

School Board Work Session Meeting  
April 11, 2007

A Work Session Meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held, Wednesday, April 11, 2007, 6:30 P.M., Redbank Valley High School Library. The following members were in attendance Dee Bell, Louise Clemens, Randall Frampton, Theodore Minich, Glenn Watson and Lou Ann Williams. Vince Markle, Shirley Pastor and Kim Walls were absent.

Items discussed are as follows:

A. Wrestling Building Demolition

Dr. Cornish explained to the board members with the construction of the wrestling/fitness addition the existing wrestling structure would need to be demolished before construction could begin. Dr. Cornish stated that some interest has been expressed regarding the salvage of some of the materials during demolition to include the demolition in the building addition specifications to contractors. Dr. Cornish explained that a steel I-beam measuring approximately 2ft x 30ft is supporting the wrestling structure which could be salvaged. Discussion then turned to the high school renovation of the boilers and uni-vents copper material and what cost the district could reap from the sale of such material to salvage companies. Also discussed was the possible sale of the existing food storage freezer used by the cafeteria. Dr. Cornish stated that district personnel are looking into the age and type of refrigeration used by the unit and if it can be used by the district or be discarded.

**Recommendation:** It was determined that more information regarding the amount of salvage material needs to be available for the board to make a decision.

B. High School Security Gate

Dr. Cornish and Stephen Dobransky presented information for the replacement of a security gate in the High School main hallway next to the mailroom. Discussion as to adding an additional gate and the possible replacement of the shop garage door were examined.

**Recommendation:** It was determined that one gate would be replaced at this time.

C. Teacher Recognition

Dr. Cornish asked the board for suggestions for teacher appreciation. Dr. Cornish informed the board of the different recommendations made to him by the teacher relation committee using the local newspaper for monthly recognition, luncheons or dinners recognizing teacher achievements or awareness plaques. Dr. Cornish made a recommendation of Flash disc's for the staff that would store computer programs of files that teachers could swap between computers at school or at home. After lengthy discussion by members of the board the following recommendations were made.

**Recommendation:** It was determined that the board would ask Dr. Cornish to order flash disc's and the use of local newspaper advertisement acknowledging the staff.

#### D. Background Checks and Volunteers – Paying Part Cost

Dr. Cornish and the board members discussed Act 114 of 2006 whereas prospective employees (including but not limited to administrators, teachers, substitutes, janitors, cafeteria workers, office employees, bus drivers, student teachers, independent contractors etc...) who have direct contact with children must apply for Federal Criminal History Records as of April 1, 2007. Employees hired prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> are only required to provide the Federal Criminal History record if they have lived outside of the state for at least two years immediately preceding their application for employment. The applicant will pay a \$40.00 fee for the fingerprinting service. Discussion from board members was asking whether or not volunteers must have this background check. Dr. Cornish referred to the insert in the board members packets stating that PDE and Cogent Systems who process the application will not process the Federal Criminal History for volunteers. Dr. Cornish stated that board policy requires all background checks for long-term volunteers.

**Recommendation:** It was determined that the board would consider this item at the next board meeting as to reimbursing volunteers ½ the cost for Federal Criminal History on a one time basis. (Example of cost. Act 34 \$10, Act 151 \$10, Act 114 \$40 for a total of \$60 with the district reimbursing the volunteer \$30).

#### E. Extended Soccer Field Agreement

Dr. Cornish referred to the memo from Athletic Director Michael Brown and United Valley Soccer Association on the possible extension for the soccer field agreement to 5 years. After discussion as to the use of the field the following recommendation will be made.

**Recommendation:** It was determined that the board would consider this item at the next board meeting considering a 2-year contract with the association with the 1<sup>st</sup> year at \$1,500 and 2<sup>nd</sup> year at \$2,000.

#### F. Grants

Dr. Cornish explained to the board the proposed grants available for “Classrooms for the Future” program. It is the governor’s newest educational technology program designed to place in every high school English, math, science and social studies classroom a laptop computer with high speed internet access and software. Dr. Cornish explained the once the district has received the grant for the technology then it is up to the district in the proceeding years to maintain the program. Discussion of cost in future years and the advantages to having laptops in the classrooms were brought forward for debate.

**Recommendation:** It was determined that the board would consider this at the May meeting.

#### G. Clarion-Limestone Alternative Education

Discussion as to participating in alternative education program at Clarion-Limestone was brought forward as to cost and means of transportation for students to the

evening classes. Dr. Cornish explained that at this time a cost range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 is estimated depending on the districts participation in the program. This would not include transportation.

**Recommendation:** It was determined that the board would consider this item at the next board meeting as to considering full-time participation in the Clarion-Limestone Alternative Education program.

#### I. Policies

Dr. Cornish referred to the policies in the board member packet. Dr. Cornish recommended that the board review the policies and give input into making changes to the policies referring to administration practices for personnel evaluation, interviews and hiring's. After a lengthy discussion as to the changes involved with the policies concerning the background checks, the following recommendation was made.

**Recommendation:** It was determined that the board would consider these policies once the administration has reviewed and updated the policies and presented them to the board for a first reading.

#### J. Dress Code

Discussion came up as to the district dress code and current high school handbook as to standardize dress.

**Recommendation:** It was determined that the board would consider dress code changes once the administration has reviewed and update the handbook and policies to be presented at the next board meeting.

The work session adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack E. Loughner, Jr.  
Board Secretary