

HIGH BRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WORK SESSION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017

A, B, & C. OPENING OF MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Being duly posted and advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Regular Monthly meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. in the High Bridge Elementary School Library. The following Board members were present: Michael Estrada (arrived 6:04 p.m.), Karyn Gove, Stephen Johnson (6:20 p.m.), Alan Schwartz, Cindy Sharkey, Vice President, Terrie Sostorecz, and Robert Imhoff, President. Also present was Gregory Hobaugh, Ed.D, Superintendent and Heather Goguen, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

- 12 members of the public were present.

D. WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM

Brian Rizer of Brown and Brown Benefit Advisors and Tom Tafuri presented to the board and were available to answer questions from both the board and staff.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This period of time provides an opportunity for the public to speak on any topic related to the High Bridge Public Schools. It is the policy of the Board of Education (Policy #0164) that all public comments on an issue shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person and no person may make more than one (1) comment per subject. Comments may be made on any subject pertaining to High Bridge Public Schools. Comments pertaining to Public Hearings should be saved for that section of the agenda. Comments should be addressed to the Board.

- An employee asked about the vision coverage. Brian Rizer answered that the coverage under AmeriHealth is better than the State Health Benefits Plan.
- An employee asked about the difference between AmeriHealth and Brown and Brown questions that were asked. She was told that the answers from Brown and Brown addressed questions from Brown and Brown.
- The same employee asked about exclusions from NJ Direct under question #28 from the handout provided from AmeriHealth.
- The same employee asked about plan coverages for NJ Direct and AmeriHealth.
- The same employee asked about the rate increases for the State Health Benefits Plan as relative to the increases for AmeriHealth.
- The same employee asked about the savings for the district.
- An employee asked what hospitals are not in-network for Pennsylvania.
- The same employee asked about how there are savings for an equal to or better rate to the State Health Benefits Plan. She was told that because the district is healthy, the district is attractive to other providers who can give a better rate.

- An employee commented there were 12 complaints for AmeriHealth from Better Business Bureau. She commented that AmeriHealth had a problem paying the bills in a timely manner.
- The same employee spoke about the drug plan costs. She wanted to know if it is comparable to the State Health Benefits Plan.
- The same employee asked about in-network and out-of-network coverage costs.
- An employee asked about the Performance Reports and wanted to know where it was for her to see.
- An employee spoke about customer satisfaction and wanted to know what the company is doing about improving customer satisfaction.
- Another employee spoke about the fact that there will be a dedicated Customer Service Team with AmeriHealth which should provide customer satisfaction.
- An employee wanted to know if something is denied, will the district follow through to make sure the claim is paid. Mr. Imhoff responded that the district is not in that position but that Brown and Brown advocates for the district if there are issues.
- An employee asked whether this includes dental. She was told that dental is a separate plan.
- An employee asked about hospitals in-network coverage and wanted to know if all Hunterdon County doctors will be included in AmeriHealth. The answer was that employees should check that physicians are in the network.
- An employee asked if someone has to see a doctor in an emergency situation if they would be able to see the doctor again if they are out of network. The answer is that it is situational.
- An employee spoke about negotiations. Salary, benefits, and language are part of the negotiations process. He spoke about the change of benefits provider has the potential to start the negotiations process in a negative way. Mr. Imhoff spoke about the negotiated portion of the contract as the benefits can be equal to or better. He also spoke about the costs for the district but for employees. There are savings involved for employees. He also spoke about the board's willingness to have a question-and-answer period at the last board meeting, the answers provided to additional questions, and then another question-and-answer period at this meeting.
- A board member asked about the retention rate. 90% of participants remain with AmeriHealth and the rate is higher with the public sector.
- The same board member asked about what the increase of rates are based upon when the renewal occurs. It is based upon the pool of all public sector entities that participate.

F. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Michael Estrada requested a motion to approve the following resolution to enter into Executive Session at 7:23 p.m.; Karyn Gove seconded the motion.~ Unanimously Carried

- Negotiations
- Pending Litigation

- Personnel

The matters discussed will be made public if and when the circumstances requiring confidentiality no longer exist; however, it is not presently known when such circumstances will exist.

G. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Alan Schwartz made the motion, seconded by Stephen Johnson to resume Regular Session at 8:28 p.m.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Board, Stephen Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Alan Schwartz. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Goguen
Business Administrator/Board Secretary