

## Special School Board Meeting May 5, 2011

A special school board meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held, Thursday, May 5, 2011, at 7:55 P.M. immediately following the work session in the Redbank Valley High School Library Room. The following members were in attendance: Adam Barrett, Dee Bell, Brian Dougherty, Tina Kennemuth, Rick Kirkpatrick, Shirley Pastor, Chad Shaffer, and Glenn Watson. Randy Frampton was absent.

The special meeting was called to order by Glenn Watson, President.

A motion was made by Chad Shaffer seconded by Shirley Pastor to approve the first reading of the following tax rates for 2011-12 school year. Armstrong Co. 21.18 Mills; Clarion Co. 34.10 Mills; Rates are increased to the maximum of index of 2.0%  
Motion Failed 4-Yes, 4-No (Barrett, Bell, Dougherty, Watson)

A motion was made by Shirley Pastor seconded by Chad Shaffer to approve the first reading of the following tax rates for the 2011-12 school year. Section 679 Per Capita, \$10.00 per head; Section 511 Per Capita \$5.00 per head; Occupation Tax \$10.00 per head; Earned Income Tax, .05%; Real Estate Transfer Tax 1%; Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Dee Bell seconded by Chad Shaffer to approve the tentative approval of the General Fund Budget for 2011-12 school year in the amount of \$16,316,668.00. Motion Carried 6-Yes, 2-No (Barrett, Kirkpatrick)

Mr. Drzewiecki had Mr. Huffman inform the school board on its request for possible program reduction. Mr. Huffman then provided a response to the school board request as to the Guidance, Industrial Arts and Foreign Language departments. Mr. Huffman explained the criteria used to determine reduction in staff. First no alterations to programs offered to our students, second no significant increases to class sizes and third avoid creating gaps in schedules due to staff/course reductions. Mr. Huffman stated that the guidance department provides services to students in academic, career and personal/social means. Assistance in parental/child and youth contacts, career readiness and preparation and the management of the different testing throughout the high school. The recommendation is not to consider this program for reduction.

Mr. Huffman informed the school board on the analysis of the industrial arts department, whereas currently the program teaches 13 instructional periods out of 16 periods with 2 preparation periods. The reduction of this program will create an alteration to the high school programs and increase class sizes and also potentially create gaps with the junior high schedules. Loss of this program could increase student drop outs due to lack of course interest. This reduction may also indirectly increase the Career Center enrollment due to students' supplanting their interests in vocational courses offered by CCAVTS. It could also possibly eliminate the elective for broadcast journalism whereas with the current proposed reduction in the English department and whereas the industrial arts department is curtailed

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staffing for this elective may create a problem. The recommendation is not to consider this program for reduction.

Mr. Huffman informed the school board on the foreign language department. The high school currently meets the requirement by the state in providing our students 4 years of one language and 2 years of another language. The high school provides Spanish 1-4, German 1-3 and Latin (online). A reductions in this department would place the district potential in violation of the foreign language requirements. The recommendation is not to consider this program for reduction.

Mr. Shaffer also asked the administration when making recommendations to the school board to provide more than one or two options. Mr. Shaffer commented that he would like to view as many options as possible and that he understands the time constrains of the issue in developing a response but the administration should offer a team response to the school board versus just each administrator's area. Mrs. Kennemuth also replied that when she asks for specific information on an issue that the reply is not complete to her satisfaction and asked that the administration provide in the future a better response to the school board needs.

Mr. Watson then announced that the school board would hold an executive session for personnel and negotiation issues immediately following adjournment.

A motion was made by Brian Dougherty seconded by Dee Bell to adjourn the special meeting at 9:00 P.M. Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack E. Loughner, Jr.  
Board Secretary