

## Conneaut School District

### PUBLIC WORK SESSION

#### Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at the Alice Shafer Annex cafeteria/gymnasium.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Mrs. Jody Sperry.

The following members answered to roll call:

Mr. Ellis	Mrs. Klink	Mrs. Krachkowski
Mrs. Luckock	Mr. Schaefer	Mrs. Sperry
Dr. Thomas		

It is noted the following board member's arrival;

Mr. Boyce arrived at 7:30 PM

Mr. Burnham arrived at 7:10 PM

#### **Administrators Present-**

**Superintendent:** Jarrin Sperry

**Director of Special Education:** Susy Walters

**Curriculum Director:** Brenda Kantz

**Business Manager:** Greg Mayle

**Director of Buildings and Grounds-** Elwood Schell

**Technology Coordinator** – Rick Kelly

**Principals:** John Hines, Joel Wentling, David Maskrey, Doug Parks, Kevin Burns and Adam Jardina.

#### Visitor Recognition

Mrs. Sperry provided a Visitor Recognition on Agenda Items referencing Policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings. He announced all visitors who are recognized during the Visitor Recognition are allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes to address matters of their concern, unless otherwise determined by the Board President. Visitor recognition is to be limited to thirty (30) minutes unless otherwise decided by the Board.

No one approached to address the school board.

#### *Discussion Items-*

1. *Dance Team Proposal* – as per a detailed backup a proposal has been submitted to create/form a dance team for purposes of performing at home games throughout the basketball season. They will be conducted during half time and, along with discussions with Mr. Cameron, will be a part of the band for next years performances at home events. There is no cost just practice time to include volunteers to advise the team and help at practices and performances.

Mr. Sperry felt this is not necessarily a team, more like a club as they may fundraise for costumes to wear. There is no interest in traveling to away events nor compete, only to the home crowd. Home basketball games will be worked out with Mr. Acklin and they will work with the cheerleaders, not against them.

These are students who came up through dance classes and would like to bring their talents to the school home games, follow same guidelines as “for say” the Spanish Club, similar to intramurals without the financial backing from the district. There would be a club setup, volunteer leadership and clearances submitted. Fundraising will be conducted by the members, administrative controls, family appropriate uniforms/tasteful and not considered a sport.

The Board was okay with this proposal as long as Mr. Joseph came up with wording for a motion.

2. *Teacher Master Schedules*- Mr. Sperry presented the teachers master schedules and it was noticed there were no class sizes available on the high school schedules. Mr. Sperry will provide them to the board. Additional discuss on reading the schedules.
3. *Budget Impasse*- Mr. Sperry attended a meeting with fellow superintendents whereby the budget impasse was discussed, and where surrounding school districts are at. Union City has already started the process of borrowing; Erie has had a rally and is in the process. Most are going to have to borrow sometime in December therefore, are starting the process next month. Others are good past Christmas like us (Fort LeBoeuf, Girard and Fairview). Erie is pursuing class action suit against the state for not having a budget by July and not funding education. Knox Law Firm attorney is talking with different intermediate units and districts getting support. Initially superintendents were asked to go back to their Boards asking to participate or any interest in the class action suit but a meeting has been scheduled later in October to see if any interest. Mr. Sperry wanted this Board to be aware.

Mr. Schaef did not feel this would do any good as there have been other law suits that the courts have ruled they cannot force legislators to properly fund school districts, it is only a spinning wheel. However, there is a new lawsuit looking at public employees of the state that did not get paid, only essential employees for 30 days with no paychecks. Pennsylvania employees filed a class action suit and said the state failed under the labor standards act, even with a budget impasse so the current class action suit might tag team this language, they cannot force districts to operate without funding.

Board members felt this new class action suit defeats the purpose and frivolously invests the tax payers money which is better used to keep students in school.

4. *School Performance Profile Reports*- Mrs. Kantz presented the 2014/2015 Assessment Results. She indicated PSSA tests changed this year with a different test given to students this time. She discussed bullet points with the Board. In reviewing the district summary it was noted the percentage of students proficient and advanced (compared to the state) we were higher in Science

and just short of the state percentage by a small fraction in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Our District is lagging in Math of which Mr. Hines has started the process this past summer for writing and Math.

*Keystones*- there are only district averages available, with middle schools scores with 8<sup>th</sup> graders having Algebra 1 look very healthy.

*PVAAS*- the good news is we show growth in 5<sup>th</sup> grade math but we still need to work smarter not harder. She would like to investigate a student tracker/historical data program and will inquire with Sunguard as well.

Mrs. Sperry was concerned with using student historical data that only goes back four years our District has already lost.

Mr. Huber asked if the Board has considered bringing back Title 1 Math in the elementary; Mr. Sperry reminded everyone that our District was one of the last Districts still offering it and PSERS keeps eating away at our title monies.

It was noted that the Auditor General was in the news and our District was mentioned; could Mr. Sperry briefly speak on that.

Mr. Sperry stated the Auditor General based his discussion on a cut score of 70 based on the 2013/2014 SPP score. We were so close to not be on the list, CASH was listed but a lot of our data was blanked out because we did not have previous data due to consolidation. But when the 2014/2015 data comes out we will then have a 3 year average. The 2 year data shown in the 2013/2014 data still has a number of zeros because we did not exist 3 years previous. The point of the article, and the fact that the state has 561 schools who they have done nothing but take money from, with no re-establish plan since 1999 are suppose to re-evaluate that same plan every 5 years.

The public needs to know our District is concerned and are taking steps to improve on it but 1/10 of a percent and CLMS would not be on that list. CASH did not have data for 3 years when they did that snapshot.

Mr. Boyce hopes that being on the list could provide academic and financial support.

It was noted that the Pennsylvania Department of Education has worked with a dereliction of duty to our schools in the article.

5. *Special Education* – Mrs. Walters: in order to meet the best needs of the special education students and be fiscally responsible she is asking to eliminate a part time instructional aide position and create a full time position.

Additional information was provided regarding this request, this is a program with only one paraprofessional who is either there in the a.m. or the p.m. but not both and the program needs someone there all day. The position cannot be made into a full time unless the part time is eliminated, then post and hire. This will include an increase in benefits going from part time to full time. It would only add 1 hour per day to the position therefore would not be doubling the salary. Two part time positions were considered but decided they would not be economically feasible. There are some requirements/certification requirements for the position when going from part time to full time.

Mr. Schaef asked what the average benefit cost would be; Mr. Mayle estimated \$9,000 for single and \$14,000 for family.

Mrs. Walters added that 5 more hours a week would keep the continuity for the students and with several moving into the district over the summer with high needs.

She asked permission to post an anticipated opening for 10 days, and interview all while eliminating and creating the position at the next voting meeting.

There was no opposition from the Board.

6. *PSBA Updates*- Mr. Ellis had indicated PSBA has not updated their Five Year Plan since 1999, much like school districts are required to do. It was felt PSBA has more problems than we do. Webinars coming up included Lunch to Learn at Noon regarding Teamwork on October 28, 2015.

Also, 18 pages of Unfunded Mandates will be available on My Big Campus as well as a Charter/Cyber Reform.

7. *Agenda Review*- Mr. Burnham commented on the FFA property where he and Mr. Bizjak and another teacher went through, he has not discussed this with committee members on a recommendation but the District is adding to the drug problem. While trampling through the property they found marijuana evidence.

Board members expressed their concern that the individuals who discovered the problem/evidence did not call it into the state police immediately as it could have been harvested by now.

Mr. Burnham replied that he wanted to discuss it first with his fellow board members.

Mr. Boyce indicated he has an issue with the full time position, that it has been pushed on them now and it could have been discussed weeks or even months ago. Instead you are coming to us now, there could have been more information put out instead of saying you tried everything.


Mr. Burnham agreed, it could have been discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Sperry replied that the season really just got started.

Mrs. Sperry reminded her fellow board members to bring their superintendents evaluation by the 20<sup>th</sup> or email it to her.

Mr. Schaef, in seeing Mr. Schell's intent to retire on the voting meeting agenda recommended posting it after the first of the year and in February go through the process of hiring in order for getting acquainted with Mr. Schell's position. He felt it will take 4-5 months.

It is noted there will not be an Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

  
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Jody Sperry, Board President

  
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Greg Mayle, Board Secretary