

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

February 15, 2011

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, February 15, 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, John Lehman, Scott Thompson, Colleen Zuro-White, student representatives Noah White and Nick Bezier, and the following administrators were present: Mary Pfeiffer, District Administrator; Victoria Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources & Central Services; 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 Larry Lewis and Jeff Spoehr were excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Chris Wilharm, 628 Kessler Drive, Neenah, Horace Mann Middle School math teacher and Professional Negotiations Committee chairperson, shared her concerns with Governor Walker's budget repair proposal, provided copies of a list of Wisconsin Legislators, and requested the support of the Board of Education.

Sue Peterson, 2450 Woodland Terrace, Neenah, NJSD teacher and Neenah Education Association President, stated that NEA and NESPA members have been calling her with their concerns about Governor Walker's budget repair proposal and expressed her views regarding the proposal.

Gary Kresal, 1943 Shady Springs Drive, Neenah, spoke in support of the Bullying Policy, expressed his concerns with the use of materials from the Southern Poverty Law Center, suggested that anti-bullying includes more than tolerance for a person's lifestyle, and thanked the Board of Education and the NJSD administration for dealing with the topic of bullying.

Herb Numrich, 977 S. Prairie Creek Drive, Neenah, stated that his family recently received a postcard from the District surveying interest in a 4 year-old kindergarten program and expressed his viewpoint that there are already robust PreK and 4K programs in the Fox Valley area and stated that he doesn't feel NJSD can afford a 4K program at this time.

Sheila Brucks, 238 Butte Des Morts Drive, Menasha, Spring Road School administrative assistant, expressed her appreciation for retiring staff members and requested that their names be read at the Board meetings.

Ann Cattau, 1135 Manor Drive, Neenah, Shattuck Middle School guidance counselor, shared her concerns with Governor Walker's budget repair proposal and asked for the Board's support.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:21 p.m.

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

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer invited Mr. Kresal to Barbara Coloroso's presentation on February 21 in Pickard auditorium.

President Thompson informed Mr. Numrich that the Board will be talking about 4 year-old kindergarten in April.

Dr. Pfeiffer read the names of this year's retirees along with the number of years they have been in the NJSD and thanked them for their years of service to the Neenah Joint School District.

Dr. Pfeiffer read a message which she plans to send to all staff regarding Governor Walker's budget repair proposal.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2011 special meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Christine Grunwald to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2011 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Noah White and Nick Bezier...

- invited all present to the orchestra concert this Thursday, February 17.
- stated that it is Winterfest week at NHS and that a pep assembly will take place on Friday morning.
- shared pride in the way that everything was handled regarding the Laramie Project last weekend.
- reported that the Neenah boys swim team is going to state this weekend.
- reported that the Pennies for Patients drive was completed this week.
- stated that Alissa and Nick are working with Ms. Doyle regarding providing a student voice in the semester transition.
- reported that auditions are currently being held for the NHS Coffee House which is scheduled to take place on March 4.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer ...

- requested Peter Kaul read a proclamation from Governor Walker declaring February 14-18, 2011 as School Bus Driver Recognition Week and recognized those school bus drivers in attendance for their service to the students of the NJSD.
- introduced Coolidge Elementary School Principal LeAnn Metzger who gave a PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit 2-I-11) regarding Coolidge School's goals and progress this school year.

- asked those Board members and administrators who attended the State Education Convention in January (John Lehman, Colleen Zuro-White, Jon Joch, Paul Hauffe, and Dr. Pfeiffer) to provide feedback regarding their experience at the convention.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Early Entrance to Kindergarten recommendation (Exhibit 2-J-11); 2. Employment of Personnel which includes requests for resignations and retirements from Ann Cattau, Lynn Dyer, Jeffrey Lucas, Marie Rippl, Debra Scott, Susan Westphal, Janet McBride, Sue Peterson, and Robin Snell effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year; and requests for resignations from Jennifer Collins effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year and Dianne Marquardt effective February 15, 2011; (Exhibit 2-K-11); 3. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 7 dated January 31, 2011 reflecting revenues of \$14,753,188.54 and expenditures of \$7,527,018.28) (Exhibit 2-L-11); and 4. Administrator Contract Changes (Exhibit 2-M-11) effective July 1, 2011. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. Board members accepted with regret the resignations and requests for retirement of Ann Cattau, Lynn Dyer, Jeffrey Lucas, Marie Rippl, Debra Scott, Susan Westphal, Janet McBride, Sue Peterson, and Robin Snell, and the resignations of Jennifer Collins and Dianne Marquardt and thanked the staff members for their years of service to the Neenah Joint School District.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald shared that she will be part of the community readers program on February 24 at Roosevelt/Alliance and encouraged other Board members to take part in this event when time allows. Chair Grunwald commended the students of Neenah High School for their sensitivity and maturity in the production of the Laramie Project

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2011 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous committee vote.

Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements and Business Services Support, presented a Neenah Tomorrow Fund update (Exhibit 2-N-11) and answered questions of Board members.

Chair Lehman shared some statistics he learned when attending a legislative budget forum at Houdini Center in Appleton on January 24, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No report.

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 Colleen Zuro-White to adjourn and

that the Board reconvene in closed session according to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the February 1, 2011 closed session meeting, discussion of specific personnel, consideration of issuing final notice of administrator nonrenewal, and consideration of issuing final notice of teacher nonrenewal. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the February 1, 2011 closed session meeting, discussion of specific personnel, consideration of issuing final notice of administrator nonrenewal, and consideration of issuing final notice of teacher nonrenewal.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session and reconvene in open session was made by Betsy Ellenberger, seconded by Colleen Zuro-White, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

President Thompson called the open session to order at 9:23 p.m.

Motion was made by Peter Kaul to issue a final notice of nonrenewal to Kerry Rutishauser, Interim Principal, Wilson Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Scott Thompson and carried by unanimous vote.

Motion was made by Peter Kaul to issue final notices of nonrenewal to Natasha Kempen, Zackery Rowe, and Ryan Micale. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Kaul and seconded by Christine Grunwald. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk