

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

December 3, 2013

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, December 3, 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, 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; Susan Nennig, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; Andrew Thorson, Director of Facilities/Engineer; and Jim Strick, Communications Manager. The absences of Kirk Leeser, John Lehman, and Michelle Swardenski were excused. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

President Thompson stated that in the interest of recognizing some Neenah High School students and their parents at tonight's Board meeting, the Open Forum and District Administrator/Board Consideration of Open Forum Issues would be moved after the District Administrator's Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2013 regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Luke Nelessen and Brianda Hickey...

- provided an update to recent sporting events.
- shared that National Honor Society would be holding a "Red-Outs" game for girls basketball at Neenah High School on February 7.
- stated that the Madrigal Dinner will take place this Saturday, December 7.
- reported that on Saturday, December 14, Barnes & Noble in Appleton will be holding a fundraiser with a percentage of sales to benefit Neenah High School.
- invited everyone to the NHS holiday concert in Pickard on Tuesday, December 17.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- recognized Neenah High School for being selected as one of 477 high schools nationwide to earn the College Board Award for the annual AP District Honor Roll.
- introduced Neenah High School Principal Brian Wunderlich who recognized NHS fall sports athletes who received conference and state honors and several NHS athletes who earned Post-Crescent Athlete of the Year honors.

OPEN FORUM

Lauri Asbury, 234 Limekiln Drive, Neenah, requested the Board look closely at adding advanced classes at Shattuck and review the criteria for the advanced ninth grade classes.

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

Alex Canner, 671 Hummingbird Lane, Neenah, suggested the Board look at the needs of special education students when reviewing staffing.

Nancy Lewandowski, 113 Limekiln Drive, Neenah, suggested the Board look at adding advanced classes at the middle school level and stated that she strongly supports the World Language recommendation.

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 6:21 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

President Thompson stated that the Board would be addressing the areas of concern related to elementary boundaries and course offerings through the CADR process.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Peter Kaul and seconded by Betsy Ellenberger to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for a resignation of an administrator (Benjamin Brownell, Associate Principal, Shattuck Middle School); a request for a leave of absence from a faculty member (Emily Hennes, Grade 2, Wilson); a recommendation for employment of faculty (Christine Christensen, school counselor/SAP, Neenah High School, and Kristin Wegner, school counselor, Coolidge/Tullar); and a recommendation for employment of support staff (Shaun McGrath, computer technician, Administration) (Exhibit 12-A-13) and 2. 2014 Summer School Proposal (Exhibit 12-B-13). Board members requested additional information for the future regarding the participation rate at the elementary level for which summer school was recommended and additional information regarding the dropout rate for some high school level summer school classes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

CURRICULUM & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Jean Maurice Boyer to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2013 Curriculum & Program Development Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous committee vote.

Chair Jeff Spoehr introduced Susan Nennig, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment, who acknowledged the work of the administrators and teachers in putting together the CADR information, presented the Course Additions, Deletions, and Revisions (CADR) Report for 2014-15 (Exhibit 12-C-13), and answered questions of Board members. Discussion ensued regarding elective courses at the middle school level, the cost of adding Chinese to the World Languages at the middle school level and whether Chinese should be offered next year at the high school, and the possibility of offering a Spanish course for native speakers. (Brianda Hickey left the meeting at 6:56 p.m.)

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

Chair Jeff Spoehr introduced Steve Dreger, Assistant District Administrator of Learning and Leadership, who thanked elementary administrators, central office administrators, and support staff who contributed to the elementary planning report, presented an administrative recommendation concerning Elementary Planning (Exhibit 12-D-13), and answered question of Board members. President Thompson suggested fixing the boundary situation for the family on Klompen Court. Discussion followed regarding caps on class levels, the opportunity of offering an alternative school with a focus on World Language, any modifications needing to be made to Taft and/or Washington Schools, the opportunity to have a conversation with the Menasha School District regarding one combined elementary school on Doty Island, and accommodations for special education services at Roosevelt School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the Automotive Technical Diploma which was referred to in the CADR report is a partnership with Fox Valley Technical College and is the first diploma in the area where upon completion, a student will have completed their first full year in the technical college and offered Kudos to Mike Derleth and Brian Wunderlich.

Dr. Pfeiffer reminded the Board and community members of the community input session related to elementary planning on Monday, December 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Shattuck Auditorium.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Middle School Charter – December 17

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 November 19, 2013 regular closed session meeting and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Betsy Ellenberger and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 7:37 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the November 19, 2013 regular closed session meeting and potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session was made by Peter Kaul, seconded by Jeff Spoehr, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk