

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

October 5, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, October 5, 2010.

President Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and ascertained that the meeting had been properly noticed on the District's website and 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 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; Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support; and Diane Doersch, Director of Technology. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary.

OPEN FORUM

Amanda Recktenwald, 1306 S. Park Avenue, Neenah, 12th grade student at Neenah High School, introduced Dorothy, the scarecrow, tin man, and cowardly lion, who musically invited all present to the performances of the fall musical The Wizard of Oz on October 15, 16, 22, and 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., and on October 24, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Pickard Auditorium.

LeAnn Knoeck, 1446 Baytree Lane, Neenah, Special Education Program Support staff, shared that the Special Education Department hosted a Transition Fair for parents and their students with special needs who reside in Winnebago County on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 during parent/teacher conferences at Neenah High School.

Herb Numrich, 977 S. Prairie Creek Drive, Neenah, shared his concerns with the proposal for 4-year-old kindergarten and the revenue that it may or may not generate.

Heather Shebesta, W1924 Coenen Road, Kaukauna, instrumental music teacher, distributed a flyer to Board members and administrators regarding an upcoming Moving Wisconsin Forward Rally to be held in Madison on October 16, 2010.

Nancy Lewandowski, 113 Lime Kiln Drive, Neenah, shared her concerns regarding the middle school plans and stated that she fails to see how the changes will make the curriculum more rigorous.

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, 12th grade student at Neenah High School, stated that he was at Shattuck recently and noticed that several of the bubblers were not in working order and stated that he agrees with the option in the Baker Tilly report to sell the vacant parcels of land owned by the NJSD.

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

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, stated that he agrees with Mr. Numrich's comments regarding 4-year-old kindergarten, reminded Nick and all in attendance that part of the budget reduction decisions last year were to turn off a certain number of refrigerated bubblers, and shared that Neenah native, Cody Cavanaugh, will be performing a BMX-type aerobatic show in the Brigade parking lot at 8:30 tonight, and stated that he disagrees with the Baker Tilly option of selling the vacant NJSD property.

Ann Cattau, 1135 Manor Drive, Neenah, NJSD guidance counselor, stated that she supports the sentiments of the parent regarding the middle school plans, stated that she agrees with Nick Bezier regarding the Shattuck bubblers, and thanked the Board and administrators for agreeing to allow the staff to use personal space heaters.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:18 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Superintendent Pfeiffer explained that the Baker Tilly Report provides options, not recommendations, and clarified that no decisions have been made yet; stated that with regard to the middle school plans, the staff has worked very hard to provide a plan with rigor which is focused on 21st Century Skills and encouraged Mrs. Lewandowski to contact Mr. Wunderlich for further information; shared that a World Language Committee was formed last spring to explore K-12 options for world languages in the NJSD and suggested anyone with questions contact Mr. Duerwaechter; and stated that she would ask the Operations Department to check into the bubbler situation at Shattuck Middle School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Noah White and Alissa Rashid...

- stated that they will begin reporting on events for Horace Mann and Shattuck since they are also representing those students.
- reported that the 3rd annual NHS Helping Hands Art & Craft fair will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.
- stated that the Community Blood Center would be holding a blood drive at NHS on Wednesday, October 13, 2010.
- provided a sports update.
- reminded everyone that this is NHS homecoming week with the parade beginning on Friday, October 8, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. at Riverside Park, with the football game to follow

on Friday night and the homecoming dance will take place on Saturday night, October 9, 2010, in the NHS cafeteria.

- informed everyone of the middle school homework assistance program offered through the Boys' and Girls' Brigade.
- stated that Horace Mann will be holding a family reading night on October 19, 2010.
- reported that the first DORA testing will take place on October 6, 2010 at Horace Mann.
- provided an update to Student Council activities.
- thanked Dr. Pfeiffer for attending the recent National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer ...

- stated that she scheduled a meeting for continued work by the Board and administrators on the strategic objectives for Monday, November 8, 2010 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Library at NHS.
- commended three NHS students who have been named National Merit Scholar Semifinalists – Aditya Karandikar, John Kasper, and James Price.
- shared that she attended an award presentation at Hoover School today for Amy Monka who received “A Day Made Better Award” through OfficeMax.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the item under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for a leave of absence (Jill Bowden, EBD teacher at Lakeview School) and a request for a resignation (Julie McNally, Reading teacher at Tullar and Hoover Schools)(Exhibit 10-A-10). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

BAKER TILLY REPORT

Dr. Pfeiffer provided background information regarding the Baker Tilly Report and introduced Christine Smith and Dave Varana of Baker Tilly who presented the Neenah Joint School District Functional Analysis Report dated September 30, 2010 (Exhibit 10-B-10). President Thompson went through the Decision Item Summary on page 14 line by line to allow Board members to ask questions and receive input by Baker Tilly personnel. Board members requested to see a list of items Baker Tilly personnel looked at but chose not to consider. Regarding open enrollment, President Thompson would like information regarding why students are choosing to transfer out of the Neenah Joint School District. Dave Varana summarized the additional information that Baker Tilly will provide. Board members thanked Ms. Smith and Mr. Varana for the report.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman stated that a combined Board/Curriculum & Program Development Committee/Finance & Personnel Committee calendar was included in the Board packet (Exhibit 10-C-10).

Chair Lehman stated that the next Finance and Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

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

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald stated that the Curriculum and Program Development Committee met on Tuesday, September 28, 2010, to review the committee calendar, review the 2010 Summer School Program, and plan for the 2011 Summer School Program. Chair Grunwald stated that the 2011 Summer School Proposal will come before the full Board at the November 2, 2010 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Colleen Zuro-White reported that she attended a WASB Labor Law seminar and encouraged all Board members to begin using FirstClass for email communication.

President Thompson commended the staff at Neenah High School for the use of their laptops at the parent-teacher conferences held on Wednesday, September 29, and Thursday, September 30, 2010.

Christine Grunwald shared that the Learning Walks have been very informative.

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 Betsy Ellenberger to adjourn and that the Board reconvene in closed session according to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c)(g) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the September 21, 2010 closed session meeting, NEA grievance, and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Christine Grunwald and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:32 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the September 21, 2010 closed session meeting, NEA grievance, and potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Scott Thompson, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk