

## Conneaut School District

### PUBLIC WORK SESSION

#### Minutes

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at the Conneaut Area 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. Ellis	Mrs. Klink	Mr. Hornstein
Mrs. Luckock	Mrs. Krachkowski	Mr. McQuiston
Mr. Schaef	Mrs. Sperry	

It is noted Mr. Burnham arrived at 8:00 p.m.

#### Administrators Present-

**Superintendent:** Jarrin Sperry

**Director of Special Education** – Susy Walters

**Business Manager:** Greg Mayle

**Director of Buildings and Grounds-** Frank Kimmel

**Curriculum Director** – Brenda Kantz

**Technology Coordinator** – Rick Kelly

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

#### 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. *Football Cheerleaders* – Due to budget constraints the Band and Cheerleaders are not permitted to travel to away games this fall. But the Sports Boosters has announced they would be willing to pay for three trips for the cheerleaders to travel to. There would be no cost to the District. This request was reviewed by the District Solicitor and he was okay with this request.  
The Board asked to have this added to next week's voting meeting.

2. *Start of School Update* – each building principal provided a report on their first day/week of school this year. CLMS-Joel Wentling had a great first week, students seemed excited to be back, even in the hot weather we are experiencing; CVE- Adam Jardina experienced a great first couple of days, certainly three of his quietest he has had as an administrator; CVMS-Mr. Burns evaluates the start of school in three ways, students schedules/lockers, transportation and the end of day release. All went well, overall a very good start; CLE- Doug Parks had a really smooth start of school; Anderson Bus Company had a remarkably smooth start, he expected more chaos but did not have much; Maintenance – Frank Kimmel had his first start of school experience go well.
3. *Board iPads*- Mr. Kelly reminded the Board next week he will be distributing new iPads to them, this will provide a week for them to transfer over apps and he asks they return the old iPads at the additional work session. If any questions, or concerns please contact him for individual appointments.
4. *PA National Guard*- The Pennsylvania National Guard is asking again this year to sound the cannon at home games when CASH scores during the CASH vs MASH game on September 23, 2016. They were present at the first home game in uniform only for a meet and greet. This was a great idea to get to know the students and parents. The board and administration is aware of some community members who are sensitive to these loud noises, they will be contacted. The Board asked to have this added to the agenda.
5. *Maintenance Updates* –  
*Snowplowing Agreement* – Mr. Kimmel requested the opportunity to look at snow plowers. There contract is up and he is asking permission for a one year extension to evaluate them. Mr. Schaeff felt the three the district worked with have done a very descent job. Therefore if the request is to extend a one year to evaluate and then go out for other bids later or negotiate he would support that. The other board members were in agreement to add a one year extension but the board wants to see prices first. They recommended talking more at the October meeting with prices and placing on the October agenda for approval.

*Conneaut Valley Middle School Drainage* – There are two items in this discussion topic; washout on neighbors he recommends filling. Quotes received in June via Mr. Schell came back with 4 proposals. The lowest was \$7,270.00 from Tony Hyde. The Board asked for this to be added to the agenda.

6. *Kindergarten Numbers*-  
Mr. Sperry reported on the kindergarten numbers at the start of school; Conneaut Lake Elementary reported 19/18 and 19 with Conneaut Valley Elementary with 20/20/22. We were just under 2000 at the start of school but now are at 2023 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day enrollment. This was due in part to some students partially registered.

Cyber is down 23 from last year with some graduated and some came back from other cyber schools. Mr. Sperry credits this to the press releases informing the public that their tax dollars are actually paying the bill, it isn't free as advertised.

7. *Policies for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading –*

*Policy 008- Organization Chart:* this policy is presented by the Superintendent with minor changes.

*Policy 609- Investment of District Funds:* this policy was brought to the committee by Mr. Mayle for updating.

*Policy 624- and 628.1 Federal Fiscal Compliance and Travel Reimbursement for Federal Programs* is part of UGG Guidelines. Some background with UGG, Pennsylvania has not been following and now Federal Programs is requiring it.

8. *Superintendent's Evaluation-*

The Budget Committee reviewed the evaluation tool used a few years ago. They will try to eliminate questions that are not applicable or unknown or the board is unable to evaluate/observe in action. In removing some of these irrelevant questions and replacing them with questions that will pertain more to the superintendent's contract it will hopefully be brought to the October meeting. Some questions do pertain to test scores that come out in October.

9. *Superintendent's Report-*

Mr. Sperry updated the Board on what he has been addressing lately which included; Mike Crawley from the Meadville Tribune spent some time at CASH to discuss the homework policy. This policy is currently under revision with hopes to make it better than it already is.

He and several others are looking for grant monies to help pay for some welding equipment which would put 10 stations in and accommodate 20 students. Kevin Sprong and he continue to talk about a welding program at the Conneaut Valley Middle School.

Mr. Sperry and several other central office staff and administrators were CPR trained these past several weeks. Thanks to Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Wensel and Mr. Ellis we have several certified in CPR at each of the buildings. Also, when Mrs. Jacobs retired we had one CPR trainer in the district but recent individuals have shown some interest.

Mr. Sperry attended the Manufactures Association reception in Erie. He admitted this is an Erie event but Crawford County is well represented with students. He is very pleased to see how many students we send that are excited about manufacturing. This year's key note speaker is from the Shark Tank TV Show.

The end of August, he and Mr. Hines drove to General McLane along with the principal from Girard to see their Link crew run. This is run by two advisors with juniors and seniors to orient 9<sup>th</sup> graders to the auspices of high school. GM has had a lot of success showing a decrease in discipline issues. Mr. Maskrey can attest that most of his discipline problems come from 9<sup>th</sup> graders. General McLane not only has seen decreases in discipline issues but an increase in graduation rates and academics from starting the program. They also saw an increase in numbers attending orientation from 50/60% to 99% now. Seniors and juniors call students to attend, show high energy and hold meetings between the first day and end of the first semester. This provides someone for freshman to know in the buildings.

There is a cost to the program initially to train staff, which are held in Michigan and North Carolina.

Mr. Sperry will provide costs next week.

*System of Care-* This meeting discusses safe schools grant where we are using a lot of QPR (Question Persuade and Refer) training in our district with a wide variety of staff.

This program was briefly compared to the Conneaut Valley Middle School program. Mr. Burns felt his School Wide Positive Behavior program. He feels it is a bit different as students are placed in teams and accumulate points.

The QPR program was also provided to coaches during the August Coaches Professional Development Workshop as coaches spend a great deal of time with players.

Mr. Schaef felt the program was impressive and it kept their attention. Mrs. Struski and Mrs. Walters are the trainers in our district.

*Prescription Drug Problems-* Mr. Sperry attended a Crawford County Roundtable today at the Crawford County Courthouse which focused on the national epidemic for addictions to prescription pain killers. Judge Vadaro explained he is more cautious on sentences with some overdose cases. He sees some individuals getting used to opium and if they try heroin again will need more of it to obtain the same reaction. Therefore overdoses are on the rise. This was a wakeup call to Judge Vadaro on how he hands out sentences. It was noted on September 26<sup>th</sup> there will be another trauma informing education on resilient communities. This conference was so well attended last year they had to cap it this year. It involves trauma in every community and how to make resilient individuals.

Mrs. Sperry noted in light of the meetings at the court house, is this something we in our communities could conduct educational sessions on drug abuse. So many feel it is just heroine and do not realize it is prescription drugs. Mr. Sperry replied stating he can ask for a power point from the Court house , we could use it in meetings. He suggested on big presentation and invite Meadville Medical Center and Dr. Piloti for a large turnout. This could be an eye opener for parents. We don't think about the problem until you hear about it. This could be a good way to get the information out to the community.

*PSBA Voting for PSBA Officer Elections-* Mr. Ellis provided the PSBA candidates up for officer elections, noting he recommends both candidates. Both are level headed individuals and has no problem supporting either one.

*iPad Distribution-* went smoothly on Thursday of the first week of school. Kudos to Matt and Rick in distributing 700 iPads so well.

#### 10. *PSBA Updates-*

Mr. Ellis noted the PASA-PSBA Fall Leadership Conference is the same week as our boards voting meeting. This conference starts the morning after our school board meeting, therefore the four signed up to attend will be traveling the night of our voting meeting. The Board discussed moving the

voting meeting to the next week and decided on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 as the rescheduled date. This will be added to the September voting meeting for approval.

11. *Agenda Review-*

The Board reviewed the draft agenda for next week's voting meeting. In reviewing, Mrs. Sperry noted that the board needs to appoint a negotiations team as negotiations start in January. She recommended the budget committee to be on that team as they developed the contracts from the past year for those hired and feels it is easier to have those members continue.

The committee did meet with Mr. Joseph earlier today to discuss strategy and items that need addressed when going through the contract. They will be meeting again next month with our insurance provider to discuss options on the insurance plan.

It needs reflected in these minutes that the committee also that the negotiations committee went into an executive session for purposes of negotiations earlier today.

A question was raised about Mrs. Luckcock's background in negotiations; Mrs. Sperry replied that she took a PSBA training last fall with Mr. Joseph as one of the instructors.

It is noted Mr. Burnham arrived at 8 PM during the agenda review.

**Executive Session**

Mrs. Sperry announced there would be **EXECUTIVE SESSION** immediately following the meeting to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, issues which might include student and personnel concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

  
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Jody Sperry, Board President

  
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Greg Mayle, Board Secretary