

*Conneaut School District*

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**  
**Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, February 3, 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. Schaef	Mrs. Sperry

**Administrators Present-**

**Superintendent:** Jarrin Sperry

**Curriculum Director:** Brenda Kantz

**Business Manager:** Greg Mayle

**Director of Buildings and Grounds-** Elwood Schell

**Technology Coordinator** – Rick Kelly

**Principals:** John Hines, Joel Wentling, David 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. *2016/2017 SY School Calendar-*

Mr. Sperry provided the draft school calendar for the 2016/2017 school year to the Board. In discussion, he indicated the former PENNCREST Superintendent had always created the calendar for the three school districts but in her retirement he inherited the duty, probably due to the being the senior superintendent at this point.

He explained the Career Center has to run for all three school districts and even if we have a school day off the Career Center has to be open for the other two school districts.

The Board reviewed the calendar, noting the school year starts the week after the fair, the Christmas holiday starts Friday, December 23, 2015 through Monday, January 2, 2017 and the calendar enables graduation to be on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. CESA contract is such that if a holiday falls on a weekend, the contract states we must go back or forward to the next business day. Teachers last day is the 9<sup>th</sup>, student last day is Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup> and five snow days, there is nothing out of the ordinary.

Mr. Schaefer reported that the fall sports program this next school year will likely have a home football game before school starts, in fact, the Friday of the fair. This is due to PIAA increasing the number of classifications which impact playoff days. Game schedules are created to fit in those playoff games and then work backwards on the calendar, per Mr. Sperry.

Scrimmages this year may also be cut from the standard two to one. PIAA has not confirmed the fall playoff schedule but with the increase in classifications it looks like a week is cut from the local playoff schedule. Some teams may now play a tenth game scheduled the first week in November which could turn into a playoff game.

Mr. Burnham expressed his concern with the first regular season game in August and how it would affect the agriculture students at the Fair. It was suggested to coordinate the first game on that Saturday afternoon or evening instead of Friday night. This is due to the livestock auction(s) which are normally on Friday night at the Fair.

The calendar is on the agenda next week for approval.

2. *Senior Projects...Mr. Maskrey*

Mr. Maskrey asked the Board to eliminate the senior project day which is usually conducted on the Act 80 Day in February the past several years. In listening to board members' disappointments from last year's presentations he feels and the fact that this is the last year that graduation projects are required by the Commonwealth for seniors to graduate. Students have found out that in using WIN, they are finding out earlier in their high school that they are not prepared academically therefore have asked to do this same research earlier in their careers. In starting as early as 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students can customize their high school career to suit their goals by taking the necessary English, Math and/or Sciences which can better prepare them. The students could conduct their presentation in an English class, in front of their peers and by eliminating the assigned project day in February it will provide students one additional class day to their school year. Act 80 Days are counted towards a student day but all students except seniors are not in school that specific day.

Mr. Maskrey feels by eliminating this day it would help alleviate stress felt by students due to all the state testing's they are required to take.

The Board expressed their thoughts on this suggestion which included: concerns if the senior project day is eliminated then the board will not see the presentations/projects. The benefit to the Board the Senior Project Day had/has enables them to see how Career Counseling is doing; if the public asked about them we need to be able to answer what the monies are being spent on now and prove relevance; this may take away the opportunity for formal presentation learning skills; professional

development day, which in the elementary schools, is used for teacher conferences therefore the opportunity to discuss student concerns with parents/guardians is lost.

Mr. Sperry replied to their concerns stating that the In-Service Day in October has been used for parent/teacher conferences thus eliminates one of their concerns. He explained that typically, if there are still student concerns near the end of the first semester they usually consist of a much higher need to all involved and teachers are working with the parent(s), guidance, student and counselor by that time. Mr. Jardina added that there are so many avenues for parents to see their child progress with a lot of interactions taking place each day. He felt every day was a parent/teacher day for elementary.

Mr. Schaef restated some of the questions and comments as; the projects are not required by the Commonwealth after this current school year and the intent could be to gear the projects to a more career oriented computer based program to see what works for the students.

Mr. Maskrey commented on the Boards concerns indicating that he is flexible on the day(s) the presentations can be scheduled on, can provide a listing of names and times for the presentations and can provide a plan now that he has asked the Board.

In conclusion, the Board is concerned with this being the first year implementing WIN and they hope it is a more workable program than Career Cruising indicating a student could steer towards a crossing guard and/or dog walker for a career. They hope WIN is better suited for career aspirations and more realistic in guiding students towards their future.

In conclusion, Mr. Sperry will make the change to next year's school calendar before the board votes on it next week.

3. *Resolution for School Boards to Support Funding Litigation- Mr. Sperry*

Mr. Sperry explained a Resolution he received to support funding litigation. It is a means of showing Board support to the constitutional guarantee of "a thorough and efficient system of public education, " that it requests the Governor and General Assembly withdraw their opposition to independent judicial review of their compliance with the Constitution, and urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to provide school districts, in a timely manner, with adequate revenues in accordance with a fair and predictable formula calculated to enable students across the Commonwealth to have the resources necessary to become productive citizens and meet the academic standards set by the Commonwealth.." as per the backup provided on My Big Campus. The Board wishing to discuss the resolution with Attorney Joseph next week prior to adoption.

4. *Mid Year Reports (Achievements, Challenges)*

Each building principal addressed the Board on their grade level achievement testing scores comparing beginning of the school year to now. Explanations and reasoning for growth or drops were discussed. The middle schools addressed building atmosphere and extra curricular activities offered to those who did not receive discipline slips in the first semester. The High School discussed the decreasing discipline issues and the greater need for social services for our students. Mr. Sperry provided an overview of technology updates. Mrs. Kantz reviewed student achievement as a priority and will continue to analyze data to strengthen achievement and meet the needs of students. She

summarized a student achievement tracking system, Title 1 staff monthly meetings, Math Committee reviews, English and Language updates and workshops offered in the district.

5. *PSERS Special Election-*

Mr. Sperry discussed an opening for a Board member to serve on the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for the remaining of a three year term. If anyone was interested, the requirements for wishing to run for election are available on My Big Campus.

6. *PSBA Updates-* Mr. Ellis announced upcoming webinars. Mrs Sperry indicated PSBA is looking for volunteers to serve on a committee which will look at reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Act.

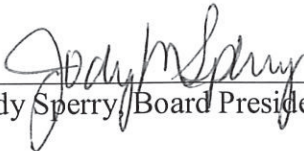
Mrs. Sperry reminded the Board of the PARSS Conference coming up in April and the Policy Committee will be looking at board policies and could consider adopting a Board Handbook.

7. *Agenda Review-*

The Board reviewed the draft agenda for next week's voting meeting.

**Mrs. Sperry announced the Board will be going into an 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 matters involving personnel concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

  
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Jody Sperry, Board President

  
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Greg Mayle, Board Secretary