

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

June 1, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, June 1, 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 representatives Jon Lang and Noah White, 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. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary.

OPEN FORUM

Bruce Nufer, 378 Elm Street, Menasha, Neenah High School art teacher, read a letter from Jane Dix, speech and theater teacher at Neenah High School, who expressed her concern with the proposal to allow World Languages to be used as either a fine arts or practical arts credit. In speaking for himself, Mr. Nufer thanked whoever was responsible for keeping the .5 fine arts credit requirement and expressed his concern with the proposal to allow World Languages to be classified as a fine or practical arts credit.

Tammy Erickson, 1402 Whittier Drive, Neenah, stated that she is involved with the Art Booster Club and shared her concerns with the proposal to allow World Languages to be used as a fine arts credit.

Jane Burriss, 2136 Redtail Drive, Neenah, shared her concerns with the proposed 2011-12 NHS semester schedule 5th hour Freshman Seminar and suggested scheduling classes which are easily split rather than a Freshman Seminar.

Ann Cattau, 1135 Manor Drive, Neenah, NJSD guidance counselor, requested that the Board understand, notice, and watch for the effects of the budget cuts and shared that she has already received calls from parents regarding concerns with keyboarding and art for 9th grade students.

Margaret Burton, 486 Sunrise Bay Road, Neenah, expressed her concerns with the proposed 2011-12 NHS semester schedule regarding the freshman 0 hour and split hour.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, thanked Jon Lang and Noah White for their service on the Board this year, thanked the administration and staff for their work with the proposed semester schedule, shared his support for the proposed junior and senior release, and questioned whether there should be a .5 fine arts requirement at NHS.

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

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:13 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Superintendent Pfeiffer explained that some staffing allocations have been added within the Board approved allocations which should rectify the keyboarding and art concerns of the 8th grade parents and students.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2010 special meeting. The motion carried by a vote of eight yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Lewis, Spoehr, Thompson, Zuro-White) and one abstention (Lehman).

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Lewis, Spoehr, Thompson) and two abstentions (Lehman, Zuro-White).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jon Lang ...

- reported that student council officers for the 2010-11 school year were recently elected.
- thanked Dr. Pfeiffer and Board members for giving him the opportunity to be a student representative on the Board of Education and thanked his parents for their support.

Noah White...

- provided an update to the sporting events at Neenah High School.
- shared that a group of students raised money for third world countries by drinking water and donating the money they would have spent on soda and other sports drinks for the past several weeks.
- reported that today was Mr. Duerwaechter's last Rocket Booster announcement day.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer...

- thanked Jon Lang and Noah White for being the first student representatives on the Board of Education, stated that Noah will continue as the senior representative next year, introduced Alissa Rashid who will be the junior representative on the Board of Education next year, shared that Nick Bezier will be an alternate student representative, stated that this is Jon's last meeting and that Noah and Alissa's last meeting for the summer will be on June 15, and presented a card to Jon Lang.
- shared that the NJSD has recently submitted a second MOU (Memo of Understanding) for the Race to the Top funding and that this MOU was signed by Board President Thompson, NEA President Jim Zipple, and her and commended the NEA for their support.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Employment of Personnel which includes requests for resignations from Pamela Glenn, Reading teacher at Neenah High School, and Barbara Traynor, English/Speech teacher at Neenah High School, and a request for a leave of absence from August 24 – November 5, 2010 from Cindy Buchta, Grade 4 teacher at Spring Road School (Exhibit 6-A-10); 2. Designation of Public Depositories (Exhibit 6-B-10); and 3. Computer Lease (Exhibit 6-C-10). The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote. Diane Doersch, Instructional Technology Leader, answered Board members' questions and concerns regarding the lease-purchase of computer equipment.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman reminded Board members of the next Finance and Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. It was decided to change the meeting date to Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald stated that six Board members attended the Curriculum and Program Development Committee meeting on May 25, 2010 and were part of the discussion regarding the Neenah High School schedule for the 2011-12 school year. Chair Grunwald stated that Scott Thompson, Dr. Pfeiffer, and she met on Thursday, May 27, 2010 to discuss concerns that were shared by people who attended the Curriculum Committee meeting and summarized the concerns as follows: plans for how the freshman seminar time would be used, the split class period, the inconvenience of 0 hour and how that might interfere with other early morning activities, logistics of the lunch hour, and an opportunity for tutorial time for all struggling students. Chair Grunwald opened the discussion regarding the Neenah High School schedule for the 2011-12 school year (Exhibit 6-D-10). A lengthy discussion ensued regarding 0 hour being designated only for 9th grade students with families providing their own transportation, the need for a 5 year plan with regard to capstone classes, the importance of offering opportunities to middle school students, and the purpose of a freshmen seminar. Mr. Duerwaechter stated that the purpose of a freshmen seminar has three elements: 1) a vision of improving personal social development for all 9th graders, 2) improving educational success for all kids, and 3) career and life skills development. Board members expressed their concerns with the 0 hour concept, the split time over the lunch hour, junior release time, and freshman seminar time. Board members expressed ideas regarding smaller learning communities, revisiting the work that was done previously in looking at the NHS schedule, the possibility of a Day 1/Day 2 schedule, and not allowing the lunch hour to dictate the schedule. Administrators stated that a block schedule may need to be negotiated with the NEA. The Neenah High School schedule for the 2011-12 school year will be brought before the Board for a vote at the June 15, 2010 meeting.

Chair Grunwald opened the discussion regarding the Neenah High School credit reduction beginning with the 2011-12 school year (Exhibit 6-E-10). Clarification was provided regarding the difference between Fine Arts and Practical Arts. Discussion followed regarding World Language choices, Fine Arts and Practical Arts credits, and the required Personal Financial Literacy class and the elective Economics classes.

Chair Grunwald stated that the next meeting of the Curriculum and Program Development Committee is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Thompson stated that Superintendent Pfeiffer drafted a letter for the Board's signature regarding the proposed Fox Valley Association WIAA realignment.

President Thompson reminded everyone present of Neenah High School's graduation on Friday, June 4, 2010.

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 Christine Grunwald 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 May 18, 2010 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, NESPA negotiations, administrative/exempt staff salaries, and evaluation of the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Colleen Zuro-White and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:13 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the May 18, 2010 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, NESPA negotiations, administrative/exempt staff salaries, and evaluation of the Superintendent.

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 10:42 p.m.

Diane Haug, Board Secretary