

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

March 1, 2011

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

President Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:01 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, Larry Lewis, Jeff Spoehr, Scott Thompson, Colleen Zuro-White, student representatives Nick Bezier and Alissa Rashid, and the following administrators were present: Mary Pfeiffer, District Administrator; Victoria Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources & Central Services; Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Elementary Learning & Leadership; Mark Duerwaechter, Assistant District Administrator of Secondary Learning & Leadership; Anne Lang, Director of Pupil Services; Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services; and Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Anna Mae Prem, 628 Kessler Drive, Neenah, NJSD library media specialist, thanked the Board for extending the deadline for teachers to submit their requests for retirement and shared her concerns with Governor Walker's budget repair bill and how it may affect the NJSD in the future.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, requested information about the District's existing kindergarten program when the discussion for 4 year-old kindergarten takes place in April.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:04 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

President Thompson stated that additional information regarding the District's current kindergarten program would be provided in April when the 4 year-old kindergarten discussion is scheduled to take place.

Dr. Pfeiffer congratulated Anna Mae Prem and the additional NJSD teachers who will be retiring at the end of the school year. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that we are not sure yet how Governor Walker's budget repair bill will affect the NJSD. She stated that our staff has been exceptional throughout the entire process and thanked the staff for their commitment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2011 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Thompson, Zuro-White) and two abstentions (Lewis, Spoehr).

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

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Nick Bezier and Alissa Rashid...

- provided an update to recent and upcoming sporting events.
- reported that the NHS Coffee House will take place on Friday, March 4.
- shared that district solo-ensemble festival takes place on Saturday, March 5, at Fond du Lac.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer ...

- introduced Rich Frost, NHS math team advisor, who introduced members of the math team and shared information about their first place finish in the Fox Valley Math League Championship. Math team advisors Melanie Jackson and Andy Dobbins were also present.
- introduced Spring Road Elementary School Principal Michaela Neitzel who introduced Spring Road School staff members who gave a PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit 3-A-11) regarding Spring Road School's goals and progress this school year.

OFFICIAL ACTION

President Thompson stated that Item 5. Recommendations for Awarding Contracts to Teachers would be pulled from the Consent Agenda to be addressed separately. Motion was made by Christine Grunwald to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Early Entrance to Kindergarten recommendation (Exhibit 3-B-11); 2. Investment Report (Exhibit 3-C-11); 3. School Property Tax Report (Exhibit 3-D-11); and 4. Employment of Personnel which includes requests for resignations and retirements from Jim Piepenbrink, Susan Van Hoof, Dorothea Karisny, Thomas Marzahl, Patricia Ormston, Anna Mae Prem, and Sarah Woerfel effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year; and a request to rescind a letter of early retirement from Janet McBride effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year (Exhibit 3-E-11). The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous vote. It was requested that Fund 73 be included in the Investment Report in the future. Board members accepted with regret the resignations and requests for retirement of Jim Piepenbrink, Susan Van Hoof, Dorothea Karisny, Thomas Marzahl, Patricia Ormston, Anna Mae Prem, and Sarah Woerfel and thanked the staff members for their years of service to the Neenah Joint School District.

Motion was made by Colleen Zuro-White to approve the recommendation for renewal of the contract for Joan Hopfensperger with no service increment for the 2011-2012 school year (Exhibit 3-F-11). The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

Motion by Scott Thompson to award teaching contracts to recommended staff members for the 2011-2012 school year with salary to be determined through negotiations (Exhibit 3-G-11). The motion was seconded by John Lehman and carried by unanimous vote. Superintendent Pfeiffer explained that with the uncertainty of Governor Walker's Budget Repair Bill proposal, this will give the District flexibility when more information is available at the State level.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald shared that the Committee did not have a meeting in February and that the next meeting of the Curriculum and Program Development Committee will take place on March 29, 2011, with the topic being External Reading Review.

Chair Grunwald stated that she read to Roosevelt students on February 24 and enjoyed walking through their science fair in the gymnasium. Mrs. Grunwald also shared that she has heard from a number of community members regarding how pleased they are with the professionalism of the staff during the recent events in Madison.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman reported that he attended a Legislative Breakfast Forum in Fond du Lac on February 18 along with Dr. Pfeiffer and Mr. Hauffe where the Budget Repair Bill was discussed.

Mr. Lehman stated that he also heard from several parents of students in the Neenah Schools who stated that they have been very impressed with the professionalism of Neenah's staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christopher Kunz stated that he recently spoke with a parent of a Neenah student with special needs who expressed her appreciation for the staff and the work they have done with her student.

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 Jeff Spoehr to adjourn and that the Board reconvene in closed session according to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c)(f) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the February 15, 2011 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and discussion of specific personnel. The motion was seconded by Colleen Zuro-White and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:07 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the February 15, 2011 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and discussion of specific personnel.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Jeff Spoehr, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk