

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

March 16, 2010

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

OPEN FORUM

Nicole Schilt, 2430 Maple Grove Drive, Neenah, shared her concerns with elementary class sizes at Lakeview School.

Dana Dungan, 1312 Whispering Pines Lane, Neenah, shared her concerns with elementary class sizes at Lakeview School.

Jason Teckam, 1368 Whispering Pines Lane, Neenah, shared his concerns with elementary class sizes at Lakeview School, asked whether the budget is closed or if there are still changes to be made, and asked what is being done to create equity with elementary class sizes throughout the district.

Kathy Fredrickson, 2425 Woodland Terrace, Neenah, shared her concerns with elementary class sizes at Lakeview School and offered her marketing development services to help look at private sources for revenue.

Gina Bradley, 1269 Nature Trail Drive, Neenah, shared her concerns with elementary class sizes at Lakeview School and expressed her concerns with Mrs. Retzlaff being removed from Lakeview School and moved to a media specialist position at Roosevelt School next year.

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, stated that he had Mrs. Retzlaff as a teacher at Lakeview School and that it saddens him that she will be moved to a media specialist position, shared that he just participated in a college fair and commended the efforts of all of the guidance counselors who are instrumental in assisting students with planning for their futures, and reminded everyone present that the Neenah Rockets boys basketball team will be playing at the state tournament on Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Emma Donahue, 134 Schramm Road, Neenah, spoke in support of keeping Mrs. Retzlaff at Lakeview School next year.

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President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:14 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Superintendent Pfeiffer addressed the issues regarding elementary class size, stated that the budget is fluid, and that the district has committed not to increase elementary staffing for next year. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that another option for families is to voluntarily move to another school whose class numbers are lower than Lakeview. Board members stated that the District recently restructured to balance class sizes, experienced split classes previously but more recently got away from split classes, and shared information regarding benefit costs in the District. President Thompson shared that he appreciated the comments supporting a specific teacher but that the District is bound by union contracts.

Doug Miller, 1606 Red Wing Drive, Neenah, asked about mandatory days off for staff.

Superintendent Pfeiffer shared that all administrators will be taking a four-day mandatory furlough without pay. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that she challenged the Neenah Education Association and the Neenah Educational Support Personnel Association staff to take a one-year pay freeze. Board members stated that the counselors and school psychologists will have a reduced contract for the 2010-11 school year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Colleen Zuro-White to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of eight yes (Ellenberger, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Lewis, Spoehr, Thompson, Zuro-White) and one abstention (Grunwald).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jon Lang and Noah White...

- stated that the State Student Council Conference is just one month away and the plans are progressing during the final push.
- shared that the NHS Coffee House took place on Friday, March 5, and that over \$800 was raised for the State Conference.
- stated that Noah, Nick, and he met with Mrs. Grunwald, Mr. Duerwaechter, and Ms. Doyle last week regarding students' concerns with the switch to the semester system and shared that Mr. Duerwaechter suggested the Student Council host forums for students to voice their concerns regarding this issue.
- announced that the Neenah boys basketball team won the sectional championship and would be playing Madison Memorial at state on Thursday, March 18, 2010.
- congratulated the NSH Forensics team who took second place at a meet at New London and that the team took second place at the district level and would be advancing to state.
- reported that the Powerlifting team competed at the Wisconsin State High School Program where the Rocket girls claimed their ninth straight team title and their tenth state championship, that the boys team finished in second place, and that Jon Lang is a three-time state champion.

- introduced LeAnn Metzger, Coolidge principal, who introduced staff and students from Coolidge School who presented information about a project Coolidge recently participated in titled "100 for Haiti."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer...

- announced an art exhibit taking place at Bergstrom Mahler Museum and congratulated NHS students who won awards.
- stated that she is excited to be able to attend this Thursday's basketball game at state.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Jeff Spoehr to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Presentation of Accounts (Exhibit 3-K-10) and 2. Employment of Personnel (Exhibit 3-L-10), which includes a letter of resignation and request for retirement benefits from Deborah Holub, 4th grade teacher at Tullar School, letters of resignation from William Rodensal, NHS science teacher, and Vicki Wippich, NHS business teacher, and a request to hire Madeline Prah as an educational assistant in the English Language Learners (ELL) program. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous vote. Board members thanked Ms. Holub for her service to the District.

Superintendent Pfeiffer reviewed information regarding the proposed girls hockey program (Exhibit 3-M-10) and the current boys' hockey co-op program with the Hortonville School District (Exhibit 3-N-10). Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve the recommendation for a Neenah girls hockey co-op program. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote. Motion was made by Scott Thompson to continue the boys hockey cooperative program with Hortonville High School. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

Victoria Holt, Director of Secondary Education and Human Resources, provided an overview of the staffing recommendations for the 2010-11 school year (Exhibit 3-O-10). President Thompson expressed his concern with paying full-time benefits for part-time employees. Motion was made by John Lehman to approve the staffing recommendation for 2010-11. The motion was seconded by Scott Thompson and carried by unanimous vote.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman stated that the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. was cancelled and that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald introduced Steve Dreger, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology, who introduced representatives from the elementary, middle, and high school levels who illustrated examples of professional learning that took place during curriculum development days from this school year (Exhibit 3-P-10). Board members raised concerns regarding the difficulty for parents to find child care during the afternoons when the students are home for the curriculum development days and asked whether the staff has looked into using full days rather than half days. Superintendent Pfeiffer recommended the administrators look at the schedules

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while supporting the recommendation for eight half-days for professional learning for the 2010-11 school year. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the merits of half-days vs. full days for professional learning.

Chair Grunwald thanked Nick Bezier, Noah White, and Jon Lang for sharing their concerns with her regarding the return to the semester.

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

Mr. Dreger thanked all of the staff who presented information regarding the curriculum development days during this school year. President Thompson questioned whether a vote should be taken regarding the professional learning days for the 2010-11 school year in order for the administrators to proceed with planning. Motion was made by Scott Thompson to accept the recommendation for eight half-days for professional learning for the 2010-11 school year and leave the timing of the days at the discretion of the administrators. The motion was seconded by Larry Lewis and carried by unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christine Grunwald reiterated an invitation to the local high school art exhibit at the Bergstrom Mahler Museum during the month of March.

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 John Lehman 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 March 2, 2010 special closed session meeting and the March 2, 2010 regular closed session meeting, and NESPA negotiations. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:50 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the March 2, 2010 special closed session meeting and the March 2, 2010 regular closed session meeting, and NESPA negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn was made by Larry Lewis, seconded by Scott Thompson, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Diane Haug, Board Secretary