
SUMMARY OF THE BOARD WORK SESSION

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010

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- Mr. Fogarty stated that he feels there needs to be more rooms where meetings can be held in the elementary and high schools.
- Mr. Chyko informed everyone that they did a wonderful job on the middle school with the recent renovation; however, he felt that the locker rooms and pool area are in need of some attention.

CMAVTS Proposed 2010-11 Budget: Mr. Fogarty reported that the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School's proposed 2010-11 budget has a 3% increase for next year with Central's increase less than 2%. He asked board members if they had any questions, and he announced that the budget will be recommended for approval at the March 15 board meeting. We are recommending approval.

Proposed 2010-11 Capital Projects: Mr. Williams presented the proposed capital projects for the 2010-11 school year. He informed the Board that the total of \$240,000 is under budget (\$300,000 is budgeted) and asked if they wanted to proceed with what was proposed. Mr. Chyko stated that he would like to see an additional \$7,000 given towards the elementary playground for installation as a thank you to the PTO for all their hard work. All attending board members agreed on the proposed projects and adjustments.

Proposed Sale of Old Berwick Road Property: Mr. Williams presented the Board with the Building and Grounds Committee's recommended changes to the upcoming sale of the house. Some of the new recommendations would accept sealed bids on "As Is" basis and be opened on May 3rd with property showing dates of April 21, April 24, and April 28. This would replace the current recommendation of auctioning and showing the house in June. Mr. Williams stated the new recommendation process will be on the next agenda for approval.

CSIU Proposed 2010-11 Budget: Mr. Fogarty gave a PowerPoint presentation on the CSIU budget. He stated that the IU budget is made up of two separate components and that the operating budget was a very small component. He announced that this budget will be up for approval at our next meeting as required by state law. Mr. Mathias expressed several concerns with the CSIU operations and is not recommending approval of this budget.

2010-11 Budget Issues: Mr. Mathias noted that as changes occur that will affect the budget he will advise the Board. He stated things that will affect the budget are health insurance changes, dental & vision insurance changes, upcoming retirements, etc. He stated that he and the administration are having discussions about staffing and looking at grant funded positions and will present edits on March 15. He also asked the Board to focus on the out years (2011-12 and beyond) due to the sunset of the stimulus funds, the PSERS retirement crisis and the potential high school renovation funding in considering the budget.

Mr. Mathias also gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's budget for 2010-11.

Use of Time Study/Bus Run Schedule: Dr. Kurelja informed the Board that the Use of Time Committee has been looking at ways to extend the students learning day by adding a minimum of 30 minutes per day to their schedules. One of the things that is holding the district back from this change is the busing schedule and how we currently have two bus runs. The committee is looking at changing the system to a one run system which will transport all students together. This change could add up to 30 minutes of instruction per day or over 1000 additional hours over the course of the school career. He wanted to inform the Board of these ideas because they will need to make the final decision by April 12 if the committee decides to proceed with these changes. He announced that the next Use of Time Committee meeting is on March 16th at 6:00pm in the district office board room. Mr. Mathias stated that the administration is currently discussing potential changes with the bus contractors.

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Cyber Charter School Issues/Options: Mr. Mathias gave a PowerPoint presentation on how cyber charter schools have become burdensome. He stated that even though they advertise they are free this is not true and districts have to pay the cyber charter school based on the home schools tuition rates. Currently Central Columbia is paying over \$200,000 for this service and we have no control over what students are learning. He also stated that cyber charter schools do not have to meet the same standards as school districts do in assessments, meeting AYP, and 1 out of 4 teachers are not required to be certified. Mr. Mathias stated that the Heartland Coalition is proposing that there be a tuition cap for students attending cyber charter schools; that they should follow all mandates placed on school districts; that they be required to provide data on individual student progress to home districts; that they be mandated to inform home school districts within 10 days of withdraw or move from their residence; and that they be accountable for attendance, truancy, enforcement, and drop out rates.

Mr. Mathias stated that the Heartland Coalition has been looking at creating a local cyber option for students grades 7-12. Under this option, the local district would create their own option, but also create policies that control admission, maintenance, attendance, etc. to the cyber option. This would only be half the cost of a cyber charter school and we would have control over the curriculum, student achievement, student assessments, etc. He stated some of the benefits of attending the local cyber option would be a diploma from the home district and the student could participate in sports. Another benefit of having the cyber option is we would have access to courses that we didn't have before because we would be partnered with other school districts and could also use their courses. Students could also catch up on missing credits using the cyber option over the summer. The Board members present were supportive of this concept and asked that it be placed on a future agenda for approval.

Other New Business: Mr. Mathias informed the Board that currently our last day of school is June 7th because of the current snow days. He stated that if we have any more we may need to change graduation or alter our current calendar.

Adjournment: Having no further business, President Chyko adjourned the meeting at 8:52p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary J. Nagle, Recording Secretary