

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

March 2, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, March 2, 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, 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. The absence of Christine Grunwald was excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary.

OPEN FORUM

Gina Larsen, 685 Oak Street, Neenah, shared her concerns with the cost of the proposed installation of an elevator at the administration building and suggested Washington School be renovated for use as the administrative offices and that the current administration building be sold and repurposed.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, shared his concern with the use of funds for the accessibility projects and thanked the Board for the balanced budget this year.

George Bureau, 2615 Oakridge Road, Neenah, spoke in support of the proposed formation of a self-funded girls hockey club in Neenah.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:07 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

President Thompson stated that the issues brought up would be addressed during those portions of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jon Lang and Noah White...

- announced that many clubs were not holding meetings this week at Neenah High School due to finals.

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

- reported that planning for the State Student Council Conference is moving along and that there are plans for NHS teachers to present sectionals at the conference.
- shared that the NHS Coffee House would take place on Friday, March 5, and that funds raised would be used for the State Conference.
- stated that the solo-ensemble festival would take place on Saturday, March 6, at Appleton North High School.
- announced that the NHS math team placed second overall in the Fox Valley Math League.
- provided an update regarding sports teams at NHS.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer...

- congratulated Noah White and the boys swim and dive team on their placement at the state meet.
- announced that Monica Chou was the Fox Valley Youth Symphony youth soloist winner and will perform at the Fox Valley Youth Symphony spring concert on March 21, 2010.
- shared that memorials for former Board of Education member Candy Adams have amounted to over \$9,000 for *Candy's Books for Kids* and that the Educational Foundation of Neenah is working with a vendor who will match a portion of the funds and the Neenah elementary schools will be the recipients of approximately \$13,500 worth of books.
- reminded Board members of the administrative/board workshop tomorrow night, March 3, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Armstrong library at Neenah High School.

NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Superintendent Pfeiffer provided information regarding a proposed Neenah Girls Hockey Co-op Request (Exhibit 3-A-10) and answered Board members' questions. This topic will be brought back for a vote at the March 16, 2010 Board of Education meeting.

OFFICIAL ACTION

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

1. Investment Report (Exhibit 3-B-10),
 2. School Property Tax Report (Exhibit 3-C-10),
 3. Employment of Personnel (Exhibit 3-D-10), which includes a letter of resignation from Kandis Sullivan, Director of Business Services,
 4. Recommendations for Awarding Contracts to Teachers, with no service increment (Exhibit 3-E-10) and with service increment (Exhibit 3-F-10), and
 5. Recommendation for Revised Administrator Contract Language (Exhibit 3-G-10).
- Board members requested the administrators look at ways in the future to reduce the number of part-time teachers who are receiving full-time benefits. The motion was seconded by Colleen Zuro-White and carried by unanimous vote. Board members thanked Kandis Sullivan for her service to the District.

Tom Beck, Facilities Consultant, reviewed the recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee to accept the low bid for accessibility projects (Exhibit 3-H-10). President Thompson expressed a desire to separate the ARRA funded projects from the District Office Fund 41 project. Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the Pickard Auditorium, Tullar Elementary, and Spring Road Elementary projects using ARRA funding as recommended. The motion was seconded by Colleen Zuro-White and carried by unanimous vote.

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A lengthy discussion ensued regarding whether District money should be spent for an elevator at the administration building at this point. Motion was made by John Lehman to approve the elevator project at the administration building using Fund 41 as recommended. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by a vote of six yes (Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Lewis, Spoehr, Zuro-White) and two no (Ellenberger, Thompson). Student representative advisory votes were both yes (Lang, White).

Mr. Beck reviewed the summer project requests as approved by the Finance and Personnel Committee (Exhibit 3-I-10). Dr. Pfeiffer expressed the need for flexibility in the budget and stated that a five-year plan must be created for all areas of the District. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that Anne Lang would be checking with the Department of Public Instruction regarding the possibility of using ARRA funding for the Conant elevator repair. Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve the recommendation for the early budget authorization of \$555,500 for summer projects. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous committee vote.

Chair John Lehman reminded Board members of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Larry Lewis stated that the Curriculum and Program Development Committee met last week at Neenah High School and received a data retreat/school improvement plan update from Wilson School and a Manufacturing and Engineering Academy presentation from Mike Elkin and Tony White.

Motion was made by Colleen Zuro-White to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010 Curriculum and Program Development Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous committee vote.

President Thompson questioned whether the data retreat/school improvement plan update is something the entire Board should be aware of to which Mr. Dreger stated that it had been previously decided to present it at the committee level but that the information is something that could certainly be presented to the full Board at a future meeting.

Victoria Holt, Director of Secondary Education and Human Resources, and Phil Johnson, Director of Elementary Education, presented an overview of the staffing recommendations for the 2010-11 school year (Exhibit 3-J-10).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christopher Kunz reported that the City of Neenah Plan Commission met on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 and discussed signage on athletic field fencing. Mr. Kunz shared his disappointment that no one from the NJSD was notified and invited to the meeting.

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)(f) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the February 16, 2010 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, consideration of teacher contract non-renewal for 2010-11, and NESPA negotiations. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:52 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the February 16, 2010 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, consideration of teacher contract non-renewal for 2010-11, and NESPA negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Betsy Ellenberger, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Diane Haug, Board Secretary