

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

September 4, 2012

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

President Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and ascertained that the meeting had been properly noticed on the District's web site and at each of the school buildings. Board members Betsy Ellenberger, Christine Grunwald, Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz, Kirk Leaser, John Lehman, Steve Lenz, 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; Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support; and Andrew Thorson, Director of Facilities/Engineer. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Jill Drake, 1085 Reed Street, Neenah, shared her concerns with the grading system at Neenah High School and suggested grandfathering students into any future changes.

Nancy Lewandowski, 113 Limekiln Drive, Neenah, thanked the Board for listening to parent concerns regarding the Neenah High School grading policy, shared that her 5th grade daughter came home today and stated that the lunch food was much better, and suggested that Neenah High School offer an advanced science course such as advanced biology for 10th grade students.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 6:07 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer thanked Ms. Drake for her comments regarding grading and stated that the District is not planning to change the Laude system but that Neenah High School will be providing a letter for students who request it to for a conversion of weighted grades. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the focus this year will be on consistency in the classroom and on ensuring that there are effective teachers in every classroom.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the curriculum is looked at each year through the CADR (Course Additions, Deletions, and Revisions) process in December and that our ambition is to accelerate opportunities for students. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the hope is to provide Capstone courses for seniors so the students won't need to go to a college to take the courses.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of eight yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Leeser, Lehman, Spoehr, Thompson) and one abstention (Lenz).

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2012 special meeting. The motion carried by a vote of eight yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Leeser, Lenz, Spoehr, Thompson) and one abstention (Lehman).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jessica Werhand and Luke Nelessen...

- provided an update to recent sporting events and activities.
- stated that there was a lot of excitement in the air on the first day of school.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- thanked the Board members who were able to attend the all-staff convocation on August 28.
- stated that she began her day at Taft since Mr. Tauscher wasn't able to be at both Hoover and Taft.
- shared that a cookout was held for freshmen at NHS today along with an activities fair and that several Board members were in attendance.
- acknowledged staff from Hoover who will be recognized by the Department of Public Instruction and will receive the Wisconsin School of Recognition Award in a ceremony in Madison on October 2, 2012.
- introduced Brian Wunderlich, principal of Horace Mann Middle School, who introduced Brenna Root and Emily Dieringer of Winnebago County re:TH!NK who presented a video they made with the help of Cate Rozewski, Horace Mann guidance counselor, and Horace Mann students regarding the dangers of tobacco use and cigarette smoking.
- shared that Neenah High School is a recipient of a \$10,000 grant for Project Lead the Way from Bemis Company.
- stated that work is continuing on the Effectiveness Project and the salary schedule and that she will be holding the first staff input session of the year tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at Neenah High School.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by John Lehman to approve the item under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for a resignation from Michael Schuh, English/Speech Communication teacher at NHS, a recommendation for employment of new teachers (Amanda Brummer, kindergarten at Taft; Samantha Johnson, social studies at Shattuck; and Lynn Relien, EBD at Coolidge), and a recommendation for an increase in contract (Nicole Lecker, 0.5 to 1.0 FTE English at NHS) (Exhibit 9-A-12). The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by unanimous vote.

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ALLIANCE CHARTER ELEMENTARY CONTRACT RENEWAL

Phil Johnson, Principal of Alliance Charter, introduced Jodi Blank, president of ACEC, and Jean Maurice Boyer, president-elect of ACEC, presented a request for the renewal of the Alliance Charter School Contract (Exhibit 9-B-12), and answered questions of Board members. The request will be voted on at the September 18 Board of Education meeting.

YMCA PARTNERSHIP

Dr. Pfeiffer introduced Scott Schanhofer and Brian Rammer of the Neenah-Menasha YMCA and shared background information regarding the work that has been done concerning a partnership between the NJSD and the YMCA (Exhibit 9-C-12). Steve Dreger provided additional information regarding the District's efforts related to wellness and answered questions of Board members. The proposed contract between the YMCA and the Neenah Joint School District will be brought to the September 18 Board of Education meeting for a vote.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Andrew Thorson, Director of Facilities/Engineer, provided an overview of the 2012-13 capital improvement projects (Exhibit 9-D-12) and answered questions of Board members. Board members thanked Mr. Thorson for his presentation and work on the projects.

2011-12 SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATE

Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services, provided an update related to the 2011-12 school budget (Exhibit 9-E-12) and answered questions of Board members. A suggestion was made to look at the budget on a quarterly basis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

OPEB Recommendation (Oct. 2)
Communications Report (Nov. 20)
CADR Process (Dec.)

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) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the August 7, 2012 closed session meeting and preparation for negotiations. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:05 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the August 7, 2012 closed session meeting and preparation for negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session and reconvene in open session was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Jeff Spoehr, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

President Thompson called the open session to order at 8:18 p.m. Board members Betsy Ellenberger, Christine Grunwald, Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz, Kirk Leeser, John Lehman, Steve Lenz, Jeff Spoehr, Scott Thompson and the following administrators were present: Mary Pfeiffer, District Administrator, and Victoria Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources & Central Services. Diane Haug was present

NESPA CONTRACT VOTE

Motion was made by Jeff Spoehr to ratify the agreement between the Board of Education and the Neenah Education Support Personnel Association for the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 with a 2.6% increase in salary. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Spoehr, seconded by Peter Kaul, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk