

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

BOARD WORKSHOP
January 26, 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, Dr. John L. Farris, Joan T. Smith, John L. Gehman, Raeann B. Hofkin, Dr. Kerry A. Drake, Jonathan A. Warren, and Kimberly A. Baccari. Absent member was Mike W. Elliott. Others in attendance were: Alexis McGloin, EdD., Sean Arney, EdD., Sandra M. Kassel, Ashley Kitten, Leslie Motruk, April Gaugler, EdD., Nicole Peart, Maureen Zavadel, Tonya Kulp, Briana Fried, Suzanne Kulp, Danielle Stanek, Susan Kenna, Kathleen Steuer, Cathie Hill, Anne Hodges, Jim Mazeika, Barry Isett, Bob Breslin, Arif Fazil, Ryan Sloyer, Margie Gelhaus, John Walsh, Melanie Cunningham, Jeff Snyder, Steve Cunningham, Burt Shive, Christine Schmoyer, Mark Mancini, and Steve Stracka.

Dr. Farris announced that the normal procedure for the Workshop meeting is to go over the Workshop Agenda and at the end of the Agenda take public comments on Agenda items. The Board decided for this Workshop that, besides taking comments on the items on the Agenda, other comments will be taken from anyone who has a public comment. Dr. Farris then read a statement on the guidelines of the public comment period.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Jonathan A. Warren, seconded by Kimberly A. Baccari, to approve **the October 27, 2016, Board Workshop Minutes** (Attachment A). Motion carried; all voted aye.

DISCUSSION

1. **CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY**

a. **Balanced Literacy**

Dr. Arney introduced the Marlborough Staff members who proceeded to do a presentation on Balanced Literacy. Mrs. Motruk introduced Dr. April Gaugler and Nicole Peart who explained how guided reading is taught and ran a demonstration on use in the classroom. Guided reading was defined as a targeted instructional approach of flexible grouping based on observation and assessment of student need.

b. **SWPBIS (School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)**

Dr. Arney introduced Maureen Zavadel and Hereford Staff members to speak on an initiative that the District has embarked on with the Montgomery County IU called Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports System. It is a way to change a culture and a way to move a building to bring positive cultural expectations to everyone in the building. They explained SWPBIS is a 3-5 year process and Hereford was in the initial stage. Tonya Kulp, Briana Fried, Suzanne Kulp, Danielle Stanek, Sue Kenna, Cathy Steuer, Cathie Hill, and Anne Hodges participated in the presentation, which included a mission statement where the expectations are included and kindness was added. Mrs. Zavadel also stated that in addition to the building team, there was a district level team with the goal to bring this initiative to all buildings.

2. **FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

a. Traffic Study

Jim Mazeika from Barry Isett provided a brief presentation and summary of the Traffic Impact Study. The study was required by Upper Hanover Township for the Middle School project. He explained the objectives of the Traffic Impact Study were to identify any traffic problems that may be created by the proposed project, to delineate any solutions to the potential problems, and to present improvements to be incorporated as part of the project.

b. Geotechnical Study

Bob Breslin provided an update on the preliminary middle school Geotechnical study. He described the soil and rock type found at the site.

Arif Fazil talked about the importance of value engineering of the site and the ways to deal with the rock and fill areas.

c. LEED Commissioning Services

Arif Fazil reviewed the RFP process for the commissioning services. Seven proposals were received, reviewed, and evaluated. Mr. Fazil recommended In Posse (subsidiary of AFK) out of Philadelphia for a total cost of \$102,350. Mr. Fazil reviewed the LEED Gold & Silver and Potential Cost/Benefits that were originally presented in October. He also spoke briefly on the \$2,000,000 ACE grant, which currently is not open, but may possibly be open in the Fall. In order to pursue the grant the District would need to stay on track with the pursuit of LEED certification.

3. **BOARD DISCUSSION**

a. Committee Structure

Dr. Farris announced that he was reducing the size of the committees that had 4 members to 3 members, so that none of the committees had an even number of members. Dr. Farris announced the following committees:

Communication Line – Mike Elliott (Chairman), John Gehman, Dr. John Farris

Curriculum & Technology – committee as a whole

Facilities Committee – Will Pike (Chairman), Mike Elliott, Jonathan Warren

Negotiations Committee – John Gehman (Chairman), Mike Elliott, Dr. John Farris

Policy Committee – Joan Smith (Chairperson), Kimberly Baccari, Will Pike

Special Education Committee – Dr. Kerry Drake (Chairman), Mike Elliott, Will Pike

Budget Committee – committee as a whole

Western Center – voted in is John Gehman, Raeann Hofkin, and Dr. John Farris

IU Representative – Dr. Kerry Drake

Legislative Liason – Kimberly Baccari

Regional Planning – Kimberly Baccari

b. Board Meeting and Workshop Dates

Dr. Farris asked if it would be possible to move the Workshop meetings to one week before the Board Meeting. After a discussion, it was determined that the current schedule worked best for the Board Members.

(Mr. Pike departs at 8:25 pm)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ryan Sloyer, East Greenville Borough. Mr. Sloyer asked if there was written approval from the Borough of East Greenville for the traffic study. He questioned the length of the sidewalk in front of the new Middle School and asked whether a 3-way stop is being considered at 8th Street. He also expressed concern about students walking and the increase in taxes.

Margie Gelhaus, East Greenville Borough. Mrs. Gelhaus questioned whether the traffic study took into consideration inclement weather days since more parents would be driving walkers. Mrs. Gelhaus also asked if the ball fields would become turf fields in the future.

John Walsh, Palm, Upper Hanover Township. Regarding the traffic study, Mr. Walsh asked if there was consideration given for students living in the Montgomery Glen development. He also asked if data from the current Middle School facility was used in the traffic study and why bids were not requested for the Middle School building.

Melanie Cunningham, Upper Hanover Township. Mrs. Cunningham asked for a breakdown of the site costs listed in PlanCon D and if approvals were sought from Pennsburg.

Jeff Snyder, Church Road, Upper Hanover Township. Mr. Snyder asked for clarification on the size of the site.

Steve Cunningham, Hereford Township. Mr. Cunningham commented on the potential clean-up needed during a construction project.

Burt Shive – Marlborough Township. Mr. Shive asked if there are contingencies for improvements that may be needed when a second traffic study is done after the school is completed.

Christine Schmoyer, Pennsburg Borough. Regarding the traffic study, Mrs. Schmoyer asked about the left-turning lane at the intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Route 663 at around 5:00 pm. Mrs. Schmoyer also noted that many of the walkers to the high school are currently driven to school.

Mark Mancini, Hereford Township. Mr. Mancini spoke on the increase of assessment appeals county-wide and asked whether Knoll International or any other large firm had filed an appeal. He also questioned the need for additional dollars needed for staff at the new Middle School and possible additional work that would need to be done at the existing Middle School. Although he still believes in renovations versus building new, he believes the Board should step back and look at other options.

Steve Cunningham, Hereford Township. Mr. Cunningham commented on and encouraged transparency. He spoke on the budget, financials, and property values.

Steve Stracka, Marlborough Township. Mr. Stracka commented on the removal of Raeann Hofkin from the Negotiating Committee.

BOARD COMMENTS

Jonathan Warren. Mr. Warren commented that each Board Member takes his or her job very seriously and understands the impact and implications of the decisions they make. Furthermore, each member does analyze and ask questions; however, some of them are not in the public.

Dr. Kerry Drake. Dr. Drake asked the attendees to check the votes.

Motion by Joan T. Smith, seconded by Jonathan A. Warren, to **adjourn the meeting At 9:08 p.m.** Motion carried; all voted aye.