

Conneaut School District

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Minutes

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at the Conneaut Lake Middle 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. Schaeff	Mrs. Sperry

Executive Session

Mrs. Sperry noted the Board went into an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** before this public meeting to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, issues might include personnel matters and the Superintendent's Evaluation.

Administrators Present-

Superintendent: Jarrin Sperry

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: Adam Jardina, Joel Wentling, Doug Parks and Kevin Burns.

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. *Maintenance Updates –*

- a. *Smart Edge Energy Savings Plan* - Mr. Kimmel presented the Conneaut School District energy savings for January, 2016 through August, 2016 as reported from Smart Edge. He showed a current savings of \$88,489.22 compared to our baseline energy consumption before the upgrades made by Smart Edge. The current savings showed \$11,426.18 more than the guaranteed savings amount of \$77,063.04.

The breakdown showed natural gas with a guaranteed savings of \$45,337.74 versus actual savings of \$51,534.66 showing \$6,196.92 monies saved over the guaranteed amount. Electric had a guaranteed savings of \$31,725.30 versus actual savings of \$36,954.56 which reflects a \$5,229.26 overage monies saved.

The savings show better numbers than predicted but the baseline is from two years ago. He anticipates staying above the guaranteed savings with only two months left this comparison.

- b. *Timber Appraisals* – Mr. Kimmel will be meeting with Mark Lewis on November 9th to walk the property. This will be a free evaluation and Mr. Kimmel will provide feedback at the board meeting scheduled that same evening.
2. *Policies for 1st Reading* – Mr. Jardina noted Policy 203.1 would be going back to the committee for some corrections and revisions. The readings reflect revisions to existing policies except Policy 626.2, which is a new policy.
- a. Policy 130 Homework Policy
 - b. Policy 203 Communicable Disease
 - c. Policy 203.1 Aids
 - d. Policy 209 Health Examinations
 - e. Policy 210 Use of Medications
 - f. Policy 626.2 Federal Programs Cash Management

3. *Superintendent's Report*

Mr. Sperry reported on the following;

- Jody and I attended the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Breakfast on October 6th at the Pampered Palate in Saegertown. CASA provides children with an advocate as they go through our court system. Jody has been involved for many years.
- Kevin Burns, Joel Wentling, Adam Jardina, Doug Parks, Brenda Kantz and I met to discuss our middle school scores and ways to improve them on October 7th. We have many new processes and systems in place and are letting these things take place this year as we monitor them and anticipate higher scores next year.
- The CCCTC Superintendent's meeting was October 11th. Tom Washington and I were in attendance. The Welding program was 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 Oct 12th. Discussion centered on SPP scores, and how they have been pulled numerous times already, testing, discussion about Erie and how it many impact surrounding districts. (See handouts on CANVAS) and the upcoming safety workshop on Nov 15th.
- I attended the PSBA conference in Hershey with Dot, Don, and Jamie from the 12th through the 15th. At this time, my arm was in a sling, and some things were difficult, but with the help of Dot, I managed. As noted, we all attended numerous workshops, and my most meaningful one was "If You're Hearing Voices, That's a Good Thing" about a brain storming technique developed at the University of Kentucky.
- I was subpoenaed to appear in court on Oct 17th for an incident that occurred before my time in Conneaut. I did have to testify, but my testimony was very short and then I was free to go.

- After I testified, I attended the “Winter Weather Hazards: Science and Preparedness. As I have consistently experienced, FEMA has great trainings, and this one was no different. One of the presenters was a former Weather Channel meteorologist, and the other two gentlemen were equally impressive with a wealth of experience. From “Spaghetti Forecasts” to Preparing for different types of weather and how they form, the class was very informative and entertaining.
- PENN Dot of Meadville had their annual Winter Weather meeting on October 20th. They informed us of their winter weather preparations and what we can expect of them. I made contact with Pat Connelly, the maintenance director from PENNCREST, and he and I will also be talking in the mornings when we have our winter weather events.
- I had lunch with Tom Washington, Karen Jez and Michael Healy on October 25th to cement our plans for how we will contact each other for winter storms and we also discussed SPP scores and how they are affecting all of our districts.
- On October 27th, I attended a Previstar CEM planner training. This is a free service/software piece provided by the state to house and allow easy updates to our Emergency Operations Manual. Beth and I are in the process of inputting all of our data and then updates going forward will take minutes. Additionally, the sharing of our plan with other Crawford County agencies is a mere button click with this system.
- Jody, Greg and I sat through a webinar about IDEX which is a program that PSBA has provided as a benefit of being a member. John Hines and I saw a presentation from IDEX a few years ago, but the price was prohibitive. The program is a very powerful program that shows immense amounts of data concerning numerous facets about every district and public charter school in the state. We are looking at purchasing additional licenses for the district and board.

4. *PSBA Fall Conference Updates-*

Mr. Ellis, Mr. Hornstein and Mrs. Luckock each summarized their week at the PSBA Fall Leadership Conference. Mr. Ellis sat in on presentations starting with the opening session with Julie Lythcott – Haims Parenting Responsibility and Accountability, followed by How to Work the Halls Like a Pro – Turning Your Legislative Update into Advocacy, High school Reform Initiatives, State of Association Success Starts Here, the Break Point, When you and Employee Reach a Parting of the Ways. The Things You Don’t Know About Career and Technical Education, Jamie Casup – Having Professional Developed Teachers and Collaboration on Supporting and Enabling Good Learning Models, Social Media and a Tool of Advocacy and School Partnership in Action. He ended his with the PSBA Delegate Assembly.

Mr. Hornstein provided a recap on the following workshops that he attended;

1. From Policy to Classroom: Data Analytics-Eidex
2. Auditing
3. Blended Classrooms
4. Redefining ROI
5. Actively Engaging Business Community and,
6. General Topics/Themes

He specifically enjoyed the General Topics workshop as it addressed how technology has changed the way students learn and indicated we as a District should change the way students are taught.

He was inspired in learning of PSBA Member services which include vacancy posts, marketing campaign for public schools, rural school district forum, job description services, and policy services, LEARN trainings and EIDEX subscription.

EIDEX is a business intelligence tool showing data provided from all the Pennsylvania schools. The data includes finances, staff salaries, SPP scores, PSSA, Keystone Exams, SAT, demographics and more. Mr. Hornstein showed how easily a graph could be created to compare districts to one another using enrollment numbers, free and reduced meals, fund balance and much more. He recommended screenshots of our district's data be provided on our website for transparency.

The district currently has one license and is looking into adding several more. The Board asked to have the added licenses to next week's voting meeting.

Mrs. Luckock felt the general speaker was focused on the older board members and reminded everyone of the need for learning more skills on how to evaluate information we get from technology. The speaker used the example of how much students rely on Google and its reliability. Our youth need to learn how to extract the accurate from the not so accurate information. She touched on the emphasis in classroom communications with other virtual classrooms across the country and world.

She also attended workshops regarding improving board and union relationships; special education workshops, (which were exceptionally well done) and the biggest workshop she benefited from were business office procedures. Here she realized how well our district is doing in moving in the right direction. It was both interesting and disturbing to hear from districts and to learn what information they were not given to make decisions, especially how they do not project out beyond the current year.

Personal finance also came up in the workshops she attended and the importance in students taking these courses. Banks and credit unions are free resources we need to capitalize on as these institutions want good customers. Therefore, we need to reach out and coordinate with our financial institutions to come into our high school. We stress with our students the higher math courses but these same students do not know how to balance a checkbook, apply for a credit card, understand what a credit card entails and credit scores.

The Board was in agreement that our district needs to investigate adding a money management course whether as part of another Math course curriculum or adding it as an elective. Mr. Sperry noted that the District does have a Money Management course but it has always been viewed by students as one for those who cannot pass the high level Math and need something to graduate. He has already been working with Mrs. Kantz and Mr. Hines in implementing it somehow.

5. *Agenda Review-*

The Board reviewed the draft agenda.

Mrs. Sperry announced she had participated in a Base Education Funding workshop today in Grove City and strongly encourages anyone to sign up for the webinar scheduled on November 16, 2016. She felt it was an excellent presentation which had us in the small groups asking questions about the formula and how to make it better.

She and Mr. Mayle also meet with Kurt Sonney and learned he has introduced legislation that has gone into committee before legislators. This all happened before legislators have taken their fall break.

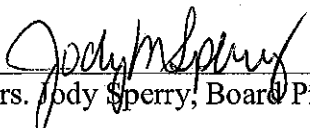
This bill is for districts that have their own cyber school and if a parent chooses to take their student to an outside cyber then the parent pays the tuition. She would like to encourage parents of children who have failed in outside cyber schools to be contacted in order to help push this bill. She hoped our guidance counselors could assist in contacting these parents/students and stressed we need more advocacy out there from those dealing with failing cyber schools. If we can start the process now then the bill is reintroduced at the next session there will be more people supporting it.

Mr. Schaef asked if there was any value in our district passing motions which would be sent out to fellow school districts in this cyber advocacy. Mrs. Sperry felt we could try and added that PSBA is trying to get PTA's involved. Too often we are seen as being too greedy but she has changed her approach by not asking for more money but telling representatives she has a list of what could help us.

This is good news as it will be reintroduced this bill the next session which provides time for us to inform others.

Mrs. Sperry announced there would not be an EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Mrs. Jody Sperry, Board President



Mr. Greg Mayle, Board Secretary