

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Work Session
February 17, 2016
Academic Center
5:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Boran, Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Davidson,
Dr. DiCello, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Moran,
Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Wagner (Skype), Dr. Zwiebel,
Superintendent; Mr. Curran, Business
Manager/Board Secretary; Mr. Thornburg,
Solicitor; Mr. Ansbach

The work session meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President John Boran who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Boran stated that we have a presentation on the STC Budget from Brian Manning, Assistant Business Manager.

Mr. Manning introduced himself to the Board and began to review the 2016-17 S.T.C. Budget. He reviewed the budget highlight page, changes from the current year and the proposed new programs. Members of the board asked several questions and held a lengthy discussion on the budget.

Mr. Boran thanked Mr. Manning for presenting and added it has been a pleasure working with him and the others on the committee work, the issues with the funding formula still remain. Mr. Boran added that the Board represents the taxpayers and thus cannot support paying for seats that we are not using.

As Chairman of the Finance Committee, I'm recommending the rejection of the 2016-17 budget, which was seconded by Dr. Cortese. Mr. Boran asked if there was anything on the question. Dr. Davidson stated to Mr. Manning that it was a good presentation of the budget but concurs with Mr. Boran that the lack of movement on the articles is the sole issue for him voting no. Mr. Thomas stated that he is voting no because of the increase in the overall budget but asked if there were issues with the budget, shouldn't they have been resolved before it is presented to the board. After hearing no other questions, Mr. Boran asked for a roll call vote. The motion to reject passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Zwiebel informed the Board that roughly four years ago the district began a program introducing IPADS into the classroom at the elementary level with the goal of eventually providing an IPAD to each student K to 12. He introduced Tim from Apple and Mrs. Dougherty, P.A.S.D. Technology Director, who began reviewing the history and the present state of the IPAD program. Tim added that recently Apple proposed to discount IPADS to school districts if the order would exceed 2500 units. He stated that his proposal would place the most current IPAD model in the hands of each student with 64 gig of memory. The


proposal also included professional development, support, and access to his team, at no charge, with an estimated total savings to the district in the range of one half million dollars. Atty. Rismiller asked Tim what happens in four years when the devices are old and need to be replaced. Tim responded that he has no idea what promotions would be in place at that time but that she was correct that the average life of the IPAD is four years and it is possible to get five years out of them but at that time they would need to be replaced.

Mrs. Dougherty reviewed the current lease amounts and the proposed lease amounts with the Board. She added that the eBay account and other line items in her technology budget could be used to offset some of the costs.

Mr. Boran asked if she had detailed payroll costs for the rollout program and it seemed that there are still some areas that need to be addressed before the Board could commit to the program. He asked the Board members to review all of the materials and assemble any questions they may have. Mr. Thomas made a motion to refer the matter to the joint committees of technology and finance, Mr. Moran seconded the motion and was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boran stated that the meeting with the two committees will take place next Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. and to advertise accordingly.

Mr. Boran apologized to the public that the meeting ran longer than anticipated and adjourned the work session at 7:17 p.m.


Stephen C. Curran (Date)
Board Secretary