

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

February 16, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, February 16, 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 representative Jon Lang, 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. The absence of student representative Noah White was excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary.

President Thompson announced that the Student Council Report would be presented first to allow Neenah High School students to make their presentation to the Board.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jon Lang...

- announced that the penny war sponsored by the Student Council and National Honor Society was completed and that over \$1,300 was raised to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the earthquake victims in Haiti.
- stated that Vicki Bayer contacted Noah and him regarding a School Board segment of the podcast "This Week @ NHS" and that they would begin this week to tape a weekly update.
- shared that Band-O-Rama was held on Monday, February 15, 2010 in the NHS fieldhouse.
- provided a sports update for the swimming and diving and powerlifting teams.
- introduced Neenah High School technology teacher, Tony White, who shared information regarding the Manufacturing and Engineering Academy – Project Lead the Way. Engineering students of Mr. White were in attendance to share their puzzle cube projects with members of the Board of Education.

OPEN FORUM

Reenie Tetzlaff, 1298 Benjamin Court, Neenah, Neenah High School English teacher, spoke in support of maintaining the trimester schedule at the high school.

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

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, 11th grade student at Neenah High School, thanked Mr. White and his engineering students for the presentation and strongly urged the Board to stay the course and continue the trimester schedule at NHS.

Dianne Calcaterra, 7751 Joseph Peters Drive, Neenah, Neenah High School World Languages teacher, spoke regarding the trimester vs. semester schedules.

Randy Hoitink, 7630 Oak Hill Road, Omro, Neenah High School math teacher, spoke regarding the trimester vs. semester schedules.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, questioned why the Board did not include in the last NEA contract negotiations a request for Neenah High School teachers to add a section to their teaching schedule and stated that he supports the recommendation to return to semesters at Neenah High School.

Jim Zipple, 3333 W. Sunnyview Road, Oshkosh, NJSD school psychologist and current NEA President, spoke regarding the trimester vs. semester schedules and stated that the NEA did not get a clear answer from Neenah High School teachers.

Ann Cattau, 1135 Manor Drive, Neenah, NJSD guidance counselor, distributed a letter to the Board of Education members.

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

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

President Thompson stated that the trimester/semester issues would be addressed during that portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer...

- shared a desire by Board of Education members to suspend joint relations meetings between the Neenah Education Association and the Board until a change is made and suggested a focus be put on student learning and that Board members meet with District staff and begin using an agenda for these meetings.
- suggested the Board have one meeting in April on April 20, 2010 due to spring break being the first week in April. If there is a need for two meetings, a meeting would be scheduled for April 6, 2010.

OFFICIAL ACTION

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

1. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 07 dated January 31, 2010 reflecting revenues of \$13,281,104.98 and expenditures of \$5,565,024.96 Exhibit 2-E-10), 2. Early Entrance to Kindergarten (Exhibit 2-F-10), and 3. Employment of Personnel (Exhibit 2-G-10), which includes a request for a leave of absence from Jennifer Collins for the 2010-11 school year. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote.

Paul Hauffe, Supervisor of Accounting and Transportation, reviewed the recommendation to extend the District's audit contract with Erickson & Associates (Exhibit 2-H-10). Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger to award a three-year contract to Erickson & Associates for the school audits ending June 30, 2010, 2011, and 2012. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote.

Superintendent Pfeiffer thanked the staff of Neenah High School for their passion and dedication to the students of the District and reviewed her recommendation to implement the semester schedule in the fall of 2011-12 (Exhibit 2-I-10). Board members expressed their views regarding trimester and semester schedules. Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the recommendation to transition to the semester schedule in the fall of 2011-12. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr. Discussion continued with regard to the number of teaching minutes in the trimester vs. semester. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman reminded Board members of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald stated that the next meeting of the Curriculum and Program Development Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

Steve Dreger, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology, introduced the staff who work with the Gifted and Talented and Magnet Programs and presented information regarding the Gifted and Talented Program (Exhibit 2-J-10).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board members were reminded of the Employee Appreciation Internship Banquet to be held on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at Germania Hall.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No new items at this time.

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) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the January 5, 2010 closed session meeting, preparation for

NESPA negotiations, discussion of specific personnel concerning non-renewal of teaching contracts and reduction/elimination of extended year assignments/contracts, and discussion of specific personnel – review of administrator contract. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:33 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the January 5, 2010 closed session meeting, preparation for NESPA negotiations, discussion of specific personnel concerning non-renewal of teaching contracts and reduction/elimination of extended year assignments/contracts, and discussion of specific personnel – review of administrator contract.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn was made by Betsy Ellenberger, seconded by John Lehman, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Diane Haug, Board Secretary