School Board Work Session Meeting
January 14, 2008

A Work Session of the Redbank Valley School Board was held, Monday, January 14, 2008, 7:00 P.M., Redbank Valley High School Library. The following members were in attendance: Adam Barrett, Dee Bell, Randy Frampton, Rick Kirkpatrick, Vince Markle, Theodore Minich, Shirley Pastor, Glenn Watson and Lou Ann Williams.

Mr. Minich opened the meeting. Dr. Cornish announced that January is Board Appreciation Month. A dinner was provided to the school board at 6:30 p.m. to partake.

Items for discussion are follows:

A. Restructing District Transportation System:

Shirley Pastor stated her concern for students dismissed from the elementary school at 3:00 p.m arriving home after 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Pastor suggested that district look at having separate elementary and secondary bus runs to solve this problem for next year. Mrs. Pastor stated that having elementary age students on a bus for over 1 ½ hours is too long a period for this school district in her opinion. Dr. Cornish introduced the Bus Contractor's who were invited to attend the meeting tonight to address questions by the board. All were in attendance.

Recommendation: It was determined that the administrative staff and bus contractor would meet and develop a plan as to the following:

1. School dismissal times
2. Separate vo-tech bussing
3. Bus route reviews with the new plan in mind.

B. Curriculum and Staffing Changes:

Dr. Cornish and Steve Dobransky commented on the possible changes needed to the curriculum for vo-tech students in addressing the increase need of additional math credits for these students regarding the proposed legislation for Graduation Competency Assessments (GCA) for seniors. Mr. Dobransky stated that presently vo-tech students receive 3 years of math. This proposal would require students to have 4 years of math. Mr. Dobransky asked the school board for suggestions as to possible changes in language course offerings. Due to the retirement of Mr. Harding could he look into changing the present language course offerings to students or maintain the current language offering and staff. Mr. Dobransky stated that with technology today cyber classes are offered to districts without the personnel to teach certain electives at a cost of $320.00 per student. These classes require a (1) classroom proctor to monitor students and to help out in case of technical difficulties, (2) use of additional computer equipment and wiring, (3) and the possible purchase of student cubicles. Dr. Cornish explained that currently the district will bring in a substitute teacher to complete the school year.

Recommendation: It was determined that this item would be brought to the board when curriculum approval for the next school year is approved.

C. Teacher Appreciation:

Dr. Cornish stated to the board members that in the past the school board has shown its appreciation to the staff with a gift/award for the accomplishments the district has received in the past year. With the most recent recognition by U.S. News Report for Redbank Valley High School being a "Bronze Medal" school Dr. Cornish suggested continuing this recognition.

Recommendation: It was determined that this item would be considered at a later time period once the board had more information for consideration.

D. Board Training:

Dr. Cornish reminded the board that a New School Board Member training workshop will be offered by PSBA at Clarion-Limestone School District on February 6, 2008 at 6:30. Dr. Cornish stated that so far 4 members have contacted him to attend. This workshop is invited to all board members not just new ones.

Dr. Cornish also informed the board that PSBA or other agency would be able to conduct a workshop for the board members in educating them on past and current contract issues taking place in negotiation right now. Dr. Cornish passed out information from PSBA as to what the workshop would involve as to contract analysis, regional trends, hot topics today, contract language, employee relations as well as the workshop cost. Dr. Cornish also informed the board that the Reschini Agency who manages the health consortium in which Redbank Valley participates in offers a healthcare workshop for both the board members and staff. This workshop educates what medical benefits fall into negotiation agenda's and to structure a benefit plan were rising cost of medical care does not become the focal point in negotiations.

Recommendation: It was determined that board members wishing to attend the New Board Member workshop contact Dr. Cornish to register. As to the negotiation workshop the board asked for Dr. Cornish to schedule this type of session at a later date. And as to the healthcare workshop the board asked for Dr. Cornish to schedule at a later date.

E. 2008-09 Calendar

Dr. Cornish then asked the board for comment on the proposed school calendar. This calendar takes into effect the school who participate in the Career Center to align a calendar that can suit all the districts. Dr. Cornish also reminded members that legislation is on record to having all schools in the state have a mandatory start date after Labor Day. This legislation could cause district to revisit the school calendar at a later date but we cannot wait for that to happen Dr. Cornish explained calendars need to be set so that schools can plan for the next school year in advance.

Recommendation: It was determined that this item would be considered at the next board meeting.

F. Chapter 12

Cheryl McCauley presented a strategic plan which will need approval at the next board meeting. This plan structures current student services as to guidance services, psychological services, health services and etc. Mrs. McCauley asked the board members to review the plan and to call her as to the content of plan if questions should arise.

Recommendation: It was determined that this item would be considered at the next board meeting.

G. Other

Dr. Cornish informed the board members as to information received by the district concerning TB testing of all staff members. Dr. Cornish noted that memo's have been sent to new staff that do not currently have TB test on file. As to older staff members the issue as to record on file before the flood which were lost is in question but to be on the safe side the district has asked of TB test updates be obtained for there file.

Jason Huffman informed the school board that recent IEP evaluations may necessitate the additional hiring of a child aide for the remainder of this school year and the additional hiring of another child aide for next year for a kindergarten age student. Also Mr. Huffman informed the board that an issue as to students bringing handheld games to school has been linked to bullying issues. Mr. Huffman is sending a letter to parents asking for their help not to sending their child to school with these types of devices. Mr. Huffman also will review current board policy and student handbook policy to make a recommendation at a later date.

Recommendation: It was determined that this item would be considered at a later time period once the board had more information for consideration.

The Work Session adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack E. Loughner, Jr.
Board Secretary