

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

January 19, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the auditorium of the Administration Building on Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

President Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and ascertained that proper notice had been given to the local newspapers and that the meeting had been properly noticed at each of the school buildings. Board members Betsy Ellenberger, Christine Grunwald, Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz, John Lehman, Larry Lewis, Jeff Spoehr, Scott Thompson, Colleen Zuro-White, student representatives Jon Lang and Noah White, and the following administrators were present: Mary Pfeiffer, Superintendent; Victoria Holt, Director of Secondary Education and Human Resources; Kandis Sullivan, Director of Business Services; Steve Dreger, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology; Anne Lang, Director of Pupil Services; and Phil Johnson, Director of Elementary Education. Paul Hauffe, Supervisor of Accounting and Transportation, was also present. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary.

OPEN FORUM

Mary Alice Browne, 1306 S. Park Avenue, Neenah, thanked Dr. Pfeiffer for the revised recommendation and spoke in support of the music program.

Christine Mau, 122 Poplar Court, Neenah, shared that she was on a committee to fundraise but decided to resign from the position when she heard of the teachers receiving a 4.4% increase, stated that she pays 23.5% of her health care premiums, and thanked the Board for all of the work they are doing.

Geri Grine, 1229 Merritt Avenue, Oshkosh, former chair of the Oshkosh School District string department and current director of the Oshkosh Youth Symphony program, spoke in support of the elementary music program.

Marc Sackman, 1412 W. Packard Street, Appleton, UW-Fox Valley Associate Professor of Music, urged the Board to consider the effects of cutting the elementary music program.

Salli Nickolai, 1525 Fallow Drive, Neenah, implored the Board, administrators, community, and teachers to start working together in a collaborative effort.

Thomas Becher, 3019 Fairwinds Drive, Neenah, shared concerns with the proposed recommendations regarding cocurricular activities and the music program.

Carol Hollar-Zwick, 730 Congress Place, Neenah, spoke in support of the music program and stated that the recommendation at the middle school level to only allow one fine arts elective is sending a message that the District does not value the arts.

Board minutes are available on the district's web site: www.neenah.k12.wi.us

Jane Burriss, 2136 Redtail Drive, Neenah, stated that she feels the cuts are fair, appreciates the compromise that was made for elementary music, and questioned the recommendation to cut German and French and replace with Mandarin Chinese.

Herb Numerich, 977 S. Prairie Creek Drive, Neenah, expressed his appreciation for the Board packet materials being made available on the District web site.

Danelle Marquardt, 2784 W. Fairview Road, Neenah, spoke in support of the music program.

Ann Cattau, 1135 Manor Drive, Neenah, NJSD guidance counselor, expressed her concern with the cuts which will significantly impact student learning.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, stated he was glad to see the NEA contract had been ratified and requested a brief overview of the changes to the contract, asked for clarification on the associate principal positions at Neenah High School and the economic impact on the administrative restructuring, questioned why the special education program was being cut now when in previous years it has not been cut, and asked for clarification on a \$50,000 savings with regard to the administrators taking four unpaid days.

Mary Janness, 731 Tayco Street, Menasha, Neenah High School health aide, clarified facts regarding part-time NESPA employees who receive health care benefits and requested everyone work together to solve the District's current economic situation.

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, 11th grade student at Neenah High School, spoke in support of the elementary music and the gifted and talented programs and requested the Board proceed with extreme caution and prudence.

Margaret Burton, 486 Sunrise Bay Road, Neenah, commented on the gifted and talented program.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:34 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Superintendent Pfeiffer explained the process of staff cuts, clarified administrative pay, clarified the recommendation for future use of the Facilities Consultant, and clarified the Neenah High School principal title changes.

John Lehman responded to the NEA contract questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2010 special meeting. The motion carried by a vote of six yes (Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Lewis, Spoehr) and three abstentions (Ellenberger, Thompson, Zuro-White).

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STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jon Lang and Noah White ...

- stated that the initial plan to receive student feedback through the Moodle website as part of Student Council was met with limited success and that they are pursuing student participation through NHS Government classes.
- announced the NHS band concert being held tonight.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer...

- echoed Mr. Numrich's thanks to Diane Doersch and Diane Haug for their part in the process of putting Board packets on the District web site the Monday before each Board meeting.
- stated that a Neenah Tomorrow foundation (NTf) is currently being established and that more information will be forthcoming in late February.
- shared that former Board of Education member Candy Adams recently passed away and that a memorial has been established through the Educational Foundation of Neenah (EFN) called Candy's Books for Kids.
- reported that she and President Thompson signed the Memo of Understanding (MOU) for the Race to the Top funding while the Neenah Education Association chose not to sign the MOU and that should Wisconsin receive funding, the District would be eligible for approximately \$412,000.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Christine Grunwald to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 06 dated December 31, 2009 reflecting revenues of \$8,458,721.88 and expenditures of \$6,997,883.34 Exhibit 1-E-10) and
2. Employment of Personnel, which includes:
 - a) requests for leaves of absence for Abby Rubens, kindergarten teacher at Tullar School, and Elizabeth Barczak, kindergarten teacher at Clayton School (Exhibit 1-F-10);
 - b) elimination of exempt position and appointment of Director of Business Services (Exhibit 1-G-10);
 - c) appointment of Neenah High School Principal (Exhibit 1-H-10);
 - d) elimination of administrative positions – Director of Secondary Education and Human Resources; Instructional Technology Leader; Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology; Executive Principal, Shattuck and Horace Mann Middle Schools; Director of Elementary Education/Principal Roosevelt and Alliance Charter Elementary; Assistant Principal, Shattuck Middle School; Associate Principal, Horace Mann Middle School; Assistant Principal Neenah High School (2) (Exhibit 1-I-10);
 - e) new administrative positions for 2010-2011 – Assistant District Administrator of Elementary Learning and Leadership; Assistant District Administrator of Secondary Learning and Leadership; Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources and Central Services; Director of Instructional Technology; Director of Revenue

- Enhancements and Business Services Support; Principal, Shattuck Middle School; Principal, Horace Mann Middle School; Principal, Roosevelt and Alliance Charter Elementary; Associate Principal, Neenah High School (2) (Exhibit 1-J-10);
- f) 2010-2011 Administrative Salary Range and Classification Reschedule (Exhibit 1-K-10);
 - g) amended administrative benefits (Exhibit 1-L-10); and
 - h) contract extensions – administrators (Exhibit 1-M-10).

The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous vote. Superintendent Pfeiffer introduced Colleen Doyle as the new Neenah High School Principal beginning with the 2010-11 school year.

Superintendent Pfeiffer presented the updated 2010-2011 Budget Reductions/Revenue Enhancements (Exhibit 1-N-10), shared several corrections to the document, and stated that it will be important to continue to engage staff, students, and community members in the future. Board members commended Dr. Pfeiffer and administrators for listening to staff and community members and making adjustments to the recommendations. Motion was made by Larry Lewis to approve the updated 2010-2011 budget reductions and revenue enhancements with stated corrections as presented. The motion was seconded by Christine Grunwald and passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the quarterly financial report for the six-month period ending December 31, 2009, together with a three-year comparison (Exhibit 1-O-10). Kandis Sullivan, Director of Business Services, stated that the District's financial performance for this year is very similar to the past two years.

Chair Lehman stated that the next Finance and Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald stated and that the Curriculum and Program Development Committee did not meet in January and that because of a conflict, the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2010 may need to be rescheduled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Thompson reviewed the list of future agenda items and determined that there was nothing additional at this point.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by John Lehman, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Diane Haug, Board Secretary

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