

CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP/SPECIAL ACTION MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES/DISTRICT ASSEMBLY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

1.0 Meeting Opening

A. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Charters Valley Board of School Directors was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by Mr. Mazzarini in the District Assembly Room.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Present

Mr. Tony Mazzarini, President
Mrs. Alka Patel, Vice President
(Via Phone)
Mr. Eric Kraemer
Mr. Robert Kearney
Mrs. Julie Murphy
Mrs. Sandy Zeleznik
Mr. Jeff Choura
Mr. Mark Kuczinski

Also Present

Mr. Scott Seltzer, Acting Superintendent
Dr. Jillian Bichsel, Director of Secondary
Education
Mr. Don Palmer, Solicitor

D. Public Comments

Letter read to the Board by Mrs. Jameson:

Thank you for this opportunity to address concerns over the height of the balcony walkway railings in the beautiful new Middle School. May I emphasize that it really is wonderful overall.

I am a proud mother of two at the Middle School. Also, I was a rehab nurse for 20 years. The people of rare, improbable, and debilitating accidents were my patients. Among them were falls over barriers.

So, what are our risks and options? Every generation is growing taller on average than the last. My son is over 6 feet with sneakers on and the top of the railing hits him over and inch below his belly button. Add to that, the higher center of gravity with males. Females are taller too and often wear heels that increase height and instability. Consider the height of the next generation or two of students and staff that will attend this campus.

Additional risks include pubescent, adolescent episodes of awkwardness, mindlessness, clumsiness, and unpredictable mood swings from excited jesting to rage. These can and do lead to bumps, scars, fights, and intentional or accidental falls of people or belongings. Let's think about those belongings for a second. Imagine an

innocent and slightly clumsy child holding books, binders, or a chrome book, etc., and excitedly leaning on the rail to call to a friend. Then in their distraction, their grip loosens and the object falls from a height to another child's head or neck.

In the hospital, the number one cause of falls is "unexpected movement." So, as care takers we were trained to expect the unexpected and to learn to anticipate it. Then initiate a plan to prepare and prevent it as much as possible.

From Safetyrisk.net:

"Our opinion is that building codes and standards are a minimum requirement and there is an overriding legal obligation to fully assess the risk and go above and beyond minimum standards if required.

...The main point is to: PROPERLY ASSESS THE RISK AND IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE CONTROLS."

We know that safety standards and practices are constantly changing. This is largely due to cumulative tragedies. Crib manufacturing standards, driving UI and distracted laws, automobile standard equipment requirements, school violence initiatives, concussion protocols, and deck and building codes all have changed because all have the names of victims attached to their implementation. Since Chartiers Valley is rightly teaching innovation and critical thinking skills, and is building a great new school to meet anticipated safety needs, the preventable injury or death of a student or teacher, simply because the codes haven't caught up yet, is unconscionable.

I spoke to the architect at open house and he said that there are some changes that can be made to the railings to add height if the Board wants. I have included some pictures and ideas to see what might spark more ideas to bounce off the architect. I tried to think of things that would allow for airflow and light while maintaining, or even adding to aesthetics. Of course safety is always the first consideration,

Unfortunately, there will be a cost, but it is guaranteed to be less than awards for long term, permanent, or injury resulting in death. May God forbid, and I hope we act to prevent.

Improbable? Yes. I am here because I know that improbable happens and I couldn't live with myself if someone got hurt while I saw the risk, and did nothing. I am not the only parent who shares this concern.

Mr. Mazzarini said that it was a very valid concern and a great observation. We will discuss it as a board and with our construction team and see what we can come up with.

Mrs. Drury brought up the railings and said that Brashear HS added plexiglas to add height to the railings. She also talked about the windows and them opening wide enough for a body to fit through them, stating that they are known by the student body as suicide windows. She stated her concerns about the areas being too open and parents would feel more comfortable knowing that there was a plan, in case of a lock down or if a situation was to occur. Another concern is the construction workers being in the buildings along with the students and what the precautions were as far as background checks. She said she was concerned about the air quality on campus and if the board could assure her that regulations are being followed, saying there is a lot of dust. She also said that the tunnels seem to be a fire hazard. She handed out the list of her concerns along with attachments of conversations concerning construction concerns from prior meetings.

Mr. Mazzarini said that the construction team was there this evening so he would have them address some of those concerns.

E. Recognitions

None

2.0 Superintendent's Reports/Presentations

None

4.0 Action/Discussion

- 4.1 Motion to approve 3% increase to Scott Seltzer, Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership, base salary, effective July 1, 2017.

Motion to approve item 4.1 listed above.

MOVED by Mrs. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. Zeleznik.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- 4.2 Motion to approve salaries for Act 93 employees, Confidential Secretaries and individual contracted personnel per Agreements as determined by the Board of School Directors of Chartiers Valley School District, effective July 1, 2017.

Motion to approve item 4.2 listed above.

MOVED by Mr. Choura, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- 4.3 Motion to approve service agreement with UPMC (Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic) for specialized academic assistance for student/s.

Mr. Mazzarini asked Mr. Seltzer to give a little background on this agreement.

Mr. Seltzer said that we have agreements with certain institutes to work with students that have been identified and assist them academically. UPMC is one of the facilities and this agreement gives them the right to do that.

Mrs. Patel asked if there were any changes on this agreement from last year, such as cost or anything that may have been added to the contract. Are there any differences, cost perspective.

Mr. Seltzer said that he didn't believe there was and that the cost is per student.

Motion to approve item 4.3 listed above.

MOVED by Mrs. Zeleznik, seconded by Mr. Kraemer.

On a voice vote, the motion passes on a vote of 7-1 with Mr. Kearney abstaining.

Mr. Kearney abstained because he works for UPMC.

4.4 Construction update.

Mr. Day said that school started on time and thanks to the staff, administration and custodians. The August schedule updates are to be received within the next couple days. The Middle School is occupied and the punch list will occur on weekends, early mornings and after school. The drywall in going up on the second floor and the drywall and finishing's are complete in the office and administration area. The mechanical room is up and running, the chiller, pumps, and the boilers are going to get started in the next couple days. There have been complaints about the temperature in the building, but once the boilers are fired up that will help. The bridge connector, curtain wall aluminum framing and glass have been installed. The site segmental retaining wall is to recommence in September. Site concrete curb and sidewalk work is ongoing. The dust, the contractor is trying to keep that under control, but we will make a phone call tomorrow.

Mr. Mazzarini said that whatever the normal protocol for the HVAC unit and filters are, they should probably step it up to monitor and make sure fresh air is flowing.

The High School auditorium is done, the air handling units went up this summer and are running well. The performing arts area, the punch list things are happening in there and we are trying to close that out. The Tech Ed and DMC, we have turned it over to the school and the punch list is ongoing as well.

Mr. Mazzarini asked Mr. Kelly about the light switch that was talked about in the spring and if it had been installed and if everyone was happy with it.

Mr. Day answered that, saying they are actually working on that now. The electrician is finalizing some of the electrical wire pulls and they are going to start to do the programming.

Mr. Day said that the High School tower is gone and most of the debris is gone. The structural steel at the Cafeteria/Service Area is nearly complete and the CMU work is ongoing. The MEP infrastructure work for reconnection was completed prior to school starting and the foundations have actually started.

Mr. Day also addressed the clearance concern, stating that the workers have all the clearances required, criminal record, child abuse and FBI.

Mr. Seltzer stated that he receives and reviews all clearances to make sure that they are appropriately cleared to be on school property.

Mr. Mazzarini asked Mr. Day to give some perspective on the "tunnels", temporary hallways stating that they were former containers made out of metal.

Mr. Day said it was actually Rycons idea to use them and that he wouldn't be concerned about a fire hazard there. The other temporary structures were not required to have sprinklers. Collier came in and approved all of these temporary structures and emergency exits.

Mr. Seltzer said before we were able to open the school, Collier had to give us the ok. The Campus Safety Officers are stationed throughout those temporary hallways to keep an eye on students and to make sure they keep moving and to also direct them if they get turned around.

Mr. Mazzarini said they are in there all day.

Mr. Day said that he didn't have any change orders for the board this evening and that the financial status is the same as it has been over the past couple months.

Mr. Seltzer addressed the window concerns, asking if the windows will have screens.

Mr. Day said that they do not, we can add them or stops. We will have to have a specialist come in to look at that.

Mr. Mazzarini asked about the old Middle School gym.

Mr. Day said they are working on getting that cleared out and cleaned up by the end of September. Also OSHA came through and walked the High School construction site and there were no citations issued. They will probably come back to go through the Middle School. They are prepared, we constantly go over safety.

Mr. Seltzer addressed the concerns of the open space issue. Prior to school opening, we walked fire drills, lockdowns, all those situations and all the buildings do that. They have a plan in every building for multiple situations. The school Resource Office walks through all of this with us, we've had ALICE training this year and a lot of our staff has been trained, only one of our buildings has to go through the actual drill part. The Principals, SRO's and staff are really involved. All of our Assistant Principals are ALICE trained presenters, so they can train people. Safety is something we're very involved with, we meet about it, we talk about it, we want to make sure our kids are as safe as we can possibly make them during the day as well as our adults.

4.5 Public Comment

Ms. Shollenberger talked about almost being front ended by a delivery truck twice this week and that it's a concern for all of us. She said that in the Performing Arts wing, that there are no phones and no means to call for assistance other than cell phones, also the locks on the doors, we've had some things stolen out of the rooms and she has discussed these issues with Mr. Day. She also asked if they could address the vacant seat on the board.

Mr. Mazzarini said that in executive session they have decided that they are not going to appoint a short term director. We are going to let it go through the election process. We will welcome our new director on December 6th or 7th during the reorganization meeting

Mrs. Jameson talked about the concerns about the chlorinated water and that it does not dissipate well and wondered if there was a way to filter air in through there stating that chlorine is very toxic to everyone.

Mr. Mazzarini said the board appreciates all suggestions and that there were an infinite number of things that need improving at the district and we're just going to keep working away.

Mr. Mazzarini said prior to the meeting there was an executive session to discuss litigation issues.

5.0 Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.
MOVED by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mrs. Zeleznik.
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Wiseman
Acting Board Secretary.