

School Board Meeting November 6, 2006

The regular board meeting of the Redbank Valley School Board was held, Monday, November 6, 2006, 7:00 P.M., Redbank Valley High School Library Room. The following members were in attendance: Dee Bell, Louise Clemens, Vince Markle, Jeffrey Merwin, Theodore Minich, Shirley Pastor, Lou Ann Williams, Kim Walls and Glenn Watson.

The regular meeting was called to order by Theodore Minich, President. Mr. Minich announced that there was a work session at 6:30 P.M.

At 6:35 P.M. Mr. Minich called for an executive session for personnel and litigation concerns:

The regular meeting convened at 7:05 P.M. Dr. Cornish introduced the following teachers in attendance Laura Heasley, Jessica Minich, Ann Hagen, Jamie Bowersox, Kathy Durschlag, Keli Traister, Molly Wingard and Barbara Speer.

A motion was made by Glenn Watson seconded by Dee Bell to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting October 2, 2006. Motion Carried Unanimously

Mr. Minich asked if anyone from the public wished to address the board on public concerns. Anne Callenburg commented on the issue of students at risk. Mrs. Callenburg asked the board to consider alternative education for students who has lost his or her way. By offering alternative programs it may help students to become successful and allow the school district to identify alternative education strategies and use these strategies as a basis for improving the learning opportunities for all children. Mrs. Callenburg asked the board to be bold in considering an alternative program in the future so that we don't fail these students at risk to become absorbed in the wrong track of life.

Kristin Gruver presented the Student Representatives report. She commented on the following events that took place during the month they include Open House, Senior Play and the completion of the fall athletic season.

Jason Knisely presented the Elementary Report. Mr. Knisely reported that construction continues with no major problems occurring with the renovations at Hawthorn or New Bethlehem buildings. Mr. Knisely reported that Christmas Musical and Honor Chorus are underway and that students from all buildings are participating, practices will be starting soon. Mr. Knisely informed the board that Redbank Valley will be hosting the LinguiSHTIK's Day, a game based on Language Arts on November 8, 2006. Students from various schools in the county will be attending New Bethlehem Elementary for the event. The "First in Math" program continues to be successful students are competing to see how many stickers they can earn and with the enthusiasm the students are having with the program an After-School club has started up at Mahoning Elementary. Mr. Knisely finally

commented on the upcoming November calendar of events including the Veterans Day program and the 4 Sight testing.

Mary Wolf presented the Director of Education report. Mrs. Wolf commented on the 4-Sight program that assesses students in grades 3 thru 11 in PSSA reading and math testing preparation. The second assessment will have teachers meet during Act 80 day of November 28th to do data analysis and interpretation of the scores. Mrs. Wolf informed the board that the secondary faculty have been trained on the use of UnitedStreaming by Linda Stahlman where teachers can use video clips in all content areas to introduce or reinforce concepts in their lessons. Mrs. Wolf reported that the website is still being tested in the development of a "Teacher Page" this will give teachers to post lesson plans on sight for parent/students to use. Finally Mrs. Wolf commented on the Activity Report form the teachers submit following attendance at a professional development activity which is included in her report. It shows how many of our staff members are highly involved in state-level activities.

Stephen Dobransky presented the Secondary Report. Mr. Dobransky informed the board of the various Math, Reading and Academic competitions that are being held this month and the preparation the teachers are doing for the students to compete. Mr. Dobransky noted that the teachers are busy entering the first marking period grades into our computer system so that report cards can be distributed on November 10th. Mr. Dobransky informed the board that the Dual Enrollment Grant has been allocated to the district with \$11,976 to be used by students taking approved courses at Clarion University and University of Pittsburgh, classes will be offered on Saturdays and online. Finally Mr. Dobransky reported on the success of the fall sports programs in boys/girls soccer, volleyball, golf and football. A November calendar of events is included with his report.

Dr. Cornish presented the Superintendent Report. Dr. Cornish began with informing the board members that on November 2, 2006 the Local Tax Study Commission held a meeting to prepare a recommendation to be presented at tonight's meeting Dr. Cornish introduced Glenn Watson, chairperson of the committee and the following report was made.

Mr. Watson first wished to thank the members of the Redbank Valley Local Tax Study Commission Terry Mateer, Jack Milliren, Rev. John Phillips, and Ben Carrico for taking their time in formulating a nonbinding recommendation. Mr. Watson stated that it was an eye opening process for the members in seeing how the district compares with other districts in the state in generating revenue for the school district in order to operate as well as completing the requirements mandated under Act 1 of 2006. Mr. Watson presented the following to the school board:

A. Recommendation contains the following two elements:

- (1) The local tax should continue to be administered on an Earned Income Tax Base and **not** be changed to a Personal Income Tax Base.

- (2) The Earned Tax rate should be increased to the minimum calculated rate rounded up to the nearest tenth percentage. With the additional tax revenue being offset to valid Homestead/Farmstead applicants as approved by the Armstrong/Clarion County Assessors Office.
- (3) The following referendum question will be recommended to the school board.

Do you favor imposing an additional .03% earned income tax? The revenue generated from the increased tax rate will be used to reduce taxes on qualified residential properties of Armstrong County by \$95.04 and qualified residential properties of Clarion County by \$103.74. The current earned income tax rate is .05%.

- B. All documentation used by the commission for analysis is presented to the board secretary to keep on file for public inspection assisting to make a recommendation.

Mr. Watson finally stated it was a pleasure serving on the commission and thanked Dr. Cornish and Jack Loughner for serving as administrative support to the commission needs and to PSBA for presenting at the public hearing in developing a worksheet calculation for the property tax reduction rate.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Merwin seconded by Lou Ann Williams to discharge the Redbank Valley Local Tax Study Commission upon the recognized completion of it duties in forwarding a recommendation to the Redbank Valley School Board as mandated according Act 1 of 2006. Motion Carried Unanimously

The following reports were presented for information only; Maintenance Report; Cafeteria Report; IU#6 Report; CCAVTS Report.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Merwin seconded by Shirley Pastor to approve the second reading of the following policies: # 624 Finances, Taxable Fringe Benefits; # 717 Property, Cellular Telephones; # 828 Operations, Fraud; # 217 Pupils, Graduation Requirements; # 250 Pupils, Student Recruitment. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Shirley Pastor seconded by Louise Clemens to approve expulsion of student A06-07 to Pathways for 45 days. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Jeffrey Merwin seconded by Dee Bell to approve expulsion of student B06-07 with an annual review by his principal for possible return. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Shirley Pastor seconded by Glen Watson to approve expulsion of student C06-07 for the 06-07 school year to Keystone Smiles. Motion Carried Unanimously

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A motion was made by Louise Clemens seconded by Dee Bell to approve expulsion of student D06-07 for the 45 days to Adelphoi Village. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Shirley Pastor seconded by Jeffrey Merwin to approve the first reading of the following policies; #100 Programs, Strategic Plan; #103 Programs, NonDiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices; #103-Attachment Programs, Report From for complaints of Discrimination; #113 Programs, Special Education; #115 Programs, Vocational Technical Education; #122 Programs, Extracurricular Activities; #123 Programs, Interscholastic Athletics; #146 Programs, Student Services; #200 Pupils, Enrollment in District; #204 Pupils, Attendance; #207 Pupils, Confidential Communications of Students; #209 Pupils, Health Examinations/Screenings; #210 Pupils, Use of Medications; #216 Pupils, Students Records; #218 Pupils, Student Discipline; #221 Pupils, Dress and Grooming; #226 Pupils, Searches; #233 Pupils, Suspension and Expulsion; #234 Pupils, Pregnant/Married Students; #235 Pupils, Student Rights/Surveys; #236 Pupils, Student Assistance Program. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Dee Bell seconded by Lou Ann Williams to approve October, 2006 Treasurers Report. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Shirley Pastor seconded by Lou Ann Williams to approve the October, 2006 General Fund Expenditures amounting to \$3,224,814.92. Motion Carried 8-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstention (Merwin)

A motion was made by Dee Bell seconded by Kim Walls to approve the August/September 2006 Milk and Cafeteria Fund Expenditures amounting to \$69,530.85. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Lou Ann Williams seconded by Glenn Watson to accept the 3rd Quarter 2006 Redbank Valley High School Activities Fund Report as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Glenn Watson seconded by Lou Ann Williams to approve Jason Knisely, Steve Dobransky and Michael Brown as attendance officers for the district. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Shirley Pastor seconded by Kim Walls to approve Carrie McIntire and students to attend the Carousel Dinner Theatre, May 16, 2007 in Akron Ohio. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Shirley Pastor seconded by Dee Bell to add Ricky D. Jefferson to the van drivers list. Motion Carried Unanimously

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A motion was made by Glenn Watson seconded by Lou Ann Williams to approve Kate Gruver and students to attend the Pennsylvania State Farm Show and FFA Mid-Winter Convention, January 8-9, 2007 in Harrisburg, Pa. Cost to be incurred by FFA except for substitute teacher. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Shirley Pastor seconded by Louise Clemens to add Byron Kirkpatrick, Michael Want, Benjamin Thompson, Kathie Buford, Adam Neill and Kenny Shaffer to the substitute teacher list. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by hire Kimberly Barnett computer lab instructional aide according to RVSSPA contract. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Kim Walls seconded by Shirley Pastor to add Sandra L. Orf to substitute custodian list. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Louise Clemens seconded by Lou Ann Williams to approve Debra Dinger and Tom Logan to attend the PA Business Education (PBEA) Conference, November 16-17, 2006 in Grantville, Pa. Total cost \$1,056.90. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Jeffrey Merwin seconded by Dee Bell to approve Brady McCauley as a volunteer coach for Wrestling. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Jeffrey Merwin seconded by Dee Bell to approve Leah McClaine as a volunteer coach for Girls Basketball. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Jeffrey Merwin seconded by Louise Clemens to table the medical sabbatical leave for Ronald Shrock. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Shirley Pastor seconded by Louise Clemens to hire Jeffrey Hepler as Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball coach at 80 points @ \$32.00 = \$2,560.00. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Louise Clemens seconded by Dee Bell to accept resignation of Mary Mauk, library aide at Hawthorn Elementary effective December 31, 2006. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Jeffrey Merwin seconded by Shirley Pastor to hire Michael Wyant long-term substitute teacher at per diem of BS Step 1 for the remainder of 2006-07 school year. Motion Carried Unanimously

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Dee Bell then asked for consideration to have a work session concerning the unresolved issues of the High School renovation to the wooded property at Hawthorn Elementary. November 20th, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. was scheduled.

Jeffrey Merwin then asked Mr. Minich for time to speak to the school board. Mr. Merwin announced that he is resigning from the school board effective immediately due to personal reasons. Mr. Merwin expressed that his discussion to resign was deliberated for the past months and he felt the time was now to resign. He wished all the board member good luck in the future and thanked the administration for supporting him when needed.

A motion was made by Glenn Watson seconded by Lou Ann Williams to accept the resignation of Jeffrey Merwin school board director. Motion Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Glenn Watson seconded by Lou Ann Williams to advertise for the vacant school board director seat. Motion Carried Unanimously

Louise Clemens commented on the High School Open House program and how well the parents reacted to the information on Internet fraud. Mrs. Clemens stated as a parent of a high school student the uses of the internet can be overwhelming.

A motion was made by Glenn Watson seconded by Dee Bell to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:25 P.M. Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack E. Loughner, Jr.
Board Secretary