

Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting
April 24, 2012
5:30 p.m.

The Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Central Office Board Room on Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

Chairman Lehman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and ascertained that the meeting had been properly noticed.

John Lehman, Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee, and committee members Peter Kaul, Christopher Kunz and Betsy Ellenberger were present. Board member Scott Thompson was also present. The following administrators and staff were also present: District Administrator-Mary Pfeiffer, Assistant District Administrator-Human Resources and Central Services -Vicky Holt, Director of Business Services-Paul Hauffe, and Director of Revenue Enhancement and Business Services Support-Jon Joch. In addition, the following staff from ARAMARK was present: Food Service Director-Michael Dion, Assistant Food Service Director- Darcy Nielsen, and Regional Director-Lynda Flores.

Chairman Lehman reviewed the posted agenda items for the evening.

Open Forum

The following people made comments during the open forum:

1. Ann Cattau, 1135 Manor Drive, Neenah. Speaking as a retired educator and taxpayer, Ann expressed her gratitude for receiving the District's early retirement benefit and urged the Board of Education to offer as much transparency and open communication as possible with the District's retirees.

2. Robert Way, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh. Robert spoke on the possibility of creating a dog park on the District's vacant property located at Irish Road/American Drive.

3. Sue Peterson, 2450 Woodland Terrace Drive, Neenah. Sue shared her thoughts regarding the District's current situation with retirees.

4. Mindy Weichmann, 100 Old Orchard Lane, Neenah. Mindy expressed appreciation with the District's early retirement benefit and expressed her disappointment with the current situation.

5. Tina Haffeman, 907 Washington Street, Oshkosh. Tina stated that she was proud to have taught in Neenah and shared her thoughts regarding the District's current situation with retirees.

6. Anna Mae Prem, 828 Higgins Avenue, Neenah. Anna Mae stated that she appreciates the District's early retirement program and shared her thoughts regarding the District's current situation with retirees.

7. Debra Scott, 1235 Woodgate Lane, Neenah. Debra suggested that the recent developments concerning the early retirement program have impacted retirees' lives.

8. Mary Louise Hildebrandt, 1925 N. McDonald Street, Appleton. Mary Louise stated that she enjoyed her job and shared her thoughts regarding the District's current situation with retirees.

The open forum was declared closed at 5:50 p.m.

Committee members and District Administrator Pfeiffer suggested that there are reasons why the Board of Education cannot respond or provide additional information to retirees at this time.

OPEB Trust Fund – Quarterly Review

Committee members reviewed the results for the OPEB Trust Fund for the quarter ending March 31, 2012. Members noted that the market value of the fund increased sharply during the period. The market value of the fund now exceeds \$3,000,000.

Food Service Update

Mr. Hauffe, Mr. Dion and Ms. Flores presented a quarterly review of the District's food service program. Mr. Hauffe indicated that the financial information is generally as expected after nine calendar months of operation (seven service months). When compared to previous years: 1) revenues have increased more than anticipated, 2) participation is almost 4% higher, and 3) expenditures are within, or slightly below, estimates. While the numbers are very encouraging, it still appears that the food service program will finish the year with a small deficit.

Mr. Dion discussed some non-financial highlights of the food service program including an update on the purchase and deployment of the fresh fruit and vegetable carts at the elementary schools. Committee members asked several questions of Mr. Hauffe and Mr. Dion.

Neenah Joint School District Properties

The Committee was presented information from Winnebago County, working with The Friends of Winnebago Dog Parks, Inc., on the possibility of using a portion of the District's vacant land at American Dr/Irish Rd. as a dog park. Committee members discussed the specific request and focused on several issues such as viewing a definitive plan, liability issues, specific timelines, the District's long range plans for this parcel, etc. Several Committee members liked the idea of putting land to use that would benefit many in the community without incurring any cost to District taxpayers. The Committee requested that Winnebago County, The Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks, Inc., and any other associated party come forward with a formal land use proposal including timelines, specific use and layout of the park, the cost to prepare the park, insurance coverage, etc.

The Committee further requested that District Administration review all four of the District's vacant parcels located within its boundaries and develop a long range use plan for presentation to the Board of Education at a future date.

Open Forum

The following people made comments during the open forum:

1. Dick Sturm, Menasha Park Board. Mr. Sturm supported the idea of a dog park and thanked the Committee for listening and considering the proposal.
2. Michelle Kennedy, 708 Stillwell Avenue, Oshkosh. Ms. Kennedy thanked the Committee and indicated that this park would benefit the community.

Future Agenda Items

The following topics will be placed on the agenda for future Committee meetings: 2012-13 Budget discussions as needed.

Motion by Kaul, second by Ellenberger to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously (4-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next meeting: Board Room, Tuesday, May 22, 2012 @ 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Hauffe, Director of Business Services