

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

June 15, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, June 15, 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 Nicholas Bezier and Alissa Rashid, 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

Dick Nooe, 567 E. Peckham Road, Neenah, proposed that the District appoint a resource person to utilize and coordinate volunteers in the schools and spoke in support of retaining Sue Peterson as a gifted and talented teacher.

Tim Bero, 764 Yorkshire Road, Neenah, spoke in support of retaining Sue Peterson as a gifted and talented teacher.

Kristi Branchford, 221 Bond Street, Neenah, spoke in support of Sue Peterson and the gifted and talented program.

Grace Branchford, 221 Bond Street, Neenah, upcoming fifth grade student at Roosevelt School, spoke in support of retaining Mrs. Peterson as a gifted and talented teacher.

Sue Peterson, 2450 Woodland Terrace, Neenah, expressed her concerns with the proposed plan for credit reduction at NHS and mandatory freshmen study sessions and stated that she has been a gifted and talented teacher in the District for over 20 years and does not think that it is in the best interest of the students she serves for her to be transferred to a regular education classroom.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, suggested a modification to his comments at the June 1, 2010 Board meeting to state that he questioned whether students should be required to take a Fine Arts *or* a Practical Arts credit at NHS and commented on various items on the evening's agenda.

Deborah Shaffer, 2412 Marathon Avenue, Neenah, spoke in support of retaining Sue Peterson as a gifted and talented teacher.

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

Heidi Keating, 525 Riford Road, Neenah, spoke in support of retaining Sue Peterson as a gifted and talented teacher.

Sheila Brucks, 238 Butte Des Morts Drive, Menasha, administrative assistant at Spring Road School, invited Board members to Spring Road to see what the students are learning in summer school.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:27 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Superintendent Pfeiffer thanked the people who spoke in support of Sue Peterson, shared that there have been several conversations regarding this issue, and stated that she feels this is the right decision for the District and that there are avenues that Mrs. Peterson can pursue through the NEA union should she choose to do so.

President Thompson stated that Mr. Hanby's questions and comments would be addressed during the meeting.

Superintendent Pfeiffer explained that the District uses Attorney Torgerson as much as possible but that he lives in Florida for part of the year and is not available during that time.

Dr. Pfeiffer explained the decision for the administrative and exempt staff to partner with the NEA for health insurance.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that she will follow up on Mr. Nooe's idea for a resource coordinator for the District.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2010 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Nick Bezier...

- stated that Noah White is currently attending Badger Boys State leadership conference.
- reported that ACT testing recently finished up.
- stated that the NHS girls soccer team will be playing at state on Thursday in Milwaukee.

Alissa Rashid...

- reported that graduation at Neenah High School went smoothly and was an enjoyable ceremony.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer...

- reported that administrators and teaching staff participated in a two-day data retreat last week, thanked Mr. Dreger and the staff involved for their work with the retreat, and stated

that next year the Board would be receiving reports from the schools on the progress of their goals.

- thanked Phil Johnson for his service as Director of Elementary Education and principal of Roosevelt and Alliance and stated that next year Mr. Johnson will be the full-time principal at Roosevelt and Alliance.
- introduced Tim Hopfensperger, 5th grade teacher at Tullar School, who shared information about the Stock Market Simulation game and introduced the state winners, Eleanor Erbach, Raven Wallene, and Luke Kelley, who shared information about their trip to New York City and the Stock Exchange.

President Thompson stated that an adjustment would be made to the agenda and that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey would be presented next.

YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

Vicki Bayer, Neenah High School health teacher and AODA coordinator, provided information regarding the 2010 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Exhibit 6-F-10) results and answered questions of Board members.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Christopher Kunz requested to remove item 4. Legal Services Contracts from the Consent Agenda to discuss separately. Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for employment of Jennifer McMahon as Library/Media Specialist at Roosevelt and Taft Schools (Exhibit 6-G-10); 2. Investment Report (Exhibit 6-H-10); and 3. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 11 dated May 31, 2010 reflecting revenues of \$1,071,438.52 and expenditures of \$5,392,591.29 Exhibit 6-I-10). The motion was seconded by Colleen Zuro-White and carried by unanimous vote.

Clarification was provided regarding Attorney Torgerson's contract for legal services. Motion was made by Jeff Spoehr to approve the legal services contract for the 2010-11 school year (Exhibit 6-J-10). The motion was seconded by John Lehman and carried by unanimous vote.

Paul Hauffe, Supervisor of Accounting and Transportation, reviewed the suggested revisions to the 2009-10 school budget made necessary by Board actions during the past several months as well as adjustments to numerous federal grant awards (Exhibit 6-K-10). Motion was made by Christopher Kunz to approve the revisions to the 2009-10 school budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

President Thompson reviewed Dr. Pfeiffer's employment contract for 2010-12 (Exhibit 6-L-10). Motion was made by Larry Lewis to approve the renewal of Superintendent Pfeiffer's contract for two years beginning July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. Board members thanked Dr. Pfeiffer for her leadership this past year and stated that they look forward to working with her in the future.

Dr. Pfeiffer reviewed her recommendations for adjustments to the compensation plan for the 2010-11 fiscal year for administrative staff and exempt personnel (Exhibit 6-M-10). Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the recommendation for compensation for the 2010-11 fiscal year for

administrative staff. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous vote. Motion was made by John Lehman to approve the recommendation for compensation for the 2010-11 fiscal year for exempt personnel. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

Superintendent Pfeiffer stated that a significant amount of conversation and work have gone into the Neenah High School semester schedule (Exhibit 6-N-10) and that the major changes to the schedule since the presentation at the June 1, 2010 Board meeting are that 0 hour was eliminated and that freshmen will be allowed to take an additional class in lieu of freshman seminar should they meet the qualifications. Mark Duerwaechter thanked the Board for their kind words and support of the work the NHS administration has done regarding the semester schedule and highlighted the changes to the proposed semester schedule. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding freshmen seminar and whether the staff who will be leading this will be provided with any training, the expectation to have counselors involved in the process, the importance of evaluating how freshmen seminar is working, collaboration with the middle school administration, and the importance of a team approach. Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the recommendation for the Neenah High School semester schedule beginning with the 2011-12 school year as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that there were no significant changes to the NHS graduation credit reduction recommendation (Exhibit 6-O-10) and made a clarification to the 1.0 credit requirement in two of three areas which include fine arts, practical arts, or world languages. Discussion followed regarding the economic reasons for reducing credits and the impact on student learning. Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the NHS graduation credit reduction recommendation from 23 credits to 22 credits beginning with the class of 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by John Lehman and passed by a vote of eight yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kunz, Lehman, Lewis, Spoehr, Thompson, Zuro-White) and one no (Kaul).

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman reminded Board members of the next Finance and Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Colleen Zuro-White to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by committee vote of three yes (Grunwald, Spoehr, Zuro-White) and one abstention (Lewis).

It was decided that the Curriculum and Program Development Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. be postponed to Tuesday, July 27, 2010.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No report.

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 June 1, 2010 special closed session meeting and the June 1, 2010 regular closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and NESPA negotiations. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 10:12 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the June 1, 2010 special closed session meeting and the June 1, 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 Jeff Spoehr, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Diane Haug, Board Secretary