

Conneaut School District

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Minutes

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at the Alice Schafer Annex Building 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 | Mr. Hornstein |
| Mrs. Luckock | Mrs. Krachkowski | Mr. McQuiston |
| Mr. Schaef | Mrs. Sperry | |

It is noted Mrs. Klink arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Administrators Present-

Superintendent: Jarrin Sperry

Director of Special Education – Susy Walters

Business Manager: Greg Mayle

Director of Buildings and Grounds- Elwood Schell and Frank Kimmel

Technology Coordinator – Rick Kelly

Principals: Joel Wentling, David Maskrey, Doug Parks, and Kevin Burns.

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. Business Manager-

- a. *Insurance Renewal-* Greg Mayle introduced Will Collins from Northwest who presented the insurance renewal proposal and answered any questions the Board. The proposal is for the 2016/2017 school year for property insurance, inland marine, crime, general liability, automobile, workers compensation and umbrella.

Mr. Collins explained some alternatives and background noting Utica's proposal last year was 6-7 percent lower than Liberty Mutual. But in their inspection of the buildings they "Utica" were a little leery and backed out. Mr. Collins went back to Utica this year and found they had loosened their standards but still could not support a competitive proposal.

Overall, we are seeing a 5 percent decrease from last year, an overall renewal savings for this coming year of \$8,900 from last year and have cut the cost in half over the last five years.

Mr. Mayle announced he is working with Mr. Collins on a cyber insurance proposal which should be coming to the Board in July or August. It will be in two parts; liability is loss of leaked employee, parent, and/or student information. The 2nd part is would be any type of loss the district incurs in the event our data is taken.

- b. *Budget*- Mr. Mayle indicated there was not much to report from the last meeting. The changes discussed then have been implemented. The Budget Committee will meet next week and he should know more afterwards. The budget was on display with adoption at the June 14, 2016 special board meeting.
- c. *Technology Lease*- Mr. Mayle addressed a motion that is on the agenda next week. There are two components; 1) the iPad lease is a 3 year capital lease and is essentially a loan to finance the iPads. We will receive 235 iPads this coming for the board and teachers. The quantity this lease term is higher than the last at 190. The quantity was less as teachers did not receive them with the first lease. The 2)nd portion is the server upgrade which Mr. Kelly discussed with the Board last month. This will be a three year lease basically leasing on the front end and through the next years paying for it through his budget thus reducing expenditures.

The iPads are \$99,000 which is budgeted and Mr. Kelly's budget will cover the rest of the lease.

Mr. McQuiston asked how much the district has saved in books using iPads. Mr. Schaefer reflected back to the merger/consolidation and thought it was \$250,000.

- d. *Food Service Software Upgrade*- The district is looking at this because the State pushed out a recommendation for free and reduced software. There is only two software programs out there and Administration is recommending to the Board the one which integrates well with free and reduced reporting to the State. The other software is very old with a great deal of upkeep on the technology side and we are concerned with how long we could continue to serve it.

The software agreement is through Promera Edge who will come in and conduct trainings for staff.

- e. *Nutrition lunch/breakfast prices*- As discussed last month, there is a slight increase in paid lunch prices. This should help food service budget out.

2. Buildings and Grounds

- a. *National Fuel Right of Way for Easement Agreement*- The District along with Mr. Joseph are working with National Fuel as it was discovered during renovations there was no agreement in the event something happens to the gas lines. Therefore, it is in the districts best interest to provide a right of way easement which gives National Fuel ownership of the lines including responsibility if something goes wrong, the district will not be responsible for paying for repairs. National Fuel will have to put a station installed with a fence around the perimeter.
- b. *Mowing Agreement* – Administration is recommending a one year extension to the current mowing contract to enable Mr. Kimmel to oversee. Information is available on Canvas with pricing based on per task. In looking at the pricing most sites went down or remained the same. CASH went up because they/we are trying to get pricing per acre. The total contract increased about 1 ½ percent when in the past it averaged 5 percent increases. Mr. Schell and Mr. Kimmel the proposal is a pretty good price and they have done a nice job over the past few years.
- c. *Conneaut Valley Middle School Drainage*- Mr. Schell informed the Board of a drainage washout that has potential of becoming a problem along the fence line on the south side of the Conneaut Valley Middle School property. Maintenance has been able to maintain it but two years ago we had a major washout and another this spring. Mr. Schell feels the project could cost up to \$7,000 and can come out of the construction fund if that is what the Board wishes.
Mr. Burnham commented that ever since the school was built there, including parking lots there are three catch basins under the parking lot. Water goes out of those tanks and into the stream on the northwest corner. It travels under the road and along or with the National fuel gasoline and then hits the stream. There has been more erosion on the stream the past 15 years since completed than the previous 35 years with the old school. He wondered if there has been any looking at not having so much water coming out of that system. He understands there is a lot of flow and engineering done there but there is more wash out now than before. Mr. Schell indicated he can look at it but the idea of a catch basin is to retard water. Mr. Burnham agreed but felt it may not have been looked at close enough for the amount of discharge that has been, in his opinion, excessive more than before 15 years ago. Mrs. Sperry also responded that the district certainly abided by DEP and Conservation guidelines. Mr. Burnham suggested asking the Conservation District to look at, he could himself but it is not his drainage going in there. Mr. Schaeff did not see harm in an area that is not farmed, as this specific area is wooded. Mr. Burnham stated he just wanted the district to be aware. Mrs. Sperry concluded that we did it the way we were instructed; therefore it is DEP problem now. Mr. Schaeff added that DEP and the Conservation District will not step in and repair and it is not wise for us to request it, we followed the specifications that were given to us.

Mrs. Sperry stated that it sounds like you are asking the District to remedy a problem that didn't exist before.

3. Board Manual – Mrs. Sperry and Mr. Ellis had worked with Mr. Joseph on a board manual. Copies were provided to each board member for review. At Mrs. Sperry's suggestion, this will be added to next week's agenda for approval if no objections from her fellow board members.
4. *Superintendent's Review* – June 1, 2016 (Presented to Conneaut School Board)
The FFA Banquet was held May 12, and it was (as always) very well attended. Five jackets were presented and the students performed a very nice program. Of course, the food was delicious and there was lots of it.

I stopped by CLMS to see: Jeff Hans, Bret McCartney, Chad Wensel, Jim Lucas, and Greg Dinsmore get their hair cut (shaved actually) (although two were Mohawks) to raise money for cancer research. It was part of the Relay for Life and over \$2,000 was raised. At the board retreat held on May 21st, I spoke about (at some time in the future) attempting to buy and restore a 58 or 59 Chevy Apache Truck. The very next week, sitting by my neighbor's garage was this truck. (1958 Apache) Ironic?

The Eagles Foundation met on May 23rd to select the scholarship winners for both the Eagles Foundation Scholarships and the Superintendent's Scholarship. All names and identifying data were removed from the packets. Each member present at the meeting reviewed the packets, and winners were selected. The awards will be presented to the graduating seniors at the Senior Awards Assembly on Friday June 3rd at 9:00 a.m. in the CASH gym.

The superintendent from Crawford Central (Tom Washington) was at Conneaut on May 24th to discuss our cyber program and our 1:1 program at our High School. Herb Bossard, Brenda Kantz, and Rick Kelly shared how we started both of those programs and the success and challenges of each. Mr. Washington asked many questions to garner a good understanding of what it takes to do each program successfully and felt the meeting was very productive.

I met with John Amato and Cheri Porter about some of our students helping out at the polls in November. The students learn about the election process and can earn money to boot (about \$80 - \$150). Details need worked out, and 10 students are needed.

Lastly, I shared a report at the CCCTC board meeting on May 18th about the workforce in the Pittsburgh area from now until 2025. At your seat is a copy of the report. While our specific county is not included in the report, numerous areas in and around Pittsburgh are. In short, the Pittsburgh region will have a shortage of 80,000 workers by 2025. These jobs are in every sector ranging from professional/advanced degrees to bachelor's degrees to advanced certificates. It exemplifies the importance of our CCCTC and is a call to us as a district to prepare our students for jobs that are literally right in our back door.

There was additional discussion on the Career and Technical Center on how they plan on showing the importance of career awareness. Mr. Schaef indicated that as the CTC expands tours, open houses, and attending the fair for parent awareness they have also directed awareness in the middle schools.

Mr. Burnham suggested reaching out to graduates who have been successful due to the career center and to video tape them as a marketing/advertising tool to help change contrary thoughts.

Mrs. Sperry asked about marketing strategies as so many parents assume the center is as it was in the 1970's. She suggested looking at local businesses to see what is needed and conform to their wishes. She reflected back to her NSBA trip whereby a career center did just that and geared their focus on food service, hospitality and such.

Mr. Schaef also noted that Mr. Sperry was re-appointed as the superintendent of record which typically is a two year term but since he is the oldest/most senior superintendent he was re-elected for a 2nd term. His knowledge is a real plus to the career center.


5. *Board Goals* – Mrs. Sperry thanked Mr. Hornstein for putting together the power point which reflected the Boards collective suggestions from the Board Retreat held on Saturday morning, May 22, 2016. With no objections it can be placed on the agenda for approval along with a new mission and vision statements for next week. She looks forward to having these statements read at every meeting.
6. *PSBA Conference* – Mrs. Sperry announced the housing is open already for this upcoming fall conference. Those expressing interest included Mr. Ellis, Mr. Hornstein, Mrs. Luckock and potentially Mrs. Klink. Those interested in the NSBA conference next spring in Denver, CO include Mrs. Sperry and Mrs. Krachkowski.
7. *PSBA Updates*- Mr. Ellis announced upcoming webinars, news and miscellaneous updates.
8. *Agenda Review*-
The Board reviewed the draft agenda for next week's voting meeting.

Mrs. Sperry announced there would be no Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.



Jody Sperry, Board President



Greg Mayle, Board Secretary