

CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP/SPECIAL ACTION MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES/DISTRICT ASSEMBLY ROOM

MAY 9, 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 6:35 p.m. by Mr. Mazzarini in the District Assembly Room.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Present

Mr. Tony Mazzarini, President
Mr. Jamie Stevenson (left at 9:10)
Mrs. Sandra Zeleznik
(Via phone)
Mr. Robert Kearney
(Arrived 6:38)
Mr. Mark Kuczinski
Mrs. Julie Murphy
(Via phone)
Mr. Eric Kraemer
Mr. Jeff Choura

Also Present

Dr. Brian White, Superintendent
Dr. Yvonne Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent
of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Scott Seltzer, Assistant Superintendent
of School Leadership
Mr. Don Palmer, Solicitor
Mr. Nicholas Morelli, Director of Finance
and Support Operations
Ms. Kara Droney, Director of Communications
and Partnerships

Absent

Mrs. Alka Patel

D. Public Comments

Sally Shollenberger, former CVFT President, stated that she has been a resident of the district for 52 years. She said she is a graduate of Charters Valley, has two children that have graduated and that she is a 20 year faculty member. She talked about the evolution of the community and of the district. Ms. Shollenberger discussed state mandated testing and teacher evaluations that only measure test scores not actual classroom learning and achievement.

Ms. Shollenberger went on to say that she wanted to address some comments regarding Dr. White, stating that he is by far the most innovative and forward thinking administrator that Charters Valley has ever had and other districts envy us and would love to have him. She said that he displays dignity and respect to each member of the Charters Valley staff. Ms. Shollenberger said that Dr. Hawkins and Mr. Seltzer are the perfect assistants for Dr. White, taking on more responsibilities, enabling him to oversee other important projects.

Ms. Shollenberger said that it has been an honor to work with the board over the past six years, stating how unique and student driven the relationship has been. She said, moving forward that she would like to address remarks made by select members of the community towards the educational staff. Ms. Shollenberger said that the district offers 21 different AP level courses, there has been an increased enrollment for AP testing from 159 to 397 and the qualifying scores have gone from 141 to 340. She said that students that have participated in the NMSI program are showing great growth, students have the opportunity to participate in the Engineering Academy and as Global Scholars. She said, our students participate in a variety of diverse programs and last year approximately 85% of our graduates went on to further education, three fifths of our students carry a 3.03 gpa or higher and we have students attending some of the finest universities and have chosen an array of careers.

Ms. Shollenberger stated that it is the school boards responsibility to represent the entire community from the wealthiest to the 25% of our student's families that are living at or below the poverty line. She said, we are not Upper St. Clair or Mt. Lebanon, we never will be, we are Chartiers Valley. We need to stop permitting outside influences to define the academic character of Chartiers Valley and we need to celebrate all of our successes. She said that we have so much to be excited about here at Chartiers Valley and that she is Chartiers Valley proud.

E. Recognitions

Dr. White said that he was excited to have students from the IS and MS to be recognized for their success in the Math Olympiads and invited Mrs. Floro and Mr. Myers up to hand out their certificates.

Mrs. Floro said that Math Olympiad dates back to 1979 and it is a rigorous international math competition. She said the students receive a challenge of 5 math questions from November to March with a possible 25 points, stating that these problems are so challenging, that a typical score is about a 1.3 right out of 5. Mrs. Floro said that our students here today are in the top forty percent of the students participating with some making it to the top two percent.

Mrs. Floro presented the awards to her students and Mr. Myers to his students. Mr. Myers thanked Dr. Burr and Mrs. Floro for bringing this program to the IS.

CVMS sixth grader Sean Maddix received a “gold pin,” which is awarded to those in at least the 98th percentile. With a score of 21 out of 25, Sean finished in the top 2% of this accomplished group of international mathletes.

CVMS sixth grader Derek Armfield received a “silver pin” for finishing in the top 10% 15 out of 25.

The embroidered felt patch is awarded to those students in the top 50% of all participants, including:

Fakhriddin Orolov (Grade 6)
Milla Konakchieva (Grade 5)
Liam Pedersen (Grade 6)
Tazia Silvio (Grade 5)
Zoe Fries (Grade 5)
Tyler Maddix (Grade 4)
Logan Nixon (Grade 6)
Ajay Ohm (Grade 5)
Autumn Weitzer (Grade 5)
Marta Gualazzi (Grade 5)
Mason Ciesielski (Grade 5)
Neill Ghandhi (Grade 5)
Emma Hartz (Grade 5)
Gionni Jones (Grade 5)
Nathan Magilson (Grade 5)
Jared Barr (Grade 5)
Nicollette Cole (Grade 5)
Jocelynn Coptis (Grade 5)
Sarah Lacamera (Grade 5)
Alex Miller (Grade 5)
Madison Mincin (Grade 5)
Jaxon Specht (Grade 5)
Carmela Buffone (Grade 5)
Madison Crump (Grade 6)
Michael Giammatteo (Grade 6)
Maddie Hansen (Grade 5)
Gavin Kelly (Grade 5)
Oleander Kosy (Grade 5)
Simon Moore (Grade 4)
Ava Spring (Grade 6)
Gavin Taylor (Grade 4)

After receiving their awards the students who attended had their photos taken.

2.0 Superintendent's Report/Presentation

Dr. White said that he had numerous informational items, stating that at the next meeting that Mr. Morelli will be making the budget proposal for the 17/18 school year with his assistance. He also prepared a spread sheet detailing the final actual from last year, what was budgeted for this year, the "as of" for 15/16 and 16/17, and in the last column what we need to collect to hit the budget that we put together. Dr. White also handed out a paper showing what was collected in May and June of last year to fund our programs. The big piece of this is earned income tax collection.

Mr. Mazzarini asked Mr. Morelli if he could you speak to any projections on growth of tax base.

Mr. Morelli said that we had a significant increase in assessed value of our community. He said we had about 40 million is assessed value, normally on the average you're looking at 10 to 15 million. He said that it also impacts our current tax base because we do interim taxes. Mr. Morelli said that we took a hit last year with earned income tax, but it looks like we're back on track.

Dr. White said that they were also going to get an update on current commercial real estate appeals.

Dr. White shared a press release, stating that we are part of the Personalized Learning Consortium, funded by the Zuckerberg Foundation and hosted by the Grable Foundation. He said they had their first meeting and there were great conversations. We're identifying teachers from all of our districts to work together with some of our administrators as our first step to identifying a high leverage practices towards personalized learning that is going on around the nation and region.

Dr. White stated that PaTTAN has identified our district to participate in the Statewide Tier 3 Problem-Solving Series related to RTII. He said that we will be the western region rep and with that comes a \$10,000.00 grant that we will use to focus on the PS. We were also identified as the western region rep for the statewide cohort for both MTSS Math and Tier 3 Problem Solving with an additional \$10,000.00 to support that.

Dr. White said that this past week the Post Gazette ran a story on the Benedum Foundation and Chartiers Valley was highlighted in words and pictures. The article talked about the foundations investments in workforce development and the grant which went to establishing the Engineering Academy and supporting the Robotics Program.

Dr. White announced that Kayla Rennie was named Global Scholar and that our World Language Program has won the Golden Globe Award from PSMLA.

Dr. White said that the Pittsburgh Business Times came out with their annual school rankings, using PSSA data. Our regional ranking was 36 this year and state wide was 165 up three from last year. He said he anticipates to show more growth this year.

Dr. White talked about the Washington Posts lists of Most Challenging High Schools and that AP data is used in compiling the list, Chartiers Valley made the list.

- 2.1 Construction Report-May, 2017, Pay App Summary, Payment Duration WIP Analysis are attached.

Mr. Day said that in the MS, the drywall and finishings are ongoing on all three levels of the learning tower. The painting has commenced and there are two more curtain walls to go in and that should be complete by the end of May. He said the MEB rough-in is ongoing in 1B and the bridge connector is erected and the slab on deck poured. The mechanical room work continues, the gym CMU walls and site storm piping is ongoing.

Mr. Day said that in the HS, the Auditorium has been complete for a while now and that the renovation of the Performing Arts wing is substantially completed. The painting is nearing completion, ceramic tile is ongoing and the acoustical grid ceilings and lights are being installed. He said Tech Ed is on schedule.

Mr. Day then went line by line and explained the change orders.

Mr. Mazzarini asked about the credit.

Mr. Day said it was steel that wasn't needed and demo that didn't need to take place. There was discussion about replacing a sewer pipe prior to the new road being put in.

Dr. White said the recommendation of the plumber was to put a camera down there and see if there was a problem.

Mr. Mazzarini asked Mr. Day if he had addressed the potholes on campus, especially with graduation coming up.

Mr. Day said that they would be taking care of them this week.

Mr. Stevenson expressed concerns about the fence near the MS during the weekend having gaping holes in several areas.

Dr. White said that this is an ongoing issue that has to be addressed.

3.0 Consent Agenda

4.0 Action/Discussion

Dr. White handed out policies that need attention, saying some small and some major. He said that the board needed time to review them and that at the first meeting in June, if it was ok with the board, that he would like them to break into small groups, divide up the policies and then have a discussion prior to putting them on the agenda for a first reading.

4.1 Discuss PSBA recommended policy changes. The following policies are attached.

- #203-Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
- #204-Attendance
- #209-Diabetes Management
- #246-School Wellness
- #251-Homeless Students
- #255-Education Stability-Children in Foster Care
- #808-Food Service

4.2 Discuss recommended Policies to be reviewed by Administration.

4.3 Motion to approve Mucci Construction Change Order #08 as listed for an add of thirteen thousand eight hundred thirty four dollars and zero cents. Value = \$13,834.00.

4.4 Motion to approve Mucci Construction Change Order #09 as listed for an add of eighteen thousand five hundred and forty nine dollars and zero cents. Value = \$18,549.00.

4.5 Motion to approve Merit Electrical Group High School Change Order #04 as listed for an add of forty-eight thousand eight hundred eighty dollars and zero cents. Value = \$48,880.00.

4.6 Motion to approve Rycon Construction Change Order #09 as listed for an add of nine thousand seven hundred twenty dollars and zero cents. Value = \$9,720.00.

4.7 Motion to approve Rycon Construction change Order #10 as listed for an add of eighteen thousand six hundred seven dollars and zero cents. Value = \$18,607.00.

4.8 Demonstration by Robotics Team.

Mr. Macek talked about the Robotics Team, Horsepower #4991 and that they recently competed in the FIRST Robotics World Championship in St. Louis. He said that 450,000 people participate in this program and 400 teams from 33 different countries. He said that they had 6 weeks to build a functioning robot and what they accomplished was amazing. Mr. Macek said that even former members came back to mentor. He discussed how the students that participate in these programs are two times more likely to enter a science or engineering career. Mr. Macek said that the companies that sponsored them are asking the kids to apply to their companies after graduation, opening many doors. He said that Will.i.am of The Black Eyed Peas spoke the first year and was so impressed with the organization and what it does they he decided on a "Make It Loud" campaign which he produced with a 7th grader, which Mr. Macek shared with the board. Mr. Macek stated that the robot performed flawlessly throughout the competition and the students had a great time and learned what it takes to be a world champion FIRST team. He said that the season isn't over, they qualified for the WOW Championship which will be held at the Rice Center at Otterbein University in Ohio on May 27th.

Motion to approve items 4.3 through 4.7 listed above.

MOVED by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Kraemer.

On a voice vote, the motion passed 6-2.

Mr. Mazzarini asked if Mr. Choura and Mr. Stevenson would like to give a reason for their vote.

Mr. Choura said that the board knows how he feels about change orders and the he thinks it's getting change order crazy.

Mr. Stevenson said that we are approving \$109,000.00 and it is taking our contingency up to \$781,000.00 and he thinks there are a lot of gray areas on this one that we're not pursuing hard enough. He said, we only have so much contingency and very little balance left after that and we're not very far along. He continued, stating that the HS hasn't even been started yet and some of the change orders did not have the backup he was hoping to see. He said he wouldn't accept it on one of his projects, so it's not something he can accept here.

Mr. Mazzarini said to the construction manager that if one or two of our board members feel this way, he would ask that they go into as much depth as possible to explain the change orders. He also said that he too is concerned with the amount of error and omissions and how much we have left to pay the architects. He said we are near the end of their contract and we're going to have to sit down with them and find out how this is going to be worked out in the end. Mr. Mazzarini said, moving forward, these change orders are going to have to be scrutinized and looked at very hard. He said to keep the project moving and get our kids in the building in September, we know what we have to do to be on schedule. At the same time, we are representatives of the tax payers of the district and have to be careful what we approve and don't approve.

Mrs. Murphy said that we should respect Mr. Stevensons experience and what he wants as far as getting greater details and information prior to approving the change orders.

Mr. Mazzarini said that he looked at them and most had already been discussed. He said he felt comfortable approving them but did agree that in the future they should take a harder look.

Mr. Taormina said that prior to bringing any change orders to the board, there is a vetting process. He said they turn down quite a few and the ones that are submitted are valid.

5.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

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

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas D. Morelli
Board Secretary