

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

April 10, 2012

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, April 10, 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 Christine Grunwald, Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz, Kirk Leaser, John Lehman, Larry Lewis, Jeff Spoehr, Scott Thompson, student representative 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; 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 Betsy Ellenberger and Alissa Rashid were excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, thanked Larry Lewis for his many years of service to the Neenah Joint School District and shared some Neenah nostalgia which included a 1939 Rocket yearbook and several old photos.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 7:02 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

No comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Leaser, Lehman, Spoehr, Thompson) and one abstention (Lewis).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jessica Werhand...

- reported that a blood drive will be held at NHS on Wednesday, April 18.
- provided an update to recent sporting events and activities.
- reported that the city-wide fifth grade spelling bee will be held this Friday, April 13.
- shared that the Rocket City Jazz Festival will take place on Tuesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Shattuck Auditorium.
- stated that the Neenah Rocket Players will present their spring drama next weekend, April 19-21.

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

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- and Board members recognized outgoing Board of Education member Larry Lewis for his service to the Neenah Joint School District.
- shared that she had the privilege of subbing for Susan Michlig recently, first grade teacher at Roosevelt, whose ticket was drawn at the all-staff convocation last August for a day off during the school year.
- asked Board and community members whether they would consider changing the time of Board meetings to 6:00 p.m. rather than 7:00 p.m. in order to attend District events which are held on Tuesday evenings.
- introduced Steve Lenz who was recently elected to the Board of Education and who will be taking office on Monday, April 23, 2012.
- suggested that the Board hold a half-day retreat again this summer. It was decided to hold the retreat on Thursday, July 26, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Suggestions for agenda items should be sent to Dr. Pfeiffer.
- introduced Brenda Mullard, Art Department Chair, who recognized NHS art students who have recently received various awards.
- introduced Clayton Principal Kim Benson who, along with Clayton staff members, shared information related to Clayton's school goals and progress.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Early Entrance to Kindergarten (Exhibit 4-B-12), 2. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for a resignation from a teacher (Cynthia Buchta, grade 4 teacher at Spring Road), a request for a resignation from an administrator (Mark Duerwaechter, Assistant District Administrator of Secondary Learning & Leadership), a recommendation to eliminate an administrative position for the 2012-13 school year (an Associate Principal position at Neenah High School, and a recommendation for a teacher job share for the 2012-13 school year (Melanie Jackson and Abby Wright, NHS math teachers) (Exhibit 4-C-12), and 3. Resolution to the Van Linn Litigation (Exhibit 4-D-12). The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. Board members thanked Mark Duerwaechter for his years of service to the Neenah Joint School District.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Christine Grunwald turned the floor over to Steve Dreger and Vicky Holt who presented the 2012-13 District's staffing proposal (Exhibit 4-E-12) and answered questions of Board members. The Board requested a comparison to class sizes from the previous year. The staffing proposal will be brought back to the April 24 Board meeting for a vote.

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

Christine Grunwald thanked Brenda Mullard for her efforts in bringing the art students to the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum for the glass workshop.

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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)(g) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the March 20, 2012 closed session meeting, consideration of issuing preliminary notices of non-renewal, and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:54 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the March 20, 2012 closed session meeting, consideration of issuing preliminary notices of non-renewal, and potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by Larry Lewis, seconded by Scott Thompson, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk