Minutes February 18, 2019

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 4:15 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mrs. Ziolkowski, Board Vice President, presiding.

CALL TO ORDER
Mrs. Ziolkowski asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. Curt Minich of 420 Telford Avenue, indicated his intent to record.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Larkin, Mrs. McAvoy, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Board Members Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Redner, and Mr. Zeppos

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Woodard, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, and Mr. Cafoncelli.

Attendees: Shelley Filer, recording secretary. An audience sign-in sheet is included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS
- School Board Business Meeting – February 25, 2019

All listed meetings are held in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School unless otherwise noted.

Mrs. Ziolkowski noted that the meeting would be recessed at 6:00 p.m. for a Board business meeting, then reconvene for the remainder of the Committee of the Whole agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES
Upon a motion by Mrs. Larkin, second by Mrs. Taylor, the Board approved the following minutes:

- January 14, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Absent: McCaffrey, Redner, and Zeppos
Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMITTEES

A. CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY
1. 2019-20 School Calendar – Dr. Woodard presented a draft of the calendar for review. While similar to the 18-19 calendar, a snow make-up day prior to the winter break is proposed for December 23. Dr. Woodard consulted with other districts and
BCTC to determine what they were doing on that date as well as spring break use for make-up days. She also reviewed athletic schedules to see how many teams held practice or games during the spring break. From an instructional standpoint, she said it is better to make up the days earlier in the year than tacking them on in June. The Board discussed swapping Thursday for the Monday after Easter as a make-up day. Ultimately the Board decided to delete December 23, as a snow make-up day and leave spring break make-up days numbered as noted on the proposed draft. Mrs. Taylor questioned the elementary closures in November and the process for scheduling conferences. Dr. Woodard said she is currently reviewing the procedures and discussing the process with the staff. The calendar will be on the agenda for approval on February 25.

2. Shadow a Student Challenge – Each member of the administrative team will randomly select a student from K-12 and BCTC to shadow for a day to gain a sense of the educational experience from a student’s perspective. The administrators will reflect on their experience and provide meaningful opportunities to improve the school experience. The shadow experiences are to be completed by March 31.

3. Tenure – Six professional staff will be listed on the February 25, agenda as having received tenure.

4. Homebound Instruction – A request for homebound instruction for a secondary student for four weeks will be on the agenda for approval.

5. Technology Focus Groups – Mr. Major from BCTC is meeting with small groups to gather input for the Technology Audit. The professional development survey has closed; BCIU will analyze the data and report back to the District.

B. FACILITIES

1. Outdoor Classroom – Due to the weather and a personal emergency with the Borough representative, the permitting meeting was rescheduled for February 19.

2. Door Jams – Several Board members viewed a demonstration prior to the meeting of the door jams in a JSHS classroom. Demonstrations are also scheduled for faculty and staff. The request for approval for $8,600 to outfit each classroom districtwide will be on the agenda February 25. The Wyomissing PD and the Spring Township fire marshal support the installation of the devices.
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3. JSHS Cafeteria Tables – Mr. Cafoncelli received a revised quote from Tanner Furniture for the round and oval tables for the JSHS cafeteria. The oval tables are slightly more expensive than the rectangular ones originally quoted. Seating capacity is the same. The revised quote will be on the February 25, agenda for approval.

4. Flannery Field Renovation Project – The project is still on schedule. It was bid in two parts. By extracting the fence in a separate bid the District should reap some savings because the fence would not be subject to mark-up from the general contractor. Vegetation near the fence perimeter will be removed prior to the end of spring sports.

5. GAGA Pits Update – PTA is providing a sports-court plastic material to be installed around the GAGA pits to reduce injuries.

6. Feasibility Study – Mrs. Waxler asked for an update on the study. Mr. Boyer said three bids were received, but only two are potential options. Mr. Boyer and Mr. Cafoncelli will review the bids and present a recommendation at the March meeting.

C. FINANCE

1. 2019-20 State Budget Update – Governor Wolf presented his proposed budget on February 5. Highlights included no new taxes, increased Basic Ed subsidy, increased Special Education subsidy, increased compulsory school age to 6 years, increased minimum dropout age to 18 years, offering universal free full-day kindergarten to every five year-old, providing more teacher training, and more emphasis on school safety. He proposed a minimum starting teacher salary of $45,000 and focus on recruiting students into the teaching profession. A proposal to increase the minimum wage in PA would have an effect on the District support staff wages and substitute rates.

2. 2018-19 Cash Flow – Revenues are slightly higher than projected, but so are expenditures.

3. 2018-19 Budget Projections – The deficit looks slightly larger than budgeted due to the STEAM wing renovations and the plow truck that will be paid through fund balance; therefore, at the present time, the District is doing better than projected.

4. 2019-20 Budget Discussion – Mr. Boyer presented some ideas to reduce expenditures to close the $3.3 million budget gap in
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the preliminary budget. They included freezing uniform purchases, reducing extra-curricular activities, reducing supplies, reducing books and subscriptions, and reaping savings from retirements when replacing those positions. He then reviewed some additional revenues that may impact the budget such as increased taxes, an activity fee, and state subsidies. His suggestions would reduce the gap to $1.6 million with more discussion to follow in March. Mr. Boyer also provided an economic update on development from a recent meeting that could have a positive impact on tax revenue.

5. Approval of the Fund Balance – Year ending June 30, 2018 – Approval of the fund balance based on the audit is on the business meeting agenda later in the evening.

6. Budget Transfers – A list of budget transfers will be on the February 25, agenda for approval

7. BCIU Budget 2019-20 – Approval of the BCIU budget will be on the February 25, agenda. The increase is 0%.

8. Exoneration Request – Mr. Boyer said the denial of an exoneration request will be on the agenda for approval.

9. Delinquent Taxes – Approval of the delinquent taxes to be turned over for collection will be on the agenda on February 25.

The meeting was recessed at 5:51 p.m. to conduct the Board business meeting, and reconvened at 6:03 p.m.

D. POLICY

1. Policy Audit – Mr. Scoboria said the audit continued with the 700 level policies. Six policies among the 700 level and outstanding policies from prior levels have recommended minor revisions. Three have no recommended changes, and three are recommended to be rescinded. Several others remain on the audit list for further review. Policies to be rescinded and those with minor changes will be on the February 25, agenda for a first reading.

2. Policies Recommended by PSBA for Review – PSBA recommended changes to fourteen existing policies. The changes have also been reviewed by the appropriate administrator. Board members discussed the Tobacco/Nicotine policy and asked Mr. Scoboria for some feedback from the JSHS on frequency and procedures of
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handling infractions. Mrs. Waxler asked for clarification on policy 709 regarding the building representative responsible for after-hours entry to a building. Ongoing problems of propped-open doors exist with coaches and players of youth activities. Mr. Scoboria will discuss with Mr. Cafoncelli. All the reviewed policies will move forward for a first reading on February 25.

ADJOURNMENT  Mrs. Ziolkowski adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

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Board Secretary