

# COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Denver, PA

A special meeting of the Cocalico School Board was called to order on Monday, April 2, 2018 by the President, Mr. Allen Dissinger, who welcomed all those in attendance.

### Board Members Present

Richard Brenner	Douglas Graybill	Desiree Wagner
Juanita Fox	Randall Renninger	Rev. Kevin Eshleman
Lin Sensenig	Brett Buckwalter	Allen Dissinger

### Administrators Present

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

### Guest Present

Michelle Shirey

Mr. Dissinger called the meeting to order and then turned the meeting over to Dr. Ella Musser, Superintendent, who presented a recap of the recent School Board visitation within the District on Tuesday, March 27th. The tour, which began at the Central Office, included all five school buildings and the Service Center. The seven Board Members who participated agreed that it was time well spent. Although they noted that the buildings are in good shape, they appreciated the opportunity to see areas that may need attention in the future. They also enjoyed observing what's going on in the classrooms and personally witnessing the enthusiasm exhibited by principals, teachers and students alike. Board members additionally commented that the District's tentative plan to have a facilities assessment completed in the near future is especially timely considering media coverage regarding school safety.

Dr. Stephen Melnyk, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, reported that the High School Anatomy & Physiology book entitled *Essentials of Anatomy & Physiology*, originally chosen to replace the current textbook next year, has been put on hold. It was discovered that purchase of this curriculum would necessitate additional costs to access materials online which were originally thought to be included in the initial quote, as well as on-going annual costs. As such, respective staff will undergo the process of selecting another textbook and will present their recommendation to the Board.

Ms. Michelle Shirey, Coordinator of the Enrichment Program, shared a PowerPoint presentation on her trip to Italy last summer, hosted by the Penn Manor School District. She stated that she'd like to schedule a similar trip for Cocalico gifted students the summer of 2019. Ms. Shirey listed the benefits and effects of travel, and added that the students would be educated on travel before taking the trip. She reported

that Penn Manor had utilized Education First (EF) Educational Tours which operates worldwide and offers the opportunity to change trip itinerary up to 45 days prior to departure. The company also provides expert guides and flexible funding. Ms. Shirey indicated her desire to have Cocalico students with Penn Manor's program, allowing the students to connect with their peers.

Dr. Melnyk announced that the District's new website would be rolled out on July 1, 2018 and reviewed the timeline for implementation. The website will be ADA compliant with the ability to read page items to visually impaired individuals and can also be converted to any language. He shared that School Messenger School Presence, which is the platform to be utilized for the website, offers a mobile app whereby parents have the ability to set parameters so they only receive information for a particular school. The mobile app is especially beneficial to those families having smart phones but no home computer. According to Dr. Melnyk, there will be portals for students and staff as well.

Mrs. Stull, Business Manager, presented the second draft of the Cocalico School District's Proposed Final Budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. She provided specific information on changes made to certain revenue and expenditure components since its last presentation to the Board on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Stull reported that the changes to the General Fund Budget thus far resulted in a decrease in revenues of \$307,481 and a decrease in expenditures of \$1,048,867. Mrs. Stull stressed that the budget process will be ongoing until its adoption in June.

Dr. Musser presented five Board policy updates and explained the purpose and/or reasoning behind the recommended changes or additions. She added that the District employs the services of the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) and district solicitors in the updating of School Board policies. The policies are related to district-initiated tax assessment appeals, purchases subject to bid/quotation, food services, public complaint procedures, and Title I parent and family engagement.

Under miscellaneous items, Dr. Nathan Van Deusen, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, shared plans and a handout for the Cocalico Community Safety Forum scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Middle School Cafeteria. Dr. Melnyk presented a summary of feedback solicited from various Cocalico stakeholder groups on the five competencies they believe to be the most important for students to possess in order to help them success after graduation. Dr. Musser reminded the Board Members of the upcoming Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 Reinventing Learning Showcase scheduled for Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

Sherry L. Stull  
Secretary