

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

April 20, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, April 20, 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 representative Jon Lang, and the following administrators were present: Mary Pfeiffer, Superintendent; Victoria Holt, Director of Secondary Education and Human Resources; 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 student representative Noah White was excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary.

OPEN FORUM

Margaret Burton, 486 Sunrise Bay Road, Neenah, shared her concerns with low enrollment of some of the capstone classes which aren't running next year and questioned what could be done to ensure that students are encouraged to take these classes early on so that this problem doesn't arise from year to year and offered kudos to Superintendent Pfeiffer and those involved in the recent community newsletter for the District.

Blake Nigh, 1631 Beethoven Way, Neenah, shared his concerns and expressed his disappointment with the fact that Calculus III will not be running at Neenah High School next school year and asked the Board to reconsider running Calculus III next school year.

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, asked whether the Alpha Smarts could be reused instead of buying all new NEO 2s for keyboarding, questioned whether First Class is a financially feasible email client and whether the District has considered other email clients at a lower cost, requested that the Board reconsider offering Calculus III next year, and shared that there were film crews all over Neenah High School today and questioned the legality of the crews filming for what he heard rumored was MTV.

Kris Robers, 779 Copperhead Drive, Neenah, expressed her son, Tyler's, disappointment with the fact that Calculus III will not be running at Neenah High School next school year.

Paula DeCubellis, 152 Old Orchard Lane, Neenah, expressed her concerns with the advanced classes that may not run next school year and the fact that the deadline for applying for Youth Options may be past.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, requested the Board or administrators give an answer to Nick Bezier regarding Alpha Smart vs. NEO 2 and expressed his frustration over not receiving clear answers from the Board at times.

Deb Nigh, 1631 Beethoven Way, Neenah, pointed out some District goals shared in the recent community newsletter of increasing AP classes and trying to support more National Merit Scholars and asked the Board to reconsider running Calculus III for next school year.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:15 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Mr. Dreger reviewed the plan for the purchase of NEO 2s, the difference between the NEO 2s and Alpha Smart devices, and the fact that the Alpha Smart devices will continue to be used.

Superintendent Pfeiffer explained that the guidance counselors are working with the universities in applying for Youth Options and stated that because of the low number requesting Calculus III, it would not be running next year. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that it is imperative that the District does backward-mapping and that 75-80% of eighth grade students should be taking Algebra. Board members expressed concern with the communication process in informing students and parents of advanced classes that will not be running for the next school year and suggested posting the classes which won't be running on the web site. Dr. Pfeiffer suggested that parents contact the guidance counselors and that Mr. Duerwaechter request that the guidance counselors contact the students and parents affected by the advanced classes that won't be running next year.

Ms. Doyle clarified concerns regarding recent filming at Neenah High School by Arnold Shapiro Productions with regard to a Challenge Day documentary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jon Lang...

- shared a summary of the State Student Council Conference which took place on April 18-19, 2010, thanked Dr. Pfeiffer and Mr. Duerwaechter for speaking at the opening ceremony, recognized Mr. Chad Buboltz for hosting a sectional using the Launch Program as a case study for ways to make meaningful changes in schools, and thanked Student Council Advisors Mr. Frailing and Mr. LaLuzerne.
- stated that the NHS graduation honor list has been made available and that roughly 45 of the 100 honor students are graduating with the highest honors.
- introduced Bruce Nufer, NHS art teacher and K-12 Art Department Chair, who introduced Neenah High School students Ethan Welson, Ben Erickson, Angela Nelson (not able to be

present), and Casey Shaw and shared information regarding prestigious awards the students have recently won.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer...

- congratulated Jon Lang and the NHS Student Council members for the very successful State Student Council Conference.
- requested dates for additional policy review meetings and a date for the Superintendent's evaluation. Policy review meetings were set for May 4 and May 18 at 5:00 p.m. A meeting to review the Superintendent's evaluation was set for June 1 at 6:00 p.m.
- provided an update regarding the situation with the return trip from France by Kathie Kinnaman and NHS French students.
- shared that she substituted for Chris Gardner and taught 7th grade students at Shattuck Middle School today.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Jeff Spoehr to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Early Entrance to Kindergarten, 2. Request for Waivers of Tuition, 3. Presentation of Accounts (Exhibit 4-A-10), 4. 2009-10 Quarterly Budget Projection Report (Exhibit 4-B-10), and 5. Employment of Personnel (Exhibit 4-C-10), which includes a letter of resignation and request for retirement benefits from Wilson School Principal Bill Pokel at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year, a request for a contract extension for Irene Kocher, long-term kindergarten sub at Clayton School, and a request for a contract reduction for NHS English teacher Dianne Marquardt for the 2010-11 school year. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous vote. Board members thanked Mr. Pokel for his service to the District.

Superintendent Pfeiffer reviewed the recommendation to allow the Menasha Joint School District to join with Neenah and Hortonville in the boys hockey co-op (Exhibit 4-D-10). Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the recommendation to allow the Menasha Joint School District to join with Neenah and Hortonville in the boys hockey co-op program. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote.

Steve Dreger, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology, and Diane Doersch, Instructional Technology Leader, presented the 2010-2013 Combined Information and Technology Plan and the technology budget for the 2010-11 school year (Exhibit 4-E-10). Mrs. Doersch answered Board members' questions. Board members expressed their appreciation to the District's Technology Committee, District technicians, Mr. Dreger, and Mrs. Doersch for the excellent report and all of the work put into the report and presentation. Motion was made by Peter Kaul to adopt the Combined Information Technology Plan for 2010-2013 for DPI and to approve the technology budget for 2010-11. The motion was seconded by Christine Grunwald and carried by unanimous vote.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman stated that the Finance and Personnel Committee would be meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Colleen Zuro-White to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2010 Curriculum and Program Development Committee meeting with a correction to the date of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Larry Lewis and carried by unanimous committee vote.

Chair Christine Grunwald stated that the next Curriculum and Program Development Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Clerk Christine Grunwald presented the Statement of Canvassers in the April 6, 2010 Board of Education spring election which indicated the following number of votes received by each candidate: Christine Grunwald-3541; John Rimmel-2863; Jeff Spoehr-3012; Christopher Kunz-3110 (Exhibit 4-F-10).

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 Peter Kaul 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 March 16, 2010 regular closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and NESPA negotiations. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:28 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the March 16, 2010 regular closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and NESPA negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Christine Grunwald, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Diane Haug, Board Secretary