



MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING - MARCH 8, 2022

03/08/2022 [06:00 PM-08:00 PM]

MARCH 8, 2022 COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - Mr. Frederick & Mr. Hosterman, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Strawser

Minutes

Board members in attendance: President Chris Rantz, Vice President Andrew Frederick, Josh Hunt, Steph Strawser, Lindsay Kessler, Alvin Weaver, Eric Moser.

Board members absent from meeting: Ken Snyder and Brett Hosterman.

Also in attendance: Dr. Cathy Keegan, Dr. Daphne Kirkpatrick, Derrek Fink, Catherine Girton, Mike Bergey, Greg Scoggins, David Slater, Jeremy Stetler, Ashley Reese, Duane Gemberling, Andrew Girton, Ron Schultz, Deb Warren, Kevin Fry, Stacy Behnert, Nick Vega, and Rod Harris.

Attending remotely: Attorney Jennifer Dambeck Karen Frantz-Fry, Jamie Seibert, Seth Reitz, Ryan Edinger, Misty Harris, Jackie Martin, Kevin Mertz, and 2 additional members of the public.

Meeting called to order by President Chris Rantz at 6:00p. Mrs. Rantz led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment: Mr. Fink read a statement from Mary Strawser, address: 2603 Pleasant View Road, Milton PA

Regarding Social Studies classes airing news programs: "My question is why is CNN news the only news being shown in school. My son is made to watch CNN news for ten mins a day, everyday while he is in school. Why is this the only new station they are allowed to view? Why not Fox News? I find it biased only allowing our children being forced to watch CNN news. If this is the case, then I prefer my child lowering his head down and not watching it. I would like someone to get back to me about this forced agenda on my child. I also would like it discussed at the next school board meeting."

Mr. Schultz: CNN 10 is used in social studies classes. Not shown to all students. Used exclusively in social studies for US and World History.

Schultz joined by Mr. Vega and Ms. Behnert.

1.a. Social Studies Presentation: Stacey Behnert, Ron Schultz, Nick Vega

Minutes

Schultz: Thanked Keegan for response to parent and to Mr. Rantz for an impromptu meeting regarding the issue. No member of the social studies team is trying to indoctrinate any children. You need to be aware of your own personal bias and try to check them at the door when teaching. Providing objective history and prompting students to think critically. Can understand why a parent may be concerned in this political environment. These news stations do editorialize and sensationalize to get ratings. But CNN 10 is a uniquely objective, short, and at times silly program that prompts classroom discussion. Valuable tool . Please trust that the faculty take this seriously and make an effort to walk the fine line. Thanked Dr. Keegan and felt she did a fantastic job in her response to the concerned parent.

A CNN 10 episode was shared with the board and those present.

Schultz: The show is front loaded with difficult topics and then lighter topics follow. Creates good conversation among students and opportunity to connect with students and help learn about more of their interests.

Rantz: Thank you. Questions?

Moser: More of a comment than question. Mary [Strawser] contacted me about CNN in school. Told her I don't know how and why it is shown but that my daughter had Mr. Vega. Told her to send an email to the board. Stated she would email the board. Personally, I would prefer to watch something like this. Thank you.

Mr. Schultz opened the floor for questions. No additional questions asked.

1.b. Proposed agenda item(s)

Minutes

Frederick: Only agenda items are approval of OAC and curriculum for Carousel of Ideas.

Kirkpatrick: This curriculum was presented and shared by Mrs. Snyder, looking at meeting needs of English language learners. She will be prepared to present or answer any questions next week.

Keegan: Deb Warren is also in the audience.

Warren: Not able to answer specifics at this moment but have reviewed in the past.

2. FINANCE COMMITTEE - Mr. Frederick & Mr. Moser, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Strawser

2.a. Budget Presentation:

1. Special Education: Catherine Girton
2. Regular Education: Dr. Daphne Kirkpatrick
3. Cyber Education: Michael Bergey

Minutes

Catherine Girton presented on the Special Education budget for 22-23. Focused on the update to the overview of Student Services and change in administration for Special Education. Special Education Areas Discussed: Programs and services, student data and regulations, student disability categories, out-of-district placements, CSIU tuition costs, itinerant services, budget expenditures (proposed \$6,130,117 for 22-23), budgeted revenues (\$2,251,573 proposed for 22-23), cost per special education student.

Fink: Clarified that ACCESS funding will be drawn down to \$0 at the end of 22-23 and going forward the school will expend those funds as they are acquired.

Frederick: Will our fitness center being on the first floor be able to be used to offer more ACCESS services to students?

Girton: It is less about the equipment available and more the time committed and that isn't going to change. It will allow us to not need to adapt classrooms.

Daphne Kirkpatrick presented an education update. It included programming priorities: CTE, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Technology, Cyber Education. Topics also covered: grants and revenue services, enrollment, 5th grade transition to White Deer, food service waiver.

Moser: Look at the buildings, I think WD would be perfect for 4th and 5th and use Baugher as K-3rd. Significant savings in teachers.

Kirkpatrick: Neighboring districts have switched to this model as well.

Moser: Would also eliminate a White Deer vs. Baugher student mentality.

Kirkpatrick: A number of benefits to teachers and staff as well.

Moser: With renovations would it make sense to do it now to free up Baugher space? Realize a lot would have to happen to do this in time.

Kessler: I would prefer younger kids at White Deer then transition to the larger school [Baugher]. What would this do for transportation and those costs?

Kirkpatrick: If there is anything specific you want us to look into, please let us know and we will do so.

Mr. Fink Shared the work that Ashley Reese has done keeping students families engaged with free / reduced lunch registration.

Michael Bergey presented a cyber education update. Covered topics: enrollment and costs.

Keegan: MASD Cyber started in 2012, the amount of savings is extrapolated over the years. Saved a lot of money working with CSIU to offer this program. We will see further savings as we continue to include and launch Canvas and asynchronous learning.

Weaver: Is the MASD Cyber through Blast or CSIU?

Keegan: It has been moving through various IU's, currently CSIU.

Rantz: Why do students choose to use outside cyber?

Bergey: Some are moving into our district and want to remain with the program they are already in. Some want a synchronous class. That is the majority of why students go to outside charter.

Keegan: Some cyber charter schools offer incentives for students like tickets to events, free tech hardware, large advertising budgets, etc.

Bergey: Spoke to a lot of parents that are coming back from outside charters because what they were promised and what they receive doesn't match.

Weaver: When you take into consideration everything that we just heard in these budget presentations. Think about if we were paying for those services. We would be paying out millions of dollars more. Everyone presenting has covered their salaries a number of times. Tremendous savings and without cutting programs and we have been keeping our students here with us. I hope that people understand what that really means in terms of community and unity. Admin team should be very proud of themselves. I would put this team up against any team in the valley because I see the work that has been done. Seeing this altogether as just an update shows the tremendous amount of work, saving and opportunity we offer our students. Please recognize the work that the team has done. I am proud of you all.

Rantz: We often hear we are administration heavy but I believe that is unfair. Over the years there have been many many more admins than we have now and they were doing less work.

Weaver: 22 admins when I joined [the board of directors].

Keegan: We also had to have a visionary and supporting board. They trusted the admin team and gave them the opportunity to move forward with change and realizes the growth. Change in practice for admins with some of these program changes but everyone does what they have to do to make it work. Market place model, shopping for services started in 2012. We realized we could do this and hire the staff we need. Community and board should be proud of this. I may be moving into a lame duck position but think about all the board members available to learn from and will look back at. Budget cliff coming, still need to provide quality, and also look at reconfiguring the elementary buildings. Being together as administration for a long period of time allows for excellent continuity of leadership. Builds a rise in community spirit. Booster club offering free pizza for Girls State Basketball game. Community deserves it.

2.b. Budget Discussion

1. Fee schedule for athletic complex (Josh Hunt)
2. Tractor trailers (Josh Hunt)
3. Alternate Funding Streams: Booster Club, Education Foundation, Capital Campaign

Minutes

Mr. Fink presented information on the bridge being used to lead from the preliminary budget to the proposed final budget.

Frederick: We still have areas to improve and will find more savings but thank you for what has been offered.

Mr. Frederick introduced Mr. Hunt to share his "Membership Plan"

Hunt: I put together a rough idea of a membership plan we could run for the new Wellness Center. Compared to local YMCA but a lot cheaper. Students free. Join fee at start to compete with Planet Fitness. Because this is our community, might pull people even though cost is higher. Put join and membership fees in its own account. Use that to offset tax increases and budget expenditures. The plan was presented as follows:

Students: Free, College Students: \$15 to join then \$20 per month, Adults: \$15 to join then \$40 per month, Couple: \$15 to join, \$60 per month, Family: \$15 to join \$65 per month, Senior: \$15 to join, \$30 per month. Statement included: Memberships and Join Fees will be used to offset tax increases and Budget Tax Expenditures only.

Rantz: What was the initial thought for people using our gym / field?

Keegan: Initial conversation was that this would be an opportunity to bring people into our schools at no charge. Track open for people to walk / run.

Kevin Fry asked to contribute to the discussion.

Fry: When we went out for donations for capital campaign, part of the selling point was that it would be open and usable for the community.

Kessler: Is the Wellness Coordinator position still in the budget for 22-23?

Fink: Yes. Salary is \$60,000 and benefits \$35,500 as a placeholder for now.

Harris: Person would be in charge of overseeing facility (Mr. Harris then described role of the position)

Keegan: The board has the job description in their packets.

Moser: We have had strength and condition coaches in past right?

Harris: Yes.

Frederick: OK with fee structure but I don't believe revenue source is reasonable. Worth looking at but it isn't scaleable.

Hunt: One of the reasons why I thought about it was that if it is open to the community we won't know who will be in there. At least we would have record of who will be in there if they have a membership.

Keegan: They would still need to use FOBS to enter the space with or without a membership.

Moser: I wasn't aware that it would be 100% free. Would expect a nominal fee.

Rantz: Speak to the seniors, we all get into the gyms for free.

Moser: Nominal fee required would make them feel somewhat responsible.

Frederick returned the discussion to Mr. Hunt to present his idea on modular classroom alternatives.

Hunt: I will tread on this lightly since I don't know as much as Mr. Hoffman regarding codes and school policies. Thought it might be cheaper to use tractor trailer beds to use as teaching classrooms instead of modular classrooms. Hoffman thought there might be some spec issues on that. Reached out to Jeff and that was about the extent of the conversation.

Rantz: Do you truly mean a tractor trailer?

Hunt: Yes, bed portion, the trailer.

Rantz: Who would put children in a tractor trailer? This sounds criminal. Why are we talking about that. We are better than that. Next. We aren't talking about this.

Discussion about trailer usage ended.

Keegan: Next up is to discuss the position that was removed and alternative revenue streams. A lot of money held with boosters, capital campaign, Milton Panther Fund, and scholarships. Groups are struggling to manage currently. Members of capital campaign are ready to retire and pass on the responsibilities to someone else. need to have a discussion here because we need to have a proactive conversation to help . Request for the outreach position came from Milton Panther Foundation based on the Green Dragon position that Lewisburg has. Portion of donations used to pay for the position. Discussion held for many years. This is the start of a conversation but things are currently at a tipping point with the boosters, capital campaign committee and the Milton Panther Fund.

Kevin Fry: Booster club wishes to continue to support the district in any way that they can. Volunteerism is falling off and these groups need volunteers to function.

Keegan: Thursday at 3p, all board members are invited for a capital campaign meeting.

Mr. Fink: Should I look at a nominal fee/occupancy for the wellness center?

Board in agreement that Mr. Fink should prepare something.

2.c. Proposed agenda item(s)

Minutes

No additional comments on the proposed agenda items.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Mrs. Rantz or Mr. Frederick

3.a. Professional Agreement discussion

Minutes

Will be discussed in Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

3.b. Carnival Contract

Minutes

Keegan: Shared carnival requirements for use of lot. Beard Legal requested "Hold Harmless" letter. Another concern from Beard was how the Brouses will use our name and how those proceeds will be audited. All in an effort to protect the district.

Atty. Dambeck: Those would be all the consistent items used in situations of use like this.

Rantz: The generosity of the Brouses is great. Do they need to use our facility or can they just donate and hold the carnival elsewhere?

Dambeck: Need to look at what an auditor will review and what type of agreement you will have in place.

Keegan: If we completely remove the school district's name from the advertising, could they then donate how they like?

Dambeck: We would need to look into that to see what we can do.

Moser: This discussion will bridge into facilities. My thoughts on the carnival and the sale, the Brouses would like to continue to use the lot. So my thought is why don't they form a carnival association and then buy or lease the property. CTE could work on fixing sidewalks.

Moser: At this time I think since we already approved the carnival, whatever would be the easiest to get this done. I will leave to the attorney to figure out.

3.c. Proposed agenda item(s)

Minutes

Rantz: Any questions on agenda items?

None.

4. FACILITIES COMMITTEE - Mr. Hosterman & Mr. Moser, Mr. Snyder, Mrs. Kessler

4.a. Center Street/Turbot Avenue Property

Minutes

Moser: Discussion on what we are going to do with this. Read email received from Beard on 2/9/2022:

As it relates to the options for sale, attached you will find Section 707 of the School Code on the sale of land/property. To summarize in a much simpler format, the available options for "sale" would be the following:

1. *Public auction*

2. *Sealed bids*
3. *Private sale (with or without a realtor)*
4. *Sale to municipality or association thereof (fire company, water authority, etc)*

Donation (to 501(c)3)

Moser: Could be sold, just have to follow the proper protocols. There is a reason not to sell it each time it comes up. Seems the reasons are always different. Continued carnival use could benefit the district.

Frederick: I am not arguing for sale. Only concern with auction or sealed bid is making sure we get a reserve price.

Dambeck: Most sales done by private sale and court approval process and required advertising. Up to the board to choose the route and then we follow the proper procedures.

Strawser: I feel there is a benefit to keeping.

Rantz and Kessler in agreement to sell.

Rantz: We don't have enough people to empty trash let alone maintain this property.

Hunt: I think we should keep it and have a CTE class do the concrete work for the sidewalks.

Rantz: That might be a question that we pose to our teachers and admins to make sure that pouring the concrete is feasible for students.

Keegan: We could put a motion on the agenda and it either passes or doesn't.

Moser: It will stir up a lot of public just for \$50,000.

Frederick: Even if the students can do the sidewalks, it is one week of learning then 30 more years of holding the property.

Moser: not a budget maker or breaker. Whoever buys it also need to take the bermuda triangle.

Kevin Fry: In the past, the fire dept. approached the board twice about acquiring.

4.b. Proposed agenda item(s)

Minutes

Moser: Regarding the Hepburn street road extension. Land surveyor I work with met with me. Asked him about the Hepburn connection. He was doing survey work in the area there and he sent a couple of deeds. In one it states the property belongs to the land owner until the Hepburn St extension is completed. Reads as though it is a positive that it could be extended. Deed continued to passed on with that as transferred. Not shown on original plan by Murdock. Will forward to solicitor. Recognition on the deed being provided completely free.

Keegan: Carl D Beard normally handles these property items, we can forward.

Moser: Proposed agenda items are standard.

5. LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COMMITTEE - Mr. Hosterman & Mrs. Kessler, Mr. Snyder, Mrs. Strawser

5.a. Proposed agenda item(s)

Minutes

Kessler: Just a few standard agenda items.

No questions.

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Mr. Frederick & Dr. Weaver, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kessler

6.a. Volunteer discussion

Minutes

Frederick: In the packet there are 2 documents regarding board policy 916. Desire to discuss background and clearance checks for volunteers brought up by a board member. To start the conversation I will share the presentation. Brenda Edinger is the one that handles these and she isn't here but most of what we require for volunteers is mandated by law.

Frederick presented about the PA Act 15 of 2015 and the required clearances. All valid for 5 years. Required child abuse recognition and reporting training. and TB test. These are state and federal minimum requirements. Also covered the MASD in house requirements.

Kessler: It is quite a process to go through. We desperately need volunteers. If anyone is out there, we need you for fun school events. Long process but entirely worth it.

Moser: I don't feel someone like the French Fry cooker at the concessionstand should need clearances.

Frederick: What if they are a sex offender?

Moser: Anyone in the stadium could be [a sex offender].

Keegan: We have had volunteers not allowed to participate because of failed clearances / background checks.

Strawser: The parents should take responsibility for the safety of their children. They can accompany them into the restrooms.

Rantz: We have to vet when we have people representing our schools.

Dambeck: With respect, they would all fall under volunteer and guest volunteer requirements if functioning for the school in any way. It is in policy.

Keegan: We are seeing a drop off in volunteers.

Moser: Need to stick with the law but don't need to go over the top.

Keegan: All of the contractors provide us their clearances prior to stepping on the property.

Kirkpatrick: Everything is listed on the site regarding clearances.

Keegan: It is an arduous process.

Frederick: PA is actually one of the least restrictive states.

Moser: Is there some action that needs to be taken?

Frederick: No, this is just informational.

6.b. Proposed agenda item(s)

Minutes

No questions or concerns.

Rantz: Will we have the blanks filled for the assistant business admin position?

Fink: Yes, we are finalizing the position, will be there by friday.

7. ATHLETICS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE - Mr. Snyder & Dr. Weaver, Mr. Hosterman, Mr. Moser

7.a. Proposed agenda item(s)

Minutes

Weaver: Who is the new tennis coach, will that be ready?

Rod Harris: Joanna Johnson is the name of the new tennis coach.

Kessler: Access funds, can we use them for adaptive playground equipment?

Girton: Yes, that would be allowable but we do have the funds earmarked for staff salaries / benefits.

Kessler: Do you anticipate ACCESS revenue declining?

Girton: I don't anticipate it going away or declining.

Kessler: Dr. Kirkpatrick, could you speak regarding extra funds in the title program to do activities at the elementary level?

Kirkpatrick: We typically do a spring family event with title funds.

Keegan: Principals are having parent and grandparent lunches in the elementary.

Keegan: Please come tomorrow night for the girls state playoff game. Anyone attending will need to purchase online electronically.

Harris: If someone comes in and they don't have a ticket they will have to use QR code to enter and buy that way. Unfortunate for some of our youth and elderly who will struggle to utilize.

Moser: I stood at the doors for districts and bought tickets for people that couldn't. Would be a great fundraiser idea for a group to offer that service and request a donation.

Rantz: We will be making a motion to enter executive session. When we return we will have no additional business.

Motion to enter into executive session for a personnel matter and negotiation made by Frederick, seconded by Weaver, motion passed with all in favor. Executive session entered at 8:48p.

Motion to return to the regular meeting and end executive session made by Weaver, seconded by Kessler, resumed normal meeting at 9:10p with all in favor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Frederick, seconded by Moser, motion passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:11p.

Respectfully submitted by,

Derrek Fink

Business Administrator and Board Secretary