

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

December 21, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, December 21, 2010.

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 Christine Grunwald, Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz, John Lehman, Larry Lewis, Jeff Spoehr, Scott Thompson, Colleen Zuro-White, student representative Nick Bezier, 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 absences of Betsy Ellenberger and student representatives Noah White and Alissa Rashid were excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary.

OPEN FORUM

Jim Frailing, W6022 Zinnia Drive, Appleton, social studies teacher at Neenah High School, shared his concerns with the administrative recommendation to reduce AP Psychology to one semester.

Lori Long, 8410 Pioneer Road, Larsen, NJSD Title One teacher, asked what the status is of her request to rename the NHS natatorium after Mike Schuelke and questioned where things are at with the naming rights committee.

Madeline Prah, 6120 N. Rosewood Drive, Appleton, NJSD ELL educational assistant, reviewed her request for a leave of absence and shared additional information regarding her request.

David Sebor, 1185 Skyview Drive, Neenah, NHS guidance counselor, expressed concerns with the new Freshman Seminar course.

Mike Altekruise, 1180 Appleblossom Drive, Neenah, expressed his excitement with the new Freshman Seminar course and shared his concern with the length of the course being two semesters rather than one semester.

Debbie Dreher, 56 Regal Terrace, Appleton, administrative assistant at Horace Mann Middle School, spoke in support of Madeline Prah and her request for a leave of absence.

Brady Kiel, 731 Chestnut Street, Neenah, social studies teacher at Shattuck Middle School, invited Board members and administrators to his online classroom and stated that he is looking for feedback. Brady also commended the District for the school climate brochure and shared his concerns regarding the Southern Poverty Law Center group.

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

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, shared his views regarding course revision fees, the switch from trimesters to semesters and AP Psychology, the under levy on the budget related to Fund 80, and use of NJSD facilities.

Ann Cattau, 1135 Manor Drive, Neenah, distributed a letter to Board members and administrators regarding her concerns with the new Freshman Seminar course.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:42 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Madeline Prahel answered several questions of Board members regarding her request for a leave of absence.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that she has had several conversations regarding naming rights with relation to what targets must be achieved in order to be considered and stated that corporate sponsorships are being looked at in many districts. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that she feels that the NJSD policy regarding naming rights is currently vague and stated that the Board will be reviewing this as part of the NEOLA policy review.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that she would follow up with Brady Kiel regarding his concerns.

Dr. Pfeiffer shared that a modified recommendation would be brought to the Board regarding Freshman Seminar at the meeting on January 11, 2011 and that the administrators will provide some guidance to the counselors before they meet with Shattuck Middle School eighth grade students on January 6, 2011.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the rental fee schedule continues to be reviewed and will most likely be reevaluated next year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Lewis, Spoehr, Zuro-White) and one abstention (Thompson).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Nick Bezier...

- provided an update regarding the NHS debate team.
- shared a sports update regarding NHS girls basketball, wrestling, and bowling.
- reported that the National Honor Society recently completed a successful food drive.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. Pfeiffer ...

- thanked the NEA leadership for a productive Joint Relations meeting on December 13, 2010 which included a discussion regarding Freshmen Seminar and stated that she had an additional meeting with NEA leaders today.

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

- shared that she has attended several concerts and programs throughout the District over the past several weeks.
- wished everyone a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing holiday.

OFFICIAL ACTION

It was decided to pull item 1. Employment of Personnel from the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Peter Kaul and seconded by Jeff Spoehr to approve items 2 through 8 under Consent Agenda as follows: 2. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 5 dated November 30, 2010 reflecting revenues of \$631,100.09 and expenditures of \$6,064,459.86) (Exhibit 12-D-10); 3. Investment Report (Exhibit 12-E-10); 4. 2009-2010 Financial Audit (Exhibit 12-F-10); 5. Investment Strategy for Fund 73 (Exhibit 12-G-10); 6. 2010-2011 Facility Rental Fees (Exhibit 12-H-10); 7. Food Service Contract for 2010-2011 (Exhibit 12-I-10); and 8. Course Additions, Deletions, and Revisions (CADR) Report for 2011-2012 (Exhibit 12-J-10). John Lehman, Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee, answered questions regarding the Fund 73 investment strategy. Mrs. Holt answered questions regarding the revised 2010-2011 facility rental fee schedule. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The Board of Education has approved the revised 2010-11 Facility Rental Fee Schedule, allowing the Administration flexibility with the implementation of the policy. The intent of the flexibility is for the Administration to maximize the use of District Rental Facilities without causing additional costs to the District yet maintaining opportunities for Neenah youth.

A discussion took place regarding item 1. Employment of Personnel, request for a leave of absence for the 2010-11 school year from Madeline Prah. Motion was made by Christopher Kunz to approve the administration's recommendations for item 1. Employment of Personnel which includes requests for resignations and retirements from Brian Beiser and Teresa Walotka and a request for a leave of absence for the 2010-11 school year from Madeline Prah (Exhibit 12-K-10). The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr. After further discussion, Christopher Kunz withdrew his original motion and made a motion to approve the request for resignations and requests for retirements. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. Board members accepted with regret the resignations and requests for retirement from Brian Beiser and Teresa Walotka and thanked them for their years of service to the Neenah Joint School District. Motion was made by Colleen Zuro-White to table the request for a leave of absence from Madeline Prah until more information is brought forward. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald introduced Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Elementary Learning & Leadership, who introduced Brian Wunderlich, Horace Mann Principal. Mr. Wunderlich introduced staff members Monica Schoen, Jennifer Merritt, Jody Stanchik, and Greg Brock who presented a Horace Mann School Improvement Team 2010-2011 PowerPoint (Exhibit 12-L-10) and answered questions of Board members.

Mr. Dreger then introduced Michael Tauscher, Hoover Elementary School Principal, who introduced staff members Heather Kruzicki, Lori Long, Amy Monka, and Kathy Romenesko. Mr. Tauscher and the Hoover staff members gave a PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit 12-M-10) and answered questions of Board members.

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

Mr. Dreger thanked the Horace Mann and Hoover teams for their presentations.

Chair Grunwald reminded everyone of the Curriculum and Program Development Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2010 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by John Lehman and carried by a committee vote of two yes (Kunz, Lehman) and one abstention (Kaul).

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Kaul shared that he attended the Tullar 5th grade buffet and stated that this buffet has been held since 1977.

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 Peter Kaul to adjourn and that the Board reconvene in closed session according to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the December 7, 2010 closed session meeting and discipline of specific students. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:19 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the December 7, 2010 regular closed session meeting and discipline of specific students.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Christine Grunwald, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk