

Conneaut School District

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AND ADDITIONAL WORK SESSION
Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2015
7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at the Conneaut Area Senior High School cafeteria.

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. Burnham	Mr. Ellis	Mrs. Luckock
Mrs. Krachkowski	Mr. Schaeff	Mrs. Sperry
Dr. Thomas		

It was noted Mr. Boyce and Mrs. Klink were absent.

Administrators Present-

- Superintendent:** Jarrin Sperry
- District Solicitor:** George Joseph
- Director of Special Education-** Susy Walters
- Business Manager-** Kara Onorato
- Director of Buildings and Grounds-** Elwood Schell
- Director of Curriculum-**John Hines

Principals: David Maskrey, Doug Parks, Kevin Burns and Adam Jardina.

Executive Session

Mrs. Sperry announced the Board will now go into an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, issues might include personnel concerns.

It was noted that Mr. Boyce and Mrs. Klink arrived during the time the Board went into Executive Session.

Agenda Approved

Motion by Mr. Schaeff, second by Dr. Thomas that the Board approve the agenda with additions added to include agenda approval, waiving Policy 004, PSBA Membership, and appointment of Curriculum Director.

Motion passed by roll call.

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

INFORMATION (Financial Reports and Bank Statements to be spread upon the Minutes)

1) General Fund Report - Revenues/Expenditures – April, 2015 and, May, 2015

Approved to Close 2014/2015 Books

Motion by Mrs. Krachkowski, second by Mrs. Luckock that the Board approve that the Superintendent and the Board Secretary be authorized and directed to close the 2014/2015 Conneaut School District budget as of June 30, 2015; that all bills that arrive and are due by June 30, 2015, be approved for payment provided the Administration reviews the bills and is satisfied the same are just and proper obligations of the School District and provided said expenditures are within the budget; that the transfer of funds necessary for the completion of budget expenditures be approved; and that the School District auditors be contacted and directed to proceed to conduct the necessary financial transactions and audit for the close of the fiscal year 2014/2015; and that the action of the Administration be brought to the regularly scheduled meeting to be spread upon the Minutes as information.

Motion passed by roll call.

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

2015/2016 FY Budget Approved

Motion by Mrs. Luckock, second by Mr. Schaef that the Board approve the 2015/2016 school year budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Conneaut School District hereby readopt the tentative budget previously adopted and that said school district hereby adopt a budget total estimated at \$36,574,791.00 for the school year 2015/2016 for the purpose of carrying on the various affairs of the school district during the upcoming school year.

Ms. Onorato presented the budget, reviewed changes, revisions and adjustments and answered questions from the Board.

Motion passed by roll call.

Mr. Boyce	no	Mr. Burnham	no	Mr. Ellis	yes
Mrs. Klink	yes	Mrs. Krachkowski	yes	Mrs. Luckock	yes
Mr. Schaef	yes	Mrs. Sperry	yes	Dr. Thomas	yes

Resolution to Set Real Estate Millage Approved

Motion by Mr. Schaef, second by Dr. Thomas that the Board approve the resolution to set real estate millage as follows;

a. WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Board of School Directors of the Conneaut School District it has been determined, as a result of the study of the proposed budget presented to said Board at a meeting on March 7, 2015, held in the gymnasium of the Alice Schafer Annex, and tentatively adopted by the Board of School Directors on May 13, 2015, said school district must enact minimum salaries of its professional and supervisory employees and the mandated increases on salaries and further, in order to pay for various other expenses and obligations of the school district for the said school year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Conneaut School District hereby enact a real estate tax on all taxable real property situated within the geographical limits of the Conneaut School District, said tax to be based upon the assessed valuation of such properties by the chief assessor Crawford County, Pennsylvania; and that the Conneaut School District hereby fixes a real estate tax millage for the school year 2015/2016 at 50.55 mills in order that salaries of its professional and supervisory employees and mandated increases on salaries, debts and obligations for capital improvements as well as all other various expenses and obligations of the school district. Said rate of taxation for the school year 2015/2016 as expressed in dollars and cents is \$50.55 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property.

Motion passed by roll call.

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

2015 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution Approved

Motion by Mr. Burnham, second by Mr. Schaeff that the Board approve the 2015 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution, *as per attachment.*

Motion passed by roll call.

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

Per Capita Tax Resolution - Section 679 Approved

Motion by Mrs. Krachkowski, second by Mrs. Luckock that the Board approve the Per Capita Tax Resolution, Section 679 as follows;

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Conneaut School District desires to enact a Per Capita Tax for the school year 2015-2016 in conformity with Section 679 of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. 6-679;

WHEREAS, the enactment of said Per Capita Tax is necessary for the proper operation of the school district and for meeting the anticipated expenditures of the school district for the year 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Conneaut School District that pursuant to the authority contained in the Public School Code of 1949, Section 679, thereof, 24 P.S. 6-679, a Per Capita

Section 1. An annual per capita tax, at the rate hereinafter established, is hereby levied, enacted and imposed upon each resident or inhabitant, being eighteen (18) years of age or older, and residing in the geographic area encompassed and covered by the Conneaut School District.

Section 2. The rate or amount of said per capita tax, hereby levied, enacted and imposed, shall be \$5.00 on each resident and inhabitant being (18) years of age or older, and residing in the Conneaut School District.

Section 3. The amount to be received from the collection of the tax herein imposed, levied and enacted, shall be used for general revenue purposes of the School District.

Section 4. The names of the residents and inhabitants taxable under the provisions of this resolution shall be furnished to the School District by the local assessors and/or the chief assessor of Crawford County, Pennsylvania, as the case may be, and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the laws and statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relating thereto.

Section 5. In accordance with Section 680 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, every resident or inhabitant of the Conneaut School District, upon attaining eighteen (18) years of age and every inhabitant of said School District, shall within twelve (12) months of the happening thereof, notify the proper local assessor of the municipality wherein said individual resides or the chief assessor of Crawford County, Pennsylvania, of the fact that said individual has become of age or has become a resident or inhabitant. Any person failing, within said period of time, to notify the proper assessor or the chief assessor of Crawford County, Pennsylvania, shall, in addition to the tax levied herein, be liable to the Conneaut School District in a penal sum equal to such tax.

Section 6. The tax herein imposed, levied and enacted shall be collected in the same manner as other school taxes are collected under the applicable and pertinent provisions of the laws and statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 7. All taxpayers subject to the payment of taxes under this resolution shall be entitled to a discount of three (3%) percent from the amount of such tax upon making payment of the whole amount thereof within two (2) months after the date of the tax notice. All taxpayers who shall fail to make payment of the tax herein imposed for four (4) months after the date of the tax notice, shall be charged a penalty of ten (10%) percent, which penalty shall be added to the taxes by the tax collector and be collected by him.

Section 8. The resolution is adopted pursuant to the Public School Code of 1949, Act of March 10, 1949, P.L. 30, and all of the provisions of such Act relating to the imposition,

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collection and payment of the per capita tax are hereby incorporated in this resolution by reference thereto.

Section 9. All applicable statutes and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relating to the assessment of subjects of taxation and the collection of taxes enacted by a public school district are hereby incorporated in this resolution by reference thereto excepting so far as this resolution conflicts therewith.

Section 10. If any section, clause or sentence or part of this resolution is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid or in conflict with any provision of the Public School Code under which this resolution is adopted, such unconstitutionality, illegality, invalidity or conflict shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses or sections or parts of this resolution. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Conneaut School District that this resolution would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal, invalid or conflicting sentence, clause, section or part thereto not been included herein.

RESOLVED AND PASSED by the Board of School Directors of the Conneaut School District on the 16th day of June, 2015.

Motion passed by roll call.

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

Act 511 Tax Resolution Approved

Motion by Mrs. Luckock, second by Mrs. Krachkowski that the Board approve the Act 511 Tax Resolution as follows;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Conneaut School District continue to enact a 1% wage tax, the \$10.00 per capita tax, and the realty transfer tax, heretofore enacted under Act 511 without change.

Motion passed by roll call.

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

Bethesda Program Approved

Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth through the Bethesda Program for the 2015/2016 School year.

RESOLVED, that the Conneaut School District Board of Education approve the Alternative Education Program for Regular Youth in collaboration with PENNCREST School District for the 2015/2016 school year with a combined budget of \$222,830.92.

Motion passed by roll call.

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

Inter-Agency Cooperative Agreement with Bethesda Children’s Home Approved

Motion by Mr. Schaef, second by Mrs. Krachkowski that the Board approve the Inter-Agency cooperative Agreement between Bethesda Children’s Home and Conneaut School District, for a one year term effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Motion passed by roll call.

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

Act 114 Exempt High Tunnel Structures Request Approved

Motion by Mr. Burnham, second by Mr. Ellis that the Board approve the removal of the assessed for high tunnel due to clerical error, in the amount of \$755.01.

Motion passed by roll call.

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

Approved to Pay

Motion by Mrs. Klink, second by Mr. Schaef to approve to pay the following professional staff members 3 hours each @ \$26.00/hour to work Conneaut Valley Elementary School Family Fun Night on Thursday, April 9, 2015. **Paid out of Title I.**

Karen Sutliff and Melissa Parker

Motion passed by roll call.

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

Waive PSBA Policy 004

Motion by Mr. Schaef, second by Dr. Thomas that the Board approve to waive PSBA Policy 004.

Motion passed by roll call.

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

Visitor Recognition

Mrs. Sperry announced another Visitor Recognition on any item, 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 approached the Board.

Board Concerns- None

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Schaef, second by Dr. Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Work Session Opened

Mrs. Sperry opened the Additional Work Session with the following Discussion Items –

NSBA Discussion –

Each participating Board member presented a brief overview of their experiences while attending the National School Board Association Conference in Nashville, TN.

Mr. Don Ellis, Jr. –

Mr. Ellis touched on the seminars he attended which included; 10 Best Practices to Avoid Liability; Limited Bullying; Systematic Approach to Safe Environment; Ensuring Students to Aspire Collaborating with Business Industries; Fun with Nepotism; Pitfalls with Employees Related; Establishing Partnerships with Industries; K-12 Education Workforce; Career and Technical Education; Early Learning Investments, Increasing Graduation Rates; and How School Boards and Leaders can Transform School Climate and Outcomes for Practice Standards and Strategies. He also heard from the Department of Ohio School Board Association, a speaker from Yahoo Tech.

Mr. Schaef asked if after attending the conference, there was anything the MR. Ellis felt the District needed to work on. Mr. Ellis feels the district should make sure secondary teachers are communicating with their elementary counterparts and working all the way through to the final goal of graduation. It is important to have it in line by third grade including a reduction of costs in special education and less remediation. This also involves an investment the district can make in early childhood, fewer IEP's if we can get the chance to start them off early in pre-k and Kindergarten.

Mr. Schaef suggested that we take some of these and explore at our next additional work session.

Short discussion regarding charters falling under municipalities; Mr. Joseph concluded it did not apply to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Jody Sperry –

Choose to share two external visits she made while in Nashville, Tennessee. She first toured the Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet School, which comprises of 159 schools, with 90 free and reduced lunches, 140 languages consistently in large with Kurdish people. They have 12 zoned high schools using block scheduling. Of the zoned areas there are 24 schools with 4 magnet schools and 8 specialty schools, a freshman academy which aids in a 70 percent increase to their graduation rate. In their zoned schools there is 70 percent mobility from zone to zone. Teachers are offered externships for 3 weeks a business in order to be familiar with hands on experiences.

At the Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet School it provides every aspect of the entertainment industry from a recording studio to a TV station.

The Vanderbilt University she toured a video conferencing STEM lab which can provide long distance learning. She was able to see demonstrations on computers to med school students in the operating rooms using realistic dummies. An operator is behind a one way mirror providing the scenarios for the medical students in order to teach them how to react to different scenarios, which provides them with a real learning experience.

Mrs. Cheryl Krachkowski-

Her video started off with the NSBA Conference motto “their future starts with you in Nashville”. Mrs. Krachkowski wanted to accomplish specific goals, gain knowledge and information in leadership, see and hear what issues other boards are facing, develop fellowship with fellow board members and inspire change.

One of the sessions she attended was regarding Continuous Improvement from Board room to Classroom which three of our board goals apply towards student achievement and analyzing data monthly. One of her models provides this data review and the success for academics. She is not suggesting we move towards this but defiantly attention needs to be given to it if there is a streamlined effort to promote accountability.

She also attended “What’s up at the Workplace Cooler: employee challenges to evaluation firing decision and employee bullying. This workshop went to great lengths in discussing monitoring excessively is considered bullying. She felt we should allow administration to do their work.

On a side note during the session, there was discussion of “what is free speech, is speech constitutionally protected?” This speaks as a citizen on matters of public concern and interest of the employee outweighs that of employer.

The next session she attended was “leading change in challenging times with leadership versus management: 4 c’s: critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity.

Mrs. Krachkowski attended Data Savy vs. Data Dangerous: meaningful questions for deeper understanding; Data for decision making, which includes demographic data, climate data, achievement data and financial data. Some financial information we should ask ourselves did not stand out that we have not already asked ourselves.

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Another session was Enhancing Student Achievement by Building Engagement hope and well being. This was important to me as research shows if we increase engagement by only 1 percent then reading scores go up 6 percent and math by 8 percent.

She suggested a tool to use called the Student Gallup Poll which explores three areas. It is free to a district and ties in with one of the board goals to engage/involve the community.

Lastly, she found interesting a slide that discusses three types of employees; the engaged employee; non-engaged (too busy); and the actively disengaged (the nah sayer).

Her goals were accomplished, particularly fellowship. There are inspirations all around you, you just have to recognize it, change is good, just go first with 21 ways to inspire change. Mrs. Krachkowski thanked her fellow board and community to travel to Nashville.

Mrs. Dot Luckock-

She thanked the district for the opportunity to go and reviewed a summary she had previously read at the April meeting. She found meeting others very beneficial and found that sometimes it makes you appreciate what you have. She found speakers to be very good and one of the biggest she found that struck her was Jane Pauley, a last minute speaker. Ms. Pauley stressed we must be able to teach the children we have not the ones we used to have or wished we had. She also found interesting a high prevalence of attendees using technology during the sessions and outside, adults buried in technology.

The sessions she attended included Digital learning; Research Based Policies and Practices to ensure Students are Prepared of Colleges and Careers; Rigorous Academics; Beyond the Sessions. She also enjoyed some regular sessions such as Pipelines Working for Employment Cooperative Agreement with Businesses; and Show Me the Money Session.

Mr. Schaeff felt this has been a wonderful presentation of those attending and sharing the information. It helps us to think outside the box. As Mr. Ellis had said if the rest of us can come up with a couple ideas that tie into our goals and make schools better such as improve academic standards and if we could sit down in September with the new curriculum direct to incorporate some steps.

Mrs. Sperry reminded those that since the Board approved renewing the PSBA membership another year, the conference next April, 2016 is in Boston, MA.

Graduation Projects

Mr. Maskrey and Mr. Sperry updated the Board on graduation projects. The state is ending this requirement for graduation after the end of the 2015/2016 school year. Therefore, this next year's seniors will be the last class required to complete the projects. In talking with the Board and the high school guidance counselors, over time, some take the project seriously and some do not. The higher level students already do the assignments in the projects but it is the lower learning students that the Board was dissatisfied with. He feels students were under pressure with testing's but if we can remove some of the obstacles it would benefit them. It is Mr. Maskrey's desire to remove the graduation projects after the 15/16 school year.

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Some items in Career Cruising have been inconsistent as when you enter in the program your likes and dislikes the results that the program indicates a student would be good at are odd. But now, we have a three year grant with WIN Learning and we plan on incorporating this program in conjunction with guidance and classes in order to develop a true career map for students to follow/guide them as they go through their high school years. It will help direct them with the classes they need to take in order to be prepared after high school graduation. We saw a number of students admit that they were not aware of certain classes they should have taken in order to be prepared for their next step. It was only in working on their graduation project that they realized the error.

The guidance counselors have a plan starting next year, which the middle school counselors have already started the process. Beginning with the upcoming 9th graders they will come to the high school with their portfolios the start of the year. Students will still be required to job shadow and do institution/college visits.

Mr. Hines provided some background on what the guidance counselors have been working on and indicated that since the end of last year and through this fall have meet with representatives from the state on a K-12 career path plan. It will be implemented officially the start of the 16/17 school year.

It was noted Mr. Burnham left the meeting at 8:59 PM due to farm responsibilities.

Mr. Sperry provided a video regarding the changes employers and educators are seeing in the job market called "1, 2, 7". Which identified fewer college degreed openings versus a higher number of specialized trade jobs have been left unfilled and are of high need.

Mr. Maskrey noted a concern he had this past year is that some students were leaving their regular classes to work on their projects but with using WIN Learning this next school year it should help diminish the problems. Mrs. Sperry agreed, she too felt the WIN program will help fix some of the problems the District has had in the past. Mr. Sperry added that the program is even more sophisticated now than a few years ago.

Mr. Boyce commented that he recently worked with a career counselor who conducted a career assessment. He went through a series of tests and what came back are what he had the aptitude in. His response to the counselor was "where were you 30 years ago", and feels the WIN career assessment would be huge for our students.

BOARD INPUT

Mrs. Sperry announced the next regular scheduled Board meeting is Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 6 PM at CASH café

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

There was no Executive Session after the additional work session.


Mrs. Jody Sperry, Board President


Mr. Gregory Mayle, Board Secretary