

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education

August 20, 2013

The meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, August 20, 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, Kirk Leeser, John Lehman, Jeff Spoehr, Michelle Swardenski, 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 Jim Strick, Communications Manager/Interim Activities Director. Diane Haug was present as Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Linda Dums, 1313 Benjamin Court, Neenah, suggested there be a link on the District's Facebook page to Board of Education packets and minutes and questioned where the Board is with elementary planning.

Debbie Dreher, 56 Regal Terrace, Appleton, NESPA president, shared concerns with how stipends were awarded to support staff and suggested clearer and more open communication in the future.

Dr. Tonya Hameister, 2527 Bruce Court, Neenah, shared concerns regarding the accessibility of accelerated courses to students and asked how many students are in the advanced physical science classes, how many children are on the line if the Explore test were to be taken off the table, and how the Board supported the use of a cut-off score that wasn't created psychometrically

President Thompson declared the open forum closed at 6:15 p.m.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPEN FORUM ISSUES

Dr. Pfeiffer thanked Ms. Dums for her suggestion regarding social media and stated that our new Communications Manager, Mr. Jim Strick, will be working on improving communications in the District. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that the Board and administrators had a workshop in which they discussed elementary planning and that at this point, there is nothing to share with the public and staff.

President Thompson stated that Mrs. Holt was directed by the Board to push the negotiations timetable out and reminded Ms. Dreher that NESPA employees received a 2.6% increase this year while the teaching staff did not receive an increase. President Thompson stated that the

NESPA employees received an early retirement package that was ten-fold what it was in prior years and stated that the pay for performance could be removed for NESPA but the Board thinks there is some merit in keeping it for NESPA employees who are doing a great job and working hard. President Thompson stated that there is always room to improve communications and that this will be a goal in the future.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that she and Mr. Dreger have had several conversations with Toni and Jerry Hameister and that this year, advanced classes will be offered in all four core subject areas at the ninth grade level in eighth grade which will be an asset to our District. Dr. Pfeiffer stated that two years ago, the Board voted on criteria to determine who is allowed to take advanced courses and she would be concerned if there were exceptions made for one student over others. It was decided that the Curriculum and Program Development Committee will review the guidelines for student accessibility to advanced classes. Dr. Pfeiffer will get the information requested by Dr. Hameister.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2013 regular meeting. The motion carried by a vote of seven yes (Boyer, Kaul, Kunz, Lehman, Spoehr, Swardenski, Thompson) and two abstentions (Ellenberger, Leeser).

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District Administrator Pfeiffer...

- stated that the hiring process is continuing and reminded Board members of the new faculty luncheon to be held on Thursday, August 22, at 11:45 a.m. at Bridgewood.
- shared information regarding Neenah's ACT scores and stated that the information is embargoed until tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.
- shared that the NJSD was recently recognized with the gold level Well Workplace Award from the Wellness Council of America.
- congratulated NHS science teacher Scott Hertting for being selected as one of four Wisconsin finalists for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science teaching.
- shared that several Board members will be recognized at the WASB Fall Regional meeting on October 2 at Bridgewood and asked Board members to let Diane know whether they plan to attend.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Motion was made by Christopher Kunz and seconded by Peter Kaul to approve the items under Consent Agenda as follows: 1. Employment of Personnel which includes a request for employment of faculty (Lowrie Fisher Leahy, Cross Categorical (EBD) at Neenah High School; Desiree Geffers, Cross Categorical (SLD) at Hoover; Cheryl Gianopoulos, Literacy at Spring Road; Grace Gardinier, Social Studies (1 year only) at Shattuck; Elizabeth Jacobson Holtz, Orchestra/General Music at Shattuck/Horace Mann; Ian Mickelson, Grade 5 at Tullar; Justin Gasparick, Grade 1 at Wilson; Lisa LeMahieu, Health at Neenah High School; and Louise Newlin, Grade 3 at Tullar); a request for resignations of faculty (Melissa Chitko, Business and Information Technology, Neenah High School; Timothy Hopfensperger, Grade 5, Tullar; Jonathan Spike, English, Neenah High School; and Paula Veard, Spanish, Neenah

High School); and a request for a resignation of a support staff member (Janet Brush, Educational Assistant (CDM/UND), Clayton) (Exhibit 8-A-13), 2. Presentation of Accounts (Schedule of Vouchers No. 12 dated June 30, 2013 reflecting revenues of \$30,191,593.72 and expenditures of \$20,805,174.87) (Exhibit 8-B-13) and (Schedule of Vouchers No. 1 dated July 31, 2013 reflecting revenues of \$153,442.99 and expenditures of \$3,382,553.34) (Exhibit 8-C-13), 3. Investment Report (Exhibit 8-D-13), 4. Request for Waivers of Tuition (Exhibit 8-E-13), and 5. School Board Independent Hearing Officer (Exhibit 8-F-13). The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Jim Strick, Communications Manager/Interim Activities Director, explained the process that went into the Neenah High School Boys Hockey Fees recommendation (Exhibit 8-G-13) and answered questions of Board members. Motion was made by Scott Thompson and seconded by Betsy Ellenberger to support the administration's recommendation with regard to the Neenah High School boys hockey fees as presented. A clarification was provided that if a student cannot afford to pay the fees, they are still allowed to play hockey and the ability to pay is not shared with the coaches. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services, reviewed the proposed 2013-14 budget for publication and presentation at the September 17, 2013 Budget Hearing (Exhibit 8-H-13) and answered questions of Board members. Motion was made by Peter Kaul to approve Draft #2 of the 2013-14 School Budget for publication. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Betsy Ellenberger to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2013 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Peter Kaul and carried by unanimous committee vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Spoehr stated that he is planning to attend the City of Neenah Park and Recreation meeting on Thursday.

Dr. Pfeiffer reminded Board members of the all-staff convocation scheduled for next Tuesday, August 27, 2013 beginning at 8:00 a.m. in Pickard Auditorium.

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 23, 2013 regular closed session meeting, litigation, and discussion of specific personnel. The motion was seconded by Jeff Spoehr and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened in closed session at 7:43 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes of the July 23, 2013 regular closed session meeting, litigation, and discussion of specific personnel.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn closed session and was made by Jeff Spoehr, seconded by Peter Kaul, and carried by unanimous vote. The closed session adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Diane Haug
Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk

Jeff Spoehr
Board Clerk