

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education

March 6, 2012

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.

Vice President John Lehman 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, 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 absences of Larry Lewis and Scott Thompson were excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Emily Feavel, 1209 Whippoorwill Circle, Neenah, shared her concerns with the proposed elementary restructuring and encouraged the Board to continue to use the Reading Specialists in their current roles.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, shared his thoughts regarding Freshman Seminar, suggested a student/parent exit interview at the end of the quarters/semesters, and stated that he is a strong proponent of the middle school summer school program being credit yielding.

Gary Kresal, 1943 Shady Springs Drive, Neenah, commended the Board of Education and administrators for their openness and communication and encouraged everyone present to deal with facts rather than emotions.

Vice President Lehman declared the open forum closed at 7:08 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that there is a committee working on a review for teacher performance and that this group will come forward with a recommendation soon.

Dr. Pfeiffer thanked Gary Kresal for his comments and reiterated the importance of keeping emotions in check when speaking in public meetings.

Mr. Dreger stated that the District has embarked on a two-year process to move from a more traditional intervention approach in our reading program to a combination of using the

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

Reading Specialists as coaches, along with intervention. Mr. Dreger stated that this process is being coordinated by the District's Literacy Coordinator, who at one time was a literacy coach and has had experience with this approach.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Alissa Rashid and Jessica Werhand...

- provided an update to recent sporting events and activities.
- reported that the middle schools will be presenting the Music Man, Jr. on March 22-25 at Shattuck.
- stated that Neenah High School Student Council will be recognized at the Milwaukee Bucks game on March 24 for winning the Spirit of Excellence Regional competition.
- reported that Coffee House was a huge success with over \$415 being raised, which will be donated to Pennies for Patients and to a cause which donates sporting equipment to children in poor countries.
- shared that Alissa was the keynote speaker at the Elementary Student Council State Conference recently.
- provided an update to recent and upcoming musical events.
- reported that the Shattuck Student Council raised over 2,900 lbs. of donated food.

#### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- acknowledged Alissa Rashid who was recently recognized by Dave Anderson, Executive Director of the WIAA Board of Control.
- congratulated NHS DECA for their recent Re-certification Award.
- recognized Shattuck Middle School which collected 210 bags of goods as part of a Goodwill drive.
- congratulated Tom Huxtable who recently received an appointment to West Point Military Academy where he will be attending next year.
- introduced Tullar Principal Diane Galow who, along with Tullar staff members, shared information related to Tullar's school goals and progress.

#### OFFICIAL ACTION

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

1. Employment of Personnel which includes recommendations for employment of new exempt staff members (Michelle Uitenbroek, Accounting Supervisor at the administration building and Jerold Zamzow, Operations/Maintenance Supervisor at Neenah High School); a request for resignations and retirement benefits for Denise Schmitz, CDS teacher at Shattuck, and Rick Koon, Technology Education teacher at Shattuck/NHS; and a request for a leave of absence from Jennifer Michalkiewicz, Grade 2 teacher at Tullar, from April 24 through June 7, 2012 (Exhibit 3-A-12), 2. Investment Report (Exhibit 3-B-12), 3. School Property Tax Report (Exhibit 3-C-12), and 4. Recommendations for Awarding Continuing Contracts to

Administrators (Exhibit 3-D-12). The motion was seconded by Christine Grunwald and carried by unanimous vote.

#### CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Grunwald introduced Mark Duerwaechter, Assistant District Administrator of Secondary Learning & Leadership, who presented a recommendation for a revision to the Co-Curricular Code to be implemented in the 2012-13 school year (Exhibit 3-E-12).

Mr. Duerwaechter stated that this recommendation will be brought to the March 20 Board of Education meeting for a vote.

Mr. Duerwaechter introduced NHS Principal Colleen Doyle who, along with NHS staff and students, presented a report on the Freshman Seminar at Neenah High School along with a recommendation for students to earn .5 credit for Freshman Seminar and an increase of .5 credit (22.5 total credits) to graduate beginning with the class of 2016 (Exhibit 3-F-12).

Mr. Duerwaechter stated that this recommendation will be brought to the March 20 Board of Education meeting for a vote.

#### FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2012 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous committee vote.

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

John Lehman stated that he attended the Roosevelt/Alliance science fair recently.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Pfeiffer reviewed the timing of the list of future agenda items. Mr. Lehman reminded Board members that the April and May meeting dates have been changed to the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Lehman 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)(f)(g) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the February 21, 2012 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

#### CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:52 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the February 21, 2012 closed session meeting, discipline of specific students, and potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Jeff Spoehr, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Diane Haug  
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr  
Board Clerk