

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

February 4, 2014

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, February 4, 2014.

President Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Jean Maurice Boyer, Betsy Ellenberger, Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz, John Lehman, Jeff Spoehr, Michelle Swardenski, Scott Thompson, student representative Luke Nelessen, and the following administrators were present: Mary Pfeiffer, District Administrator; Victoria Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources & Instructional Support Services; Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Learning & Leadership; Kathleen Davis, Assistant District Administrator of Business Services; Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services; Susan Nennig, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; Andrew Thorson, Director of Facilities/Engineer; and Jim Strick, Communications Manager. The absences of Kirk Leeser and student representative Brianda Hickey were excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, suggested the District pay the deferred fees for the Lakeview annexation, stated that he is in favor of building in more days to the school calendar for inclement weather, and stated that he is not in favor of putting professional learning days before extended school absences.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 6:04 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

When asked by Mr. Lehman how the lighting in Parking Lot B at Neenah High School has appeared recently, Mr. Hanby stated that it has improved and for the most part, it is now well-lit and inviting.

President Thompson stated that the Board would address Mr. Hanby's other two points during their discussion tonight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Jeff Spoehr to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2014 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Boyer, Ellenberger, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Spoehr, Thompson) and one abstention (Swardenski).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Luke Nelessen...

- reported that there was a middle school math meet at Horace Mann yesterday.
- stated that the high school math team will have a meet next Monday.

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

- provided an update to recent and upcoming sporting events.
- invited everyone to the NHS winter drama “Chemical Bonding” on Thursday and Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. in Pickard Auditorium.
- stated that Band-O-Rama will be taking place on February 17 in the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.
- shared that there will be a high school orchestra concert on February 20.
- reported that NHS student council recently won state-wide the Spirit of Excellence Award.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- commended the NHS student council for the work that went into earning the Spirit of Excellence Award.
- welcomed school bus drivers who were in attendance and asked Jeff Spoehr, Board Clerk, to read a proclamation from Governor Scott Walker recognizing February 10-14, 2014 as Wisconsin School Bus Driver Recognition Week.
- provided an update to the State Education Convention which took place January 21-24 and thanked the administrators and Board members who attended this year.
- recognized NHS debate students who earned top speaker awards recently.
- shared that the focus of the next Dialogue will be a thank you to those who contribute to the Neenah Joint School District.
- commended the Horace Mann math department for their recent Career Day event.
- shared several letters of thanks Neenah High School received from families who were helped by the Helping Hands Craft Fair.
- recognized several NJSD employees who received awards from Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha recently.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Peter Kaul and seconded by Betsy Ellenberger to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for resignation from faculty (Debra Rudd, kindergarten teacher, Tullar); a request for retirement including Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) from faculty (Randal Bonikowske, Wellness Education teacher, Shattuck); a request for employment of faculty (Elizabeth Schmidt, cross-categorical/EBD, Shattuck); a request for a leave of absence (Natalie Lepp, grade 2, Tullar, from February 24 - April 4, 2014); and a request for retirement including OPEB of a support staff member (Janet Arndt, administrative assistant, Coolidge) (Exhibit 2-A-14); 2. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 6 dated December 31, 2013 reflecting revenues of \$8,094,853.57 and expenditures of \$5,215,127.02) (Exhibit 2-B-14); 3. Investment Report (Exhibit 2-C-14); and 4. School Property Tax Report (Exhibit 2-D-14). The motion carried by unanimous vote. Board members thanked Mr. Bonikowske for his years of service to the District.

ANNEXATION OF LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dr. Pfeiffer introduced City Attorney Jim Godlewski who explained that the city assesses properties on both sides of the street whether a sidewalk is placed on one side or both sides so that there is never an argument that a property owner does not wish to have a sidewalk on

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

their side of the street. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that in response to Mr. Hanby's comment, the District's position can be flexible and should the Board support this, the next step would be that it would go to the city council for their support and then a contract would be drafted. Attorney Godlewski stated that the city's Finance Committee has already given their assent to this so the next step will be to draft an annexation agreement that would be considered by the city and school board based on the terms of what has been discussed. Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the administration's recommendation to annex Lakeview Elementary School into the City of Neenah (previously entered as Exhibit 1-E-14). The motion was seconded by Jean Maurice Boyer and carried by unanimous vote.

2014-15 AND 2015-16 SCHOOL CALENDARS

Victoria Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources and Instructional Support Services, reviewed the proposed calendars for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years (Exhibit 2-E-14) and answered questions of Board members. Discussion ensued regarding inclement weather days, professional learning days, and spring break. It was decided to move several of the professional learning afternoons from Wednesdays to Fridays to make it easier for families to plan for child care and family time. President Thompson stated that he would like to challenge the administrators to have effective learning days rather than only following DPI guidelines. Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school calendars with the following professional learning days to be moved from Wednesdays to Fridays: September 24, 2014, January 28, 2015, February 18, 2015, September 23, 2015, January 27, 2016, February 17, 2016, and April 20, 2016. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jean Maurice Boyer stated that he was impressed with the organization and variety of the Horace Mann Career Day.

Jean Maurice Boyer stated that he attended Mr. Tauscher's talk to fifth graders who will be attending Horace Mann next year.

Jean Maurice Boyer stated that he attended a talk by Mrs. Wunderlich for third graders dealing with personal safety.

Michelle Swardenski shared that the group of foreign exchange students are a great group of kids and she is very thankful that the Neenah Joint School District supports these students.

Peter Kaul reminded Board members of Puzzle Day at Neenah High School on Friday.

Peter Kaul shared that he feels fortunate to be a part of the Neenah Joint School District after attending the State Education Convention and hearing how other school districts are doing.

Betsy Ellenberger reminded Board members of the welding open house at Neenah High School on Monday evening.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Pfeiffer reminded everyone that the revised boundaries will be brought forward at the February 18 Board meeting.

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)(c)(f)(g) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the December 17, 2013 regular closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, discussion of specific personnel, and litigation. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 7:07 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the December 17, 2013 regular closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, discussion of specific personnel, and litigation.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by Jean Maurice Boyer, seconded by Jeff Spoehr, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk