

# COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Denver, PA

A special meeting of the Cocalico School Board was called to order on Monday, November 6, 2017 by the President, Mr. Allen Dissinger, who then turned the meeting over to Dr. Ella H. Musser, Superintendent.

### Board Members Present

John Lorah	Randall Renninger	Desiree Wagner
Douglas Graybill	Barry Harting	Allen Dissinger

### Administrators Present

Dr. Ella Musser	Dr. Stephen Melnyk	Dr. Nathan Van Deusen
Sherrri Stull	Chris Irvine	Dr. Brad Testa
Susan Snyder		

### Guests Present

Kim Marselas	Carol Roland	Sean Post
Danielle Pfautz	Dr. Kent Sweigart	Sarah Florea
Shawn Hershey		

Dr. Musser introduced Ms. Carol Roland and Mr. Sean Post, auditors from Trout, Ebersole and Groff, LLP, who presented the results of the recent audit of Cocalico School District's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. They explained the audit process and testing procedures, and reported that the firm had issued an unmodified opinion, stating the financial statements of Cocalico School District present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the District as of June 30, 2017. They also indicated that no material weaknesses in internal controls were discovered during the audit. Ms. Roland reviewed various government-wide and fund financial statements, and also explained the reconciliations between the two sets. She continued that the Single Audit of the District's federal programs was clean as well, with only the Title I Program required to be audited. Mr. Post shared a PowerPoint presentation showing an historical and budget to actual analysis of the General, Capital, and Food Service Funds, and stated that the Food Service Director is to be commended for the positive year-end financial results of his department. Mr. Post also reviewed the financial burden PSERS continues to put on the District's financial statements, with Cocalico's share of the State's liability increasing approximately \$11 million over the prior year, to \$84 million at June 30, 2016. Ms. Roland continued by reviewing various schedules and the Notes to the Financial Statements included in the Annual Financial Report. She similarly explained the impact the new GASB Statement No. 75 will have on the District's future financial statements, citing that its primary objective is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for postemployment benefits other than pensions. Ms. Roland spoke of the upcoming decrease in outstanding debt service and emphasized the need to analyze future capital needs to ensure funds are

made available for those purposes. Mr. Post concluded the presentation by explaining the various audit letters.

Dr. Brad Testa, Cocalico Middle School Principal, introduced Middle School Math interventionist, Mr. Shawn Hershey, and English Language Arts interventionist, Mrs. Sarah Florea. He then provided background on the intervention model utilized at the Middle School in the past, and shared that modifications were made this year to more closely match the needs of both the students and professional staff. He explained that more emphasis is being placed on conceptual understanding which is crucial considering many of the concepts introduced in the classroom build on one another. Susan Snyder, Assistant Middle School Principal, added that she has observed the interventionists work in the classroom with both small groups and individual students, and has witnessed the collaboration between the teachers and interventionists. Mrs. Florea explained that the interventionists' flexible schedules allow them to address various student needs daily, and at the students' individual levels. They are able to re-teach concepts, run stations in classrooms, and formally assess students. Mr. Hershey shared that he's been encouraged by the number of students and teachers seeking help, and happy to be able to deliver it right there in the classroom.

Dr. Nate Van Deusen, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, provided a cost analysis report on the Emotional Support classroom at Reamstown Elementary that was previously run by the Lancaster-Lebanon IU#13. Since the majority of students are from Cocalico, the classroom was taken back in an attempt to reduce costs. Mr. Van Deusen stated that the District is currently at the breakeven point financially, with nine students in the class. Each additional student would bring a savings of \$30,000, although the class limit is twelve students.

Mrs. Danielle Pfautz, Assistant Director of Special Services, spoke of the need at Reamstown for a crisis team and support for the Emotional Support classroom teacher, and how that need has been satisfied this year. She shared that previously the teacher was losing classroom time due to emotional/behavioral issues of some of the students; but with the addition of a crisis team in the school, consisting of a Behavioral Specialist, school psychologist and Mrs. Pfautz, the teacher is able to remain in the classroom when certain situations arise. In addition, a reflection room was constructed directly across the hall from the Emotional Support classroom, and CPI training has been expanded. And with the addition of another 40 special education students into the District this year, the Behavioral Specialist has been able to assist with student evaluations and social skills instruction.

Dr. Steve Melnyk, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, provided background information regarding precautions taken in the past to protect students while they accessed the internet. He explained that staff were also limited by the same restrictions, however, the District is now planning to open some sites to teachers that are beneficial for instructional purposes. Dr. Kent Sweigart, Technology Director, added that permissions had been kept the same for staff so they would know which sites the students

could not access. Dr. Sweigart continued that staff were able to use an override in the past to gain access to such sites.

Mr. Chris Irvine, Cocalico High School Principal, described proposed changes to the Educational Planning Guide for 2018-2019. He shared that there are three classes the High School would like to add to its current course selection. They include Advanced Placement Spanish, a Marketing & International Business class, and Principles of Engineering which would be a technology education class associated with the STEM Project Lead the Way program. Mr. Irvine also mentioned that the Keystone Exams requirement for graduation has been postponed another year.

Dr. Melnyk reviewed Cocalico's 2016-2017 Annual Report, including the School Performance Profile, which measures academic performance utilizing a variety of factors. He reviewed results from PSSA tests, Keystone Exams, SAT/ACT tests, Advanced Placement Tests, NOCTI Exams, and PVAAS. Dr. Melnyk shared that according to the School Performance Profile, Cocalico High School is currently rated fourth in the County academically, and is one of only three schools in the South Central PA Region that maintained a score of 90% or higher all five years of the School Performance Profile.

Dr. Van Deusen presented the results of the Safe Schools Reporting, explaining that each year public school districts are required to submit a report on school violence statistics. Areas of reporting include truancy rate, number of detentions, number of out-of-school suspensions, and reportable instances. He stated that Cocalico has experienced a significant decrease in the amount of detentions, out-of-school suspensions, and reportable instances over the past several years.

Under miscellaneous items, Dr. Musser reported that Cocalico recently shared its plans for student career development with the Ministerium group; explained recommended changes/additions to various board policies; and reviewed the proposed 2018-2019 District calendar, school start date and graduation date. Dr. Van Deusen added that there would be an audit of Cocalico's Homeless Program in the near future.

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