

Conneaut School District

PUBLIC WORK SESSION
Minutes
Wednesday, January 6, 2016
7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at the Alice Shafer Annex cafeteria/gymnasium.

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	Mrs. Klink
Mr. McQuiston	Mr. Schaeff	Mrs. Sperry

Administrators Present-

Superintendent: Jarrin Sperry

Director of Special Education: Susy Walters

Curriculum Director: Brenda Kantz

Business Manager: Greg Mayle

Director of Buildings and Grounds- Elwood Schell

Technology Coordinator – Rick Kelly

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

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. **FFA Award Acknowledgement-** Mr. Sperry and the Board congratulated Ms. Aurand for being an FFA Honorary American FFA degree-other recipient last fall at the National FFA Convention. Each year, at the National Convention, those who have made outstanding contributions to FFA are honored with distinguished service citations, VIP awards or the honorary American FFA degree. In order to qualify for an honorary American FFA other degree, individuals who have provided an exceptional service to agriculture, agricultural education, or FFA are eligible for the degree. Nominations are sent in to the teacher's state FFA association for approval. State FFA staff forward all approved nominations to the National FFA Organization.

We are proud to have Ellen as one of the honorary American FFA other degree recipients. Ellen is certified in Agriculture and General Science, has been teaching with the district for almost 33 years and involved in FFA since 1982.

2. **FFA square Dance Presentation** – The FFA Students demonstrated two square dances which they will use to compete in at the State Fair next week.
3. **Purchasing Cards** – Mr. Mayle first announced that the District has received the first 6 months of state funding, totaling \$8.3 million dollars.

He and the Budget Committee have been comparing purchase cards. This stems from numerous situations where employees front monies for district expenses and wait a month or more to be reimbursed. Such as hotel expenses, supplies, registrations, etc..

In reviewing what is out there, including local banks, it came down to an easy procurement program through PSBA and PASBO with control abilities. The committee would like to put this on the agenda next week if there is no opposition.

No objections.

4. **Middle School Colors** – Mr. Sperry reported that over the past several years a number of middle school students have voiced their desire to have the middle school be theirs and instead of the old high school and former colors. Both middle schools have switched over uniform colors so now when a middle school participates in a sport they are in CASH colors. They are asking to redo the gyms in each building. Mr. Sperry explained how expensive it is to redo the floors with the high school costing \$30,000 so he is not advocating for the floors as of yet, they will cycle in about 2 years. But in the meantime he suggests putting in the building budget to paint the stripes in the gym. Also, the crash mats under the basketball hoops correspond with the wall colors now. This is a slow process and is cognizant with the long standing traditions for each middle schools place as a former high school. Maybe, down the road we can talk about the banners at the middle schools to be displayed at the high school. The sports at the middle school are not as publically watched and he feels the recognition is due at the high school.

Mr. Schaeff questioned if the painting would be done by a contractor or in-house. Mr. Schell replied that it would depend on the extent of the job but felt a contractor would be quicker. If doing the stripes around the gym(s) and potentially the crash mats then Mr. Schaeff asked about the scoreboard terminology as well. The consensus was the scoreboards could be easily changed with vinyl. Mr. Schell will look into the costs and report back. It was noted these changes/improvements can and should be funded through the construction fund and in the 2016/2017 school year, but done during the 2016 summer months.

Mr. Mayle thought the construction fund still had over half a million dollars.

Mr. Burnham felt it more important to spend money on something other than school colors. The colors currently in the middle school gyms are a part of their heritage and the community and a waste of money using it on changing colors, once you spend it it is gone.

5. **Policy 824** – Mrs. Walters presented policy 824 Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries for 1st Reading. Due to changes in technology and social media, the District felt it necessary to address today’s technological atmosphere. This policy is directly from PSBA with some minor changes to fit District needs and Mr. Joseph approval as it specifically addresses current adult/student boundaries and compliments Policy 806. This new policy is on the agenda for first reading for next week and hopes of adoption in February.
6. **Custodial Contract Extensions** – Mr. Schell addressed custodial contract extensions for three of the buildings. He explained the extensions are for CASH, CVMS and CLMS. Bonded Services, who is currently contracted at CVMS is asking for a four year extension whereby the other two are requesting a three year extension respectively. Bonded Services increases reflect wage increases for their workforce with 2.7%, 2.5%, 2.5% and 2.4%. Zazado Custodial Services is requesting 1.5% increases at CLMS and Granda Janitorial Services would like to extend their contract at CASH with 2%, 0% and 0%.

Mr. Schell explained that the high school conducts more activities, thus the higher cost. The two middle schools are closer in price/cost even though CVMS has less square footage. Further, he added that the CVE building is still on a holding pattern as the contractor is still waiting on their interested buyer to move forward. The contractor at CLE did not express interest in an extension, it expires the end of the 2017/2018 school year.

There were no objections to adding the extension requests to the agenda next week.

7. **Book Surplus**- Mrs. Kantz and Mr. Schell toured the Alice Schafer Annex for surplus books to find a great deal of books, many of which are current with subscriptions we need. Over Christmas break she also inventoried the basement to find more books. She is asking permission to contact book buyers and work on obtaining money for these current books. She does have some teachers interested in specific books as well and noted what is left can be donated to good causes such as private schools, churches, and shipped overseas for mission work. She felt most were reading series with a few novels.
8. **Superintendent Updates**- Mr. Sperry updated the Board on the following;
 - a. IU 5 SAC Meeting
 - i. On December 9th, the monthly superintendents meeting was held at the IU. Of note, the second annual NW superintendents’ summit was discussed and he volunteered to be on the planning committee representing Crawford County as Connie Youngblood had previously been on the board. At last year’s summit, over 60 superintendents from NW PA attend the event at Grove City College and we had a nice day of networking and breakout sessions culminating with a Skype session with Pedro Rivera.
 - ii. The superintendents were also shown a service called “Navigate” that would allow administrators with cell phones to access our cameras remotely from any wifi or cell signal. Additionally, the app allows communication with staff and gives staff directions during an emergency. He is looking into pricing and possibly bringing them here for a demo sometime in the spring.

- b. Superintendent's Roundtable at Crawford County Courthouse
On Dec 10, a roundtable meeting was held at the Crawford County Courthouse. These meetings occur 4-5 times a year and all Crawford County School Districts (including Titusville) are invited as well as Children in Youth, Juvenile Probation, Human Services and Family Court officers and Judge Vardaro. The roundtable discusses: truancy and truancy elimination plans, juvenile probation and services they offer, and family visitation with parents incarcerated in Crawford County.

- c. 5 kids in the Navy's Nuclear Program in the last two years!

He wanted to share this email with the Board because we often think that the feds, the state, and the Keystones are hindering us from really putting out top notch kids - well, it's not.

We now have this claim to fame - 5 kids in the NAVY Nuclear program in the last two years. Very impressive! Thank you for all you do for our kids and our school.

- d. System of Care Meeting
On Tuesday, January 5th, he attended the monthly "System of Care" Leadership Team meeting. This monthly roundtable includes all Crawford County School Districts, and numerous agencies, including Crawford County Human Services, Family and Youth partners, High Fidelity Wraparound, among others.

Of note at this meeting, Conneaut Valley Elementary was discussed as we are beginning a partnership with Crawford County Human Services (through grant \$\$) concerning TIC (Trauma Informed Care) The program is one in which staff are taught about ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and how these experiences impact children and adults. The hope is that with awareness and training, we can lessen the harmful impacts of ACE's on our youth. Hydetown Elementary in Titusville is also a participant.

2. *NSBA/PSBA* Updates and Principles for Governance and Leadership-

Mrs. Sperry inquired about any board members interested in attending the National Conference in Boston, MA this April. No one was interested.

She announced PSBA had formed a committee in October to look at effective standards of school governance and a new set of standards was established. Normally, our board reaffirms our commitment to upholding these standards. The new standards are intended to bring them more in tune with what boards are actually trying to do. These new standards will be on the agenda for approval next week if no objections.

Board training - information was provided.

Executive Session

Mrs. Sperry announced the Board would be going into **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, specifically to discuss student matters.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Jody Sperry, Board President

Greg Mayle, Board Secretary