

# COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Denver, PA

A special meeting of the Cocalico School Board was called to order on Monday, November 4, 2019 by the President, Mr. Allen Dissinger, who welcomed all those in attendance.

### Board Members Present

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

### Administrators Present

Dr. Ella Musser	Dr. Stephen Melnyk	Dr. Beth Haldeman
Sherri Stull	Chris Irvine	Tony DiMatteo

### Guests Present

Carol Roland	Sean Post	Nicole Cradic
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Mr. Dissinger turned the meeting over to Dr. Ella H. Musser, Superintendent, who asked Mrs. Sherri Stull, Business Manager, to introduce Ms. Carol Roland, Ms. Nicole Cradic 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, 2019. 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, 2019. They also indicated that no material weaknesses in internal controls were discovered during the audit, however, they did make IT focused recommendations related to the District's continuity plan. Mr. Post reviewed various government-wide and fund financial statements, and also explained the reconciliations between the two sets. He continued that the Single Audit of the District's federal programs was clean as well, with the IDEA Program requiring to be audited this time around. Mr. Post reported that the Cafeteria Fund ended the year in the black once again, and 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 at approximately \$80.5 million at June 30, 2019. He continued the presentation reviewing various schedules and the Notes to the Financial Statements included in the Annual Financial Report. Ms. Roland spoke of the upcoming decrease in outstanding debt service and emphasized the need to continue to plan for future capital needs to ensure funds are made available for those purposes. Mrs. Stull then shared a Multi-Year Capital Projects Plan outlining estimated revenues and expenditures for the Capital Fund through fiscal year 2024-2025. She explained that the plan includes needed renovations to all five school buildings, regular cyclical mechanical replacements, preventive maintenance projects, replacement of vehicles, upgrades to technology infrastructure, and replacement of Food Services equipment. Mrs. Stull presented options for financing the projects through bank loans or a bond issue, with Ms. Roland suggesting a possible redirection and use of Committed Funds. Mrs. Stull and Dr. Musser stated that they would be setting up a meeting with the District's debt service advisor in the near future.

Dr. Beth Haldeman, Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented the 2018-2019 Annual Student Performance Report for the Cocalico School District, reviewing and interpreting the Future Ready Index, Emetric, Act scores, SAT scores, and AP exam performance. Dr. Steve Melnyk, Assistant to the Superintendent for Education Administration, reviewed the District's attendance history and truancy rate, district discipline report focusing on the number of detentions and out-of-school suspensions, and reportable incidences. He also clarified what currently constitutes a reportable incident. Dr. Haldeman reported that all three elementary schools scored above the state average in all subject areas (ELA, Math, Science), while the Middle School scored above the state average in ELA; on the Keystone exams, the High School scored higher than the state average in biology, literature, algebra and the graduation rate; and both the HS and MS exceeded 339 and Career Standard benchmarks. Dr. Haldeman then reviewed the District's next steps in improving student performance and shared the particular areas being watched by Administration and professional staff.

Mr. Chris Irvine, High School Principal, shared information on changes made to the High School Educational Planning Guide. Courses recommended to be added include Hispanic Film and Culture, Study Skills/Transition Course Description, Construction Technology, and Music Production II. He further explained the term "Honors Distinction" whereas students enrolled in honors courses that follow a rigorous curriculum meeting at least 6 of 11 criteria for honors designation will receive weighted grades in such courses. Mr. Irvine also shared a handout listing the criteria for Arts & Humanities courses as well as STEM affiliated courses.

Dr. Musser announced that District Administration was planning to attend and present at a Ministerium meeting to be held Wednesday, November 7, 2019 at Lighthouse in Denver.

Time was given for questions and answers after each presentation. There being no more business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned, and it was announced by Mr. Dissinger that the Board would be going into an Executive Session to discuss student matters.

Sherri L. Stull  
Secretary