

Conneaut School District

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 Rescheduled Date

7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at the Alice Schafer Annex gymnasium.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President Mrs. Jody Sperry.

It is noted this meeting was originally scheduled and advertised for Wednesday, January 7, 2015 but due to inclement weather was postponed to Wednesday, January 14, 2015 and to start at 6:30 p.m.

The following members answered to roll call:

Mr. Boyce	Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ellis
Mrs. Klink	Mrs. Krachkowski	Mrs. Luckock
Mr. Schaef	Mrs. Sperry	Dr. Thomas

It is noted Mr. Ellis arrived at 6:49 p.m.

Administrators Present-

Superintendent: Jarrin Sperry

Solicitor: George Joseph

Business Manager: Kara Onorato

Director of Special Education: Susy Walters

Curriculum Director: John Hines

Director of Buildings and Grounds- Elwood Schell

Technology Coordinator – Rick Kelly

Principals: Joel Wentling, Sharon Sielski, Doug Parks, Kevin Burns and Adam Jardina

Visitor Recognition

Mrs. Sperry offered an opportunity for visitor recognition, noting as per Policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings. 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 addressed the school board.

Discussion Items

School Director Recognition-

Mr. Sperry acknowledged this month as School Board Appreciation Month and read some interesting school board member facts. He indicated additional information would be announced later in this evenings voting meeting.

Business Manager Updates-

PNC Refinancing Updates: In an effort to continually review Conneaut School District's outstanding debt for refinancing opportunities Nick Falgione reported to the school board as follows;

- In 2013, the School District refinanced its series 2004 Bonds with PNC (2014), saving \$187,000 after costs.
- Through 2014 PNC identified the 2014 Note as a refinancing candidate. PNC continues to monitor this opportunity for the School District.
- 2007 Savings Opportunity-with recent interest rate movements, the 2007A Bonds currently offer significant savings after costs to the School District.
- Next Steps and Timing-to lock in the savings, the School District's "A+" Bond rating will need to be confirmed and a new Preliminary Official Statement prepared.
- Bond sale has been tentatively scheduled for February 11, 2015.

Therefore, the district is tentatively scheduled for reissuance at the end of this month.

Bid limits- Ms. Onorato explained that each year the School District must increase the bid limits and quotes. These adjustments are annual and based according to the Consumer Price Index adjustment of Base Amounts on Bids, effective January 1, 2015 pursuant to Sections 120, 751 and 807.1 of the Public School Code, the 2015 bid limits are as follows;

Bid limit: from 2014 at \$19,100 to 2015 at \$19,400

Telephonic quote limit: from 2014 \$10,300 to 2015 \$10,500

PSERS Rates- Ms. Onorato announced the PSERS rates for employer contribution rates will increase to 25.84% for the fiscal year of 2015/2016, which begins July 1, 2015. This places our district at a \$650,000 increase from 2014/2015 school year to 2015/2016. If you recall the Act 1 index is at 2.6% for the 2015/2016 school year equaling \$255,000.

Budget Updates – Ms. Onorato indicated the Budget/Finance Committee has been meeting, and buildings are now winding down their own budgets. She anticipates potentially reviewing staffing needs at the January 26 budget meeting. Also, she and Mr. Sperry will start meeting with buildings the first or second week in February to review their budgets.

Dental Hygienist- Ms. Onorato updated the Board on the request for proposal recently sent out: she had indicated that although there was some interest we did not receive any actual applications back. Mr. Joseph confirmed our obligation that 3rd and 7th grades students are to receive dental exams by a school dentist, this is not including schools who have implemented a dental hygiene service, which our district has. Our obligation then, if no program would be to provide services as originally stated and go back to the district having a regular dentist.

The program, as it currently stands is a position which involves the dental hygienist to 200 hours during the school year and submitting a timesheet for the hours worked throughout the school year.

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Ms. Onorato admitted to not making any calls to surrounding districts, therefore the Board asked her to reach out to those who had expressed interest as well as talk to the other school districts regarding their program.

Technology Updates-

eRate System Overhaul:

Mr. Kelly updated the Board on eRate by reminding that it is that little additional fee tacked on everyone's phone bill which is a universal service rate which, historically over the past twenty years, used to support the hone and related services. Unfortunately, it is going through a major overhaul next year which is causing us to look at a number of items we have taken advantage of before.

Our percentage used in reducing the costs has been 75%, this figure is also changing to 70% for our base due to the districts free and reduced lunch rates.

Our website costs will be affected by the reduction also. He has been in touch with our website support for better pricing from them. If not acceptable he will seek other prices from other webmasters. So the potential is there in a new webpage.

Pagers will no longer be funded through the system, a mechanism that is obsolete anyway. Telephones and cell service will start to be decreased by 20 percent starting next year until the services run out. This forces more pressure on us to finish the new phone rollout with our current carrier. His aim is this coming summer to complete the project but he may end up seeking a different main vendor to support the system due to his diminished faith during the initial implementation. He is also seeking and reviewing potential alternatives.

Along with paging going away, our current cell phone carrier is Verizon but their service in the district is very poor in the buildings, some areas almost nonexistent. We are considering switching to AT&T but have to follow eRate process. In addition of ridding of pagers, maintenance is seeking to provide the custodians with text and non data lines, so there may be a change/addition to that as well in the future.

He is finishing up the Voit process, the phone bills are high in the service so he is looking at splitting more electronically in order to provide significant savings.

Lastly, a major change to savings by scaling back on the website, voice and paging is alternative funding and supplies. He is looking to take advantage of that this coming year at CASH and replace the wireless at the 70 percent discounted eRate amount. That paperwork has already been started. There is a statewide bid/bidder process and he will bring the vendor for approval.

Policy Updates-

Mrs. Walters provided a review of the related policies regarding tobacco use for administration, professional and classified staff and the community. These all align with the students smoking policy previously approved. All school properties will now be smoke free once approved next month. Signage will be provided at all the locations including the football fields. Violators will be asked to distinguish and if they refuse, security will escort them off the property.

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Mr. Sperry thought our district was the last one in the Intermediate Unit #5 to implement this policy district wide and the board felt it was a long time coming.

He also felt there was a smoking sensation through the Wellness, offered last year that could be offered again this year.

The first readings include these policies;

323- Administrative Tobacco Use

423- Professional Employees Tobacco Use

523-Classified Employees Tobacco Use

904.1 Community Smoking Policy

Ethics Form Reminder-

Mrs. Sperry reminded the Board of the Statement of Financial Interest Forms a.k.a. Ethics Forms are in the packets. These forms are to be filled out and returned to Ms. Moss no later than May 1st, otherwise severe consequences by the State Ethics Board.

She also noted that if a board member is up for re-election this year, they will need to complete two separate forms; this one for the school district and another one with the petition.

PSBA and NSBA Updates-

Mr. Ellis indicated some changes in background checks, and some interesting webinars which he forwarded to his fellow board.

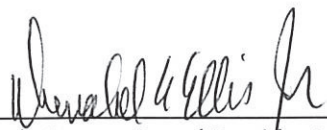
Mrs. Sperry indicated the ESEA Act is coming out for reauthorization; NSBA is urging it to be moved through legislation and is years overdue. She emphasized it needs to keep local control and to state that when you contact your congressmen, senator and local representatives.

Agenda Review-

The board reviewed the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

There was no executive session between the work session and the regular voting meeting, which followed this adjournment.



Mrs. Jody Sperry, Board President



Ms. Kara Onorato, Board Secretary