

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

August 16, 2011

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, August 16, 2011.

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, Kirk Leaser, John Lehman, Larry Lewis, Jeff Spoehr, Scott Thompson, 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; Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support; and Diane Doersch, Director of Instructional Technology. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Ann Johnson, 829 E. Cecil Street, Neenah, expressed her concern with the loss of the house structure at Shattuck Middle School.

Gary Kresal, 1943 Shady Springs Drive, Neenah, shared his thoughts regarding the digital conversion plan, asked whether there would be meetings with the community to learn about the plan and whether there is a simple explanation using layman's terms for Appendix C.

Brian Wunderlich, 3 Winona Court, Appleton, Horace Mann Middle School Principal, shared his thoughts regarding the digital conversion plan from an administrator's perspective.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:07 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Mark Duerwaechter, Assistant District Administrator of Secondary Learning & Leadership, stated that while the house structure has been very successful, the decision was made to restructure Shattuck Middle School to meet the fiscal obligations of the District while also meeting students' needs. Jon Fleming stated that staff will still be grouped with common students and that there are more similarities to the house structure in the restructuring than there are differences.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that Mr. Kresal's questions regarding the digital conversion plan would be answered during the discussion later in the meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2011 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of eight yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Leaser, Lehman, Lewis, Spoehr) and one abstention (Thompson).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pfeiffer...

- stated that the new staff luncheon will take place at Bridgewood on August 25 and asked Board members to inform Diane Haug, Board Secretary, if they plan to attend.
- reported that the NJSD administrators held a retreat on August 10 and 11 in preparation for the new school year, thanked Board President Thompson for sharing words of encouragement to the administrators, and thanked the central office administrators for their work in preparing for the retreat.
- informed the Board of a new staff evaluation tool which will be used for the 2011-12 school year and turned the meeting over to Vicky Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources & Central Services, Brian Wunderlich, Horace Mann Principal, and Matt Smith, NHS Associate Principal, who presented information and answered questions of Board members regarding the new staff evaluation tool.

OFFICIAL ACTION

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

1. Employment of Personnel which includes a recommendation for extracurricular contracts, employment of new personnel (Ashley Baumler, grade 2 elementary; Erica Bowers, CDS at Coolidge; Sue Buss, speech and language at Hoover; Mandy Froehlich, grade 4 at Lakeview; Emily Huss, grade 2 elementary; Vicky McDonald, EBD at Lakeview; Lisa Weiss, Literacy Coordinator; Anna Zimmers, gifted/talented at the middle schools; and Luke Matthias, AIMS/at-risk at the middle schools); and resignations (Emily Hess, grade 4 at Coolidge, and Frank Van Dam, science teacher at NHS) (Exhibit 8-F-11); 2. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 12 dated June 30, 2011 reflecting revenues of \$31,944,473.12 and expenditures of \$19,805,551.94) (Exhibit 8-G-11); 3. Investment Report (Exhibit 8-H-11); and 4. Grievance Policy – Second Reading (Exhibit 8-I-11). The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

Anne Lang, Director of Pupil Services, reviewed the At-Risk Plan for the 2011-12 school year per state requirements (Exhibit 8-J-11) and answered questions of Board members. Motion was made by John Lehman to approve the At-Risk Plan for the 2011-12 school year as presented. The motion was seconded by Christine Grunwald and carried by unanimous vote.

Anne Lang reviewed the Truancy Plan (Exhibit 8-K-11) and explained that State Statute requires that school district Boards of Education adopt and implement a plan to deal with truancy every two years. Motion was made by John Lehman to approve the Truancy Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote.

Diane Doersch, Director of Instructional Technology, stated that pending Board approval of the Digital Conversion Plan, monthly District-wide technology nights for community members would be scheduled. Mrs. Doersch stated that with regard to a simple explanation for NET

standards, the District has begun using DORA and DOMA diagnostic testing for reading and math and will be looking at anecdotal information, student engagement, teacher feedback, attendance, and truancy. Mark Duerwaechter stated that this is the second reading of the District's Digital Conversion Plan (Exhibit 8-L-11) and stated that the administration is recommending the Board support a three-year lease with a cost of approximately \$282,000 over three years which is approximately \$97,000 annually. Mr. Duerwaechter stated that upon approval, the District would move forward with the beta program. Dr. Pfeiffer clarified that the total projected technology budget for 2011-12 is \$700,406 and President Thompson clarified that the \$97,000 would be in addition to the projected budget amount. Discussion ensued with regard to duplication of technology with teacher laptops and iPads, being cost sensitive as to the need for iPads in classrooms, the possibility of the utilization of technology in the classrooms to assist with the teacher evaluation process, the benefits of digital devices in the classroom, and the process of evaluating the use of these devices. Motion was made by Larry Lewis to approve the District's Digital Conversion Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

BUDGET PLANNING DISCUSSION

Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services, distributed and reviewed information regarding projected tax levy/rate assumptions (Exhibit 8-M-11) to everyone in attendance. Mr. Hauffe and Dr. Pfeiffer led a discussion regarding budget planning for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald stated that she, Mr. Duerwaechter, and Mr. Dreger met with Kirk Leaser recently to provide background information regarding the Curriculum and Program Development Committee and brainstormed ideas for the committee calendar for 2011-12. It was decided that the next meeting of the committee would be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman stated that the next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee would take place on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. President Thompson suggested that for the future, major items in the budget be filtered through the Finance and Personnel Committee before being included in the first draft of the budget.

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)(g) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the August 2, 2011 closed session meeting and potential

litigation update. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:54 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the August 2, 2011 closed session meeting and potential litigation update.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Scott Thompson, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk