

COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Denver, PA

A special meeting of the Cocalico School Board was called to order on Monday, October 3, 2016 by the President, Mr. Allen Dissinger, who welcomed all those in attendance.

Board Members Present

John Lorah	Douglas Graybill	Desiree Wagner
Juanita Fox	Randall Renninger	Rev. Kevin Eshleman
Richard Brenner	Barry Harting	Allen Dissinger

Administrators Present

Dr. Ella Musser	Dr. Stephen Melnyk	Dr. Nathan Van Deusen
Chris Irvine	Sherri Stull	

Guests Present

Kurt Eckenroad	Mary Rinehart	Megan Burkhart
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Mr. Dissinger turned the meeting over to Dr. Ella Musser, Superintendent, who then introduced Mrs. Sherri Stull, Business Manager. Mrs. Stull reported that the District received \$11,899 of the approved \$15,865 from PEMA for costs associated with snow removal resulting from the January 2016 snowstorm. She further explained that the difference in the amount received is the 25% retained by the State. Mrs. Stull shared that the Commonwealth has approved Act 25 which will allow it to issue a bond to provide funding for PlanCon reimbursements and that the bond process is currently underway, meaning the District should receive \$60,622 in state subsidy still owed to it from the 2015-2016 school year. She added that the subsidy anticipated for the current year is \$62,135. In addition, Mrs. Stull announced that the PDE base index for all PA school districts is 2.5% for the 2017-2018 budget year, while the adjusted index for Cocalico School District is 3.1%.

Mrs. Stull reported on the fiscal year-end results for the 2015-2016 school year. She provided a budget analysis of both revenues and expenditures, explained the reasons for certain variations between the District's budgeted numbers and actual year-end results, and made recommendations for future use of funds. Ms. Stull stated that the District's local audit firm would also be providing the Board with a more in-depth financial summary of the 2015-2016 school year, as well as the annual audit report, in November.

Mr. Kurt Eckenroad, Director of Buildings & Grounds, presented a district-wide, five-year Maintenance Plan in anticipation of the 2017-2018 budget year, and explained his process for prioritization of the various projects. He provided a current floor plan of the high school guidance area, and together with Dr. Musser, explained how reconfiguration of those offices would greatly benefit the students. He spoke of the

deteriorating condition of the Middle School metal fascia. Mr. Eckenroad went on to explain that some other projects tentatively scheduled for next year involve partial replacement of the roof at Denver Elementary school and total replacement of that school's playground which is over 30 years old. In addition, he shared pictures depicting the corrosion the metal panels above the high school gymnasium and auditorium and stressed the importance of replacing the panels in the near future. Board member Barry Harting stated that he had recently toured the campus and felt the recommendations were warranted.

Mrs. Mary Rinehart, Director of Special Services, presented proposals involving the S.K.I.L.L.S. program, autistic itinerant support, and emotional support for the District's special needs students. She shared past cost history of when both half-day and full-day students were serviced through the Lancaster-Lebanon IU#13 and illustrated how the District was able to reduce costs by taking the program in-house. Her recommendation for expanding the program due to increasing student needs projects continued savings in future years. Mrs. Rinehart also spoke of a possible Transfer of Entity by taking back the Emotional Support class currently run by the IU at Reamstown Elementary. The process would involve the hiring of an emotional support teacher, two special education paraprofessionals, and a behavior specialist. The anticipated savings for this program increases with each additional student added to the class. Additionally, Mrs. Rinehart's proposal for hiring an autistic itinerant support teacher offers four different cost-saving scenarios and provides for additional savings if the behavioral specialist is qualified to perform psychological evaluations.

Mr. Chris Irvine, High School Principal, shared recommendations for changes and additions to be incorporated into the Cocalico High School Education Planning Guide for the 2017-2018 school year. If implemented, the recommendations would result in the seniors being able to opt into an Internship Program with local businesses that earns them one credit towards graduation. A "Skills for Success" course would be made available for regular education non-CTC students. An Advanced Placement Economics course would be added, while the Advanced Placement U.S. History and European History courses would now be offered every year. The 2nd wave of *Project Lead the Way* would provide a class on the Principles of Engineering as well as a Computer Science course.

Dr. Stephen Melnyk, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education, reviewed preliminary academic performance reports for the 2015-2016 school year. He reported that the overall decline in PSSA results from the prior year's scores was somewhat expected due to the recent redesign of the tests, and added that administration and staff were already working together to better align the current curriculum to meet new testing standards. Dr. Melnyk shared that the High School Keystone Exam results, which assess performance in Algebra, Biology and Literature, were exemplary with 87.1%, 84.1% and 87.1% of students scoring Proficient or Advanced, respectively. He added that 75% of high school students taking Advanced Placement Exams scored a 3 or higher on at least one of the exams, consequently showing proficient or advanced performance on college-level assessments; Cocalico average SAT and ACT scores were comparable to those taken by their peers across Pennsylvania; and NOCTI Exam results

measuring job readiness skills for CTC students were also exceptional, with 93% of students tested scoring competent or advanced.

Under miscellaneous items, Dr. Musser reviewed feedback received from a Student Advisory Council meeting in which students shared that their preferred method of communication with the District would be through Twitter. She also provided information on communication plans to be utilized with all District stakeholders. Dr. Musser announced that Cocalico teacher, Jim Stafford, won the WGAL Teacher Impact Award and would be featured on WGAL November 4th at 5:00pm. She also reminded the Board of the Community Advisory Forum scheduled for November 17th at 6:30pm and the IU#13 Legislative Breakfast on October 11th.

Time was given for questions and answers after each presentation. There being no more business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Sherri L. Stull
Secretary