.

Board recommendation to place the Emergency Operations Plan on the January 25, 2017 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Agenda.

DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT REQUESTS:

- Patty Osborne-Outdated Literature Books

Board recommendation to place on the January 25, 2017 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Agenda.

CURRICULUM:

- 2017-2023 Curriculum Review Cycle – 2001 last social studies textbook purchased, five year review cycle being presented, textbooks/supplemental/software to meet standards and meet students needs, digital textbook options and technology purchases will be tied directly to curriculum,

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Amendments:

Policy 251 – Homeless Students

First Reading:

Policy 255 - Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

Board recommendation to place on the January 25, 2017 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Board discussion ensued regarding Lenape choice, half-day or full-day vocational technical education, transportation concerns, budget cap, vetting process, career goals and guidance counselors utilizing new curriculum and scheduling software. Options will be discussed at future meetings.

Board recommendation to place on February 2017 Public Work Session/Agenda Setting Meeting Agenda and requested general Lenape schedules.

NEW BUSINESS:**A. PERSONNEL:**

1. Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stull to approve the following Supplemental Position for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school term, pending receipt of all required paperwork:

| Name | Position |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Nancy Tarella | Drama Club Sponsor Assistant |

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

All Ayes.

Mr. Brady, Mr. Michadick and Mrs. Yurjevich were absent.

B. FINANCE:

1. Mrs. Vargo made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hamm to approve the Transportation Procedures Agreement required under ESSA with the Armstrong County Children, Youth and Family Services and Westmoreland County Children’s Bureau as presented in (Exhibit B1).

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

All Ayes.

Mr. Brady, Mr. Michadick and Mrs. Yurjevich were absent.

2. Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stull to approve RESOLUTION 2016-2017-04 regarding Accelerated Budget Opt Out Certifying Tax Rate Within Inflation Index (and No Need to Comply with Act 1 Accelerated Budget Procedures) 2017-2018 School Year as presented in (Exhibit B2).

Discussion ensued regarding review of proposed 2017-2018 General Operating budget and Budget and Finance Committee meeting schedules.

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

All Ayes.

Mr. Brady, Mr. Michadick and Mrs. Yurjevich were absent.

C. BOARD RELATED ISSUES:

1. Mrs. Vargo made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hamm to approve the Settlement Agreement with Student X.

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

All Ayes.

Mr. Brady, Mr. Michadick and Mrs. Yurjevich were absent.

2. Mrs. Hamm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shea to authorize the Board Secretary to cast the Lenape Technical School/Armstrong County Area Vocational Technical School ballots for Election of Officers (Exhibit C2).

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

All Ayes.

Mr. Brady, Mr. Michadick and Mrs. Yurjevich were absent.

3. Ms. Stull made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shea to appoint Ms. Terri Smith as the 2017 PSBA Liaison.

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

All Ayes.

Mr. Brady, Mr. Michadick and Mrs. Yurjevich were absent.

D. CURRICULUM:

1. Ms. Stull made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shea to approve the 2017-2023 Curriculum Review Cycle as presented in (Exhibit D1).

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

All Ayes.

Mr. Brady, Mr. Michadick and Mrs. Yurjevich were absent.

REMARKS BY VISITORS: Visitors are welcome to comment on any agenda items at this time, provided it is understood that all remarks from the floor are subject to the same parliamentary procedure followed by the Board under the direction of the president. Discussion from the floor will not be entertained while action is being taken on agenda items by the Board. Completed forms (blue forms for agenda items) will be collected for district records and will be used by the president in recognizing each speaker.

There were no visitors wishing to address the Board at this time.

ADJOURNED: On a motion by Mrs. Hamm, seconded by Mr. Shea the Public Work Session/Agenda Setting Meeting of January 11, 2017 adjourned at 9:00 PM in the J. D. Orr Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia R. Camp
Board Secretary