

Conneaut School District

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Minutes

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, January 4, 2017 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

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. *That Numbers Stuff-* Mr. Mayle provided a recap of the 15/16 General Fund Financial Status. He continued off of last month's report provided by the auditors with the same summary slide of revenues and expenses and the variances or deficiency of each. Mr. Mayle noted that actual revenues went up \$1.2 million and expenses went down \$340,000 from the proposed 15/16 budget to the actual.

In examining the details, Mr. Mayle provided a budget to actual comparison breakdown of the local, state, and federal revenues and regular instruction, support services, non-instructional services in expenses. Mr. Mayle noted the significant assumptions for expenditures to be salaries/wages, health insurance (8% annual increase), other insurances (2.5% annual increase) and retirement based on current

projections of 17/18 sy at 32.57%; 18/19 sy at 34.18%; 19/20 sy at 35.53%; 20/21 sy at 35.95% and 21/22 sy at 36.4%.

Significant assumptions also included social security contributions which are tied to payroll, debt service at actual required payments and other expenditures projected at 2% increase unless they are contractual and an increase is known.

He reported our fund balance as of 6/30/2016 to be higher than average, (our fund balance at 40% versus 20% average for the state) but noted our District has a much higher outstanding debt (roughly 88%) than other school districts.

The significant assumptions for revenues include a 1% increase in current real estate and earned income taxes; no increase in other local revenues; three scenarios for basic ed funding using three options (no increase; 1% increase or 2% increase). Social security and retirement subsidies which are tied to payroll and no increase in federal funding are also included in significant assumptions.

The School Board thanked Mr. Mayle for a very detailed report and noted he has a good grasp on what is going on.

2. *Forms Workflow*- Mr. Kelly has had this project on his list for some time and is now able to address it. He and Mr. Mayle have been working on dealing with the large quantities of paper the district uses and how to minimize it. He is unsure if at the end of their research if they will actually make a purchase but felt it was definitely work investigating.

There are a great deal of inefficiencies in our paperwork, approvals and flow such as a facility use request form. This form passes through a number of individuals both before presented to the board and afterwards. Therefore, using that as an example he and Mr. Mayle have been working with a consortium involving Girard, Millcreek and the Northwest Tri-County IU#5. So far there are six different companies that provide software but he admitted not all are geared to school districts. His goal is to find a preferred hosted solution that is web based to include online signatures with archiving without having a piece of paper printed.

They are ready now to narrow down the list and pull in a few more key people to review. He is looking at software under \$10,000 and will not consider any above that cost per year. The product might initially be higher but the short range list is \$5,000 to \$7,000.

Mrs. Sperry asked that he run this by Mr. Joseph as some paperwork probably has to be kept in paper form. Mr. Kelly agreed and is taking it slow, some paperwork we cannot get away from hard copies.

3. *Policy 237 – Electronic Devices for discussion*. Mr. Kelly addressed the Board regarding Policy 237 – Electronic Devices before any discussion with the building principals next week at their monthly administrative team meeting. He is aware of some variances on possession of cell phones and other electronic devices ranging from allowing students to store them in their locker to allowing possession during the school day. For security reasons he felt it might not be a bad idea to allow them to keep the device on their person after participant in the ALICE training. He would like to fit in the policy the variances due to grade levels.

He recommends allowing possession of out of sight powered off device during the school day unless permission from a teacher, with principal knowledge has been given for a finite time period under that teacher's supervision. Students still would "not" be able to access our wireless.

Mrs. Krachkowski supported Mr. Kelly's recommendation to have a cell phone on their person and believes there is a difference in using it personally versus school related.

In looking at other districts same or similar policy, Mr. Kelly sees a broad spectrum. Our own policy was backed off some in regards to punishment compared to before consolidation and again he recommended keeping the policy to read "power off" but the policy is unenforceable as he reads it now.

Mr. Sperry has informed teachers that if they felt a student would benefit in the classroom it was the individual teachers' decision to decide. But with the implementation of iPads now he feels it is a moot point.

In conclusion, the Board was in favor of Mr. Kelly's recommendation but would like administrators to review the policy, review the violations versus consequences and whether the punishment fits the crime. They also would like to see a report showing the number of occurrences for each violation once the policy is presented to them again.

4. *Policies for 1st Reading –*

- a. Policy 206 – Assignment within District
- b. Policy 208 – Withdrawal from School
- c. Policy 211 – Student Accident Insurance
- d. Policy 212 – Reporting Pupil Progress
- e. Policy 215 – Promotion and Retention
- f. Policy 626.1 – Conflict of Interest Federal Programs
- g. Policy 626.2 - Travel Reimbursement Federal Programs
- h. Policy 626.3 – Cash Management Federal Programs
- i. Policy 626.5 – Procurement for Federal Programs

The Policy Committee Co-Chairs reported minor changes to the above listed policies up for 1st Reading next week. One in particular, policy 211- Student Accident Insurance was a topic of discussion with Mr. Joseph as there is a grey area when it comes to club sports i.e., lacrosse, bowling and cheerleading. If an accident occurs it does fall on our insurance. Therefore, the Board was asked do we want to look at asking or forcing these clubs to pay a small fee. Lacrosse does have their own insurance policy but if they had not it would fall on the District. The board asked to address this with Mr. Joseph, and see if it would be enforceable.

The remaining policies had minor changes and/or renumbering to reflect the UGG guidelines.

5. *Superintendent's Report*

Mr. Sperry provided the following report;

- The Community Dinner took place on December 8th, it was a great success again, and many thanks are given to those who plan and organize this event. Jody and I delivered meals to Pal Fund.

- We had our first delay and cancellation of the school year due to weather in December. We had a delay on Dec 12th, and a cancellation on Dec 15th. Those days start around 4:12 for local superintendents and the conversations are very interesting at that time of the morning.
 - I attended the PASCD (Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) training "Evaluation Academy" on Dec 14th. The final training is on January 9th. 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.
 - The CCCTC Re-Organization and Board meeting was December 21st. Tom Washington, Michael Healy, and I were all in attendance. The new board was seated and while Mr. Schaefer resumed as President, Frank Schreck has taken over as Vice-President. The expanded welding program from the CCCTC being offered at CVMS was discussed and Michael Healy brought up the fact that 16 of the welding students that were turned away from the program were PENNCREST students.
 - On January 3rd, I attended the Systems of Care meeting at Crawford County Human Services. Karen Jez, Tom Washington, Julie Lyon (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 an upcoming training being coordinated with Crawford Central School District and Parkside Psychological Association. The training is aimed at any and all adults in Crawford County that work with kids. This could be parents, guardians, coaches, teachers, religious leaders, etc, and the goal is to expand the tools these individuals have to successfully mentor children. There are five trainings being scheduled with the first one to be formally scheduled for this spring. The date should be available by early February.
6. *Additional Work Session* – Mrs. Sperry reviewed the topic for the additional work session scheduled Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Normally it is designated as board training but two of the individuals invited to speak are not available. Therefore, she is suggesting Mr. Joseph come to educate the board on special education compliance. The thoughts are his presentation can provide a better understanding of special education, the why's and what we have to do to stay compliant.

With that, she also suggested having the March Additional Work session for advocacy training on the direction our state and nation is heading in. She emphasized the need in having stronger voices out there contacting our representatives. Vicki Leap, an aide with Park Wentling and Edward Albert, Executive Director for PARSS will be available to present. Mr. Ellis is willing to contact our PSBA region representative to come as well. A light dinner will be provided around 6 and then go into our 7 pm meeting which should last approximately 2 hours.

7. *PARSS, NSBA, PSBA Updates* – Mrs. Sperry announced the PARSS Spring Conference in April is now open for early registration. If anyone is interested in attending, this conference is focused on rural advocacy and legislation, she highly recommends it. She plans on attending as well as Mr. Mayle.

Mr. Ellis read off the upcoming webinars PSBA is offering.

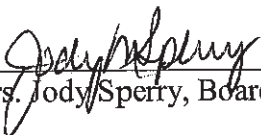
8. *Agenda Review*-
The Board reviewed the draft agenda.

Negotiations Committee will be meeting tomorrow, Thursday, January 5, 2017 with the Conneaut Education Association to discuss proposals.

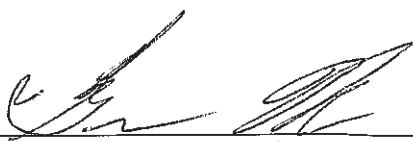
Executive Session

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 student matters.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Mrs. Jody Sperry, Board President



Mr. Greg Mayle, Board Secretary