

Conneaut School District

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Vice President Mr. Don Ellis, Jr.

The following members answered to roll call:

Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ellis	Mr. Hornstein
Mrs. Luckock	Mrs. Krachkowski	Mr. McQuiston
Mr. Schaef	Mrs. Sperry	

It is noted Mrs. Sperry and Mrs. Klink were absent

It is noted Mrs. Klink arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Administrators Present-

Superintendent: Jarrin Sperry

Director of Special Education – Susy Walters

Business Manager: Greg Mayle

Director of Buildings and Grounds- Elwood Schell and Frank Kimmel

Technology Coordinator – Rick Kelly

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

Mrs. Sperry announced the Board will be going into an Executive Session *at this time* 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.

Visitor Recognition

Mr. Ellis 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. CASH Bowling- Mr. Cameron and several others presented their request for a CASH Bowling Club. It was presented much the same as the Boy’s LaCrosse Club Team. Mr. Schaef felt this was a

discussion item that should be presented to the Athletic Ad Hoc Committee. Mrs. Luckock disagreed considering this was not a sport, just a club similar to the dance team. Mr. Sperry felt there was time as the group does not wish to start up until fall, 2016.

The long term plan for this club is to remain a club team sport with no monies received from the district. Much like the Meadville Hockey Team, they are recognized but the money does not come from Crawford Central School District.

2. *SOAR Program* – Mr. Burns presented a summary report of the State evaluation for the SOAR Program his building received back in March. He explained it is the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support Program his building has been involved in.

He is proud of his staff for receiving a score of 95 out of 100 which is a very good recommendation going from level 1 to level 2 interventions. Some areas they received a deduction in was in how behavior expectations is taught.

The reason he is presenting this tonight is because he wants to try and get 100 percent. In doing so, they need plaques in some areas of the building and office referrals. He also would like to look at discipline policies and revise them to consider ma more wide positive behavior. Pink slips he would like to revise to be more of a re-teaching evaluation tool instead of scolding. In looking at next year he would like to develop a middle school discipline positive plan and break it down to actual offenses.

The Board was positive with moving forward with Mr. Burns' ideas.

3. *Budget* – Mr. Mayle provided an update since the last meeting on March 15, 2016. He and administration have conducted numerous meetings with some follow-ups. While still looking at both the expenditure side and revenue side it is good news that the state approved a budget. The bad news there are holes in it for what we should/might get and how it will look. The Governor released the proposal yesterday to distribute \$279,000 but the PlanCon is still up in the air. This is the monies the District receives for construction reimbursements. Our district is still looking at a \$1.2 million dollar deficit.

Mr. Sperry noted in northwest Pennsylvania there is \$9 million dollars owed to 17 districts in the IU5 area with the highest in Erie for \$1.2 million owed to them for PlanCon reimbursements.

The budget committee is looking at a number of cost savings and cuts with we just don't know yet. Mr. Sperry is looking at a step budget as he anticipates the same situation next year with a budget not approved well into the 2017 year. A stepped budget would be building a budget as things progress, we cut. For example, in December if no budget we cut field trips, in February no budget we cut spring sports and so forth.

Mr. Hornstein asked if it would reduce our risk if we borrowed. Mr. Sperry said yes if done right but other districts have discovered after borrowoing they cannot borrow again for the same school year. Mr. Mayle explained; if a district borrowed and was expected to pay back by June 30th but if the state

budget is not sent out then the district cannot borrow again. Only once in a given fiscal year, so some districts are looking at going into default for one day.

Union City is up against that, they had to borrow once and had to borrow again but were denied so they had to furlough.

At a Superintendent's meeting it was Union City that suggested cutting spring sports as a region but some district superintendent's didn't have to, they were okay going into the spring months. There is a superintendent's regional meeting where we will talk about possibility stopping a sports season to save money. Originally to be fall sports if no budget is passed but it cannot be only one school. More schools doing this speak louder to the state capital.

The Board discussed different alternatives if there is no budget approved soon.


4. *Superintendent's Academy*- Mr. Sperry went over the Superintendent's Academy he plans on attending in May.
5. *RFP Audit Results* – Mr. Mayle announced the RFP for audits were sent out last month and we received seven back. A committee went through them and one stood out to the committee, McGill Power with a savings of \$13,250 from what we are currently paying. Mr. Mayle has worked a little bit with this company and feels they do very good work. If no objections this will be added to the agenda for a three year term. It was a little surprising that our existing auditors did not seem to use a very sharp pencil even though they knew we were looking at other auditors.
6. *Commercial Building* – the summit building we have for sale, the Realtor is asking to lower the listing price. The board had no problem with lowering the price as it is costing the district \$19,000 per year in upkeep.
7. *Town Hall Meetings* – each board member was provided with a stack of town hall meeting announcements and were asked to take home and distribute in your areas. Mrs. Sperry, presently out of town had asked Mr. Ellis to see if any board members were interested in presenting at the meetings. Currently Mr. Sperry, Mrs. Walters, Mr. Mayle and Mrs. Kantz are scheduled to speak.
8. *PSBA Update* – April 14th is the Region 1 meeting in Titusville; April 19th is the Tom Templeton Advantage also in Titusville; and the Municipal Law Symposium at the Bayfront Convention Center is April 26th.
9. *Ethics Reminder*- Mr. Ellis reminded everyone to turn in their Ethics Form to Mrs. Moss before May 1st, 2016.
10. *Agenda Review*-
The Board reviewed the draft agenda for next week's voting meeting.

Mr. Ellis announced there would be no Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.



Jody Sperry, Board President



Greg Mayle, Board Secretary

