

COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Denver, PA

A special meeting of the Cocalico School Board was called to order on Monday, January 9, 2017 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

Danielle Pfautz	Ginger Mickey	Beth Cerullo
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Mr. Dissinger turned the meeting over to Dr. Ella Musser, Superintendent, who introduced Dr. Nathan Van Deusen, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Danielle Pfautz, Assistant Director of Special Services, who then provided an update on special education planning. They shared that the District is investigating the possibility of a transfer between entities (TBE) of the current Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 emotional support class at Reamstown Elementary School. The class has experienced increased enrollment, with all but one student being from Cocalico. A recent cost analysis of the program confirms that savings could be realized by taking it in-house.

Dr. Van Deusen and Mrs. Pfautz similarly presented a TBE proposal involving the IU autistic itinerant support teacher who currently serves the District four days a week. The plan involves offering the teacher a District position for five days a week. Adding the fifth day would provide additional support for an increasing caseload. An update on the S.K.I.L.L.S. program was also provided.

Ms. Ginger Mickey and Mrs. Beth Cerullo, District librarians, shared the rationale behind plans to update the High School Library and Media Center. They explained that the library is taking on a different role, focusing more on curating resources, teaching digital citizenship, developing print and electronic collections, and providing for collaboration and 21st century student-centered learning. It was conveyed that the current library offers an ideal place for a Makerspace that would provide a collaborative area for creating and exploring tools and materials, including the use of technology. In addition to the Makerspace, the vision for the library includes space for whole and small group instruction, a recording studio, and quiet study/reading areas.

Dr. Stephen Melnyk, Assistant Superintendent, and Dr. Van Deusen reviewed historical safety data and trends for the District for the period 2009 through 2016. Areas included attendance rate, truancy rate, failure rate, SAP referrals, number of detentions, number of out-of-school suspensions, and reportable incidences. Dr. Melnyk also shared feedback received from students at a recent Cocalico Community Partnership (CCP) “Pondering Over Pizza” event featuring a group discussion on school safety. There was a common theme of feeling safe at school among those students who attended. Students did not see a need for a school resource officer and felt that the addition of one would negatively impact the atmosphere and culture of the buildings. The students also stated that they felt comfortable approaching adults in the buildings if necessary. Mr. John Lorah had attended the CCP meeting and concurred with Dr. Melnyk’s report.

Dr. Musser provided a timeline and background information concerning Denver Borough’s interest in a school resource officer. Dr. Van Deusen added that there are actually three distinct options of safety personnel that school districts may consider. He further shared that he had recently contacted Mr. John Baker, Safety and Security Manager for Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, who has an extensive background in law enforcement. After review of Cocalico’s discipline and incident data, Mr. Baker advised that the data does not support the need for an SRO.

Mrs. Sherri Stull, Business Manager, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the upcoming property reassessment for Lancaster County. She stated that the last reassessment was performed in 2005, and that the one scheduled for 2013 was postponed for four years due to an unstable real estate market. All property parcels will receive an updated assessment based on estimated fair market value. The new assessments will be effective for 1/1/2018 municipal taxes and 7/1/2018 school district taxes. Mrs. Stull explained that the reassessment does not necessarily mean a property holder’s property tax will increase, due to the fact that all taxing bodies will be required to adjust their current millage to attain revenue neutrality for their 2016-2017 billings.

Mrs. Stull presented the District’s list of capital projects proposed for the 2017-2018 school year, and provided an update on the bid process for two of the larger projects. Plans include replacement of the Denver Elementary School playground, metal fascia replacement at the Middle School, replacement of toilet partitions at Adamstown Elementary, carpeting/painting at the Central Office, reconfiguration of the High School Guidance Offices, and partial roof and HVAC replacement at Denver Elementary. Specifications for the Guidance Office and Denver roof projects have been written. The invitations to bid on the projects will be advertised beginning February 1st, with the bids opened on February 22nd and awarded on February 27th.

Dr. Musser shared Community Survey results that included parents (333), business leaders (3) and community members (4). Input from the three groups was gathered on subjects such as planning for the future (what the District can provide to students to make them more successful after graduation), school and community partnerships, technology workshops, academic competitions, and preferred methods of communication. Dr. Musser also provided feedback from a meeting between

representatives of the administration team and professional staff concerning elementary parent/teacher conferences.

Proposed calendar changes were reviewed by Dr. Musser. These modifications include conference schedule changes the week of Thanksgiving, a two-hour delay for a teacher in-service in February moved to the morning, and removal of Presidents' Day as a make-up day, instead designated as a trade-off day for professional staff.

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

Sherril L. Stull
Secretary