

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Work Session Notes – April 12, 2010

The Wyomissing Area School District Board of School Directors' work session convened at 6:10 p.m. in the Community Board Room with President Davis presiding.

In attendance: Board Members Mrs. Bamberger, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Helm (arr. 6:23 p.m.), Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Seltzer, Mrs. Sakmann and Mr. Larkin. Administrators Mr. Robbins, Dr. Pulkowski, Mrs. Mason, and Ms. Garman.

Solicitor Brian Boland, and recording secretary Diane Schaeffer, and audience sign-in sheet attached.

Following the pledge of allegiance and roll call, Mrs. Davis announced that the Board met in executive session for personnel reasons on March 22 and prior to tonight's work session and no action was taken.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Robbins' indicated he would provide budget comments later on the agenda.

Finance and Facilities

Mrs. Mason reviewed agenda items A through G. She noted that the bids for the roof replacement at the JSHS will be opened on April 15 at 1:00 p.m. Six vendors picked up specifications and will hopefully submit bids.

Mrs. Mason turned the meeting over to Mr. Robbins who presented information on the proposed final budget for 2010-11. A two-page budget summary was provided to the Board and audience. It was noted that the increase in expenditures is \$12,000 and the proposed millage increase is 2.2%. Mrs. Mason noted this year's index is 2.9% but next year it may be .6%. The Board agreed that an impressive job was done to keep the number at \$12,000 with no cuts in programs.

Curriculum and Technology

Dr. Pulkowski explained the Keys 2 Work program which is a comprehensive career-based program that defines and assesses the skills needed for success in the workplace. The Berks Business Education Coalition is funding half the costs. She is requesting approval to apply for grant funding for this program as well as for the Science is Elementary Program. The window to apply opens this week through April 30. She commented that over the past two years, \$500,000 in grant monies has been received.

Personnel and Policy

Mr. Painter reviewed the personnel agenda items. There was discussion on the Unlawful Harassment policies in the four classifications that will be presented for a first reading on April 26. It was agreed that on section 3. Definitions, the word "graphic" should remain and read "verbal, graphic, or physical conduct...."

The Board was given several samples of policy 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings as well as the District's current policy. After much discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Painter will work on preparing a draft for a first reading.

During the discussion, Mrs. Helm suggested that the District provide information for the public on the Right-to-Know requests received and costs involved on the agenda on a regular basis.

Program

Mr. Robbins noted that adjustments to the current school calendar were made to accommodate the 5 snows days. The last student day will be June 16 and the last half-day for teachers will be June 17, 2010. Several Board members expressed appreciation for the flexibility afforded students in taking final exams early if scheduled vacations were planned.

Old Business

Mrs. Davis indicated an AFSCME negotiations meeting was held April 6 and the WAEA fact finding hearing was held today and a report is forthcoming.

Mr. Robbins said he will be making a recommendation to the Board in two weeks on two facilities to house the 5th and 6th grade students during the WREC construction.

New Business

Mrs. Helm noted that the Board will seek underwriters and bond counsel bids for the WREC project. It was agreed that unless there is a price difference, a change would not necessarily be made but it is important to have the complete picture and stay competitive.

Mr. Robbins strongly encouraged the Board to do this quickly in order to stay on schedule with the architect and project.

Public Comments

Mr. Edward Emery, 1914 Meadow Lane, Wyomissing, commented on the Board's discussion about public participation at Board meetings and felt strongly that they should permit people to talk.

Mrs. Lisa Emery Fogel, 1307 Girard Ave., Wyomissing, said she heard the Assistant Superintendent's contract is not going to be renewed. She encouraged the Board to base their decision on the job that she is doing and not on the fact that she was hired during the prior superintendent's time with the District.

Mrs. Davis and the Board congratulated Emma Fogel for her recent accomplishments as the 8th grade spelling bee champion.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.