

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

August 7, 2012

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, August 7, 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, 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; and Jon Joch, Director of Revenue Enhancements & Business Services Support. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Nick Bezier, 1530 Whitetail Drive, Neenah, spoke on behalf of the gifted and talented program and shared his thoughts regarding the Neenah High School homework policy.

Janet Hillis, 1085 Rock Ledge Lane, Neenah, thanked Dr. Pfeiffer for her support of the Neenah band program and shared her thoughts regarding the proposed dog park and regarding grading at Neenah High School.

Robert Malinoski, 741 Fieldcrest Drive, Neenah, shared his thoughts regarding the Neenah High School homework policy and asked what the difference is between practice and homework.

Stuart Taylor, 104 Limekiln Drive, Neenah, questioned whether the Board needs to approve the proposed homework policy and asked whether students could receive physical education credit if they participate in sports.

Emily Ugoretz, 626 Fairview Avenue, Neenah, 10th grade student at Neenah High School, shared her thoughts regarding the new homework policy.

Kayla Jischke, 1178 Shady Springs Court, Neenah, 10th grade student at Neenah High School, shared her thoughts regarding the new homework policy.

Gretchen Ugoretz, 626 Fairview Avenue, Neenah, shared her thoughts regarding the proposed grading policy.

Sandy Stephani, 1858 Oxwood Drive, Neenah, shared her thoughts regarding the new grading policy.

Linda Bacon, 1348 Pinehurst Lane, Neenah, questioned who sets policy and who administers policy in the District.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 6:26 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

President Thompson stated that all of the concerns regarding grading and homework will be addressed during the meeting.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that 9th grade classes will be offered at Shattuck this year to accommodate high level students.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the Board has discussed whether to allow credit for physical education to those students participating in sports and that the Board has decided not to pursue this at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2012 special meeting. The motion carried by a vote of eight yes (Grunwald, Kaul, Kunz, Leeser, Lehman, Lenz, Spoehr, Thompson) and one abstention (Ellenberger).

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- informed the Board that Effectiveness Project training began this week for all administrators with a focus on certified staff related to effective teaching and learning and that this is also related to the conversation regarding grading.
- requested that Board members mark their calendars for the all-staff convocation on Tuesday, August 28.
- stated that she would like to begin meeting to go over NEOLA Board policies on the first Tuesday of each month beginning in September at 5:00 p.m. prior to the regular Board meetings beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- reminded Board members of the presentation at the June 19 Board meeting by Colleen Doyle and Jon Fleming related to Neenah High School's transition to the semester and their school goals and expressed her disappointment in the article related to grading which was printed in the August 3 edition of the Post-Crescent failing to reflect recent conversations concerning the high school. Dr. Pfeiffer commended the conversations which are taking place related to grading and stated that the focus is on student learning. Colleen Doyle, Neenah High School principal, provided an update to the conversations taking place related to student assessment.

President Thompson clarified that the Board will have input on any issues that will affect the students of the District. Discussion ensued regarding the need to have consistency, as well as flexibility, among teachers with regard to grading and homework.

OFFICIAL ACTION

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

1. Employment of Personnel which includes a resignation of a staff member (Molly Swanson, Speech and Language Pathologist at Clayton/Tullar), a recommendation for employment of new teachers (Elissa Brown, Specific Learning Disability at NHS; Kassandra Evers, grade 4 at Tullar; Crystal Galica, grade 6 at Horace Mann; Ann Hatch, School Psychologist (199 days) at NHS; Kimberly Hooyman, grade 4 at Spring Road; Lorraine Morfeld, grade 3 at Wilson; Ryan Peterson, At-Risk at NHS; and Natalie Shea, school counselor/1 year (197 days) at NHS), and a request for employment of an administrator (Susan Nennig, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, District-wide)(Exhibit 8-A-12), 2. Request for Waiver of Tuition (Exhibit 8-B-12), and 3. School Board Independent Hearing Officer (Exhibit 8-C-12). The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2012 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kunz and carried by a committee vote of three yes (Kaul, Kunz, Lehman) and one abstention (Ellenberger).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pfeiffer informed the Board that Winnebago County is in receipt of our letter regarding the Board's concerns related to the proposed dog park.

Mrs. Holt informed Board members of the new teacher luncheon on Thursday, August 23, at 11:45 a.m. at Bridgewood.

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)(c)(g) for the purpose of approval of minutes of the July 24, 2012 closed session meeting, potential litigation, and discussion of negotiations with the NEA and NESPA. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:01 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the July 24, 2012 closed session meeting, potential litigation, and discussion of negotiations with the NEA and NESPA.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by John Lehman, seconded by Peter Kaul, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk