

# Conneaut School District

## PUBLIC WORK SESSION

### Minutes

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

7:00 PM

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at the Alice Schafer Annex gymnasium/cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Mrs. Dorothy Luckock.

The following members answered to roll call:

Mr. Burnham

Mr. Ellis

Mr. Hornstein

Mr. Jacobs

Mrs. Klink

Mrs. Krachkowski

Mrs. Luckock

Mr. McQuiston

Mrs. Miller

#### **Administrators Present-**

**Superintendent:** Jarrin Sperry

**Business Manager:** Greg Mayle

**Director of Special Education** – Susy Dressel

**Technology Coordinator:** Rick Kelly

**Director of Buildings and Grounds-** Frank Kimmel

**Curriculum Director** – Brenda Kantz

**Principals:** Mr. Maskrey, Mr. Wentling, Mr. Jardina, Mr. Burns, and Mr. Parks.

#### **Visitor Recognition**

Mrs. Luckock offered a 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.

No one approached the podium.

#### Discussion Items

1. *PSBA* – Mr. Ellis introduced Mr. Summerville who is the PSBA Members Services representative for our area provided an overview of what PSBA does for our district.
2. *Data Collection/Analysis* -Mr. Sperry noted that last year the Board had set goals and one was to look at the use of our buildings. The Board and Administration collected data and reached out to the residents on ideas for consolidating the middles. There are lots of options on the table but his recommendation is to leave the district as it is and continue to review data over the next three years. Kindergarten has dropped to 100, last year the first day enrollment was 128. He questioned if this year was a blip or a trend. If it stays low moving forward

Mr. Sperry would also like to move the 5<sup>th</sup> graders to the elementary level at both Elementary Schools starting next year. We did not have room to do this before and this would put the middle schools with 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

Mr. Jacobs asked if there was any information on the lower kindergarten numbers a function of the unknowns with K-8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sperry replied that he did not believe so, he sees the trend from 2012 to last year we lost over 400 students and feels it is due to a declining population. 15 years ago we had over 3,000 total enrolled. PENNCREST School District is showing the same decline, Crawford Central School District some decline but not as much. We live in an area now that is not increasing jobs, pre-K has 50-60 students that would come to us in the fall, some will some won't. When kindergarten comes in and graduates in 12 years this class of 100 will probably be 89.

Mr. Burnham asked for PENNCREST's numbers over the past 12 years, Mr. Sperry will contact them. He feels there are more cyber and home schooled students this year than in the past. Mr. Sperry confirmed that we have over 162 cyber students this year, a combination of blended and full time cyber students. Mr. Ellis added his frustration in that cyber schools can advertise free enrollment when that is completely false.

Mrs. Miller asked for clarification, we are leaving the district as it is and are now organized as a middle school. Mr. Sperry replied, yes.

3. *Maintenance Update(s)* - Mr. Kimmel announced we surpassed last years energy savings by more than \$8,000.00. We had a savings this year of \$119,000.00.

One of the maintenance trucks was in an accident, insurance has totaled the truck, a 1995 Ford Truck with a lift gate. He already had in his budget this year to replace "a" vehicle, it wasn't this one but he asked the Board about purchasing another vehicle. Mrs. Luckock confirmed that his capital plan was to purchase another vehicle but has now been moved up due to the accident. Mr. Kimmel replied yes.

Mr. Burnham asked for additional information on the accident as in his observation he has a problem in how the bleachers were unloaded. He observed the truck backed into a ditch and questioned the supervision of what was going on. He also asked if the lift gate assembly could be put on a flatbed truck. Mr. Kimmel did not feel it could. The lift gate is obsolete and bent. Mrs. Luckock reminded Mr. Burnham the District does not have the flexibility that one would have with a farm truck. The Board consensus was to purchase a used truck, not a new one, or even a leased truck turned back in and one no older than five years old.

Mrs. Krachkowski requested this be an executive session discussion tonight.

Mr. McQuiston asked, knowing the District paid for HVAC maintenance report, asked for it on both the HVAC side and the control side.

4. *Start of School Update...Each Principal*  
CASH- Mr. Maskrey stated it was hot, busy but a great start. Link Crew helped the 9<sup>th</sup> graders transition, Chrome Books distribution went well and lunches balanced.

CVMS- Mr. Burns looks at four aspects; does every child have a schedule, 2<sup>nd</sup> do the lockers work, WEB Leaders did great preparing the 5<sup>th</sup> graders; 3<sup>rd</sup> is lunch, are they remembering their numbers and last is to make sure every student gets on the bus. The largest classroom has 26 and the smallest is about 10; the 7<sup>th</sup> grade group is the smallest, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> has about 80 and 8th graders have 75 students.

CLE- Mr. Parks indicated all went well.

CLMS- Mr. Wentling had a good start, started with WEB night, great showing. Schedules went very well and adults seemed excited to work collaboratively for the first time, the culture in the building is improving and busing went well.

5. *Homecoming/Prom Courts...* last spring Mr. Maskrey informed the Board he would make a decision whether to continue homecoming/prom courts this fall. He has met with senior and junior grades and overwhelmingly they did not care but he did have ten to twelve seniors come to him with intelligent conversations. He has decided to keep prom courts but voting will be held different. Instead of two votes and nominate a court and pick, we will vote once with the top five or six and the student receiving the most votes will be king and queen.
6. *Coaches Professional Development...* Mr. Acklin provided an overview of his coaches professional development held last month, ironically the same night as this Boards work session, August 1, 2018.
7. *Superintendent's Report...Mr. Sperry*
  1. I participated in a round table discussion on School Safety in Hermitage at Artman Elementary School. Representative Michelle Brooks coordinated the event and numerous legislators were in attendance. The representatives from Crawford County included Kevin Sprong and myself. This was one of many roundtables held throughout the state allowing school officials and local and state law enforcement to share idea, concerns, and pose questions to legislators. Discussion included; arming teachers and staff, background checks, enhanced security for buildings, school resource officers/police officers and increasing the mental health supports available to students and their families.
  2. I got married on August 11<sup>th</sup>.
  3. On August 16<sup>th</sup>, I stopped over and watched the Link Crew Leaders and staff lead our new 9<sup>th</sup> graders. This is our second year with Link Crew and as the staff stated last year, it has been a wonderful way to acclimate both our new 9<sup>th</sup> graders to the high school and our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to the middle schools.
  4. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, Joel and I attended the Anderson School Bus kickoff held at Station 3 in Conneaut Lake. Joel and I reiterated how important their jobs are and that they are the first and last face our kids see in the morning, at the end of the day, and how they set a tone for how our kids start and end their days. We also stressed how we value their service in getting our kids to and from school every day safely.
  5. New Teacher Induction was held at CASH on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The new teachers were introduced to central office, Dot Luckock, and other building administrators in the district. Doug Parks and Adam Jardina led the meeting.

6. A small group of people met with Judge Vardaro on August 24<sup>th</sup> in his chambers. This group from the Crawford County Children's Roundtable is a coordinated group tasked with improving communication between/among all the service agencies, schools, and the courts. This was our first meeting. From this meeting, we focused our efforts and are asking the Systems of Care to join with us in this endeavor.
7. Chrome Book distribution was Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Numerous people from Central helped out and the process gets better each and every year thanks to Rick, Matt, and how they coordinate the distribution. Students are in and out in a few minutes and issues are resolved on the spot. Everything went as smoothly as possible.
8. I attended the monthly Systems of Care meeting at Crawford County Human Services on Tuesday, Sept 4<sup>th</sup>. Talk centered on having Judge Vadarro (or another representative from his office) attending the system of care meetings as well as the formation of a county wide database that would link schools, support services, and the judiciary so that coordination of efforts can be streamlined for families. There was also discussion about the upcoming Youth Summit occurring this month and the Trauma Informed workshop in October being held at Edinboro University.
9. Today I met with Steve Carr from the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College about the possibility of the college using some of our buildings for classes for people in our area. They currently use some buildings in Meadville (including the CCTC) but don't currently use any buildings on this side of the county.
8. Board Goals...Mrs. Luckock reminded her fellow board members to turn in their top five selections. Board approval will occur in October.
9. PSBA Voting for PSBA Officer Elections... Mr. Ellis announced selections will be voting on next week.
10. PSBA Updates...Mr. Ellis had a few updates.
11. Superintendent's Evaluation reminder...Mrs. Luckock provided hardcopies of the form to each board member and asked that they complete and return to her next week.
12. Additional Work session Agenda items...Mrs. Luckock announced this meeting will be used to review academic scores if we have them, discipline, board goals and receive an overview from the newly formed Board Agenda Study Committee.
13. Agenda Review...the board went over the draft agenda for next week.

Mr. Burnham addressed his fellow board members. The building trip before school had started turned into something unexpected with them re-routed to the Vo Tech. The Director and Assistant Director are excellent people with an excellent facility along with Mr. Schaefer as the chairperson during the construction. The CTC used a different architect firm than the District here did. Having said that on, August 15 there was a consensus by the Board to go to our buildings but after we loaded on the bus we found we were taken to the vo tech school... without the knowledge of several of us, and in Mr. Burnham's term this is called a conspiracy. Several involved knew what was going on and were informed to not let the others know so, kidnapped without consent to go to the vo tech. He is not sure of the motive and the committee he is on had talked about getting the rest of the board to the vo tech. This is a wonderful idea but a certain amount of transparency should go on when the Board consensus is to do one thing and

something else happens at the administrative level and do something else happens. He personally felt this is a hardship because if he had been in the know he would have driven there and back. He would have saved an hour or hour and a half as his time is valuable. As a dairy farmer, milking cows he has to rely on his wife and maybe son when he is at these meetings. So he feels it was very inconsiderate to those who were involved, and understands others had personal issues with this as well. He feels it is very alarming, here we are- with credibility with the public and at the time should have been so with ourselves. If the vo tech tour was the decision, it should have been discussed at the August 15 meeting, with a date set, parameters and then acted accordingly, it was inconsiderate and he is not sure if there was a policy breach but was very disappointed.

Mrs. Luckock personally apologized to any board member who was offended, it was her idea. In order to divert announcing it she and Mr. Sperry organized a surprise in lieu of the traditional building tour. Again, she apologized to any board member as it was not meant to be inconsiderate of your time. Was just hoping that we could become better informed for those of us not able to schedule getting there. She appreciates both Mr. Sprong and Mr. Costa coming out and devoting their evening for the tour. It was not meant to be disrespectful of their time either.


Mrs. Krachkowski echoed Mr. Burnhams sentiments, she works in Meadville and wasted an hour driving back to Linesville after work. She avails herself to attend open houses at the CTC and is aware and has made time to go to summer camps, and celebrations to be informed. Our building tours usually take no more than 2 hours and that night was much later, 4 hours. It was an inconvenience to me but also she is concerned as a board because we take our building safety and preparation seriously and we have not been to the buildings to see the preparations. I have constituents who have shared some concerns and since we did not go on that tour she cannot investigate situations. She now has to make appointments with building administrators to go out now. She agrees, not sure a conspiracy but feels she was tricked and her personal time was wasted.

Mr. Burnham was not sure how other board members felt but it would be beneficial if other board do not have time to go through the CTC, Mr. Sperry could get with the Directors and have some type of live screen video tour done. Show some students in their classes what they are doing.

Mr. Sperry also apologized if some board felt this trip was a waste of time. Mrs. Krachkowski did not think the trick was done purposely.

**Mrs. Luckock announced the Board would be going into an EXECUTIVE SESSION after adjournment** to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, specifically to discuss personnel in relation to the accident with the maintenance vehicle.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

  
Mrs. Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
Mr. Greg Mayle, Board Secretary