

Conneaut School District

PUBLIC WORK SESSION
Minutes
Wednesday, December 7, 2016
7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, December 7, 2016 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	Mr. Hornstein
Mrs. Klink	Mrs. Krachkowski	Mrs. Luckock
Mr. McQuiston	Mr. Schaef	Mrs. Sperry

Administrators Present-

Superintendent: Jarrin Sperry

District Solicitor – George Joseph

Director of Special Education- Susy Walters

Business Manager- Greg Mayle

Curriculum Director- Brenda Kantz

Director of Buildings and Grounds- Frank Kimmel

Technology Coordinator – Rick Kelly

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

Visitor Recognition

Mrs. Sperry offered visitor recognition on Agenda Items 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.

It is noted there were no visitors.

Discussion Items-

1. *Take Flight Program Proposal-* Mr. Hines invited Sarah Moore a local minister to discuss Take Flight ... Where Students Soar with the Board. Sarah explained their objective is to equip students with confidence through consistent interaction with trusted adults. They wish to provide academic and social support to identified students at the high school during after school hours with trained volunteers in the high school. She plans to collaborate with school staff and parents, guardians to identify students and provide tutoring on a weekly basis. There would be no financial cost to the district or the student's family. This is a free, volunteer program offered by local church and community members.
2. *Financial Literacy Education at the High School-* Mr. Maskrey and Mr. Hines presented to the Board their view on banking and financial literacy education curriculum. The board has expressed their

concern and desire to offer a personal finance course to the current curriculum. Mr. Maskrey explained we already have a consumer education and money management course which cover personal finance, banking and more. This school year alone over 80 percent of the seniors will graduate with this course under their belt. In money management, most students are already receiving instruction from within our existing curriculum. Those who are not are the career and technical center students or students who already have full schedules. Therefore, in his and Mr. Hines opinion, to tell a student they need another money management course they would have to give up an AP course or something else. Personal finance is at the collegiate level and one that is an important course to take. Not that he and Mr. Hines feel it is not valuable we do, we just feel it would be redundant.

Mrs. Luckock was pleasantly surprised to hear the high percentages who graduate with a finance course. Mr. Maskrey added that 65 percent are in money management and the remainder take a consumer education course.

Mr. Sperry touched on a program from within the library where Mrs. Kullen has speakers come in who are professionals in their fields such as landlords to discuss rentals, attorneys, bankers, coupon experts, and more and has 8 different sessions on these topics. We are already trying to do more to show what matters in their adult lives.

3. *Policies for 1st Reading –*

- a. Policy 626.2 Federal Programs Cash Management is another uniform grant guidance for federal programs which is presented at 1st reading tonight.

4. *Electing Board at Large –*

Mr. Hornstein returned from the PASA PSBA Fall Leadership Conference with questions about the setup of voting regions within our district. His preface is most that he talked to at the conference are boards at large and he was curious about the steps in changing our board setup. Warren Count and General McLane both have some regions and some at large, with a few more in Pittsburgh. Mr. Hornstein feels that since reorganizing it did not feel right to have three separate regions.

He suggested three options; 1) stay the same, 2) proposed a 2, 2, 2 with three at large. He felt this made the most sense and would open up for a different dynamics, or 3) all at large.

Mr. Schaef felt making changes have to be done after the census every 10 years. He has heard this topic brought up before and feels under the current situation with schools are now and the three region plan it probably does not make the most sense but for balance. It helps to not heavily tilt to one area due to population such as Summit versus Sadsbury could lean heavy to the Conneaut Lake area. Mr. Schaef is aware of General McLane having regions plus some at large and with your suggestion to keeping 3 and going 2, 2 and 2 with 3 at large would make the most sense. He leans that ay going forward. Meadville now is heavily leaning to Cochran area and is not balanced but in the past it has been heavy to the Meadville. He personally would want to look at a 2, 2, 2 and 3 at large.

Mr. Ellis was in agreement with Mr. Schaef but is concerned with the balance of a 2, 2, 2 and 3 at large. Mr. Ellis stressed we are one district or one group but he understands the concern.

Mr. Burnham understands Conneaut Valley did not want to come to Conneaut originally and one of their requirements originally was to have the former attendance area split with three from each. Beaver Township remained with Conneaut Valley and one man vote made it lopsided with Beaver Township

added to the Linesville region. Mr. Schaefer added that in the past, historically the old county school board made the final decision, not a local school board by state law and that drew up the regions due to the mergers.

Mr. Joseph presented his professional opinion on what has to transpire to make any changes- Any change that affects how board members are elected requires a petition to the court and hearing, with approval to the change. Whether the Board does these themselves or if electors in the district petition the court itself we cannot simply change the method of election.

There is a fairly simple process of filing a petition and obtaining a hearing with the judge and provide notice. During the hearing in court you present the proposed change and rationale for exchange being proposed.

Mr. Joseph has conducted one command vote analysis over the last three censuses, of which the 1990 census was very close with a minor deviation of less than 1 percent for the three attendance areas. In 2000 it increased three percent and appeared to be getting wider in 2010. But when analysis cannot split municipalities they look at entire townships or boroughs when moving them. If population trends change then the deviation could be larger in year 2020, with the census information available in 2021. Mr. Joseph expressed concerns in 2011 (from the 2010 census) that we might be faced with a high deviation at the next census. There is not a standard deviation that is accepted or unaccepted, but is a case by case analysis.

If we are going to change regions he suggests waiting until the next census. Even if the District included the region aspect as part of the means of selecting he suggests waiting until the next census. But if the Board's decision is to go to 9 at large it would still have to be petitioned to the court. The District could also do the 2, 2, 2 and 3 at large based on the 2010 census but he feels we would be better served to wait until after the 2020 census.

Mrs. Luckock asked Mr. Hornstein what his motivation was for asking for the change. He replied, it is more like the at large concept is better but he likes the blend and feels it would open up the candidate poll to the whole district. Since we reorganized we are not three separate systems but a blended one now. Mrs. Luckock would understand that if we were struggling in discussions and votes but it seems right now every member has looked at the student body as a whole and is not favoring one area over another. She feels we have made great strides since reorganization.

Mr. McQuiston could foresee having 9 from an open area but that doesn't represent us the best, he favors keeping three regions as it helps assure all the areas.

Mr. Joseph reminded everyone we had three attendance zones and our regions for election did not match the attendance zones. Of which they do not have to and we don't have attendance zones anymore since reorganization.

If the district did pursue this, Mr. Burnham felt that any proposal would have to be run past the communities before seriously considering, town hall sessions in each area to present a proposal and get some feedback.

All agreed to table until after the 2020 census results were available.

5. *Superintendent's Report*

Mr. Sperry provided the following report;

- I attended the PASCD (Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) training "Evaluation Academy" on November 3rd. There are two successive trainings on December 14th, 2016 and January 9th, 2017. The training is excellent and the presenter: Dr Robert Williams will be coming back in June to train numerous principals in the area including the principals of Conneaut School District.
 - Herb Bossard and I met with Craig Heberle at CLMS to discuss a middle school student participating in our cyber program. We would need approximately 3 middle school teachers for about three months to allow this student to continue his education while he is in California with his family. This would be an excellent way for us to begin the process of pushing our cyber program into the middle school.
 - The CCCTC Superintendent's meeting was November 8th. Tom Washington and I were in attendance. Upcoming budgets for our districts and the CCCTC were discussed as well as the agenda for the board meeting. Afterwards, a meeting was held about negotiations.
 - The IU SAC (Superintendent's Advisory Council) meeting was November 9th. Discussion centered the Erie School district and what may or may not happen there, Foster care and agreements that need to be created and approved in all of our districts (by Saturday), and the Superintendent's summit which usually takes place in April or May at Grove City College.
 - On December 1st, I attended a workshop at IU5 regarding the new requirements of having a "Foster Child(ren) Point of Contact in every PA district and Transportation for Foster Children. The meeting was heated at times as the state has set a deadline for Dec 10th for documents that will take months to create, get approved and signed by all districts in PA. Districts in all counties and districts that "touch" each other will have to have agreements in place regarding transportation of Foster Children in/out and through districts. Tom Washington and I are working with Karen Jez from Titusville to create our document.
 - On December 5th, Kevin Sprong (CCCTC Director) and I conducted interviews for the Adult Ed program director at the CCCTC. The position is a supplemental position that coordinates and runs all the adult programs at the CCCTC. We interviewed two candidates and a name will be brought to the CCCTC board at the December meeting.
 - On December 6th, I attended the Systems of Care meeting at Crawford County Human Services. Karen Jez, Tom Washington, Patti Feely (representing PENNCREST) were also in attendance as well as most of the Human Service agencies in Crawford County. Numerous topics were discussed as well as expenditures of grant money ranging from Suicide prevention training to Mental Health First Aid.
6. *PSBA Updates* – Mr. Ellis announced the presidents workshop training is coming up in January; Mrs. Sperry attended an emergency preparedness at the Northwest Tri-County IU#5 with six districts represented out of seventeen.

7. *Agenda Review-*

The Board reviewed the draft agenda.

Mr. Joseph noted at next week's voting meeting he is scheduled at the Northwest Tri-County IU#5 for a board meeting starting at 5:45 pm and one agenda item is their collective bargaining agreement so he has to be there. Therefore, he will be late getting to the Conneaut voting meeting that same evening.


Negotiations Committee will be meeting tomorrow, Thursday, December 15, 2016 with the Conneaut Education Association to discuss proposals.

Executive Session

Mrs. Sperry noted the Board would be going into an **Executive Session** after the meeting is adjourned to discuss agency business, which, if conducted in public would violate a lawful privilege, specifically to discuss involving personnel and contract matters.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.


Mrs. Jody Sperry, Board President


Mr. Greg Mayle, Board Secretary