

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAKING FORMAL ACTION ON THE REVISED 2018/2019 SY
CALENDAR AND FOR DISCUSSION ON THE DRESS CODE POLICY AND TIF PLAN
September 24, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
Carl T. Secor Administration Building
Minutes**

- I. **President** Robert Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Board Secretary**, Patricia Rosado called the roll.
- II. **Board Members present:** George Andrews, Larry Dymond, Jason Gullstrand, Robert Huffman, Keith Karkut, Debbie Kulick (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Richard Schlameuss, and Lisa VanWhy. Wayne Rohner was absent.
- III. **School personnel present in the Administration Center:** Jennifer Agolino, Jennifer Andrews, Sue Andrews, Brian Baddick, Joanne Bohrman, Terrence Bomar, Brian Borosh, Louis Carbajal, Ann Catrillo, Robin Daning, Robert Dilliplane, Joe Formica, Eric Forsyth, Gail Francis, Diana Govus, Heather Gress, Michelle Krajewski, Maria Lazowski, Phil Lazowski, Jennifer Marmo, Fred Mill, Carrie Panepinto, Rose Perkins, William Riker, Patricia Rosado, Renee Stevens and Valerie Wickberg. Thomas Dirvonas, Solicitor.
- IV. **Community members present in the Administration Center:** Elizabeth Arpir, Cindy Blake, Kimberly DeBlasio, Kristi Dellacorne, Jennifer Elling, Robert Gress, Joe Hogan, Maria Hopkins, Joanna Jimenez, Tara Juszynski, Marlene King, Diane Krupski, Chuck Leonard, Alex Nunez, Ericka Nunez, Laura Pride, Jose Ramos, Kelly S, Darryl Sabino, Michele Saltz, Natasha Torres, Ruben Torres, Nicole Whitney and Isabella Wickberg.
- V. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Lisa VanWhy to adopt this agenda for September 24, 2018, as submitted. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 7-0.

VI. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Limited to Agenda Items (3 min. ea.)

- A. Ms. Darryl Sabino said she has several questions regarding the calendar and is sure others have questions, too. She hopes they will be addressing all of their concerns during this meeting. She also has questions regarding the Lehman floor issue. Why is the district paying the Miller Company directly since the paperwork says that the insurance company will be paying Miller Company? Lastly, she would like to know if the district applied for the PA School Safety Grants which were established on June 22, 2018. She suggested that the district use the grant to purchase the security cameras.
- B. Ms. Gail Francis said she would like the Board members to consider a few items before making any more decisions on the dress code policy. The parents were asked to go out and purchase certain dress code items and some couldn't afford to. The parents were given a certain amount of time, but they did it. After eight days, you changed it. It is unfair. If there was going to be a change, parents need time for the change. This appears like the Board does not know what they are doing. Children look great in their dress code wear which do not include name brands so it doesn't become an issue. Certain jobs require that you wear a dress code. Due to the current dress code, Administrators are wasting time on checking clothes instead of their other job duties.

- C. Mr. Robert Gress thanked the Board for approving the teacher's contract. He was disappointed that they did not move the Board meeting into the auditorium. Some could not hear and the video was terrible. Side conversations were heard, enough paper copies of the agenda were not available. Also, regarding the TIF program, the Board approved it in May by a vote of 9-0. He suggests that they get a total breakdown of all expenses before a final agreement is decided upon. He is glad that they rescinded the dress code. Now students can get an education and teachers can teach. He hopes that they will discuss the parent/teacher conferences as part of the calendar today.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. OPERATIONS

i. 803 – School Calendar

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Lisa VanWhy to approve the revised 2018-2019 School Calendar, as presented, to reflect the reallocation of teacher in-service days and the addition of seven (7) student days (to compensate for the days lost due to the teachers' strike) and five (5) additional student days (to compensate for the rescission of the Act 80 days by the Department of Education due to the teacher's strike) to the end of the school year, with no changes to any non-student days which appeared on the original calendar. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 8-0.

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Mr. Forsyth informed the Board about the requirements from the school code to meet 180 instructional days and the 990 hours for secondary students and 900 hours for elementary students, which need to be included. The calendar also includes contracted days for professional and support staff as well as holidays. Only the Board can set the days of instruction. On April 16, 2018 the 2018-2019 SY calendar was approved. Any days until June 30 can become student days. After the strike, PDE rescinded all Act 80 days due to work stoppage. Since the calendar had 175 school days on the calendar, although they will meet the hours, those five days have to be added as instructional days. The seven (7) strike days also have to be added to the calendar for a total of 12 days. The teachers also are allowed 4 in-service days which three of them have been met in the summer leaving 1 day, which can be assigned as Parent/Teacher conferences. Mr. Forsyth informed the Board members of the dates that are on the calendar which can be made student days.

Discussion was held as follows:

- i. Can November 26, 2018 be a student day? No because it's a Support Staff contracted holiday; therefore it cannot be used as a student day. If made a student day, then an alternate holiday needs to be provided.
- ii. Concerns with PDE not approving days if students only go 179 days. If hours are met, PDE may accept the student days.
- iii. Suggestion to add 15 or 20 minutes on days to make up hours. This can only be done when needed for special consideration.
- iv. What is going to be done about Resica's closing? A waiver can be sent when a viable calendar is approved.
- v. Can we try to take back days during the year as opposed to adding to the end of the year? That is why we are having this meeting to see which dates the Board would like to assign as student days.
- vi. Do we need a certain amount of students in the district to make it a calendar day? No, as long as we are opened it is a student day.
- vii. Will it be an unlawful absence? They need to apply the Non-School District Sponsored Educational Trip/Tour form in order for it to be excused. If it is a religious holiday, then it is excused provided that the parent sends in note.
- viii. Has the district looked into Cyber for students to go to school on snow days? The State is currently looking into obtaining proposals to review the possibility.

The Board agreed that the following dates become student days:

October 8, 2018
November 19, 2018
November 20, 2018
January 18, 2018
April 18, 2018

And
November 21, 2018 was selected as the Parent/Teacher Conference.

The seven strike days were added to the end of the school year making the last day of school now June 7, 2018 as oppose to May 29, 2018 as indicated on the original approved calendar.

VIII. DISCUSSION

1. Dress Code Policy

Dr. Riker said he asked for Dress Code to be placed on the agenda in order to suggest that if the Board would like any modification to the dress code, they need to set a timeline of when the parents will be informed. Discussion was held of possibly removing lanyards from the current dress code. The whole dress code should be reviewed. A committee of the Board needs to be created in order to figure out what will be implemented for next year prior to April. The Dress Code Committee members assigned were: Debbie Kulick, as the Chair, Rich Schlameuss, George Andrews and Keith Karkut. Dr. Riker said, personally, he would not care if there is any dress code but this a Board decision. Dr. Riker would recommend no changes to the current dress code.

2. TIF Plan

The Board members' concerns regarding the TIF Plan

- i. The housing unit that is part of the plan originally was part of phase two. The base number of the property is \$96,000. If new students register in the district, the district would incur the expense to educate the students. The number of homes and potential students will hurt the district.
- ii. Have we visited the idea of having that particular portion of the plan not be included? Can the front end, retail property, be done first?
- iii. Over the course of 20 years, the district will provide the subsidy. It's a long time to pay for school students.
- iv. The Board will like to see the actual process and timeline.
- v. The Board asked how many past TIF plans included apartments.
- vi. There are other houses in the area that are available.
- vii. The Board said Mr. Leonard's first presentation said it would be marketed to DINKS (double income no kids).
- viii. How many apartments will be built?
- ix. The Board was concerned that the apartments could possibly bring 50-200 kids to the school district.
- x. The Board had concerns with PennDot because they have not maintained the roads. Now they are asking the district and taxpayers to flip the bill for this project. Why don't we appeal to PennDot to increase their budget?
- xi. Concerns with East Stroudsburg Borough building similar apartments with their Initiative 2025. If both apartment complexes are built will all apartments be filled? What happens if units go unrented? If things do not go in the phase order than it does not get finished then the district is left with a farm.
- xii. Are there any signed leases?

Mr. Chuck Leonard's responses to the Board members' concerns:

Mr. Leonard said there are three parcels. The residential portion is early in the process. Adequate housing does not exist in Monroe County so they feel these apartments will attract those who want to live and work nearby. The overall project will bring significant taxes to the school district. It's the whole package or nothing. Mr. Leonard presented a document to the Board members of all the benefits this plan will bring to the district. Other TIF plans have been successful but they did not include housing. Mr. Leonard said the houses in the area are not attracting those looking to live in this area like the millennials. Mr. Leonard said 94 two-bedroom apartments and 142 one-bedroom apartments will be built. Mr. Leonard said the retail shops which include restaurants and a hotel were placed in Phase 1. They believe that they are in the marketplace where housing is needed. They are confident they will be filled at either phase due to the feedback they have received. The timeline is as quickly as possible. Mr. Leonard said no one will sign an agreement until the work is done. Mr. Leonard said no one purchased the site yet. It is under agreement.

Mr. Dirvonas said the project was already approved by the Board and his office is waiting for the draft of the Cooperation agreement that needs to be approved by the Board. Once the Board has it, they can review it. Any issues will need to be discussed. Mr. Dirvonas said the Board is not committed until they approve the Cooperative Agreement. The agreement should have been created and ready to go by now.

The Board said the taxes increased due to growth that came in the area; therefore, the district had to build. Individuals are looking for places to shop nearby. As long as the project moves along it will be helpful. The Board does not want to see things that are tax exempt. Mr. Leonard said Smithfield Township approved the plan. The Board suggested that the full scope of the project, along with the timelines, be presented to the whole Board again since the district has new Board members. One issue in the area are the high school taxes and low family income. Mr. Leonard said the district has an opportunity to get something done. The plan has a commitment from a developer and grants have been obtained.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Richard Schlameuss to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Larry Dymond and carried unanimously, 8-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia L. Rosado
Board Secretary