

**UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2229 E. BUCK ROAD
PENNSBURG, PA 18073**

**BOARD WORKSHOP
March 23, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Workshop of the Board of School Directors of the Upper Perkiomen School District was held in the Upper Perkiomen School District Education Center with the following people attending: Wilfred E. Pike, Joan T. Smith, Dr. John L. Farris, John L. Gehman, Jonathan A. Warren (phoned-in), and Kimberly A. Baccari. Absent members were Mike W. Elliott, Raeann B. Hofkin, and Dr. Kerry A. Drake. Others in attendance were: Alexis McGloin, EdD., Judith Clark, Ashley Kitten, Dyan Hipszter, Andrea Farina, EdD., Carol Giblin, Jenni Elliker, Nichole Taylor, Bryan Ruzenski, Keith McCarrick, Melanie Cunningham, Beth Sheldon, Steve Stracka and Maggie Buckwalter.

Dr. Farris read a statement on the guidelines of the public comment period.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Motion by John L. Gehman, seconded by Joan T. Smith, to approve **the February 23, 2017, Board Workshop Minutes** (Attachment A). Motion carried; all voted aye.

Dr. Farris announced that Action Item B was added to the agenda so public comments would be taken.

Dr. McGloin spoke about Action Item B and explained that when the budget is being worked on you are always looking for savings and not just expenditures. The ERIP was brought to the Board as a cost savings program. Dr. McGloin said that after taking into account the salary, benefits, tuition reimbursement, and any expenses you would have for individuals who would qualify for Early Retirement, the district would be saving approximately \$800,000 over the next three years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Keith McCarrick, Pennsburg, expressed that he would like to see the ERIP motion tabled for multiple reasons.

Melanie Cunningham, Upper Hanover, questioned why the Early Retirement Incentive Program was discussed in an Executive Session and not in public.

Beth Sheldon, Marlborough Township, addressed the board about a situation she said happened after the March 9, 2017 board meeting. She stated that a board member approached a resident and said they were responsible for bringing outspoken township residents to the meeting.

Steve Stracka, Marlborough Township, also felt that the ERIP motion be tabled until the full board was in attendance. Mr. Stracka also believed that the Board member who had called in should not be able to vote.

Dr. McGloin and Board members responded to the comments and questions.

- B. Motion by Wilfred E. Pike, seconded by John L. Gehman, to approve **the attached Early Retirement Incentive Program** for Full-time Professional and Support Staff effective for the 2016-2017 school year (Attachment B).

Motion by Kimberly A. Baccari, to table the motion to approve **the attached Early Retirement Incentive Program** for Full-time Professional and Support Staff effective for the 2016-2017 school year (Attachment B). Motion was not seconded, the motion is not considered.

Motion by Wilfred E. Pike, seconded by John L. Gehman, to approve **the attached Early Retirement Incentive Program** for Full-time Professional and Support Staff effective for the 2016-2017 school year (Attachment B). Motion carried; all voted aye.

DISCUSSION

1. SPECIAL EDUCATION

a. Special Education & Student Services Update – Dr. Andrea Farina

Dr. Farina, Carol Giblin and Jenni Elliker presented a Sub-Committee Update on the District Special Education and Student Services Plan. Dr. Farina talked about standards and curriculum, safe and supportive schools and all spoke about what the Special Education committee had been working on.

Maggie Buckwalter, Upper Hanover commented that there are also drop-outs and issues on both sides of the spectrum. She stated that the Gifted Education Program needs help also.

2. FINANCE

a. Food Services Update – Nichole Taylor

Dr. McGloin introduced Ms. Taylor and announced that she was recently selected as a Food Service Director Future Leader from the School Nutrition Association.

Ms. Taylor presented an overview of the past, present and the future of the Food Service Department. She explained how one of the biggest changes in the food service programs was the enactment of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act in 2010. HHFKA required schools to meet certain nutritional regulations and guidelines. Ms. Taylor also spoke about many new ideas for the department, training sessions for staff and the department's commitment to the community. A 3 Year Plan was presented which involved working with the students, parents and the community. Parent Advisory groups, cooking demos and lessons for both students and parents, and partnering with local farmers were some future visions.

3. CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY

a. Website Proposal – Bryan Ruzenski

Bryan Ruzenski presented the need for a district website upgrade. He talked about the past evolution of website design, the need for modern day design and the limitations of the current website. Mr. Ruzenski explained that a website steering committee was formed to identify the needs of a new website. The group evaluated vendors and together as a committee provided a recommendation to be voted on at the April 6, 2017 Board meeting.

b. **Phone System Transition** – Bryan Ruzenski

Bryan Ruzenski explained that the current phone system is 10 years old. He stated it was no longer supported and any replaceable equipment was not available to purchase. Vendors were evaluated and a recommendation was made for the April 6, 2017 Board meeting agenda.

Dr. McGloin announced that one school day needed to be added to the calendar. She proposed April 12, 2017, the first original day of Spring Break. She asked the Board to vote on the revised calendar at the April 6, 2017 Board meeting. Since that was one week before Spring Break, Dr. McGloin would like to let parents know soon. All the Board members were in agreement with notice prior to the vote.

Motion by John L. Gehman, seconded by Jonathan A. Warren, to **adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.