

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

March 20, 2012

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, March 20, 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 Leeser, John Lehman, 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; Anne Lang, Director of Pupil Services; Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services; and Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support. The absence of Larry Lewis was excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, shared his thoughts regarding Freshman Seminar, urged the Board to have a separate discussion regarding this, and asked the Board not to increase graduation requirements.

Steve Lenz, 1115 Park Village Drive, Neenah, shared his thoughts regarding Freshman Seminar and suggested more follow-up information be provided as the course progresses.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:03 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Mr. Thompson stated that he would ask the Board whether anyone would like to remove Freshman Seminar from the consent agenda for further discussion at that point in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Christine Grunwald to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Leeser, Lehman, Spoehr) and one abstention (Thompson).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Alissa Rashid and Jessica Werhand...

- reported that four NHS Manufacturing and Engineering Academy students recently presented for Project Lead The Way at the capitol in Madison.
- shared the results of the state competitions for DECA and for the NHS chess team.

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

- reported that three Special Olympic athletes will be advancing to state in basketball skills competition.
- provided an update to recent sporting events and activities.
- reported that Horace Mann is currently holding a Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive.
- shared that Coolidge fourth grade students would be visiting the state capitol on Wednesday.
- reported that Neenah High School Student Council will be donating \$250 to both the post-prom party and the post-grad party this year.
- stated that five NHS Student Council students will be recognized at the Milwaukee Bucks game on March 24 for winning the Spirit of Excellence Regional competition.
- stated that the Young People's Concert took place today in Pickard Auditorium and that the Wind Symphony concert which features five senior student conductors is being performed tonight at NHS.
- reported that the middle school musical, Music Man, Jr. will take place this weekend in the Shattuck Auditorium.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- recognized all students and staff who participated in the Young People's Concert.
- congratulated Lydia Fahrenkrug who is a 2012 Kohl Excellence Scholarship recipient and Cheri Miller, Clayton and Spring Road library media specialist, who is a 2012 Kohl Teacher of the Year recipient.
- introduced Activities Director Jim Strick who recognized NHS senior Ryan Bonikowske for his accomplishments throughout his wrestling career.
- shared that four NHS students recently received awards for their glass-work through the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum.
- introduced Spring Road Principal Michaela Neitzel who, along with Spring Road staff members, shared information related to Spring Road's school goals and progress.

OFFICIAL ACTION

President Thompson stated that he would pull the Freshman Seminar item from the consent agenda for further discussion. Motion was made by Christopher Kunz to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Early Entrance to Kindergarten (Exhibit 3-G-12), 2. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for a resignation from a teacher (Lesanne Bohannon, grade 4 teacher at Roosevelt) (Exhibit 3-H-12), 3. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 8 dated February 29, 2012 reflecting revenues of \$9,066,832.91 and expenditures of \$6,573,531.21) (Exhibit 3-I-12), and 4. Co-Curricular Code (previously entered as Exhibit 3-E-12). The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

Discussion ensued regarding the Freshman Seminar (previously entered as Exhibit 3-F-12). Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the recommendation for students to earn .5 credits for Freshman Seminar and to increase the graduation requirement to 22.5 credits beginning with the class of 2016. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

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CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald stated that the Curriculum and Program Development Committee has nothing to report at this time.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair John Lehman stated that the next meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2012, at 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Kaul reported that the state middle school forensics meet will be held at Neenah High School this coming weekend.

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)(g) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the March 6, 2012 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, potential litigation, and discussion of specific personnel. The motion was seconded by Christine Grunwald and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the March 6, 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 9:23 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk