

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

January 11, 2011

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

President Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and ascertained that the meeting had been properly noticed on the District's web site and at each of the school buildings. Board members Betsy Ellenberger, Christine Grunwald, Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz, Larry Lewis, Jeff Spoehr, Scott Thompson, Colleen Zuro-White, student representatives Noah White and Alissa Rashid, and the following administrators were present: Mary Pfeiffer, District Administrator; Victoria Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources & Central Services; Mark Duerwaechter, Assistant District Administrator of Secondary Learning & Leadership; Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Elementary Learning & Leadership; Anne Lang, Director of Pupil Services; Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services; and Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support. The absence of John Lehman was excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary.

OPEN FORUM

Madeline Prah, 6120 N. Rosewood Drive, Appleton, NJSD ELL educational assistant, thanked the Board for their further consideration of her request for a leave of absence for the 2010-11 school year.

Katie Svitavsky, 1324 Park Court, Neenah, 12th grade student at Neenah High School, stated that Neenah High School and the Neenah Joint School District promotes respect and asked why students were not included in the planning for the transition from the trimester to the semester.

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, 12th grade student at Neenah High School, shared his excitement at seeing that Lakeview School staff will be presenting a report at the meeting, questioned why AP Psychology is being reduced to one semester, and stated that student moral is very low.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, questioned why the new proposed Freshman Seminar course will not be credit yielding.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:09 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that any time students are involved, the decisions made are better and that the reason we have student representatives on the Board is to provide a student voice. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the administrators and Board need to be reminded of this, apologized on behalf of the administration, and stated that she will consider student involvement for the future. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that Ms. Doyle has had listening sessions for students and that her door is always open to meet with students. Mr. Duerwaechter shared that staff, community members, and students were involved during the NHS redesign process which was part of the trimester to semester planning.

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Mr. Duerwaechter stated that shortly after Ms. Doyle was appointed as NHS Principal, Ms. Doyle held Student Council listening sessions to get input from students regarding the trimester to semester transition.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that we must not approach AP Psychology from a deficit model and that we have great students who can and will be successful even if it is a one semester course. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that it will not be the same course that was taught in the trimester system as the focus will have to be refined.

President Thompson stated that Freshman Seminar would be discussed later during the meeting.

President Thompson stated that Neenah is not unique in going from trimesters to semesters since most high schools are on the semester system and that he is confident that Neenah can make semesters work again.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Peter Kaul and seconded by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Lewis, Spoehr, Thompson, Zuro-White) and one abstention (Ellenberger).

Motion was made by Peter Kaul and seconded by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2011 special meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Noah White and Alissa Rashid...

- stated that Neenah High School would be holding a blood drive next Wednesday, January 19.
- invited all present to several upcoming musical events. Vintage and the Wisconsin Singers will perform on January 16 at 4:00 p.m. in Pickard Auditorium. Neenah High School jazz ensembles will perform at the Cotton Club which will take place on Saturday, January 22, in the NHS cafeteria.
- reported that there is no school tomorrow afternoon as it is a professional learning day for staff and that NHS does not have school on Friday as it is a conference compensation day due to parent-teacher conferences the next two evenings.
- reported that the middle school solo-ensemble program would take place on February 3.
- stated that the second round of DORA testing will begin soon.
- urged the Board and administrators to keep the lines of communication open to students.
- announced that Student Council recently voted on dress-up days for Winterfest which will be held the week of February 7-11.
- shared that Pennies for Patients will begin soon.
- stated that registration for next year's classes began on Monday at NHS.
- reported that NHS D.A.R.E. roll model students visited Clayton classrooms recently.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer ...

- welcomed crossing guards who were in attendance and asked Jeff Spoehr, Board Clerk, to read a proclamation from State Superintendent of Schools Tony Evers recognizing January 10-14, 2011 as Adult School Crossing Guard Awareness Week.
- asked the Board to consider meeting at 5:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month through June to continue work on the NEOLA Board policies.
- shared that the State Education Convention will take place next week in Milwaukee and that those planning to attend have information at their places.
- stated that a productive Joint Relations meeting was held on Monday with the AP program as the topic.
- announced that the NHS Manufacturing & Engineering Academy held an open house tonight which she and several Board members attended and at which Project Lead the Way was nationally certified. Dr. Pfeiffer commended everyone involved in the Manufacturing & Engineering Academy.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger to approve the item under Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Employment of Personnel which includes requests for resignations and retirements from Marilyn Pheil, LaVonne Pockat, and David Seborá effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year and a request for a leave of absence for Madeline Prahá from March 1 – June 30, 2011 (Exhibit 1-A-11). The motion carried by unanimous vote. Board members accepted with regret the resignations and requests for retirement from Marilyn Pheil, LaVonne Pockat, and David Seborá and thanked them for their years of service to the Neenah Joint School District.

Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services, reviewed the suggested revision to the 2010-11 school budget made necessary by recent Board actions (Exhibit 1-B-11). Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the resolution to amend the 2010-2011 school budget. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald introduced Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Elementary Learning & Leadership, who introduced Mary Renning, Lakeview Elementary School Principal. Ms. Renning introduced staff members Holly Luczak, Mary Thompson, Heidi Schroderus, and Karen Hovie who presented a PowerPoint titled “Lakeview Elementary Where Data Drives Decisions” (Exhibit 1-C-11) and answered questions of Board members. Mr. Dreger thanked the Lakeview team for their presentation.

Chair Grunwald introduced Mark Duerwaechter, Assistant District Administrator of Secondary Learning & Leadership, who reviewed the revised recommendation regarding the Freshman Seminar course at Neenah High School for the 2011-12 school year (Exhibit 1-D-11). A lengthy discussion took place regarding whether the course should be mandatory, how staff will be trained to deliver the curriculum, whether the course should be credit or non-credit yielding, the possibility of giving retroactive credit, and if the course is credit yielding, would the students receive a letter grade or would it be a pass/fail grade. The discussion continued regarding obtaining student input regarding the course, looking at the course as a pilot program, and using staff that are enthused and will give

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their best effort when delivering the curriculum for Freshman Seminar. Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the recommendation of administration for Freshman Seminar for 2011-12 with the proposed modifications as presented. The motion was seconded by Larry Lewis. Discussion continued regarding whether or not to offer credit for the Freshman Seminar course. President Thompson called the question and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Peter Kaul reminded Board members of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Clerk Jeff Spoehr presented the names of candidates and their placement on the April 5, 2011 Board of Education election ballot and stated that the following individuals are certified to fill three (3) three-year terms on the Board of Education: Colleen Zuro-White, Dan Westphal, Scott Thompson, and Peter M. Kaul (Exhibit 1-E-11).

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No new items.

ADJOURNMENT

President Thompson announced that it would be necessary to adjourn the regular meeting and to subsequently reconvene in closed session. Motion was made by Jeff Spoehr to adjourn and that the Board reconvene in closed session according to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c)(f) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the December 21, 2010 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and discussion of specific personnel. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:52 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the December 21, 2010 regular closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and discussion of specific personnel.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Betsy Ellenberger, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk