

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education

April 19, 2011

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, April 19, 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 Noah White (arrived at 7:03 p.m.) 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; 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

Rob Schmidt, 514 Quarry Lane, Neenah, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Neenah High School, spoke in support of the gifted and talented and magnet programs.

Teddy Wiswall, 2441 Forest Manor Court, Neenah, 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Neenah High School, spoke in support of the magnet and gifted and talented programs.

Kristi Branchford, 221 Bond Street, Neenah, spoke in support of the gifted and talented program and library media specialists.

Hailey Branchford, 221 Bond Street, Neenah, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Neenah High School, spoke in support of the gifted and talented program.

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Neenah High School, spoke in support of the gifted and talented program.

Nathan Cho, 2450 Woodland Terrace, Neenah, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Neenah High School, spoke in support of the gifted and talented and magnet programs.

Sophia Szymonski, 1340 Martingale Lane, Neenah, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Neenah High School, spoke in support of the gifted and talented program.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, commented on his son's experience in the gifted and talented program, posed a number of questions related to staffing, and urged the Board to explore any possible reimbursements regarding the faulty roof at Neenah High School.

**Board minutes are available on the district's web site: [www.neenah.k12.wi.us](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us)**

Kyle Armstrong, 1300 County Road G, Neenah, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at Neenah High School, spoke in support of the gifted and talented program.

Amy Pritzl, 2214 Redtail Drive, Neenah, NJSD library media specialist, spoke on behalf of the District library media specialists.

Monica Schoen, 1417 Meadow Breeze Circle, Neenah, NJSD reading support teacher, requested that the Board not reduce the reading support by .5 FTE.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:44 p.m.

#### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that many items would be covered in the discussion related to staffing, thanked everyone for their comments, and urged the students who spoke to be careful when making assumptions.

Mr. Duerwaechter updated the Board and all in attendance regarding the plans for the gifted and talented program for the future. Mr. Duerwaechter also updated the Board and all in attendance regarding the planning taking place for the library media specialists for next year.

President Thompson thanked everyone for speaking and reminded everyone that the District may be faced with a \$4.6 million deficit next year.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2011 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Noah White and Alissa Rashid...

- stated that students have April 22 and 25 off of school.
- shared that AP testing is coming up in the next two weeks.
- reported that prom will be taking place on May 14.
- shared information regarding a recent lacrosse tournament in Chicago.
- reported on Student Council events including elections, the NHS talent show which will take place on Friday, May 13, and the state delegate assembly in Madison.
- stated that NHS had a successful psychology fair in April.
- informed everyone of the last National Honor Society blood drive of the year to be held on April 27.
- reminded all of the state solo-ensemble festival to be held on April 30.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer ...

- stated that the public Joint Finance Committee meeting was held last Wednesday, April 13, at Pickard Auditorium and thanked everyone involved with helping to make this community event happen.

- shared a note of appreciation from the parent of a student in our District regarding the cleanliness of our school buildings.
- explained the door prize tickets given at the all-staff convocation at the beginning of the year and shared that she had an excellent day substituting for Jeff Martis at Shattuck today.
- introduced Horace Mann Middle School Principal Brian Wunderlich who recognized Monica Schoen, Kohl's Fellowship Award recipient, for her leadership and energy.

#### OFFICIAL ACTION

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

1. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 9 dated March 31, 2011 reflecting revenues of \$8,857,854.63 and expenditures of \$5,521,907.24) (Exhibit 4-C-11); and 2. 2010-11 Quarterly Budget Projection Report (Exhibit 4-D-11). The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

Vicky Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources and Central Services, provided an update regarding the proposed staffing plan which was presented on April 5, 2011, and Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Elementary Learning & Leadership, presented a recommendation for a District Literacy Coordinator position to begin in the 2011-12 school year (Exhibit 4-E-11). Discussion ensued regarding the salary of the proposed District Literacy Coordinator position, the possibility of tracking the gifted and talented students with the proposed changes to the program, the possibility of a GT coordinator position in the future, and whether it would be better to hold off on the .5 FTE reduction to the reading support staff until a District Literacy Coordinator is hired. Motion was made by Colleen Zuro-White to approve the 2011-12 staffing proposal which includes the District Literacy Coordinator position. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote.

John Lehman, Chair, Finance & Personnel Committee, reviewed the recommendation from the Finance & Personnel Committee to proceed with two construction projects for the 2011-12 Early Authorization of Capital Projects (Exhibit 4-F-11). Motion by Larry Lewis and seconded by Christine Grunwald to approve the reconstruction of Science Room 505 and replacement of Roof C over the science rooms at Neenah High School. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the recommendations and who would be responsible for oversight of the projects. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Jeff Spoehr to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2011 Curriculum and Program Development Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Larry Lewis and carried by unanimous committee vote.

#### FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2011 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous committee vote.

Chair John Lehman stated that the next meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with topics to include five-year capital projects plan and HSA's.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Clerk Jeff Spoehr presented the Statement of Canvassers in the April 5, 2011 Board of Education spring election which indicated the following number of votes received by each candidate: Colleen Zuro-White - 4741; Dan Westphal - 4886; Scott Thompson - 5320; Peter M. Kaul - 4843 (Exhibit 4-G-11).

#### DISCUSSION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY

President Thompson informed everyone present that due to the election of Dan Westphal, who has rescinded his election to the Board of Education, the Board will have a one year vacancy as of April 25, 2011 and will be seeking community interest to fill the position. Colleen Zuro-White stated that she is not currently interested in the position but may decide to run for the Board of Education in the future.

#### 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 April 5, 2011 special closed session meeting, the April 5, 2011 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, discussion of legislative issues related to bargaining, administrative contracts, and exempt staff working conditions. The motion was seconded by Colleen Zuro-White and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

#### CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:19 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the April 5, 2011 special closed session meeting, the April 5, 2011 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, discussion of legislative issues related to bargaining, administrative contracts, and exempt staff working conditions.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Betsy Ellenberger, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

Diane Haug  
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr  
Board Clerk