

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education

August 21, 2012

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, August 21, 2012.

President Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Leeser, John Lehman, 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 Learning & Leadership; Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services; and Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support. The absence of Steve Lenz was excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Nancy Lewandowski, 113 Limekiln Drive, Neenah, asked whether the unofficial minutes could be published shortly after each Board meeting, shared her concerns with the NHS grading policy, and questioned what problem the high school is addressing with the policy.

Bill Beachkofski, 393 Cleveland Street, Menasha, stated that his children attend school in Neenah because Menasha has a no homework policy and many parents do not like the policy.

Paula Kemppainen, 3039 Buttercup Road, Neenah, stated that she has friends in the Menasha School District who are very unhappy with the no homework policy and shared her concern that students who are not required to do homework could become lazy and that employers will not want to hire lazy workers.

Julie Reade, 2529 Bishops Lane, Neenah, questioned whether the homework policy will be in effect for all classes and how the policy prepares students for college.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 6:12 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

President Thompson stated that the District is absolutely not doing what was communicated last June and that the Post-Crescent did not do a very good job of reporting the conversations that have taken place more recently.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that two major areas of focus for next year will be the Common Core State Standards and the Effectiveness Project. She also indicated that consistency among common class and grade levels will be expected. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that what was reported in the Post-Crescent was black and white and that grading is not black and white.

**Board minutes are available on the district's web site: [www.neenah.k12.wi.us](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us)**

Mrs. Grunwald stated that each teacher should have a carefully crafted syllabus prepared for their classes letting students know what will be expected of them.

Ms. Lewandowski asked again why the unofficial minutes could not be published before the rest of the Board packet is put on the web site. Dr. Pfeiffer explained the process that takes place in preparing for Board meetings and stated that she would have a conversation related to separating the minutes and possibly publishing them in advance of the Board packet. Diane Haug shared her concerns with publishing the minutes before the Board packets are placed on the web site.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- stated that the ACT scores came out and that Neenah students' composite score was 24.1 but that this information is embargoed until tomorrow, August 22, 2012.

#### OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes a recommendation for employment of new teachers (Kim Simon, biology at NHS; and Rocco Marchionda, computer technology at Horace Mann and Shattuck)(Exhibit 8-D-12), 2. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 12 dated June 30, 2012 reflecting revenues of \$30,487,484.16 and expenditures of \$18,306,783.54) (Exhibit 8-E-12) and (Schedule of Vouchers No. 01 dated July 31, 2012 reflecting revenues of \$667,747.21 and expenditures of \$1,819,612.00 (Exhibit 8-F-12), and 3. Investment Report (Exhibit 8-G-12). The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote.

President Thompson requested a recap of the 2011-12 budget at the September 4, 2012 Board meeting.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christopher Kunz provided an update to the work of the Communications Committee.

Jeff Spoehr mentioned that there is a conflict with this year's homecoming parade and St. Mary Central's homecoming parade.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that we have had some challenges with our web site during the conversion of Time Warner to WiscNet.

Mrs. Holt provided an update to the hiring process this summer.

**Board minutes are available on the district's web site: [www.neenah.k12.wi.us](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us)**

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Communications Report (Nov. 6)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Spoehr, seconded by Peter Kaul, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Diane Haug  
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr  
Board Clerk