**Allegheny Valley School District**

**Regular Voting Meeting**

**May 15, 2017**

The regular voting meeting of the Allegheny Valley School Board was held Monday evening, May 15, 2017, in the Acmetonia Primary School Forum. The meeting was presided by President, Mr. Larry Pollick who called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the flag salute.

Roll Call: Eight (8) members in attendance

 Mr. Salvatore Conte Mr. Stephen Puskar – ABSENT

 Mr. James Gaschler Mrs. Glenna Renaldi

 Ms. Kathleen Haas Mr. Donald Rocco

 Mrs. Annetta Jursa Mr. Larry Pollick

 Ms. Elizabeth Moretti

Also in attendance were Mr. Patrick Graczyk (Superintendent), Mr. David Mongillo, (Solicitor), Mr. Peter Camarda (Interim Business Manager), students, staff members, and community members.

**PRESENTATIONS**:

**EXTRA MILE AWARDS**

Several “Extra Mile Awards” were presented by Mr. Graczyk and Mr. Sal Conte to select students, staff members, and members of the community for their participation in activities demonstrating commitment to the school district community and/or achievement of recognition from various organizations in which they volunteer. Following the presentations, Mr. Pollick thanked the honorees on behalf of the Board and noted that the news media reports on many activities of the school district and he wishes that the commitment demonstrated by those honored at the meeting would be highlighted in the media as testament to the good people in the Allegheny Valley School District.

**Student Recognitions**:

\*For recognition of award in the Art Competition sponsored by the State Legislature:

Alyssa Marsh and Kathleen Marsili

\*For recognition of the development of a drone in the Sea, Air, and Land Challenge, sponsored by the Department of Defense, Office of Naval Research, under the supervision of technology teacher, Mr. John McDermott:

Cameron Pribulsky, Michael Zolnierczyk, Matt Kern, Michael Thomas, and John Skowronski

\*For recognition of award for the invention of “Plant-It” in the Pete & C Competition sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education:

Michael Zolnierczyk

\*For recognition of nomination to the Total Trib Media Outstanding High School Students: Matt Alese

\*For recognition of award from the Prudential Spirit of Community: Rachel Halupchuk

\*For recognition of the production of a U-Tube Drug Addiction Video through the HOPE foundation:

Dalton Pastucha, George Rukavina, Emily Shock

\*For recognition of advancement to the Academic Games finalist competition at Ogelbay:

Matt Scott, Haley Bonidie

\*For recognition of advancement to the FBLA State-Level competition:

Anna Yaksich, Rylie Patterson, Sydni Henley, Sarah Dugan

\*For recognition of advancement to the WPIAL Swimming Competition: Kevin Kondrit

**Community Member Recognitions**:

\*For recognition of award for his many hours of volunteering from the Cooks Forest State Park:

Mr. William Vargo

\*For recognition of developing and coaching the Girls’ Youth Basketball Program:

Ms. Leslie Sosovicka

**Staff Recognition**:

\*For recognition of the Certificate of Recognition for the 2017 Data Quality Network Data Governance Award of Excellence from the Pennsylvania Department of Education: Mrs. Paula Jean Moretti

\*For recognition of the nomination for Champions of Learning:

Mr. Scott Andrews

Ms. Heidi Charlton

**339 GUIDANCE PLAN**

District Counselors, Mrs. Rebecca Dyer, Mrs. Rebecca Garbisch, and Ms. Andrea Sadowski, presented the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved 339 Guidance Plan. Highlighted in the PowerPoint presentation were the following:

District Demographics 2016 Senior Class Profile graphing the post-graduate activity of the 71 students who graduated.

Academic/Career Plan & Development highlighting the technology and curriculum implemented to introduce and expand on career vs. job choices and opportunities.

Forbes Road Career and Technical Center for student’s opportunity to obtain certifications in a multitude of fields. Tours and visitations are arranged for student participation to interact with instructors and students in the programs.

Career Domain Program Goals:

Grades K-5 were overviewed by Ms. Garbisch, explaining the use of ccSpark career exploration program as a method to introduce a career vs. a job and the many opportunities that will be available as they advance in age and grade level.

Grades 6-9 were overviewed by Ms. Sadowski, explaining the use of the Career Cruising program to encourage students at this age and grade level to exploration of various careers or jobs.

Grades 10-12 were overviewed by Ms. Dyer, explaining that in addition to the Career Cruising program, there are meetings scheduled by the counselors to include parents and students in decision-making for student success in post-graduate activity.

There are currently many stakeholder groups put in place by the counselors for reference by students in their decision-making. These groups are parents, community/business, and an Advisory Council. The Advisory Council, a guidance department support, is made up of district administrators, teachers, parents, students, community/business members, school board, higher education, school counselor consultant, and school counselors.

The impact of this plan is to provide students increased data on career awareness in order to make better informed decisions about their future. Students will be prepared to make educated choices concerning career paths, allowing them to be better prepared to enter the workplace and increase their job satisfaction.

During and following this presentation, several board members had questions and/or comments:

Mr. Conte questioned the program use in Kindergarten since these students are so young, what is the value. Ms. Garbisch explained that at that age, it is a matter of introducing the concept of a job vs. a career, defining what it means to have a job or a career and the basic responsibilities of having a career or job.

Mr. Conte asked for further information regarding the individual planning meeting survey that indicated 85% of the juniors and seniors felt the session was helpful or very helpful. Ms. Dyer responded that approximately 20 students in the junior and senior class who attended one of the individual meetings were given a yes/no survey of a few questions, resulting in the 85% total.

Mr. Conte asked if 100% of the senior class of students and the parents attended individual meetings. Ms. Dyer reported that only 20 parents attended with their children, but all of the students had individual meetings.

Mr. Conte questioned in what year is the development of career planning begun. Ms. Sadowski responded that through scheduling, grade 9 is the beginning year. Mr. Conte then commented that if scheduling begins in grade 9 toward a career goal, why are individual meetings, including parents, not happening until grade 11. All counselors responded that timing is an issue since this is not their only responsibility during the school year. They expanded the discussion including that they meet over the summer months with parents and students for scheduling concerns and welcome any discussion regarding the student’s future plans for career or higher education. Ms. Dyer added that through the 339 Plan, students begin career planning in Kindergarten; therefore, by the time they reach grade 11, they have had 11 years of counseling in that area. She also explained that every year, beginning in grade 6, counselors go into the classroom and explain to the students the opportunities available as they make their individual schedule choices for the next school year. Mr. Conte responded that regardless of the classroom presentations, he would like to see a more one-on-one approach and include parents at an earlier grade level rather than waiting until grade 11. Ms. Moretti stated that she agreed with Mr. Conte that it may be more beneficial to begin individual meetings in grade 9. Ms. Dyer responded that although the formal individual meetings are scheduled in grades 11 and 12, at any time parents and/or students are welcome to schedule time with the counselors to discuss any subject, including career planning.

Mr. Gaschler commented that the counselors have many other responsibilities and scheduling individual time with every student and parent in grades 9-12 may not be manageable. Mr. Conte calculated that with the about of students, given ½ hour increments each, would total 6 days. Mr. Graczyk added that he will meet with the counselors and develop a plan to address the concerns of the board members.

Mr. Gaschler suggested a compromise to individual scheduling with the distribution of invitations to schedule a meeting with the response of yes or no for students and parents. This would provide counselors with an approximate number of student and/or parent interest.

Ms. Sadowski announced that the counselors hold a transition night for students in grades 6 who will be moving from Colfax to the High School and for students in grade 8 who will be transitioning from the junior high to the high school. This presentation provides insight for students and parents as to the new environment, subjects, and responsibilities associated with the transition and grade level change.

Mrs. Jursa added that many parents don’t understand the importance and/or the opportunities for student post-graduate activities, including career vs. job, and the certifications available through Forbes Road.

Mr. Conte questioned the composition of the Advisory Board and when meetings are held. Ms. Dyer responded that, as outlined in the presentation, it is comprised of representation of all three school buildings, administration, and students.

Mr. Greg Wilson, community member, asked why the percentage of undecided is so high in the demographic profile of 2016 graduates and if that group of students is targeted for further counseling in career choices. Ms. Dyer explained that the 69% represents undecided and those who entered the work force directly out of high school. Those that were undecided only comprised about 10% of that number. Ms. Garbisch added that the counselors are always trying to develop new methods of gathering data to add to the presentations to students and parents. All suggestions are welcomed.

Mr. Rocco stated that he participated in the senior exit interviews and was surprised to hear that one of the students changed from the decision to enter the military to applying to college. His concern was that when students are put in a position in grade 9 to decide their future path, when changes such as this student’s is made, what is the impact to the courses that were taken. Do we prepare students adequately to allow for these changes? Mr. Conte stated that he agrees with Mr. Rocco in that many times students enter college and realize that they did not take the courses that were necessary to prepare them for the college-level requirements and are forced to take additional classes at a high cost on the college level.

Mrs. Joelle McFarland, district resident, questioned what percentage of students is reached with the career planning. Ms. Dyer responded that approximately 40%.

**SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

Mr. Graczyk presented his monthly Superintendent Update for May 2017 to the board. The PowerPoint presentation included the following objective performance standards:

Student Growth and Achievement

* Remake Learning Days in Colfax and Acmetonia on May 15 and 26. The respective buildings were open in the evenings for community participation and demonstration of various STEAM, robotic, and technology available to student and teacher use within our schools.
* Second graders’ participation in the innovative learning experience with Fox Chapel second graders. Students from Fox Chapel visited Acmetonia and experienced the Create U and robotics program, including robot races and coding stations while students from Acmetonia visited Fox Chapel and had opportunities in the technology program in their facilities. Following the school visitations, the students gathered together at the University of Pittsburgh’s Alumni Hall for lunch and a culminating group experience.

Springdale High School was once again received the Bronze Award from the US News and World Report as one of the Best High Schools.

Organizational Growth

Mr. Graczyk announced the receipt by Mr. Brett Slezak, high school phys ed teacher, of the Carnegie Science Center Award.

Mr. Graczyk updated the board on his recommendation for an IT Administrative Position. A job description for this position will be available for the board consideration in June.

District Operations and Financial Management

Mr. Graczyk announced that a balanced budget was delivered reflecting a shift of financial priorities and aligning of funds to goals.

Communication and Community Relations

Mr. Graczyk commented on the Saltworks Theatre Company presentation was well received. He submitted a letter of support for the Reality Tour that is sponsored by the HOPE group.

The administrative liaisons for each board committee have been updating the board members weekly.

Human Resource Management

Mr. Graczyk updated the board in the interviewing and recruiting process for the Business Manager position.

Professionalism

The final evaluation for the Superintendent will be in June.

Following Mr. Graczyk’s presentation several board members had questions/comments:

Ms. Moretti questioned why the board will be voting on the CCL contract when it is being proposed to hire an IT Administrator. Mr. Graczyk asked if the board would prefer to not renew the CCL contract. Ms. Moretti added that she is not in favor of adding the IT position. She continued in her statement that the job description for this new position will be presented for board consideration in June when the board has not voted to open the position. She reminded board members that the board met with many obstacles when the position of SPO (School Police Officer) was discussed. Board members and community requested detailed job description and responsibilities over a period of several months prior to the position approval by the board, why is this position any different? Mr. Graczyk responded that the position is allotted for within the approved budget and is considered approved with the board approval of the job description. Ms. Moretti stated that according to board policy, any new position must have board approval prior to the opening of the position. She added that she has not seen a job description or responsibilities for this position, nor has the board had any discussion on this subject, it has only been part of the superintendent goals presentation. Mr. Graczyk responded that he will have the job description included in a board update packet.

Ms. Moretti questioned why this position is being proposed when Ms. Tina Kaczor has held this position for the past few years. Mr. Graczyk responded that Ms. Kaczor is not an administrator. Ms. Moretti then questioned Ms. Kaczor’s position, since she is considered an administrator and is under an administrative category of employees, attending administrative team meetings, making decisions as an administrator, etc. Mr. Graczyk responded that she is under the Act 93 classification of employees and because of her leadership skills is considered part of the administrative team; she cannot, however, evaluate any employees or direct the working staff. He highlighted Ms. Kaczor’s passion for integration of technology, especially with the STEAM and robotic programs and equipment.

Mr. Conte asked if the CCL contract is guaranteed service for 12 months. Mr. Graczyk replied that yes, it is for a continual 12-month period, providing service through the help desk.

Mr. Rocco questioned that if it is necessary to hire a new administrator whose main purpose is to assist in the integration of technology into the classrooms when he has gotten reports of some teachers being reluctant to embrace the new concepts and programs. As the administration develops new technology advances, what is forcing the teachers to use it? How will the new position be effective in integrating it into classrooms and getting the teachers to embrace it when Ms. Kaczor has not? Mr. Graczyk responded that he has not gotten any reports of teachers not embracing new technology. The high school is working under the SUMBRA plan that is a path of being educated about the new concept, using it individually, then incorporating it into the daily lesson planning. There is a lot of room for growth with the new technology and the district would like to have someone who will be able to go into classrooms and work with the teacher and students in getting the most value from the systems. Part of Ms. Kaczor’s assignment will include maximizing her talents and ability in working with the teaching staff and students in the STEAM, robotics, and other technology use.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Pollick asked if there were any comments on Agenda Items.

Hearing none, he proceeded with the Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Ms. Moretti, second by Ms. Jursa to approve the April 4, 2017, April 10, 2017, and the April 18, 2017 Minutes.

Discussion on April 18, 2017 Minutes:

Mr. Gaschler stated that in the April 18, 2017 Minutes, under “Discussion Items”, the topics of discussion begin without the notation of additional discussion items not being included on the original agenda since the meeting was advertised as a Special Voting Meeting.

Following board discussion on the phrasing of the notation, the motion was restated by Ms. Moretti and second by Ms. Jursa to recommend the Board approve the April 4, 2017, April 10, 2017, and the April 18, 2017 Minutes with the notation inserted before the “Discussion Items” header to read “Additional discussion items not included on the original agenda:”.

 Voice Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Opposed Vote carried

**AGENDA ITEMS**:

**1.0 BILLS/PAYMENTS**

Motion by Ms. Haas, second by Mrs. Renaldi to approve payment of bills for the month of April.

 Voice Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Opposed Vote carried

**2.0 OPERATIONS/FINANCE**

Motion by Mrs. Jursa, second by Mr. Conte to approve the following motions:

2.1 Appoint Ms. Kathleen Haas as Board Treasurer, effective July 1, 2017

2.2 Resolution #2017-1 the 2017-2018 General Operating and Administrative Budgets for Forbes Road Career and Technology Center in the amounts of: Operating Budget - $6,362,458 and Administrative Budget - $304,760 (Projected Allegheny Valley share of Administrative Budget - $19,989.01)

2.3 The Computer Centerline (CCL) 2017-2018 Twelve-Month Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue outsourcing technology staff at a total cost of $78,600

2.4 The Two-Year Natural Gas Extension Agreement between the District and ARM Energy Management, LLC at a cost of $3.575/MCF for the period of August 1, 2017 through July 31, 2019

2.5 The River Pediatric Agreement, effective August 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, at a cost of $60 per hour for occupational therapy services and $67 per hour for physical therapy services (no rate increase from 2016/2017)

2.6 The River Pediatric Agreement, effective July 1, 2017 through July 31, 2017, at a cost of $60 per hour for speech therapy services provided during ESY

2.7 The agreement with Senate Engineering for the Springdale Veterans’ Field Retaining Wall 5 Year Inspection Cycle in the amount of $7,250.00

2.8 The renewal of the Sports and Student Accident Insurance – American Management Advisors underwritten by AXIS Insurance Company as follows: 2017-2018 Athletic Plan AAA-Primary $6,154; 2017-2018 Student Plan-School Time $22; 2017-2018 Student Plan-24-hour coverage $88

2.9 ACSHIC Trustee for the period of May 19, 2017 through March 2018. (There is currently 1 open seat. School entities can vote for up to one individual): Joshua J. Miller (Wilkinsburg School District)

2.10 The lease agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for one (1) DART classroom at Acmetonia Primary School in the amount of $4,296.60, effective September 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018

2.11 Resolution #2017-2 recognizing the establishment of non-profit organizations established for the advancement of curricular programs and the promotion of participation in and support of extra-curricular activities of the Allegheny Valley School District

2.12 This motion was legislatively approved at the May 9, 2017 Planning Meeting. A memorial plaque to be hung in the weight room

2.13 Waiving the facility usage fee for the Northern Allegheny County Chapter Umpires Association (NACCUA) meetings. The NACCUA meetings must not be in conflict with any other district-sponsored activities.

2.14 Waiving the facility usage fee for the Alle-Kiski Football Chapter of PIAA Officials meetings. The Alle-Kiski Football Chapter of PIAA Officials meetings must not be in conflict with any other district-sponsored activities.

 Voice Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Opposed Vote carried

**3.0 EDUCATION**

Motion by Mr. Rocco, second by Mr. Gaschler to approve the following motions:

3.1 The list of graduating seniors, Class of 2017, and further approve those who meet the requirements for graduation to be granted an official diploma on June 2, 2017 or shortly thereafter.

3.2 The addition of STEAM Encore rotation for Grades 4 through 6. This encore replaces health in the rotation. Health and physical education have been combined.

3.3 The request of Ms. Sue Mellon and four (4) FBLA students to attend the 2017 National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA on June 27, 2017 to July 3, 2017. Cost per person is approximately

$1,533.40 and includes registration/lodging/meals/transportation

3.3 AMENDED - The request of Ms. Sue Mellon and four (4) FBLA students to attend the 2017 National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA on June 27, 2017 to July 3, 2017. The District will make a one-time contribution of $766.00 per student, which is ½ the student cost, without setting a precedent.

3.4 The changes to the Springdale Jr-Sr High School Student Handbook for the 2017-2018 school year

3.5 The changes to the Elementary School Student Handbook for the 2017-2018 school year

Discussion on item 3.3:

Mr. Conte questioned the request to approve the cost for the FBLA trip to California, this is a club activity and the Board does not have a precedent to pay for student trips. Mr. Graczyk stated that since the students who qualified to attend the event were not notified until April 2017 and did not have ample time to fundraise for this trip.

Ms. Moretti added that this would be a cost of approximately $7,800 for a club activity, not one that is academic. She also expressed concerns that approving this funding will set a precedent for other clubs.

Mr. Gaschler stated that the Board has approved funding for smaller trips through paying for hotel accommodations and has allotted money for Academic Games.

Mr. Graczyk informed the Board that Mr. Tsangaris, the club sponsor, had budgeted some funds in anticipation of students qualifying; however, it is not enough to cover all the expenses. Ms. Moretti questioned that if Mr. Tsangaris is the club sponsor, why is Ms. Mellon chaperoning the trip?

Mr. Graczyk responded that all of the students are female, so it was agreed with administration that a female chaperone was more appropriate.

Mr. Conte asked how the Board could justify paying for hotel for some groups and the Academic Games and not for this trip?

Mr. Gaschler asked if there was money in the current school year budget to cover this expense; how much is in the budget for Board travel, $20,000, why not use some of that money.

Mr. Conte and Ms. Moretti both stated that it is not a matter of finding the money; it is a matter of setting a precedent.

Mr. Pollick added to the conversation stating that because of the late notice to the students and parents, it will be a hardship for the families to put together all the funding necessary; therefore, he feels the Board should approve funding with the notation that it is not to set a precedent rather than deny the students this opportunity.

Mr. Conte commented that as a Board, they have to do what’s right for the entire district, not just a handful of students or an individual activity.

Mr. Rocco questioned if there were any plans finalized for this trip. Mr. Graczyk responded that he did sign off on travel arrangements.

Mrs. Renaldi shared her experience through her daughter’s affiliation with the FBLA in the Gateway School District. The Gateway School District allots $400 per student who qualifies for the trip; the family must pay the remainder. Last year, although some students qualified, none attended due to the cost. She added that this is a wonderful trip and opportunity for the students. The FBLA organization plans great learning activities for the students who travel as a group the entire trip; however, the setting of a precedent is something that needs to be considered, especially since more students may qualify in the future. Her recommendation is to set a limit for Board approval for this trip with the notation of it not setting a precedent.

Ms. Moretti asked for a roll call vote on the item.

Mr. Pollick asked for clarification as to what will happen next school year, that if a student qualifies, who will pay? Mr. Conte responded that if the Board approves any amount, it will set a precedent. He asked if this situation is addressed in any policy. Ms. Moretti stated that she will check the Board Policy.

Mr. Graczyk reminded the Board that GATE travel is funded by the district. Ms. Moretti responded that GATE is governed under the student GIEP as is any special education activity that is within a student IEP.

Mr. Robert Henley, district resident, spoke of the wonderful opportunity for students and the recognition to the Allegheny Valley School District. With the short notice of qualifying, it will be a hardship for these families to pay for the trip, denying these students who have worked so hard to earn this award. He referenced the cost to the district when the various sports teams qualify for WPIAL events, which are district paid. He asked that the Board consider funding for this activity.

Mr. Gaschler responded that he is not familiar with how the sports activities are funded when teams qualify for playoffs; however, they all have booster organizations that fundraise all year.

Mr. Graczyk commented that the Board could stipulate that this is a one-time one year approval.

Mr. Renaldi reminded Board members that next year there could be 24 students qualify.

Ms. Moretti added that although this Board could state that it is not setting a precedent and is a one time approval, next year there could be a whole new Board that may not be aware of the concerns and discussion brought forth at this meeting.

Mr. John Murray, district resident, stated that this trip and award is great publicity for the district and an opportunity that should not be taken from the students over funding.

Mr. Conte responded that the Board has academic responsibilities to the students and residents of the district. This expenditure is outside of that responsibility.

Mr. Graczyk added that legally, all Board discussions must be done in a public forum. Those in attendance tonight are hearing the concerns and opinions of Board members regarding this request. No one on the Board is trying to take anything away from any students, they are discussing the matter. This is your opportunity to see where people stand on various issues and their clear compassion for being fiscally responsible and providing for our students.

Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Pollick called for a roll call vote on Item 3.3, as requested by Ms. Moretti:

 Mr. Conte Pass\*/No

 Mr. Gaschler Yes

 Ms. Haas No

 Mrs. Jursa No

 Ms. Moretti No

 Mrs. Renaldi No

 Mr. Rocco Yes

 Mr. Pollick Yes

 Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes, 5 No Item 3.3 Vote Failed

\*After passing in the first roll call, Mr. Conte asked to vote, at which time it came into question by Mr. Camarda that if a Board member ‘passes’, are they entitled to vote since the ‘pass’ statement was the equivalent of walking out of the room and choosing not to vote. Through input by Mr. Mongillo (solicitor), it was determined that the practice of ‘passing’ was an attempt to be permitted to be the last vote and considering how other members had voted. It was agreed that Mr. Conte could state his vote.

**AMENDED ITEM 3.3**

As a result of the Board discussion, Item 3.3 was amended as follows:

Motion by Mrs. Renaldi, second by Mr. Gaschler to approve the request of Ms. Sue Mellon and four (4) FBLA students to attend the 2017 National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA on June 27, 2017 to July 3, 2017. The District will make a one-time contribution of $766.00 per student, which is ½ the student cost, without setting a precedent.

Mr. Pollick called for a roll call vote:

 Mr. Conte Pass\*/Abstain

 Mr. Gaschler Yes

 Ms. Haas Yes

 Mrs. Jursa Yes

 Ms. Moretti No

 Mrs. Renaldi Yes

 Mr. Rocco Pass\*/Yes

 Mr. Pollick Pass\*/Yes

 Roll Call Vote: 6 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain Vote Carried for

 Amended Item 3.3

\*After passing in the first roll call, Mr. Conte, Mr. Rocco, and Mr. Pollick asked to vote, at which time it came into question by Mr. Camarda that if a Board member ‘passes’, are they entitled to vote since the ‘pass’ statement was the equivalent of walking out of the room and choosing not to vote. Through input by Mr. Mongillo (solicitor), it was determined that the practice of ‘passing’ was an attempt to be permitted to be the last vote and considering how other members had voted. It was agreed that Mr. Conte, Mr. Rocco, and Mr. Pollick could state his vote.

**4.0 TECHNOLOGY**

4.1 No report from chairperson, Mr. Conte

**5.0 PERSONNEL**

Motion by Ms. Haas, second by Mrs. Jursa to approve the following motions:

5.1 The Elementary Staffing request to support the 2017-2018 Student Program

5.2 The Secondary Staff request to support the 2017-2018 Student Program

5.3 Accept the resignation of the following Athletic Personnel:

 A. Lisa Leasure, JV Cheerleading Coach, effective April 13, 2017

5.4 The employment of the following Athletic Personnel:

 A. Renee Zebrine, JV Cheerleading Coach, effective May 16, 2017

 Compensation: $2,468.00

 B. This motion was legislatively approved at the May 9, 2017 Planning Meeting.

 Seth Napierkowski, Head Football Coach, effective May 9, 2017

 Compensation: $6,435.00

5.5 The employment of the following Classified Employee:

 A. Christopher Speer, Substitute Bus Aide/Substitute Cafeteria Monitor

 Effective May 16, 2017, Compensation: $10.30 per hour

5.6 The FMLA request for Employee #815, effective May 5, 2017 and returning to work on September 5, 2017.

5.7 The FMLA request for Employee #836, effective April 11, 2017, not to exceed 60 days.

5.8 The employment of the following ESY Professional Staff:

 A. William Emerick, Teacher, Compensation: $26 per hour

 B. Curtis Poremski, Teacher, Compensation: $36 per hour

 C. Adrianna Scotti, Teacher, Compensation: $26 per hour

 D. Kandi Connor, Nurse, Compensation: $36 per hour

5.9 The employment of the following ESY Classified Staff:

 A. Nick Etzel, Paraprofessional, Compensation: $12.40 per hour

 B. Krysten Whelan, Paraprofessional, Compensation: $12.40 per hour

 C. Casey Weber, Paraprofessional, Compensation: $13.07 per hour

 D. Chelsea Walker, Paraprofessional, Compensation: $13.07 per hour

 E. Ashley Kostick, Paraprofessional, Compensation: $12.40 per hour

5.10 Accept the retirement of Roselyn Heilman, Cafeteria Worker, effective June 2, 2017.

5.11 The resignation of Dana Muller, Cafeteria Worker, effective March 31, 2017.

5.12 The Cafeteria Employees Compensation and Benefits Package for the period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020. Hourly rates will be increased by $0.40 for Established Employees annually throughout the contract.

Mr. Pollick called for a roll call vote on Item 5.12:

 Mr. Conte Yes

 Mr. Gaschler Yes

 Ms. Haas Yes

 Mrs. Jursa Yes

 Ms. Moretti Yes

 Mrs. Renaldi Yes

 Mr. Rocco Yes

 Mr. Pollick Yes

 Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No Vote Carried

Mr. Pollick called for a voice vote on Items 5.1 through 5.11:

 Voice Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 No Vote Carried

**6.0 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

6.1 No report by chairperson, Ms. Moretti

**7.0 ATHLETICS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

7.1 No report by chairperson, Mrs. Renaldi

**8.0 POLICY/LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Motion by Ms. Moretti, second by Ms. Haas, to approve the following motions:

8.1 The second reading of Policy #705.2, Standard Operating Procedures for Persons Authorized to Use Weapons.

8.2 The second reading of Policy #709.1, School Police Officers.

Discussion on the motion:

Mr. Rocco asked for a response to his question posed at the planning meeting regarding the protocol of calling the state police vs. the local authorities if a weapon is discharged. Mr. Graczyk responded that he researched the rationale and was informed that the state and/or county-level police have more resources upon the discharge of a weapon such as examination of the weapon, various testing and evaluation of the individual and other procedures. This protocol also alleviates the appearance or accusation of any favoritism, relationships, suspicion, or wrong-doing on the part of anyone involved in the incident.

Mr. Rocco questioned if the report to the state police would be referred back to the municipality in any incident or just for discharge of a weapon. Mr. Graczyk responded that the municipality would refer the incident directly to the state; the state would alert the local municipality. He added that the School Police Office (SPO) has the responsibility and willingness to enhance the relationship with the local law enforcement and appreciates the Board’s questions involving protocol.

Mr. Conte asked the procedure if the SPO oversteps the authority. Mr. Rocco questioned if the District would review the SPO in that instance through drug testing, etc. Mr. Graczyk reminded them that the motion before the Board is in the case of discharge of a weapon. In the case of discharge of a weapon there are two points considered by the state police: 1. Examine the firearm and 2. Check the individual.

In checking the individual it may be discovered that he/she is in the beginning stages of a condition such as Parkinson’s.

Mr. Rocco asked if the SPO will be required to undergo an annual physical. Mr. Graczyk responded that no, but that is something the Board can add to the job requirements or adopt an additional policy.

Mr. Mongillo supported Mr. Graczyk’s response adding that the Board can develop a new policy to govern additional requirements for the position. His suggestion was to have their office work with the Policy Chairperson to study policies from other districts and business to form one that fits the needs and concerns of the Allegheny Valley School District. He directed their attention that the current policy is dealing with handling of a weapon/firearm.

Mr. Conte asked if the District could outfit the SPO with a body camera to record any instances in case of questions.

Mr. Mongillo and Ms. Moretti stated that they would investigate that practice and research the possibilities to adopt policy to govern such action.

Mr. Pollick called for a voice vote on the motion:

 Voice Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 No Vote Carried

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Board Discussion**

Ms. Moretti announced that the American Red Cross and the local Emergency Management Team are conducting classroom assemblies in the Acmetonia Primary and Colfax Upper Elementary Schools. She suggested that if administrators and board members have a chance, they should attend these sessions designed to bring awareness to emergency preparedness to our students. Times of the presentations are:

Acmetonia Primary: Tuesday, May 16, and Thursday, May 18 beginning at 9 a.m.

Colfax Upper Elementary: Monday, May 23, and Tuesday, May 24, two presentations each day, one at 8:30 and one at 9:10

Mrs. Renaldi announced that the Cheerleader Boosters contacted Mr. Ray Davis, Athletic Director, and asked for the procedure to follow to get permission to set up a banner displaying a photograph of the cheerleading squad along with a listing only of the various sponsors for the group. Mrs. Renaldi wanted to be sure to reference the Board Policy since there had been problems in the past with other booster and athletic groups placing banners in the playing fields.

Ms. Moretti stated that in the Board Policy there is language referencing that no signs of sponsorship are permitted. She added that she will provide a copy of the policy to Mrs. Renaldi and Mr. Davis.

Mr. Pollick added that he also will look at the policy.

Mr. Conte asked if placing a banner at the baseball field was according to the Board Policy. Ms. Moretti responded that the policy does not prohibit banners; the stipulation in the Board Policy #913 is that it must meet the municipality guidelines and go through the approval process of administration and Board.

Mrs. Renaldi reported that since the newly-hired football coach will be keeping the same football coaches as last year, are they required to renew their clearances. Mr. Graczyk responded that since there was no break in service, the clearances on file are valid for a period of five years. He added that although Mr. Napierkowski was a coach in the past, he is required to present updated clearances since he is being promoted to the head coach position.

Mr. Rocco commented that approximately 6 or 7 months ago he brought up the filming of high school athletic events, especially for use in recruiting for colleges, and now he wants to expand to include the filming of the Board meetings. He stated that the District should be doing it ‘right’ by embracing the concept and have students, as part of the curriculum, handle the responsibilities. Mr. Pollick added that it would add another level to good communication. He stated that he would meet with Mr. Graczyk and Dr. Nuzzo to discuss the possibilities.

Ms. Moretti made a suggestion to reformat the procedure for Board voting to have whoever made the second to the motion be the first to cast their vote. That could eliminate the practice of passing and would give other members the opportunity to vote first or last. Mr. Conte agreed with Ms. Moretti’s suggestion. Ms. Haas added that the Board used that procedure many years ago and doesn’t know when or why it was changed. Mr. Rocco agreed with the suggestion, stating that it would give him a chance to vote in a different rotation. Mr. Camarda reported that he has had experience in other districts whereby the procedure of rotating alphabetically with each vote was used such as the first name was used in the first vote, the second name in the second vote and so forth. Board members were in agreement to implement Mr. Camarda’s suggestion moving forward.

Mr. Rocco asked for clarification of the evaluation process outlined in Board Policy #123.1, which states the delegation of responsibility as the Athletic Director and Principal to report the performance evaluation to the Board. He questioned if that policy was followed and why the Board has not seen any evaluations. Mr. Graczyk stated that if the Board does not receive a report, which indicates that the evaluation was positive; if the report to the Board requests opening the position, which indicates a negative evaluation. Mr. Rocco continued that it seems that the process is open to individual interpretation.

Ms. Moretti added that the summer months provide good timing for working on revising and/or preparation of new policies. Many of the policies in place are older and need to be revised and updated; she welcomed any suggestions from any Board members.

Mr. Gaschler requested the Board receive a report stating that all athletic evaluations have been completed for each season.

Mr. Rocco questioned that since Mr. Davis is not in a supervisory role, should he be conducting the evaluations? Since the Board learned at the last meeting that Ms. Kaczor, although within the Administrative Team is not qualified to evaluate, how can Mr. Davis? Mr. Graczyk responded that Mr. Davis can evaluate coaches; Ms. Kaczor could evaluate IT people who would be under her supervision. He concluded the conversation regarding evaluations by stating that he will find out what athletic staff evaluations are completed or not and report back to the Board.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**:

Mr. John Murray, district resident, thanked the Board and administration for their support in the Saltwork’s presentation. He reported that even if the HOPE group doesn’t receive the grant, they will be moving forward with the reality tour, funding it through the donations the group receives.

Mr. Murray also reported that last week the mother of two young children within our district passed away of a drug overdose. This is a very traumatic event for not only her young children, but many children within the schools; he asked if the District has a policy to govern counseling availability for students in times like this. There are many comments on Facebook, some of which are not kind, that may lead to the children being subjected to bullying within the schools. Does the District have provisions in place?

Mr. Graczyk responded that the guidance counselors and principals are responsible for providing services to students and have procedures in place.

Mr. Murray asked if the District learns of situations like the drug overdose and other traumatic events that effect the children through the grapevine or from the police.

Mr. Graczyk responded that it is a little of both.

Ms. Moretti added that the District has a great relationship with the first responders that inform administration and Board Members.

Ms. Jennifer Novich, district resident and President of the AVEA, stated that there are no names on the agenda for positions filled, vacated, etc. She also thanked the Board for omitting the names of those employees who had action taken since they were mistakenly listed on the agenda for the planning meeting.

Mrs. Joelle McFarland, district resident, asked why all the names of employees were removed. Mr. Camarda responded that there was miscommunication as to what names were to be listed and which were to be omitted, resulting in the removal of all employee names.

Mrs. McFarland commented on the request of cheerleader boosters to put up a sign for the football and basketball games in that the football boosters were not permitted to put up a sign and were instructed to return the funds that were donated by various local businesses for the sign.

Mrs. McFarland stated that she was glad to hear that the interview process is beginning for the Business Office Manager position. She questioned Mr. Camarda as to how many days and hours he has been working. Mr. Camarda responded that he has been on the job every day since April 10, 2017 and will continue until the position is filled.

Mrs. McFarland asked if there was any data available on the iPad usage by students and staff. Mr. Graczyk responded that there was a survey conducted near the beginning of the school year indicating that it is roughly 8 of 10 students using the iPads; however, he is not sure of the specific results. He will consult with Mrs. Kaczor to gather more information including how often the devices are used.

Mr. Gaschler added that during discussion between the Technology Committee and Mrs. Kaczor, they are researching how to approach a mid to end-of-year survey.

Mrs. McFarland asked if there was a paper copy of the coach evaluations available for the public.

Mr. Graczyk responded that evaluations are a confidential matter and are submitted only to the administration; they are not for public view.

Hearing no further discussion on this or any other matter concerning the Board, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Pollick at 9:25 p.m. through a motion made by Mrs. Renaldi and second by Ms. Haas.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Jean Moretti

Administrative Assistant