

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education

February 7, 2012

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, February 7, 2012.

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, student representatives Alissa Rashid and Jessica Werhand, 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; 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.

OPEN FORUM

Tom Hanby, 706 East Forest Avenue, Neenah, asked whether the District has, or plans to rehire, any teaching staff that have retired and asked whether the District would consider hiring current YMCA staff for the proposed extended day program.

Dave Sebor, 1185 Skyview Drive, Neenah, stated that he was here as a member of the Board of Directors of the YMCA and suggested opportunities for collaboration between the Neenah Joint School District and the YMCA.

Bob Townsend, 1344 Southfield Drive, Menasha, Neenah High School teacher, shared his concerns with the proposed reduction in retirement benefits.

Dean Kaufert, 1360 Alpine Lane, Neenah, State Representative, provided an update to current and proposed Senate Bills related to education.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:16 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the District has one staff member who retired and who has been rehired on a part-time basis but is not part of the emeritus program and that we may need to consider rehiring staff depending on the situation.

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

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the NJSD community continues to have conversations regarding retirement benefits, hiring and retaining quality staff, and considering what is best for students.

Dr. Pfeiffer thanked Representative Kaufert for attending and providing the update.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Peter Kaul and seconded by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Alissa Rashid and Jessica Werhand...

- reported that the NHS winter comedy was performed last weekend.
- provided an update to recent sporting events and activities.
- stated that Shattuck will be holding a Valentine's Day dance on February 17.
- reported that Taft is participating in Jump Rope for Heart on February 10.
- stated that first semester is complete and second semester is off to a great start.
- reported that student council began the Pennies for Patients drive today with proceeds going to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.
- stated that Winterfest at NHS will take place next week.
- provided an update to a student council project titled "Spirit of Excellence."
- reported that solo and ensemble festivals are coming up.
- stated that the NHS blood drive was a success.

#### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- introduced Mr. Jim Strick, Activities Director, who recognized Lisa Dohr, Administrative Assistant to the Activities Director, who was recently awarded the Bergstrom Automotive Award at this year's Red Smith Banquet. Board members thanked Lisa for her continued service to the NJSD.
- stated that this is National School Counseling Week, asked Jeff Spoehr to read a proclamation from Governor Walker's office, and introduced Jill Gordee, counseling department co-chair, who asked those counselors in attendance to introduce themselves and to state at which schools they work.
- recognized NHS students Benjamin Godlewski and Sarah Peterson who have been named Finalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- introduced Coolidge Principal LeAnn Metzger who, along with Coolidge staff members, shared information related to Coolidge's school goals and progress.

#### OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Christine Grunwald to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes recommendations for filling teacher vacancies for the 2011-12 school year with a start date of January 23, 2012 to Emily Bennett, NHS chemistry, 0.4 FTE, and Heather Larson, NHS reading, 1.0 FTE, and a request for a teacher resignation from Steven Treankler, CORE 7 science at Shattuck Middle School (Exhibit 2-D-12), 2. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No.

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

6 dated December 31, 2011 reflecting revenues of \$7,323,765.10 and expenditures of \$7,116,480.88) (Exhibit 2-E-12), 3. Investment Report (Exhibit 2-F-12), 4. School Property Tax Report (Exhibit 2-G-12), and 5. 2011-12 Quarterly Budget Projection Report (Exhibit 2-H-12). The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote.

Victoria Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources & Central Services, presented the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school calendars (Exhibit 2-I-12). Board members expressed concern with the value of the half-day professional learning days with regard to parent schedules, requested that the professional learning days and the WKCE testing days be added to the calendars, and requested that the administrators continue to look two years ahead with the school calendars. Motion was made by John Lehman to approve the school calendars for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by a vote of eight yes (Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Leeser, Lehman, Lewis, Spoehr, Thompson) and one no (Ellenberger).

Mrs. Holt presented a request to provide clarification regarding manual and working condition items (Exhibit 2-J-12). Motion was made by Jeff Spoehr to approve the clarifications regarding policy manual and working condition items. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote.

#### EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support, presented a recommendation from administration to offer an extended day program through the Neenah Joint School District (Exhibit 2-K-12). Discussion ensued regarding the reasons why the NJSD is proposing this program, the cost of running the program, types of activities planned for the children, and what this might do to relationships between the YMCA and the NJSD. The recommendation will be brought back at the February 21, 2012 Board of Education meeting for a vote.

#### CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald stated that there currently is no meeting of the Curriculum and Program Development Committee scheduled due to the fact that items that would normally have come through the committee have been brought before the entire Board. Ms. Grunwald stated that she met with Mr. Duerwaechter and Mr. Dreger to discuss meeting with new Board members in April to inform them of items the committee is currently working on.

#### FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman referred to the proposed contract related to the Rockets Banking Program through Associated Bank (Exhibit 2-L-12). Jon Joch answered questions of Board members.

Vicky Holt requested that the next meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2011, begin at 5:30 p.m. rather than 6:00 p.m. Committee members agreed to meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2012.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board members requested a review of the Freshman Seminar course to which Dr. Pfeiffer stated that this would be a part of the Staffing Report coming up in March.

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)(g) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the January 10, 2012 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, potential litigation, and discussion of specific personnel. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:17 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the January 10, 2012 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, potential litigation, and discussion of specific personnel.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by John Lehman, seconded by Peter Kaul, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Diane Haug  
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr  
Board Clerk