

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

November 6, 2012

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

President Scott Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 (arrived at 6:02), John Lehman, Steve Lenz, Jeff Spoehr, Scott Thompson, student representatives Jessica Werhand and Luke Nelessen, 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; and Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support. The absence of Kirk Leeser was excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Cindy Scudder, 689 Yorkshire Road, Neenah, shared her concerns with Neenah High School curriculum, particularly with Advanced and AP English and biology class offerings.

Nancy Lewandowski, 113 Lime Kiln Drive, Neenah, questioned why sophomore students are being bribed to do their best on the WKCE tests by offering iPods, Xboxes, and gift cards and stated that she has some of the same concerns with Neenah High School curriculum as was shared by Mrs. Scudder.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 6:12 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that it concerns her to hear the perception of Mrs. Scudder that students are not learning in standard classes. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that decisions related to curriculum are made collectively by the departments working with our administrators as part of the CADR (course additions, deletions, and revisions) process and this year's CADR process will be coming up in December. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that teachers differentiate in order that every student has a fulfilling learning experience in every class.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that Neenah isn't the only district to offer incentives for their students taking the WKCE tests and this was a way to get the students to take the testing more seriously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2012 budget hearing. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Spoehr, Thompson) and one abstention (Lenz).

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2012 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Ellenberger, Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Spoehr, Thompson) and one abstention (Lenz).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jessica Werhand and Luke Nelessen...

- provided an update to recent sporting events.
- shared that the Advanced Theater class will be going to state with their one-act play.
- reported that several schools are participating in a shoe drive headed up by NHS student Liz Darkow called Soles4Souls.
- stated that the first quarter ended last Friday.
- shared that the Helping Hands Craft Fair had a great turnout.
- reported that Student Council is having an ice cream social to collect canned goods for needy families and that Student Council also went trick-or-treating for canned goods.
- invited everyone to an NHS orchestra concert in Pickard Auditorium on November 13.
- reported that Spring Road School PTO is sponsoring a roller skating event on November 12.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- acknowledged everyone involved in the Helping Hands Craft Fair and stated that over \$9,000 was raised to help families in need throughout the school year.
- stated that 103 of the 140 eligible NHS students were recognized last night at the Academic Awards Banquet.
- stated that NHS sports teams had a very successful fall season and introduced Jim Strick, NHS Athletic Director, who introduced the Girls Cross Country Team and shared information about their success at state. Mr. Strick also stated that Coach Heidke was named the Conference Coach of the Year. Mr. Strick then introduced MacKenzie Paul and shared information about her success at state for girls golf. Dr. Pfeiffer thanked the parents for their continued support of the students.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve the recommendation for Employment of Personnel which includes a recommendation to approve employment of a support staff member (Kimberlie Clohessy, 0.5 FTE Educational Assistant/Special Education SLD, Coolidge) (Exhibit 11-A-12). The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote.

Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services, reviewed the final summary and statistical information pertaining to the 2012-13 School Budget, Draft #2, for final adoption (Exhibit 11-B-12) and answered questions of Board members. Motion was made by John Lehman to approve the resolution as presented to adopt the 2012-13 school budget for the Neenah Joint School District. The motion was seconded by Scott Thompson and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christine Grunwald stated that she hopes to report on the book study centered on student assessment and standards-based grading policies in the near future and encouraged all Board members to pay attention to the CADR process and to stay apprised of curriculum issues.

John Lehman stated that when he voted at Spring Road today, he took the time to visit several classrooms and observed students working on iPads and laptops. Mr. Lehman stated that the classes were very orderly and there seemed to be a lot of learning going on.

Mrs. Holt stated that the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2012 is still tentative and she will confirm in the next few days whether or not this meeting will be necessary.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that Jon Joch will give a report in December regarding the Oshkosh Community Foundation and the Neenah Tomorrow Fund.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Kaul and seconded by Christine Grunwald. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk