

## Regular School Board Meeting

August 8, 2023

A regular meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jason Barnett, Heidi Byers, Ann Kopnitsky, Donald Nair, Bill Reddinger, Brent Wile, John Sayers, John Kimmel, and Darren Bain.

Darleen represented the RVHS Reunion that was held 7/8/23 at the Alcola Park and had funds leftover and presented some checks to the Redbank Valley School District. She thanked Matt Darr for his help and donated 20 cases of water to the Athletic Department. They donated three 4x12 foot banners, three fifteen foot flags, and another banner. She thanked the NHS for giving the tour of the building (150 people), and donated \$300 to the Sports Boosters and \$5,000 to the Foundation. \$3,000 was donated to the Career Center students and \$2,000 to the Arts. Bill gave thanks on behalf of the Board, students and school.

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by John Sayers to approve the Minutes of the Work Session and Board Meeting on July 11, 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Shirey had nothing to add to her report. Dr. Rupp said that she met with Clarion Environmental and several of the original folding closet doors were damaged and they are going to remove the closet doors so they can complete the entire floor.

Mr. Hartle had nothing to add to his report. Dr. Rupp mentioned there was a teacher resignation on that day and will need to post for a math position.

Mr. Temchulla had the nothing to add. Dr. Rupp mentioned that a bunch of people were trained in the last few days in nonviolent crisis prevention intervention CPI.

Mr. Jones had nothing to add to his report. The AC units above the offices went down last week and Johnson Controls were in and fixed the issue.

Mrs. Reitz stated she is working on finishing up the 2022-23 school year, that the auditors have sent the initial punch list of items they will need. She is still working with Dale each Monday and that they are working to finalize the 2022-23 school year and she will provide the finalized numbers once everything is completed.

Dr. Rupp had nothing to add to her report.

Ann Kopnitsky had nothing to add to report.

Heidi Byers had nothing to add to her report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were none.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to approve the second reading of policies 322-334 as presented. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to ratify the agreement with the borough for paving by increasing the approved amount from \$8,051 to \$12,046.30, an increase of \$3,995.30 to come out of the maintenance budget. Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to approve the patching of the holes in front of the High School. Total cost to the district is \$5,600 (option 2). Motioned carried 8-1 (Bain)

A motion was made by Jason Barnett seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for Consideration for approval of the United Valley Soccer League Field Use Agreement as presented. The cost is \$1,500, but that fee will be waived if the UVSA can use the HS Soccer Field for one Saturday during the UVSA Spring Season and if the district provides volunteers to operate the UVSA concession stand independently during the end of year fall tournament for UVSA. UVSA will keep all the profits from the sales, and the district will just provide the volunteer help. Motion carried unanimously

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by Ann Kopnitsky for Consideration to approve the first reading of policies 335-351, policy 616, policy 800, policy 830, and policy 830.1 as presented. Dr. Kimmel asked if we are not approving policy 341 and Dr. Rupp advised that is correct. The motion needed amended to not include policy 341. A motion was made by Jason Barnett and seconded by Donald Nair to amend the motion to specify number range policies to list the reading of policies 335-340, and 342-351 so that 341 was not included. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by John Sayers for the Consideration to approve the van and bus driver list for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by Donald Nair for the Consideration to approve the MOU with Riverview IU #6 for special education services as presented. Mr. Barnett questioned the cost of last year vs this year. Dr. Rupp will look into the information and send it out to the Board and mentioned that the multi disability support is probably the most expensive and nobody outside the IU offers it. Motion failed (3-6) Bain, Barnett, Kopnitsky, Nair, Reddinger, Sayers. Kimmel questioned if we don't go with the IU, where are we going, and how are we going to secure something within the next 2 weeks. Mrs. Kopnitsky said we have the responsibility to educate the students and she isn't saying that

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she doesn't want the children educated because it is very important, but originally voted no only because she believes the pricing is high. Therefore, a motion was made by Anne Kopnitsky and seconded by Bill Reddinger to reconsider #22 and the vote was 8-1 (Bain). Mr. Barnett also recommended that we look into the cost a little deeper for the budget next year.

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by John Sayers for the Consideration to approve the extracurricular handbook for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made Donald Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the Officials pay scale with charges as presented. Mr. Darr said the increase was only on football and volleyball. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the agreement with Salandra Painting to finish the classroom floors at the Intermediate School. Cost to the district is \$15,115. Mr. Reddinger asked if this was before or after insurance and Dr. Rupp said before. She said we will be reimbursed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of this. John Sayers asked if it will be done in time for school to start and Dr. Rupp said it will be. Motion Carried Unanimously

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to remove Cheryl Motter from all bank accounts and official documents with the district, updating to include the new business manager, Rochelle Reitz. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made John Kimmel seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to restructure the payments to Cyber Charter Schools from withdrawal to bill pay. Jason asked for clarification, and we will now be billed directly rather than money taken out of our subsidy. Mr. Barnett stressed the importance of getting kids back into the building. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made John Kimmel by seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to approve the monthly Treasurer's Report for June and July 2023 and for the Consideration to approve the July 2023 General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$1,117,150.28. Motion Carried Unanimously

### **PERSONNEL**

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the hiring of Sandra Orf as a custodian at an hourly rate of \$11.24 for a total cost to district of \$27,838.13, and for the hiring of Nancy McCauley as a custodian at an hourly rate of \$17.54 for a total cost to the district of \$29,953.57. Dr. Rupp clarified that Sandra has health benefits and Nancy does not so that is why the total cost to the district is similar. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion as made by John Kimmel seconded by Donald Nair for the Consideration to approve the hiring of Trista Truitt as an elementary Aide at an hourly rate of \$10.95. Total cost to the district is \$42,680.62. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by John Sayers for the Consideration to approve Gretchen Kunselman to serve as a mentor for Tessa Shick, Tammi Smith to serve as a mentor for Jackie Hopper, Eric Yoder to serve as a mentor for Sara King, Dianna Bain to serve as a mentor for Sara Maxwell, and Brady Carrier to serve as a mentor for Matthew Hutchinson. The cost to the district over two years is \$1,400 for each mentor. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair and seconded by Anne Kopnitsky for the Consideration to hire Mariah Huth as a long-term substitute for the term of two years beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Total cost to the district for the 2023-2024 school year is \$80,584.15. Mr. Sayers questioned what subject she would be a substitute for, and it is Biology. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by John Kimmel and seconded by Ann Kopnitsky for Consideration to utilize services from Go Rockets, IUP and eAchieve for foreign language instruction for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair and seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to hire R. Dawn Davis as the Accounts Payable/Payroll Manager at a salary of \$40,000. Total cost to the district is \$71,685.48. Mr. Barnett questioned if this was a 12 month position and Dr. Rupp responded yes. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Don Nair and seconded by Ann Kopnitsky for the Consideration to hire Polly Martz as a cook at the hourly rate of \$15.69. Total cost to the district is \$20,682.64. John Sayers asked if it came with benefits, and it does not. Dr. Rupp commented we have at least 7 openings in the cafeteria and we still don't have a head cook. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by John Sayers and seconded by Darren Bain for Consideration to approve the Coaches Handbook Changes for the 2023-2024 season. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by John Sayers for the Consideration to approve the payment for a morning monitor at the Primary Building from 7:30 – 8:00. The cost per school day is \$13.50. Mr. Barnett asked if this was existing staff and Dr. Rupp verified it is existing staff. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Anne Kopnitsky and seconded by Brent Wile for the Consideration to approve the addendum to the Spero Group agreement, adding an additional social worker for the 2023-2024 school year, paid with grant funds. Mr. Barnett questioned if these positions will be eliminated once funding goes away. Dr. Rupp is hoping with retirement and resignations, the district will be able to save money to continue this. We will need to look at this and assess if we need all of them. Mrs. Byers questioned if the grant money has to be spent this way and Dr. Rupp replied yes. 6-3 (Nair, Reddinger, Sayers)

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the nursing agreement with Penn West University to provide nursing students as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the hiring of Olivia Dougherty as a 4.5 hour food handler at an hourly rate of \$11.24. Total cost to the district is \$10,257.66. Mr. Sayers questioned if there were benefits with this position, and there are no benefits with this position. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Donald Nair seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the hiring of Laura Neiswonger as a 200 day High School Secretary at an hourly rate of \$12.24. Total cost to the district is \$47,549.20. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Brent Wile seconded by John Kimmel for the Consideration to approve the resignation of Mary Jane Chludzinski, effective 8/8/23. Mr. Barnett asked if we will be holding her and Dr. Rupp said she will know in a few days. This is for a math position. Motion Carried Unanimously

Additional items: Bill asked if the board would be willing to hold a meeting at the Career Center. They agreed that they would be interested in that.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by John Kimmel seconded by John Sayers to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rochelle Reitz*

Rochelle Reitz  
Board Secretary