

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

March 19, 2013

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

President Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz, Kirk Leeser, John Lehman, Jeff Spoehr, Scott Thompson, 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 Learning & Leadership; Timothy Gantz, Director of Pupil Services; Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services; and Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support. The absences of Christine Grunwald, Steve Lenz, and student representatives Jessica Werhand and Luke Nelessen were excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Amy Bires, 1300 Whispering Pines Lane, Neenah, NJSD Business Education teacher, shared her thoughts with the proposal to move elementary keyboarding from the Business Education Department to the elementary level.

Kristine Labbus, 557 Center Street, Berlin, NJSD Business Education teacher, shared her concerns with the proposal that keyboarding be moved from the Business Education Department to the elementary teachers.

Herb Numerich, 977 S. Prairie Creek Drive, Neenah, stated that the recent middle school drama performances were very successful and thanked the Drama teachers and student performers.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, stated that he disagrees with funding the new Communications Manager position through Fund 80 and feels that it should be taken from the operating budget.

Jay Schroeder, 1295 N. Lake Street, Neenah, questioned why the salary for the new Communications Manager position is listed as \$58,000 in one document and in another document it is listed as \$68,000, asked how the position was advertised and how many people applied, and suggested that Board meetings be televised over the local cable channel.

Tammy Tatro, 1378 Martingale Lane, Neenah, thanked the Board for their continued support of Alliance Charter School and requested the Board's support for the proposed middle school charter planning grant.

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

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 6:11 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

President Thompson stated that keyboarding will be discussed during the staffing proposal portion of the Board meeting and thanked Mr. Numerich for his comments regarding the middle school drama.

Dr. Pfeiffer explained that the \$58,000 salary for the Communications Manager does not include benefits and the \$68,000 amount includes benefits, and shared that Mr. Strick has a Communications degree. Mrs. Holt stated that the position was posted at the local and state levels as well as through the Communications Consultant who worked with our Communications Committee who shared the posting with his contacts, and stated that approximately 20 people from around the state applied for the position.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2013 special meeting. The motion carried by a vote of six yes (Ellenberger, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Spoehr, Thompson) and one abstention (Leeser).

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Jeff Spoehr to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2013 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of six yes (Ellenberger, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Spoehr, Thompson) and one abstention (Leeser).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

No report was given as the students were unable to attend the meeting.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- recognized the Destination Imagination team of elementary students who came in first place in regional competition and who will be moving on to state competition at UW-Stevens Point on April 13. The coaches for the team are Sonya Rusch and Marcia Macdonald.
- recognized the NHS math team for their league championship in the Fox Valley Math League. Advisors Rich Frost and Melanie Jackson were in attendance along with Thomas Hameister who had the highest point total in the league.
- introduced Diane Galow, Principal of Tullar Elementary School, who, along with staff from Tullar School, presented information related to their school goals and progress.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for employment of a Communications Manager, a request for resignations from teachers (Karen Falls-Steiner, SLD teacher at Neenah High School, and Abbey Wright, math teacher at Neenah High School), and a retirement and request for Other Post Employment Benefits from support staff members (Charles Hittle, Operations/Maintenance Carpenter, District-Wide, and James Demerath, Operations/Maintenance at Spring Road School) (Exhibit 3-G-13) and 2. Presentation of

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Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 08 dated February 28, 2013 reflecting revenues of \$9,647,703.96 and expenditures of \$7,135,292.31) (Exhibit 3-H-13). The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Learning and Leadership, reminded Board members of the October 9, 2012 meeting at which they supported the development of a planning grant application for a project-based charter middle school in the District and introduced Kathleen Hallett, a member of the middle school charter planning committee. Ms. Hallett introduced the other members of the committee, walked the Board through the middle school charter planning grant application process (Exhibit 3-I-13), and answered questions of Board members. Discussion ensued regarding how the foreign language program at the proposed charter middle school will compare to the foreign language program at Horace Mann and Shattuck Middle Schools, whether students at the proposed charter middle school will be as ready as their counterparts at Horace Mann and Shattuck, whether students with learning disabilities will be served by the proposed charter middle school, whether there will be any hidden costs, and where the proposed charter middle school will be housed. The middle school charter planning grant will be brought back to the April 9, 2013 Board of Education meeting for a vote.

Mrs. Holt and Mr. Dreger presented the 2013-2014 Staffing Report (Exhibit 3-J-13) and answered questions of Board members. Discussion ensued regarding administrative positions and the need to be efficient. A question was asked as to where the funds for the Communications Manager position should come from and Dr. Pfeiffer stated that most school districts that have a communications position fund it out of Fund 80 since it is community related. Discussion continued regarding an overall long-term plan for special education and utilization of the math support positions. The staffing report will be brought back to the April 9, 2013 Board of Education meeting for a vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Thompson stated that with the resignation of Mr. Lenz, the Board will receive applications through April 12 for those interested in a one-year appointment to the Board of Education. This opening will be noticed in the News-Record and on the District's web site. There will be four openings in the 2014 spring election for the usual three 3-year terms and one 1-year term to fill the vacancy.

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 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 March 5, 2013 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, negotiations, and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:48 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the March 5, 2013 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, negotiations, and potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Scott Thompson, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk