

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

February 2, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

President Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:02 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.

President Thompson invited the Neenah Joint School District crossing guards who were in attendance to stand and be recognized. The crossing guards stated their name, their crossing guard location, and the length of time they have been working as a crossing guard and received a certificate in appreciation for their service.

OPEN FORUM

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, 11th grade student at Neenah High School, thanked the crossing guards for their service, thanked everyone for the work done with the budget recommendation, asked if retrofitting the Alpha Smart devices would work instead of buying new keyboarding devices, inquired about the profitability of ARAMARK and where this information could be found, asked whether the breakfast program at Neenah High School is a trial or is permanent, and strongly urged the Board to continue the trimester schedule at NHS.

Dianne Calcaterra, 7751 Joseph Peters Drive, Neenah, Neenah High School World Languages teacher, spoke regarding the trimester/semester schedules and questioned whether any other scheduling options would be considered.

Gary Lemieux, 1368 Mulberry Lane, Neenah, Neenah High School Band Director and K-12 Music Department Chair, stated that he wanted to publicly acknowledge the budget work that has been done, thanked the Board and administrators for including him in the process regarding the music program, stated that he would attempt to provide any information necessary in making the difficult budget decisions, and invited everyone present to the various musical performances throughout the District.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:17 p.m.

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

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

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

Mr. Dreger clarified the difference between Alpha Smart devices and Neo 2 devices and stated that the Alpha Smart devices the District already has would be used in addition to purchasing additional devices to make a complete classroom set for each elementary building.

John Lehman responded to the ARAMARK questions and stated that a federal grant is currently helping to support the breakfast program at Neenah High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Peter Kaul and seconded by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jon Lang and Noah White ...

- provided an update regarding the upcoming Student Council State Conference.
- stated that the Pennies for Patients would begin tomorrow, Wednesday, February 3, 2010, and would benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the earthquake victims in Haiti.
- displayed the t-shirt design for the 75th Anniversary Student Council State Conference.
- announced the NHS coffee house to be held at the end of trimester 2 in early March.
- introduced Tullar principal Diane Galow, Student Council advisors Janie Anderson and Amy Buege, and student representatives who gave a PowerPoint presentation and shared events the Tullar Student Council participates in throughout the school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer...

- requested the Board consider changing meeting dates for April since the first meeting date is during spring break. It was decided the Board would consider possible meeting dates in April and make a decision at the February 16, 2010 Board meeting.
- suggested the Board meet before an upcoming Board meeting to begin the process of reviewing the first draft of the Board Policy received from NEOLA. It was decided the Board would meet at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 to begin this process.
- requested feedback from the Board as to whether posting the Board packets on the District web site on Friday afternoons would be acceptable. Board members were agreeable to this change in procedures.

NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL TRIMESTER – SEMESTER DISCUSSION

Superintendent Pfeiffer provided background information regarding the trimester – semester discussion and stated that the Board agreed last year to continue with the trimester system for

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one more year. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the Board supported her request to extend an option to the teachers at Neenah High School to either agree to teach an additional section (11) with no additional pay or to return to the semester system. Dr. Pfeiffer provided additional background with regard to the timeline the decision was to have taken place and the meetings that occurred. Dr. Pfeiffer shared that she received a letter on February 1, 2010 from Neenah Education Association (NEA) President Jim Zipple indicating that the NEA was not in support of NHS teachers teaching 11 sections and that they were not in support of the semester option. President Thompson stated that there are a number of districts throughout the state and country who are on trimester systems whose teachers teach 12 sections. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the merits and/or disadvantages of the various schedules being considered for the future for Neenah High School. Superintendent Pfeiffer stated that administration would bring forward a recommendation for the Board to consider at their February 16, 2010 Board meeting.

OFFICIAL ACTION

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

1. Investment Report (Exhibit 2-A-10),
2. School Property Tax Report (Exhibit 2-B-10), and
3. Employment of Personnel (Exhibit 2-C-10), which includes letters of resignation and request for retirement benefits from Bonnie Auxier, Mary Louise Hildebrandt, Carlyon Hughes, Diane Krueger, SuAnn Senso, and Melinda Weichmann. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. Board members thanked the retiring staff members for their years of service to the District.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2010 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous committee vote.

Paul Hauffe, Supervisor of Accounting and Transportation, presented the Neenah Joint School District Scholarship Trust Funds Update (Exhibit 2-D-10).

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. Chair Grunwald shared that she was a guest at the Technology Summit held in the Shattuck Middle School library on Thursday, January 28, 2010, and was very impressed. Chair Grunwald reported that she and several others visited Mr. Tony White's Engineering class where they attempted to solve puzzle cubes. Chair Grunwald reminded Board members of the Neenah High School Internship Classes Employer Appreciation Banquet at Germania Hall on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. and of the Community Readers Program at Roosevelt and Alliance Charter on February 10 next week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Thompson reminded Board members of the workshop meeting tomorrow, February 3, 2010 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Armstrong library at Neenah High School.

Colleen Zuro-White requested the Board receive a tutorial for First Class email and suggested Board members all receive a First Class account and begin using the District email rather than personal email accounts.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Steve Dreger suggested fitting the green policy into the NEOLA policies at the appropriate place. It was decided the students will still present their information to the Board when they are ready with the policy.

Paperless Board packets were discussed and it was determined that the District would continue to proceed in that direction.

Larry Lewis stated that he is the representative to the Delegate Assembly for the State Education Convention and shared information regarding a new arbitration law.

Colleen Zuro-White reported on sessions she had attended at the State Education Convention.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Jeff Spoehr, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Diane Haug, Board Secretary