

*Conneaut School District*

**PUBLIC ADDITIONAL WORK SESSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, January 20, 2015**  
**7:00 PM**

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the Alice Schafer Annex 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. Boyce	Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ellis
Mrs. Klink	Mrs. Krachkowski	Mr. Schaefer
Mrs. Sperry	Dr. Thomas	

It is noted Mrs. Luckock was absent due to a conflict with another meeting.

**Administrators Present-**

**Superintendent:** Jarrin Sperry

**Solicitor:** Colleen Stumpf

**Business Manager:** Kara Onorato

**Director of Special Education:** Susy Walters

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

**Technology Coordinator –** Rick Kelly

**Principals:** David Maskrey, Sharon Sielski, Doug Parks, and Kevin Burns.

**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*

Henretta Library- the District is in the process of beginning to sell the Harmonsburg building, Mr. Sperry admitted that this decision is not as easy as it would seem due to the Henretta Library housed in the same building, of which the library has a trust endowed to it, setup many years ago.

Mr. Schell has spoken with the Cindy McCoy; Secretary at Summit Township at their last board meeting who indicated the township is here to help the library. The option and question is whether the library wants to house with the township or separate.

It was noted that Kathy Walker, Henretta Library Board President and fellow board member Theresa Novasel were present to discuss the library’s options tonight.

Mrs. Sperry provided some background information regarding the building and library: approximately a month ago Mr. Bryce came in to discuss the status of the Harmonsburg library and how it fit into the state library system. He basically told us due to the size the Harmonsburg building it is considered a reading room which keeps them from getting additional funds. In the same meeting, Mr. Bryce asked if there would be interest in the library becoming a branch of either Conneaut Lake or Linesville, and if so, it would open them up to additional/more funding. Currently the Henretta Library is only receiving trust funds and investment profits in order to be within the state guidelines. New guidelines have to be followed if the library receives new funding. The new stipulations include nonprofit organizations and plumbing and bathrooms guidelines, of which the state is cracking down on. Since Henretta does not have those facilities this option was not pursued.

A question was raised, if the Summit Township built a new building and was willing to house the library, is the district allowed to use the proceeds from the trust and setup a monthly stipend to offset the costs. Mrs. Stumpf replied: it is likely a possibility as the goal of the trust is to maintain a charitable intent. Henretta's goal is to maintain a library for Harmonsburg but the village of Harmonsburg could extend to Summit. Funds in the trust are held by the district and could be utilized by the same goals and objectives. If it is moved there are three avenues: 1) easiest would be to simply locate the library in another location in Harmonsburg and the funds used the same to assist in the maintenance in the library.

It was noted that Mrs. McCoy, Summit Township secretary is now taking grant writing courses with the intent that if the library does combine facilities with the township building they could apply for additional funding/grants.

Mrs. Sperry asked the library board members if there was a reason for their board to object. Mrs. Walker replied: this was discussed at a township meeting back in November due to some rumors. Mrs. McCoy, the township secretary informed them that the township is on board with the library housed in the new township building proposal. Mrs. Sperry agreed, this is probably the best option which allows the library to utilize the trust and offset expenses for the township.

Mr. Schell wished to point out that in moving the library, the township will need to know the size of the space needed and from there it will have to be handicap accessible and restrooms. It was noted that the township is looking to building a new building to house the road equipment and offices and a better meeting place than they currently have. They would be willing to incorporate the library as well. But the issue is finding a location, per Mr. Schaef.

Mr. Burnham felt everyone appeared to be on the same page and the school district should support that.

Mr. Schaef felt the district was doing what they could to keep the funds in the local area, but if the library closes down the trust monies are designated to Allegheny College.

Mrs. Stumpf provided the legal background if there is a change to the underlying intent of having a library in that specific geographical area. It would then go to the orphan's court for a request of expanding the use of the trust. If merged or a branch of another existing library would eliminate the legal proceedings just discussed. She cleared up the question, what if the monies



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are designated to Summit to offset the building. This would be possible only if the intent to provide the library to exist is applied. The trust does not indicate it has to be in the same building, just in the same geographical area.

It was also asked if Summit does not currently have the location/building site, would that prevent the district from moving forward. Mrs. Stumpf did not feel it would if an intermediary transition space for the library was available. It is only when the library is shut down permanently, after a year that the funding is lost.

The district is most likely looking at a July, 2016 timeline and Summit is still in the planning stages, per Mr. Schell. This could take 6-8 months, Mr. Schaefer felt even up to a year due to a change in supervisors. As of the townships December meeting there was a particular site they were checking into. Mrs. Walker asked if the library joined with Summit, does the trust continue as a building fund. Mrs. Sperry replied yes.

Mr. Boyce felt this was a win-win, the area retains their library and the school district is rid of the building. Also, if Summit receives a \$10,000 grant because they have a library in their facility then he would prefer the monies go towards books instead of helping pay for utilities.

In conclusion, Mrs. Sperry indicated the trust is written to keep the upkeep and maintenance of the building and revised in 1979. The court order indicates the funds are held by the District and to be expended or used for a new library when it is necessary. From there the court order goes into a timeline that if the library ceases to function or operate for one year or more then the funds have to go to Allegheny College. But, as long as it does not go past that it remains with the school district. She added that if the library needed letters of support during their grant application process to please contact the school board, we would be happy to help write some letters.

#### Intramurals-

Intramurals came up at an athletic ad hoc committee meeting a month ago, specifically for basketball because most other sports are organized in some way through feeder youth programs. Such as baseball has little league, football has little gridgers, wrestling has their JO's and the same as volleyball.

Basketball has been done in different ways but for many years few have had students calling it call it club and/or inter-murals. This is typically when a parent or someone paid a fee and students play in a league based out of Saegertown. But once we consolidated and had the middle schools the differences became blurred. For years this fee based inter-murals program (not intramurals) was done in the elementary but not the high school, and Mr. Sperry is not sure administration or he knew about it.

A year and a half ago the transportation side of it was discussed and who was liable with parents transporting to games on Saturdays. Mr. Joseph had, at that time, been ok with the process but he recommended that the district have a policy.

Tonight Mr. Sperry would like to discuss the differences between inter-mural and intramurals (in house) as well as their definitions.



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Mr. Schaef indicated there are some concerns with inter-mural monies spent for leagues and, depending on the definition, whether the district should fund or use intramural monies to pay for registrations, and transportation as intramurals are not a league.

Typically each program is defined as in school (intramural) whereby all students take part and there is no traveling or teams going to Saegertown. For an inter-mural program, students participate, with some selected to take part on a team and is not opened up to the entire grade(s) for all to play.

Recently though an intramural program was setup with students, who have the ability are selected to take part and was not opened to others in the same grade.

Mrs. Stumpf added that inter-murals falls in extra-curricular activities with those treated like an extra in that the district is going to support. Therefore, she agreed there needs to be a break between the two. Other districts have club sport definitions, such as club sports are your ice hockey teams for senior high school which a district cannot support but the sport wants to play on the PIAA level. Mr. Schaef agreed, and added that our best example of a club sport is the Meadville Bulldogs Club Hockey team, who funds themselves and we actually have three students in our district that participate in this club sport. That club sport is open to the county.

Mr. Boyce thought the term *club sport* to be very definitive of the separation between intramurals and club. He asked Mr. Schaef, the Athletic Ad Hoc Committee Chairman, if a recent statement of unfair practices with students not playing and wondered if he could share some specifics. Mr. Schaef replied that the intramural program approved selected students based on ability to play that sport rather than an intramural open to all in the building.

Mrs. Sperry felt if the district is dividing the two programs, her first thought is an educational opportunity to experience basketball, volleyball and such to learn the basics. But the first time she was aware of something different was when a coach approached her to sponsor them to go to Saegertown. She had informed the coach that was not the intent when approving an intramural program and had not realized it had gotten so big and out of control.

Mrs. Krachkowski was concerned that the district needs to consider when we say feeder programs for all sports but basketball parents are paying for this. These teams where children are selected and drafted onto teams based on ability so there is a clear need for a feeder program. But she is concerned that the district is taking on the burden of the clubs. She does understand the need but it is not the districts responsibility to take on the club sport and organize it.

Mr. Boyce felt that the \$340 paid out to an intramural coach for their 19 hours puts far more hours in than the approved 19 hours. They put 19 hours in 2-3 weeks let alone a season and dedicate as much of their time mostly for the love of the sport.

Mrs. Sperry asked Mr. Boyce how the Upward Bound program through the church in Conneautville conducted. He answered that it is offered to all youth, spread through churches and all students. The differences in the two is the competitive nature; Upward Bound is Christian based with one hour of basketball and 15 minutes of prayer time. The competitive nature of the basketball games is at the inter-mural level. He personally has coached the upward



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bound last year and had a player with an extreme disability. The goal for the players was to get this player the ball to make a point....therefore a total difference in the programs.

Mr. Schaef redirected back to part of the original question: does the district provide monies for fees to go to Saegertown but in his mind intramural is in the school, open to all students to take part, not a competitive sport playing at another school.

Mrs. Sperry did not want to decrease the opportunity but it comes down to financing. She is unsure if coaches are soliciting businesses in order to take players on Saturdays but do we have enough parents to support a sport like the wrestling club. We would be starting at ground zero without funds and Jarrin agreed then playing in competition with the Saegertown program.

Mrs. Krachkowski felt the program is organized to some extent if they are asking for donations. She felt if coaches are dedicated enough to donate their time maybe coaches can organize and submit facility use with fee waiver to use the buildings. Ms. Onorato added that they have to meet the qualifications for a non-profit organization and carry their own insurance. She referenced a soccer coach who also had their own league post season that the same coach ran, and did use it as a club sport but used the General McLane name but parents transported and paid. Mrs. Klink added that Cochran is not permitted to use the Cardinal name, parents pay their own fees and transport to tournaments. So she suggested if we want intramurals to continue we need to set a policy stating what intramural is and their specifics. Mr. Schaef agreed, we need clarification for intramurals for in school, which grades, to indicate that monies are paid to the person who is putting it together, etc. and that no school district monies for fees to play outside the building.

Mr. Boyce reminded the other board members that organizations like little league and little gridgers have been around for a long time, are organized nationally and are well defined programs. But what the intramural/inter-mural programs are is one person volunteering, not a year round and not raising monies so we have to be careful of the road blocks we put up in preventing these volunteers from helping students.

Mrs. Klink was concerned that if an intramural program is board approved that a note should be sent home announcing it to the parents that students are invited to participate.

Mrs. Krachkowski brought up again the nature of the world today and we need to be covered, when you want to organize a program and have a volunteer offering to organize it. Can our district offer assist the basketball feeder programs which qualifies them for free insurance. Mr. Sperry replied that they can ask to have the insurance waived on the facility use request forms.

Additional suggestions were offered by board members which include: clearly identifying the differences between an intramural and an inter-mural program, spelled out including the monies spent, who can play. Caution in not segregating students from the intramural program.

Mrs. Sperry announced that the policy committee has just started the process of reviewing intramural policies, and will pick up next month and move forward.

Mr. Burnham would like to have Mr. Acklin speak with the board and let us know what the reality of what is happening and then move forward.

Mr. Schaeff stressed the importance in not allowing the intramural program monies to be used to play for the Saegertown program. We need to be clear what these monies are spent on and if the same individual conducting the in-house program and does a separate program on Saturdays, does not use the school name or monies then there is not a problem but we have to be sure how these monies are spent.

The Board also asked that Mr. Sperry inquire with PENNCREST on how they handle this program.

Cross Country-

Mr. Sperry wished to add to tonight's discussion the cross country fields. Mr. Schaeff had tossed it out there at a previous meeting to move the cross country to Linesville for both practices and tournaments. It could be placed on the RFP for Architect and add that project to the list. It would not hurt the program, right now cross country practices at Linesville and run meets at Lake.

The issue is the fields are wet at Lake and need maintenance every year. Runners get confused with the setup as well and even the slightest misdirection ruins a run time. Instead of putting monies every year into the Lake fields we can ask the coach to tell us what would be needed.

Mr. Burnham added that if the Lake fields are sold and down the road have a need for it then the property is gone, probably 52 acres. He suggested keeping it for an experimental agriculture for FFA for crop plots or the like. Mr. Schaeff indicated though that when it was bought it was for an idea to establish a baseball and softball field instead of Sadsbury fields.

It makes sense to have the meets and practices here at Linesville, per Mrs. Krachkowski. She felt the Lake cross country fields are a burden on us and we don't know what the future holds.

Mrs. Sperry concluded that regardless she felt we should make the improvements to Linesville for cross country, use the facilities here for both regional meets and revisit it another time.

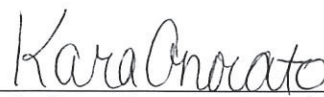
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

**There was no executive session.**



Mrs. Jody Sperry, Board President



Ms. Kara Onorato, Board Secretary