

## Work Session School Board Meeting May 5, 2011

A school board work session of the Redbank Valley School Board was held, Thursday, May 5, 2011, at 6:30 P.M. in the Redbank Valley High School Library Room. The following members were in attendance: Adam Barrett, Dee Bell, Brian Dougherty, Tina Kennemuth, Shirley Pastor, Chad Shaffer, and Glenn Watson. Randy Frampton and Rick Kirkpatrick was absent.

The work session was called to order by Glenn Watson, President.

Mr. Watson asked for public comment. Tom Westover spoke to the school board concerning the proposed movement of the life skills class from out of the school district. Mr. Westover commented that since the last board meeting the school district is considering having 28 sections. Mr. Westover asked if there is an extra classroom available. Why not has the school district reinstated the life skills class. Mr. Drzewiecki informed Mr. Westover that the district is still considering its staff/sections availability in the elementary and at this time the school board has not finalized this issue. Mr. Westover asked when will it be finalized and Mr. Watson replied that discussion as to availability of classrooms have been discussed for months projected by the closing of Mahoning elementary and with the additional reduction in state funding to the school district has made this issue more taxing on the board but all consideration will be made once the budget issues are resolved but at this moment the plan is to move the life skills class to Clarion-Limestone school district.

Amy Himes spoke her concerns to classroom sizes for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level for next year. Mrs. Himes asked why the school district would not add an additional classroom to lower classroom counts. Mr. Drzewiecki replied that classroom sizes are discussed at length by the school board and all concerns not just from this meeting but from the past meetings have centered in maintaining a manageable classroom size with the district's declining enrollment.

Rebecca Doversipike spoke her concerns as to the classroom sizes especially as it pertains to helping student test scores. Lower classroom sizes have proven to increase student test scores. Mrs. Doverspike also added that eliminating electives at the high school restricts our students vocational programs whereas students are not academically alike.

At this time Rick Kirkpatrick entered to attend the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Mr. Long comment to the school board question concerning the PTO meetings. Mr. Long informed the board that RVSD Elementary has elected officers for 2011-12 under one PTO organization. Mr. Long also asked the school board for guidance regarding the possibility of renaming the remaining two elementary buildings. Concerns from both teachers and community members are asking if the district has considered changing the names. The school board asked Mr. Long to arrange a meeting with the PTO for open discussion on this matter.

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Mr. Shaffer asked if the board members could receive the board packets earlier than the present schedule during the Work Session. Mr. Shaffer added that if the agenda could be received days before the work session that would be a start. Mr. Dougherty and other members commented if the packet could be scanned and placed on a secure website that would reduce the cost in generating this information for the school board. Mr. Loughner replied that the items for the agenda were received hours before the meeting and that the school board received the most up to date information for its consideration. Mr. Loughner added that just within the last day 13 items were added to the agenda. Mr. Shaffer commented that whatever information can be provided earlier would be beneficial for the board before the work session.

Mr. Watson then asked the board members if they have additional questions as to the May 9, 2011 agenda. No further questions were asked.

The work session concluded at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack E. Loughner, Jr.  
Board Secretary