

**Conneaut School District**

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION  
Minutes  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018  
7:00 PM**

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at the Alice Schafer Annex cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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

**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:** David Maskrey, Doug Parks, Kevin Burns, Joel Wentling, John Hines and Adam Jardina.

Mrs. Luckock announced to the public that the visitor recognition would be held after the Superintendent's Recommendation, as this may change what a visitor wishes to discuss.

*Discussion Items*

Superintendent's Recommendation-

Mr. Sperry recommended at this time is to stay as we are through the next school year (2018/2019) and review the following five (5) options starting now and through the summer;

1. Stay as we are
2. 2 K-8's where the middle schools currently are
3. A combined MS at Valley with grades 6/7/8 (k-5 at the both elementary schools)
4. A combined MS at Lake with grades 6/7/8 (k-5 at the both elementary schools)
5. 2 k-6's where the elementary schools are and 7/8 at Alice Shafer

There are simply too many questions that need answered regarding: academics, finances, and transportation to make the recommendation now. We will review all the options and their pros and cons and I'll bring a recommendation to the board in the fall of 2018.

There are too many questions to be answered before a good recommendation can be proposed. Therefore he recommends we stay as we are through the next school year, 2018/2019 and to review the following options this fall.

Visitor Recognition

Mrs. Luckock now offered a Visitor Recognition on any item as per Policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings. Noting that 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.

*Cora Mozina*, addressed the board: she felt Mr. Sperry gave some good points as there would have been a lot of conversation had we not been surprised by his recommendation. She thought it was going to be fast paced to consolidation and just like that you are waiting. She is kind of curious as there are a lot of options out there, and she thought the District had looked at redistricting part of the northern end now and looked at that before, Springboro for example. Not sure if it is an option, but please understand she is new to looking at board things, but it seems like a lot of debt compared to other districts when looking at debt service. Some things I am not aware but we could use more information on.

*Mike Huber*- asked that it be known speaking as tax payer and not representative. When looking at the five options on the board, most are obviously viable options but he would like to speak on one that is a huge step backwards. Option 5- where the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> are at Alice Schafer. That is a dramatic step backwards, we have spent hundreds of hours and years working towards a middle school concept and away from the junior high concept. Teachers are passionate about middle schools and in my conversations with friends who do know the middle school concept if given appropriate tools, it works, is way more age appropriate. He is sure you would take a dramatic step backwards for our education if this option is voted on.

*Gina McCauley*- was on board during initial consolidation let me tell you this people do not have a great decision to choose, thankful taking a step back and looking at it. Really wanting buss committees with input would like some shape or form some input from communities other than five minutes on the podium, please listen to your community, hard decision and hard to live with former board member.

*Garfield Prebor*- he recalled when the original consolidation came about and asked if it is true the subsidies we get from the state are based on the buildings, and do they have to be occupied in education capacity? Mr. Mayle and Mrs. Luckock noted as part of the middle presentation yes. For our middle schools we receive from the Pennsylvania Department of Education reimbursement for Conneaut Valley Middle School bond payments and Conneaut Lake Middle School does not. We have to maintain 50 percent of the building for education.

Mr. Prebor asked about the Vo-Tech at Conneaut Valley Middle School. We house a satellite welding program at Conneaut Valley, in what was known as the vo ag shop. This has allowed the welding program to add 20 seats. Mr. Prebor asked if there was an expectation to expand. Mr. Sperry replied, yes in any building we have.

*Sonny Brady*- He asked why the middle schools did not have the same schedule. Conneaut Lake has 10 periods and Valley has 8. Mr. Sperry answered they have the same curriculum but schedules are different. Mr. Brady asked if one didn't work as well. Mrs. Kantz answered him with the setup of both buildings. With that, Mr. Brady questioned if the students are not getting enough staff is time being utilized effectively. Mr. Sperry answered this is one of the reasons for looking into consolidating. Mr. Brady ended with asking what is the District looking to put in the building if it is Conneaut Valley. Mr. Sperry answered his dream is to have another career center. We already expanded the welding program and there are five programs at the Career Center where students are tuned away. This is a shame, he wants to have two career centers in Crawford County. We would retain ownership but teachers would be employed by the Career Center. If that happened we would retain over \$600,000 if half full.

*Nicole Mead*- She felt the question originally asked was mixed on why two middle schools are doing 2 different things. Mrs. Kantz responded, curriculum is the same what happens is we just upgraded social studies last year with all the same materials but the schedule is up to the principal. They should be same content in both school as all departments have worked together for the upgrading.

Ms. Mead asked am I hearing and understanding that a school that has 8 sessions versus 10 get different timing. The middle school principals replied, they receive 42 minutes of core instruction, other courses may be different. Mr. Burns/Conneaut Valley Middle School stated we do a lot of the same courses, although our schedule is a little different we don't have advisory as Conneaut Lake does. They have a specific period for advisory and ours is mixed. We do science on different days, Conneaut Lake has time at the end of day for remediation whereby we have periods in our day where teachers in the class can work up. We have other options like music programs but not all students are involved in it. With that thought we try to make sure if looking at 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus or band we try to make sure English teachers are available during that time for the students to give extra help. Scheduling is tough to build to accommodate everyone.

Mr. Wentling noted his building, Conneaut Lake Middle School has advisory daily, extra time we have populated that classes at the end of the day before school is over. This is why remediation is at the end of the day. Proportion of his students leave before end of day. A variety of kids that move throughout the entire attendance area due to busing. Electives are different at Lake but the time equals the same, numbers the same at end of day.

*Board Docs Discussion...Mr. Sperry/Mrs. Kantz*

Mr. Sperry informed the Board that as members of PSBA, Pennsylvania School Board Association, we already pay for the policy piece of Board.docs. There is no extra cost to this aspect. If the District went with the Board.docs policy there would be a link to their sit. The Policy Committee could edit live and see changes online, vote on it through Canvas and when drafted it would be pushed over to our website. By doing this it streamlines the process of the policy committee. Mrs. Krachkowski reminded everyone that initially using it for the committee had a cost and we even wondered if we were going to continue with the membership. This is not an issue anymore and she supports using it. Mrs. Miller commented that PSBA doesn't

always should to the small community values and sometimes more city paced. She wondered if there is going to be a time to take a break. If we did what would happen. Mr. Sperry said the policies are still ours and we would pull them and host each ourselves, much as we do now. The real change is maintenance and edits.

Volleyball Discussion...Mr. Acklin

Mr. Acklin and Ms. Kravec presented a junior high girls volleyball proposal. Their objective is to evaluate the junior high girls as a whole district rather than as one middle school or the other.

Raw numbers show approximately 2 Lake girls for every 1 from Valley.

-40 girls from Lake with 17 eight and 23 seventh graders. 18 girls from Valley consisting of 9 eight graders and 9 seventh.

The propose the following;

- To create two fully functioning 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams from Valley and Lake, each playing their own schools schedule.
- Create one full team of Lake 7<sup>th</sup> graders, playing Lake's schedule.
- Create on team of mixed Lake and Valley 7<sup>th</sup> graders to play Valley's schedule.
- All 4 of the Lake and Valley teams will be operating with full numbers, which is a major improvement since last year.

What we need:

- Shuttle for Valley HOME games
- Extra Lake pickup for Valley AWAY games
- Daily shuttle is not required due to practice times being from 5-7 pm.

Shuttle dates for the home games and pickup away games were provided.

Why?

- Already acquired knowledge of the girls' abilities from working with the ones who have been consistently coming to Open Gyms.
- Open gyms have been running since January 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Total of 13 opportunities to come and learn/practice skills
- Only five open gyms are left
- Girls basketball is over and no winter sports for girls, so no prior sport commitments should be interfering with the girls from being in the gym
- Girls that are showing up at the end of the open gyms or not until tryouts may be encouraged to play; however, they may lack real interest in volleyball
- We already have 40 girls who have come to open gyms and have shown a true interest in volleyball. It would be unfair to them to be possibly cut from the program
- The coaching staff is looking into the future of bettering the overall girls' volleyball program in their selections for the junior high teams.

The Board asked to have this on the agenda for voting next week.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Policies ...Mrs. Kantz/Mr. Jardina

There was a number of policies up for first reading. Mrs. Kantz reviewed the revisions with the Board.

Policy 301 – Administrative Employees Creating a Position

Policy 308 – Administrative Employees Employment Contract

Policy 309 – Administrative Employees Assignment and Transfer

Policy 310 – Administrative Employees Abolishing a Policy

Policy 313 – Administrative Employees Evaluation of Administrative Employees

Policy 316 – Administrative Employees Nontenured Employees

Policy 800 – Operations Records Management

CVMS Gym Floor...Mr. Kimmel

An update on the gym floor; the engineering report insurance company hired to evaluate the problem is blaming the water on incursion from underneath, a possible crack in the flooring. The repair involves exposing the concrete underneath the wood floor and see if that is the case. Mr. Burnham asked if this is something picked up prior to the installation of the floor years ago and someone exercised negligence and slipped? Mr. Burnham was opposed to putting the gym floor below grade and this information you bring was not made aware of from the manufacture about running floors below grade so he feels it is negligence with various parties at that time. Mrs. Luckock asked when the section is exposed, if there is evidence do we have a potential of reopening our claim with the insurance company. Mr. Kimmel answered yes, he did speak with Mr. Joseph on some of those issues but is not sure if it qualified to speak on them. Mr. Joseph would be here next week to speak on it prior to the vote. Mr. Kimmel also said the humidity level was very high and clarified that the motion next week will be on a portion of the repair.

Superintendent's Report...Mr. Sperry

Superintendent's Report: February 1, 2017 (Presented to Conneaut School Board)

1. IU5 Superintendent meeting was held January 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Pam Lenz was there to discuss her new role as PSBA advocate for our area. Pam has been a superintendent and previously a circuit rider. She is getting to know all the local legislators in the hopes that she can create those relationships to high lite the good things districts are doing and go to legislators with concerns that districts have. The superintendents also talked about the rise in student's mental health needs across all of our districts. A recent story on WICU 12 highlighted the issue and interviewed General McLane superintendent, Rick Scaletta and North East's superintendent, Frank McClard. All districts are seeing a rise in students with anxiety, depression, and other mental health needs.
2. The CASH newspaper wasn't published this month so I put my article on Face Book instead. I wrote an article about Career and Technical Education as February is Career and Technical Education Month. Kevin Sprong (CCCTC Director) added a paragraph explaining 9<sup>th</sup> grade tours and work sessions, and Lisa Lichota was my proofreader. (Lisa was an English teacher before she was a guidance teacher.) As of this evening, the article has reached over 2,600 people. Don Ellis was the first to comment on the article. The letter is on Canvas for you.
3. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Dot and I met with Jody and awarded her a plate from Wendell August in recognition of her years of service to the district and students of Conneaut.
4. January 17<sup>th</sup> was the CCCTC board meeting, and I suggested that in the future, all boards from all three sending districts have at least one work session and/or board meeting at the CCCTC so all

Conneaut School District Public Work Session February 7, 2018 Minutes

board members from each district can tour the CCCTC and get a better grasp of what it is that our students are learning there.

5. On Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dot and I went to the CCCTC for Dot to sit down and meet with Kevin Sprong and Mike Costa (Director and Assistant Director of the CCCTC respectively) Dot had never had the opportunity to sit down with them and she wanted to meet with them and gain a better understanding of the CCCTC and the process by which programs are started and/or stopped at the Career Center.
6. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, Dot, Jamie and I attended the PSBA symposium at the Career and Technical Center in the evening. A board president panel was set up with questions from Jim Summerville (PSBA rep) asked to individuals on the panel. Dot was on the panel as were three other board presidents. The symposium lasted about two hours with all districts engaging and sharing lessons learned and processes that they currently use for a variety of areas.
7. A Cyber Rick team was assembled for Conneaut, consisting of numerous teachers and administrators to evaluate our cyber program, cyber charters, and why Crawford County has a large number of students that attend cyber charter schools. Our first meeting was February 5<sup>th</sup>. This first meeting was a brainstorming session, and more meetings are being scheduled.
8. CLMS has started a book review that is meeting every other Monday at CLMS. The book: *The Wild Card* by Wade King is about seven steps to aid educators in using their creativity to inspire students. Stephanie Billig came to Joel with the idea and he eagerly embraced it. I plan on attending and ordered the book last week.

PSBA Presentation and Updates...Mr. Ellis/Mr. Hornstein

Mr. Hornstein and Mr. Ellis each presented on their PSBA Conference attendance from last October, 2017.

Mr. Ellis also noted that when board members attend conference, they try to sit in on separate sessions and get as much out of the as possible. Due to his position as the liaison for PSBA he goes to some different ones anyway.

Agenda Review...Mrs. Luckock

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

**Mrs. Luckock announced the Board would 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, issues might include personnel concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

  
Mrs. Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
Mr. Greg Mayle, Board Secretary