

TROY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education – Work Session
Tuesday, May 5, 2020 – 7:00 PM
Troy Area School District – Community Room

The Work Session of the Troy Area School District Board of Education, held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, in the Community Room of the Troy Area School District Offices, was called to order by President, Sheryl Angove at 7:03 PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken:

Present: Mrs. Angove Mr. Curren (via zoom) Mrs. Murray
 Mrs. Bohner Mr. Dibble Mrs. Ordway
 Mr. Brasington Mr. Martin Mr. Roy

Absent: None

Others Present: Mr. Gobble, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Gilliland, Business Administrator; Mr. Blair, Maintenance Supervisor; Mr. Brion, Primary School Principal (via zoom); Mr. Imbt, Primary School Assistant Principal (via zoom); Mr. Brenner, Jr/Sr High School Principal (via zoom); Mrs. Keating, Jr/Sr. High School Assistant Principal (via zoom); Mr. Schrader, Director of Technology; Mr. Schwenk, Director of Support Services; Solicitor Blaney (via zoom); as well as district staff and visitors.

Mrs. Angove announced an executive meeting was held Wednesday, April 29, 2020 to discuss personnel and contracts.

Mrs. Angove announced an executive meeting was held tonight prior to the work session meeting to discuss contracts and personnel.

Presentations:

Autumn Alleman, PSBA – Annual PSBA Visit and Update – Ms. Alleman summarized the services PSBA has available to the district and board members. Services include, new school director training, keynote webinar series, school leadership conference, discussion forums, etc.

Mr. Steven Brion and Mr. John Imbt – Elementary Data – Mr. Brion provided data summarizing student attendance during Covid-19 at W R Croman and TIS. Mr. Brion noted administration is working to contact students who have not participated in education.

Mrs. Angela Keating – Jr/Sr High School Data – Mrs. Keating provided data summarizing student attendance during the Covid-19 at the Jr/ Sr High School. Mr. Brenner thanked families and staff.

Mr. Brenner provided an update on the end of the year activities:

1. Graduation – a parade will be held for seniors on June 5, 2020. Students will also be video taped receiving their diplomas. The virtual graduation will be available to everyone on June 5, 2020 at 8:15 pm.

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2. Adopt a senior program – every senior will be “adopted” by a staff or community member. Each week before graduation, cards and small gifts will be mailed to each senior.
3. Senior signs – a few signs will be hung around town.
4. Senior trip – cancelled; refunds are being issued to families.
5. Senior picnic – committee is still determining alternates. Purchase yearbooks for each senior? Gift cards?
6. Academic & athletic awards – combine. Looking to hold a virtual ceremony on May 27, 2020.
7. Prom – students requested no virtual prom. Planning a video of prom court.

Mr. Roy asked how much it costs to purchase a yearbook for each senior. Yearbooks cost approximately \$74.00 and there are around 100 seniors.

Mr. Gobble thanked all staff.

Mr. Brenner requested the following new classes in the 2020/2021 school year, Earth Science, Sports History, Biology Keystone Readiness. Mr. Brenner summarized the curriculum that will be covered in each class.

Mr. Brenner requested to weight honors Geometry, Precalculus, honors Biology A & B, honors Chemistry and Spanish III to be weighted at 1.03 for the 2020/2021 school year.

Mr. Brenner summarized the request to change the graduation requirements from 28 credits to 25 credits.

These requests will be included on the May 12, 2020 agenda for approval.

Visitors' Comments on Agenda Items:

Dr. Kari Wood, Troy, thanked teachers for their hard work. This week is teacher appreciation week. Dr. Wood also thanked staff for their hard work on the proposed curriculum changes. Dr. Wood is happy to see a personal finance and financial literacy class being proposed.

Mrs. Susan May, Troy asked if Dr. Polly is being hired until a new Superintendent is hired? How much will she be paid?

Mr. Gobble replied Dr. Polly is being hired at a cost of \$500.00 per day and will only be used if needed. Dr. Polly is being hired for Special Education, not Superintendent. She is an expert in Special Education. Mr. Gobble noted there were two Superintendents in place at Troy in April. Mr. Gobble was the Assistant Superintendent and Dr. Martell was the Superintendent.

Mrs. May asked why are we paying for three Special Education Directors at once?

Mr. Gobble replied, we have not used Dr. Polly yet. Mrs. Markiw is retiring in July 2020. The district wanted overlap with the two Special Education directors.

Mrs. May asked if we were eliminating Industrial Arts. Mr. Gobble replied the program is not being eliminated. We currently have two teachers for the program. Beginning in

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the 2020/2021 school year the program will be taught by one teacher. The teacher is being transferred to another open position in the district.

Mrs. May asked if the district was eliminating an English, 7-12 teacher? Mrs. Angove replied the district is realigning the 7th & 8th grade teachers. An English position is going to be a Math position. There will be 3 Math teachers and 3 English teachers for 7th & 8th grade.

Mrs. Gibble further clarified the plan for 7th & 8th grade classes.

Ms. Kathryn Lawton asked if students in 7th & 8th grade will have Math and English every day? Mrs. Angove replied, yes everyday all year. Mrs. Bohner further explained students will have 3 core classes and 1 elective class every day.

Minutes: Mrs. Gilliland announced the April 2020 meeting minutes were emailed to Board members.

Financial Reports: Mrs. Gilliland announced the May 2020 financial reports were emailed to Board members.

Selection of Items for Removal from Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Gilliland reviewed the following:

Motion to Approve the Agenda as Follows: I) Budget, Finance & Transportation:

A.) Budget: 1) Approve the advertisement and display of the 2020/2021 proposed final budget.

B.) Finance: 1) 2019-2020 Salary Listing; 2) 2019-2020 Athletic Salary Listing; 3) 2019-2020 Extra Duty Listing; 4) Approve the contract with Duff & Phelps for fixed assets, account and financial reporting as of June 30, 2020, at a cost of \$1,150.00.

5) Appoint Bill Brasington as District Treasurer for a term of one year, beginning July 1, 2020 with a \$25,000.00 bond; 6) Retain the services of Brann Williams Caldwell & Sheets as Solicitor's for Troy Area School District for a term of one year beginning July 1, 2020; 7) Motion to approve a contract with Dr. Alison Polly for consulting services starting April 1, 2020 through such a time as a full-time Superintendent begins employment with the District.

Mr. Brasington noted he would like someone else to be the District Treasurer. Mrs. Angove will appoint someone by the next meeting.

Mrs. Gilliland noted #6 should read Retain the services of Brann Williams Caldwell & Blaney. This will be corrected on the regular session agenda.

Mr. Martin asked Mrs. Angove where the rate for Dr. Polly came from? Mr. Martin asked if Dr. Polly works one hour, is she paid for an entire day? Mrs. Angove asked Mr. Roy to look at Dr. Polly's contract. Mr. Martin noted we already have two full time Special Education Directors.

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II.) Transportation: A) None.

III) Personnel: A) Retirements: 1) a) None.

B) Resignations: 1) a) None

C) Employment: 1) Act 93: a) None.

2) Professional Contract Employees: a) 1) None.

3) Support Staff Employments: a) 1) Cynthia Collins, Paraprofessional, effective August 20, 2020, salary as per contract; 2) Lisa Schwenk, Paraprofessional, effective August 20, 2020, salary as per contract; 3) Barb Krise, Paraprofessional, effective August 20, 2020, salary as per contract.

4) Supplemental Contracts: a) 1) Danielle Wheeler, JH Student Council Advisor, effective September 16, 2019, salary as per contract, no additional benefits.

5) Coaching Contract: a) Continuation Contracts: 1) None; b) New Employment: 1) None; D) Position Eliminations: 1) Industrial Art/Tech Ed, effective June 30, 2020; 2) English, 7-12, effective June 30, 2020.

Mr. Martin asked if Shop class is being eliminated. Mrs. Bohner replied no this is not shop. Mr. Palmer is the teacher being moved to a different position. Mr. Palmer taught CAD. Mr. Pequignot will now teach the CAD classes. Content is not being dropped.

E) Create New Positions: 1) Math, 7-12, effective July 1, 2020.

F) Contracts: 1) ESS Northeast, LLC Substitute Listing; 2) Volunteer Listing; 3) Motion to approve a two-year Linkage Letter/Referral Agreement between Concern-Professional Services for Children, Youth & Families and the Troy Area School District starting April 20, 2020.

G) Transfers: 1) Jill Cavanaugh from Paraprofessional to Title One Aide, effective July 1, 2020.

Mrs. Angove asked if the Title One position was at Croman. Mrs. Gilliland responded yes. Mrs. Cavanaugh would be working at Croman next year in this position.

H) Leave Requests: 1) None.

IV) Buildings and Grounds: A) Motion to award the district wide paving contract to _____ at a total cost of \$_____. Project was included in the 2020/2021 general fund budget.

V) Curriculum/Instruction and Assessment: A) Approve 2020/2021 BLaST IU #17 Special Education Contract; B) Motion to approve student, parent and staff participation in the 2019-2020 Online School Climate Survey from the Pennsylvania Department of Education Office for Safe Schools. This survey is at no cost to the district.

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Mr. Brasington made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bohner to approve the following:

(Voting Item this Agenda) C) Motion to approve a contract with Canvas for 5 each, 1-hour Custom Webinars and 3 each, 1-hour Questions & Answers sessions during the week of June 8, 2020 – June 12, 2020 not to exceed the amount of \$3,000.00.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Bohner, yes; Mr. Martin, yes; Mr. Dibble, yes; Mr. Curren, yes; Mrs. Ordway, yes; Mrs. Murray, yes; Mr. Roy, yes; Mr. Brasington, yes; Mrs. Angove, yes; Motion passed 9-0-0-0.

VI) Technology: A) Motion to approve the purchase of a replacement NIMBLE unit at a cost of not to exceed \$27,000.00. Equipment will be purchased from Costars; **B)** Motion to award the district wide ratio communication upgrade to _____ at a total cost of \$_____.

Mr. Roy asked why the other motions were not included that he requested. Mr. Gobble replied they would be discussed in executive session.

VII) Student Affairs: A) Motion to approve a Kindergarten Camp in the month of August 2020. This program will be contingent upon grant approval through Head Start.

VIII) Community Relations: A) Motion to approve the Updated 2019/2020 School Year Calendar.

Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dibble to approve the following:

(Voting Item this Agenda) B) Pending permit provided to the school district, approve as a sanctioned District event a Graduation Parade to be held on June 5, 2020.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Martin, yes; Mr. Dibble, yes; Mr. Curren, yes; Mrs. Ordway, yes; Mrs. Murray, yes; Mr. Roy, yes; Mr. Brasington, yes; Mrs. Bohner, yes; Mrs. Angove, yes; Motion passed 9-0-0-0.

IX) Policy: A) New: 1) First Reading: i.) None; 2) Second Reading: i.) None.

B) Revised: 1) First Reading: i.) None; 2) Second Reading: i) None; C) Retire: 1) First Reading: i.) None.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda:

General Board Discussion:

Mr. Roy requested the budget be removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. Brasington asked the community to think about what has happened to us since Covid-19.

Mrs. Bohner thanked the teachers for their hard work.

Mrs. Angove thanked the teachers for their endless hours. They have put a lot of time and effort into teaching.

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Mr. Roy asked Mrs. Gilliland how much the district spends on the Arts program? Band, chorus? Mrs. Gilliland provided a summary of the costs to Mr. Roy. In the 2018/2019 school year the district spent approximately \$21K on band and \$10K on Chorus. The district also spent approximately \$12K for the FFA Nationals trip.

Mr. Roy asked what the weight room costs the district? Mrs. Gilliland stated only the salary and benefit cost for the coach. The district has not purchased weight room equipment in a long time. Most of the equipment has been donated.

Mr. Roy asked how much the district collected in gate receipts in the 2019/2020 school year. Mrs. Gilliland stated approximately \$17K. Gate receipts declined by approximately \$7K from the previous year.

Mr. Roy asked for an update on the high school library. Mr. Gobble stated he asked the Principals to provide a plan.

Mr. Gobble noted the 2020/2021 budget is currently status quo. There are no new positions in the budget.

Mr. Brasington requested the high school library floor plans be discussed at the next Buildings & Grounds committee.

Mrs. Angove asked if NTCC students were still being educated. Mr. Gobble replied yes.

Mrs. Bohner noted 4 of our speech & debate members qualified for Nationals. Mrs. Bohner noted Nationals will be held virtually. Mrs. Bohner asked if it needed to be board approved. Mr. Gobble replied, no. Notification is enough. Mr. Brenner announced the students who qualified, Olivia Tate, Paige Cotton, Alicia Purcell and Alexis Ostrander.

Mr. Brasington noted there will be a Memorial Parade in town. Participants will be in their cars.

Mr. Brasington asked where the money goes that is earned from the High School musical. Mrs. Gilliland replied to the drama student activities club.

Mr. Roy stated it was interesting to hear venting from the community. Mr. Roy thanked Dr. Renzi for agreeing to donate his basketball coaching salary. Mr. Roy noted he realizes the District has had a surplus for several years despite budgeted losses but everyone needs to remember the district was able to continue paying salaries the year the state did not approve their budget for 9 months. The needs for all students need to be balanced. The goal is public education, a fair education to all students. That is why we are here.

Visitor Comment and Question Period:

Mrs. Deb Harer asked what a NIMBLE was? Mr. Schrader replied it is a network attached storage unit. The Districts current NIMBLE had a December 2019 end of life and needs to be replaced. Mrs. Harer asked what is costars? Mr. Schrader replied state contract.

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Mrs. Donna Williams, Speech & Language teacher at Troy, read a letter that she submitted to Dr. Martell about speech and language case load at Troy. Mrs. Williams asked that case load be looked at.

Mrs. Angove thanked Mrs. Williams for her dedication to the district and congratulated her on her retirement.

Mrs. Heidi Breidt congratulated the Speech & Debate team and congratulated Mrs. Williams on her retirement. Mrs. Breidt asked what the plan was for Jr. High Sports? Mr. Gobble replied no decision has been made but he would be surprised if anything went away.

Mrs. Susan May noted education is not just in the classroom but it is also outside of the classroom. Mrs. May feels money is not being spent wisely and the board just broke a contract with a Superintendent that cost a lot of money.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Brasington, seconded by Mr. Dibble, the directors adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel and contracts at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Gilliland
Board Secretary

FYI: Acknowledgement:
Deduct Days -

Name	Building	Date/s	Reason