

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

December 17, 2013

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

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 Jean Maurice Boyer, Betsy Ellenberger, Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz, John Lehman, Kirk Leaser, Jeff Spoehr, Michelle Swardenski, Scott Thompson, and the following administrators were present: Mary Pfeiffer, District Administrator; Victoria Holt, Assistant District Administrator of Human Resources & Instructional Support Services; Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Learning & Leadership; Kathleen Davis, Assistant District Administrator of Business Services; Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services; Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support; Susan Nennig, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; Andrew Thorson, Director of Facilities/Engineer; and Jim Strick, Communications Manager. The absences of student representatives Luke Nelessen and Brianda Hickey were excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Christine Rondeau, 610 S. Western Avenue, Neenah, shared her concerns with the proposed elementary restructuring and requested the Board postpone the vote regarding the restructuring.

Lisa Blenker, 815 Caroline Street, Neenah, shared her concerns with the proposed elementary restructuring.

Kelly Herm, 763 Winneconne Avenue, Neenah, shared his concerns with the proposed elementary restructuring.

Royal Rondeau, 610 S. Western Avenue, Neenah, shared his concerns with the proposed elementary restructuring.

Mike Gibbs, 122 Klompen Court, Neenah, shared his concerns with the suggested boundaries for Tullar and Lakeview Schools.

Tom Hanby, 706 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah, shared his concerns with the poor lighting in the main parking lot at Neenah High School and commented on increased staffing needed to reopen Washington School.

Jon Gallatin, 1355 Green Acres Lane, Neenah, shared his concerns with the proposed elementary restructuring and suggested the Board meet with staff and administrators to get their perspective on the boundary issues.

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

Tabitha Gallatin, 1355 Green Acres Lane, Neenah, shared that their family lives a few blocks from Tullar School but currently their home school is Coolidge and next year it will be Hoover, stated that their son will be in second grade next year and will have been in three different schools in that time, and urged the Board to reassign the set of blocks in their neighborhood to Tullar School.

Nancy Lewandowski, 113 Limekiln Drive, Neenah, suggested the Board look at the encore rotation classes for seventh grade students this year rather than delaying it to next year.

Debbie Dreher, 56 Regal Terrace, Appleton, shared her concerns with the proposed elementary restructuring.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 6:28 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer clarified that the lot Mr. Hanby was referring to was Lot B. She also stated that she would follow up with NHS administration.

President Thompson stated that the Board would try to address all of the issues during their discussion tonight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Christopher Kunz to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2013 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of six yes (Boyer, Ellenberger, Kaul, Kunz, Spoehr, Thompson) and three abstentions (Leeser, Lehman, Swardenski).

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- stated she has attended several holiday concerts and suggested everyone attend a holiday concert in the Neenah Schools when the opportunity arises.
- shared that a parent engagement session was held on December 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Shattuck auditorium regarding the elementary restructuring.
- stated that she just came from a Strive2B holiday dinner and gave kudos to the Shattuck staff for providing this celebration.
- wished everyone present a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes requests for retirement including Other Post Employment Benefits from faculty (Germaine Dolata, music (instrumental) teacher, middle schools and NHS; and Lynn Mulholland, CORE 7 language arts, Shattuck); a recommendation for employment of administrators (William Richardson, Associate Principal, Shattuck and NHS; and David Sonnabend, Associate Principal, Shattuck); a request for a resignation of exempt staff (Stacie Williams, Student Database

Manager, administration building); and a request for employment of support staff (Sarah Olson, educational assistant (ELL), Coolidge) (Exhibit 12-E-13), 2. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 5 dated November 30, 2013 reflecting revenues of \$499,957.70 and expenditures of \$5,772,198.30) (Exhibit 12-F-13), and 3. Investment Report (Exhibit 12-G-13). Dr. Pfeiffer introduced Bill Richardson and David Sonnabend, the new Associate Principals, to the Board. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

COURSE ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND REVISIONS (CADR) REPORT FOR 2014-15

Susan Nennig, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, stated that the seventh grade rotation classes will be looked at for revision next year. Ms. Nennig reviewed the updates to the CADR report (Exhibit 12-H-13) and answered questions of Board members. Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve the Course Additions, Deletions, and Revisions (CADR) Report for 2014-15 as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote.

ELEMENTARY PLANNING

Dr. Pfeiffer explained that related to the Community Learning Center at Hoover, Mr. Tauscher wrote a grant to continue the CLC but due to the competitive nature of other schools writing grants, we did not get it. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that it is important to be careful in making comments about other families to be clear about the data and shared data related to students and academic growth. Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Learning and Leadership, reviewed the administrative recommendation concerning elementary planning (previously entered as Exhibit 12-D-13) and stated that the administrators are seeking approval for everything in the report except the boundaries. Mr. Dreger stated that the administrators would be bringing a recommendation in late February or early March related to the boundaries after kindergarten registration takes place in early February. Discussion ensued with Board members requesting additional information regarding kindergarten registration numbers, school loading (current set-up vs. proposed), transfer requests, and assumption that Taft and Washington will be ready for the beginning of the school year. Motion was made by Scott Thompson to approve the elementary recommendation as presented excluding the boundary changes. The motion was seconded by John Lehman and carried by unanimous vote.

RIVER OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARTER

Steve Dreger introduced Michael Tauscher, Principal of Horace Mann Middle School, who introduced the governance committee of River Oak Middle School Charter and James Lewicki, planning consultant, and presented an overview of the proposed River Oak Middle School Charter (Exhibit 12-I-13) and answered questions of Board members. Discussion ensued regarding exclusivity, what happens to the students after sixth grade, whether this is a vision of a small group of people or the entire community, and the expense of opening a charter middle school.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Kaul stated that several Board members observed the recent lockdown drill at Shattuck Middle School and were impressed with the way everything worked.

President Thompson shared that he visited Clayton recently to observe their wellness activities.

Michelle Swardenski stated that her children were involved in the lockdown at Roosevelt and Alliance yesterday and the staff handled it extremely well. Jean Maurice Boyer thanked Mrs. Holt for her part in helping the staff and students during Mr. Johnson's absence.

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 Peter Kaul to adjourn and that the Board reconvene in closed session according to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the December 3, 2013 regular closed session meeting and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:53 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the December 3, 2013 regular closed session meeting and potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by Jeff Spoehr, seconded by Betsy Ellenberger, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk