



THE PROSPER VALLEY SCHOOL

Board of Directors Meeting, Draft
Monday, October 2, 2017 @ 6:30 PM

Present: Seth Shaw, Jody Eaton, Seth Westbrook, Justin Shipman, Patti Kuzmickas, Jenny Hewitt – Teacher Representative, Joe Boisvert – Teacher Representative, Mary Beth Banios – Superintendent of Schools, Raphael Adamek – Director of Instructional Technology, Richard Seaman – Director of Finance and Operations

I. Call to order: 6:32 PM

II. Amendments to the Agenda:

Action/Discussion – After School Late Bus Route, Abbey Group Contract, Principal Resignation

III. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: August 28, 2017

Moved: Seth Westbrook

Seconded: Patti Kuzmickas

IV. Community Engagement/Public Opinion: Sarah Woodhead

V. Action/Discussion:

Health Insurance – Richard Seaman, Director of Finance

Richard shared information on Blue Cross/Blue Shield VEHI and how it differs from our current plan with the exchange. His recommendation is to move our staff to VEHI and do an 85/15 (employer/employee) split for teachers and a 95/5 split for support staff. It won't cost the district any more to make this switch, there will actually be a small reduction in cost. The timing is very short on this with a cut off date of November 15th and an effective date of 1/1/18. Cost of insurance will go up next year. The rate is unknown, at this time, but the board will budget for a 10% increase. Jenny Hewitt said how pleased she is with this switch, that VEHI offers a wellness program and other supports that the teachers and staff will be able to access. The district will be providing CDHP Gold. If anyone wants to choose a different plan, that person will have to make up the difference.

FY19 Budget Priorities –

Richard Seaman asked the board if we had any new initiatives or things that we would like to put into the budget for next year. We went on to have a conversation about equity throughout the WCSU elementary schools and what that will look like next year with a combined district budget.

RAZ-KIDS Subscription –

Katie Jacobson was approached by the parents of a first grader who generously offered to buy a reading program subscription for grades K-3 and asked the board to approve. The board agreed. Thank you to the family who donated this great program. We are lucky to have such thoughtful and generous parents in our school!

Motion to approve adding RAZ-KIDS subscription to our curriculum this year

Moved: Seth Westbrook

Seconded: Patti Kuzmickas

Montshire Museum Relationship –

Jenny Hewitt filled in the board about the collaboration with Montshire Museum last school year. This was a great experience that benefited both children and teachers. When this relationship was first brought to the board, it was understood that this was a free collaboration. Jenny relayed the information that she just received a bill for \$3000 for last school year's Montshire experience. The board didn't know that we had this outstanding balance and has decided to table this particular program until a better understanding is reached.

Definition of a School's Success – SBAC Scores –

This item was put into our agenda as a follow up to responses brought forward concerning TPVS's SBAC scores. Raph was invited to our meeting to discuss. Raph said that there are challenges when looking at SBAC data with small school and small student class sizes. Jenny Hewitt talked about how this year's Investigations curriculum is a game changer for our school and that students are receiving information more in line with what is asked of them on the SBAC test. Mary Beth was quick to explain that we are not trying to raise great SBAC test takers, we are raising Mathematicians and Writers and Readers. She said that it's a benchmark that we need to pay attention to but not too much. This statement was welcomed and appreciated. Patti referenced an NPR Vermont addition on SBAC scores and asked the room to take time to listen to it. Justin Shipman would like to be able to define the success of our children. Has the merge between Bridgewater and Pomfret been successful, assessment-wise? The answer is yes. SBAC scores have risen in the past three years.

Afterschool Late Bus from MSHS –

The afterschool late bus from the Middle School/High School to Pomfret and Barnard @ 5:30 pm was cancelled due to low numbers in September. With only 4 riders normally on the late bus and most from Barnard, TPVS has decided to not reinstate the bus route at \$65 per day, especially when we have no regular daily school bus route in East Pomfret (out River Rd). The cost outweighs the benefit at this point.

Abbey Group Contract –

Richard has asked Seth Shaw to sign a contract for the renewal of Abbey Group in FY18.

Motion to approve the renewal of Abbey Group contract for FY18

Jody Eaton

Seth Shaw

Principal Resignation –

Barbara Reynolds has resigned for personal reasons. An interim Principal will be in place soon. Mary Beth has a lead on a promising candidate. This person will be meeting with teachers, staff, and board members this week.

VI. Reports

1. Operations Report - Chic McMaster would like to have the balusters replaced in rooms 3, 4, 11, and most of the halls. The cost to have the entire school's replaced would be \$600. Seth Westbrook has asked Chic to look into the cost of indirect fixtures instead.
2. Food Service Report – none at this time
3. Principal's Report - none at this time
4. Staff Report – Jenny and Joe wondered about negotiations and where we are with that given that the association recently settled their contract. Teachers will be talking to the NEA to find out how to move forward with the ACT 46 consolidation and becoming members of the Teacher's Union, something that a handful of teachers at TPVS have never been a part of.
5. Board Report - none at this time

VII. Agenda Setting for August Meeting - Please add FY19 Budget Priorities/New Initiatives to Action/Discussion.

VIII. Adjournment – 9:13 pm

Next meetings:

TPVS – Monday, November 6, 2017 @ 6:30 PM – TPVS Library

WCSU – Tuesday, October 17, 2017 @ 6:00 PM – WCSU Conference Room