

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

April 5, 2011

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, April 5, 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 and Alissa Rashid (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), 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; Anne Lang, Director of Pupil Services; 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.

President Thompson stated that the recognition of athletic accomplishments would be moved before the open forum in order to allow the student athletes to be on their way. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that guests from the boys swimming team, wrestling, and powerlifting were in attendance and congratulated all of the student athletes, along with their families and coaches. Dr. Pfeiffer introduced Jim Strick, NJSD Activities Director, who introduced the student athletes and coaches in attendance and shared information about their accomplishments. All in attendance congratulated the athletes and their coaches.

OPEN FORUM

Amy Nasr, 3620 Park Lane Drive, Neenah, cited information about Neenah's ACT scores and encouraged the Board members and administrators to have a plan in place before proceeding with the difficult cuts that will need to be made in the future in particular as they relate to gifted and talented and media specialists.

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

Cheri Miller, 1705 S. Ravinia Place, Appleton, library media specialist at Clayton School, spoke in support of the library media specialists, expressed the department's disappointment with the proposed cuts to the department, and shared how the cuts would affect 21st century learning in the future.

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, 12th grade student at Neenah High School, spoke in support of the gifted and talented and magnet programs.

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

Kyle Armstrong, 1300 County Road G, Neenah, 11th grade student at Neenah High School, shared his concerns with the proposed gifted and talented staffing reductions.

Kristi Branchford, 221 Bond Street, Neenah, commended the speakers for their comments and stated that four years ago a team of fourth and fifth grade students participated in a Knowledge Olympics that placed first in the state, second in the U.S., and third in the world and these students did not receive any recognition from the Board of Education, the school district, or the Post-Crescent.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, posed several questions related to the 2011-12 staffing report and commented on the current gifted and talented program.

Ann Cattau, 1135 Manor Drive, Neenah, Shattuck Middle School guidance counselor, spoke in support of the magnet program, the gifted and talented program, and the library media specialists, urged the Board to put the policies on the District website, and invited everyone present to a career fair at Players Choice in Appleton tomorrow, Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

Monica Schoen, 1417 Meadow Breeze Circle, Neenah, NJSD reading support teacher, shared her concerns with the proposed reduction to the reading program and urged the Board of keep in mind the new Specific Learning Disability laws in Wisconsin and that the District is accountable for Average Yearly Progress.

Chris Wilharm, 628 Kessler Drive, Neenah, Horace Mann Middle School math teacher and Professional Negotiations Committee chairperson, stated that the NEA continues to work with the Board in establishing positive working relationships.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:38 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the Board is currently recognizing academic, fine arts, and athletic accomplishments and provided information regarding a recent Chemistry Olympiad competition in which students of Mrs. Shelley Dörner participated in through the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the additional kindergarten staffing requests are based upon anticipated enrollment figures and that the Board would be discussing the staffing proposal later in the meeting.

Thanked Ann Cattau for the suggestion to put pdf files of the District's Board Policies on the NJSD website and stated that the Board and administrators are in the process of updating all of the Board Policies.

Mr. Duerwaechter thanked everyone who spoke on behalf of their passions, stated that the District ACT scores are really a K-12 score, shared information regarding plans for gifted and talented and library media specialists staffing, and stated that additional information would be forthcoming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2011 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Noah White and Alissa Rashid...

- shared that the Advanced Chamber Choir had a good experience participating in a choir festival today at UW-Eau Claire.
- reported on upcoming Student Council events including the NHS talent show which will take place on Friday, May 13.
- stated that the National Honor Society held a successful fifth quarter event on Friday, April 1, 2011.
- reported that the AP Psychology Fair will take place on Wednesday evening and Thursday during the school day.
- shared that a Jazz Festival is happening at Shattuck Middle School tonight.
- stated that parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for April 6 and 7, 2011.

Noah informed the Board that the Conant Resource Center (CRC) has recently been shut down for junior and senior release and stated that he feels a compromise could be made to allow access to the junior and senior release students to the CRC again. Dr. Pfeiffer suggested the students meet with Ms. Doyle regarding this issue.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer ...

- announced that J.J. Yeh was selected as Neenah High School's 2011 Herb Kohl's Excellence Scholarship recipient.
- stated that she viewed part of the Young People's Concert which was presented last week in Pickard Auditorium and commended the students and staff involved in this concert.
- introduced Roosevelt/Alliance School Principal Phil Johnson who introduced Roosevelt/Alliance staff members and gave a presentation regarding Roosevelt/Alliance School's goals and progress this school year.

OFFICIAL ACTION

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

1. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for a resignation at the end of the 2010-11 school year from David Wilde (Exhibit 4-A-11). The motion was seconded by John Lehman and carried by unanimous vote.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald turned the meeting over to Mrs. Holt who provided some introductory remarks regarding the 2011-2012 Staffing Proposal (Exhibit 4-B-11). Mr. Duerwaechter presented the secondary information and Mr. Dreger presented the elementary information related to the staffing report. Administrators answered Board members' questions.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman stated that the next meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with topics to include OPEB investment and HSA's.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pfeiffer reminded Board members of the Board of Education/administrative workshop tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. in the Armstrong library.

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) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the March 10, 2011 special closed session meeting, the March 15, 2011 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, administrative contracts, exempt staff working conditions, and discussion of legislative issues related to bargaining. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:46 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the March 10, 2011 special closed session meeting, the March 15, 2011 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and discussion of legislative issues related to bargaining. The administrative contracts and exempt staff working conditions items were postponed to a later date.

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