

## Conneaut School District

### PUBLIC WORK SESSION

### MINUTES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

7:00 PM

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

**District Solicitor-** George Joseph

**Director of Special Education-** Susy Walters

**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. 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.

Travis Crytzer, Summit Township resident and local business owner and the President of the Linesville Business Alliance. He noted he is a graduate of Linesville and successfully graduated from College with a BS in Law and Society and a Master's Degree. He worked in the Nation's Capital and moved back to open up Blossoms and Blooms Boutique with his mother who just retired from the District. He quickly became involved in the community to help create the Lineville Business Alliance. He takes his role very seriously and is committed to the town and community. There is a concern shared among many in the district who want to know what the current status of the business manager in the school district. According to the media reports we understand the individual is facing a felony charge of strangulation, pressure to the neck and throat among other charges. Why does this person remain to allow to interact with students, is a representation of students and colleagues and teachers.

He did not deny people are innocent until proven guilty but the public deserves an answer. So what does this teach our students and say to the victim who is a secretary at the high school. What is it saying to other victims and how does the district and the Board and administrators take sexual harassment and domestic violence seriously. What policies are in place and what actions proposed to assure victims can come forward and know the District is taking it seriously? What environment is it creating for colleagues in the District and why administrators are held to a different standard and expectation? Thank you for your time and I look forward to a positive and healthy discussion and working relationship with you for the betterment of students and our community.

GW Hall, resident living in Sadsbury, at the last meeting you discussed low test scores at school and went through a projected proposal for what is on the table. Now the Middle School had a tabled the question of low scores, can we currently do something? Is there talk of closing an elementary, can we fit moving a grade? To me it feels like we getting pushed hard enough for a solution just to table it, if decision is to be made to, what about the test scores and what can we do now opposed to waiting until the next school year. Our administrators have been asked to provide us some temporary solutions.

Mrs. Luckock responded, if you have a great idea we are always willing to hear it dot said.

Cora McCane, she was here last week. As far as the consolidation I have been to the last few meetings and understand consolidation is to be on hold until next school year and not this fall but my daughter is hearing discussions in the school with teachers and administrators about how would you feel if the consolidation went n on this year. Her daughter was confused as she too thought this was off the table and put on hold. Mrs. Luckock replied, the direction from superintendent's recommendation and board was that if consolidation would happen it would not happen this fall as stated in the public meeting. Mrs. McCane thought she misheard and the message is not getting out to the teachers. Thank you for making us aware maybe there isn't a clear enough communication out there.

No one else approached the podium.

#### *Discussion Items*

##### *Mock Trial Student Update...*

Mrs. Verno had thirteen high school students participate in the mock trial this year. Participating in Erie and were up against Sheffield and McDowell. We did not win but presented very well and this was Mrs. Verno's first time doing it. Scores were very close in all the judging. She will plan to start earlier starting in September with court cases. There will be two students attending next week's voting meeting with more detail. Mrs. Verno then showed students Connect projects from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated at the Intermediate Unit.

##### *Time Clocks...*

Mr. Sperry noted time clocks was a subject negotiated with the CESP in order to streamline payroll system, negotiated to a style of time clocks. The business office and Mr. Kelly has been coordinating the time clocks over last several months, investigated vendors and specific areas of concern, ease of use and proven integration with our systems. Each board member should have at proposal from

Kronos to view on Canvas. The annual cost is very competitive with an upfront significant amount but in a few years pays for itself. This was originally presented to budget finance committee in detail and the Committee recommended to bring to board for consideration.

Mr. Sperry noted it is not in the budget and will come out of reserve funds. Annual cost \$3,360.00 with a one-time upfront cost 422,808.00 so \$18,898 for hardware and \$4,000 for implementation and setup fees.

Mrs. Krachkowski asked what does our contract state and why is it needed. Mrs. Luckock noted that currently the District uses a paper system with duplication and this why streamlining it right into our payroll system. Mr. Sperry added this is in the new upcoming contract starting July, 2018 allowing the District to utilize a time clock system.

Mr. Burnham asked for a comparison, is there a savings of hours secretaries and office personnel spend doing. Mr. Burnham asked for a dollar comparison.

Mrs. Miller asked given the process we are going through it would behoove us to put one in each building until we decide on consolidation. Mrs. Luckock said we have to be cautious on the contract we accepted. Mrs. Miller would rather wait a year and not spend the money. Mr. Hornstein asked what if we don't do this. Mr. Sperry replied that everything would stay status quo. Mrs. Miller wants to make one work a year until we know building situation. Mr. McQuiston said if do that there would be more cost to setup, ending up doing it twice, something to think about. Mr. Sperry said we will figure out before vote.

#### *Christmas Tree Farm...*

Mr. Sperry here before most of us born, back in the 40s group FFA students bought plotted land consisting of 48 or 50 acres using an orange group fundraiser/sale to buy the land. The idea was to grow Christmas trees as FFA fund raising in which they would harvest the trees and sell them. A railroad track run through there. Years ago a train went through during a dry season and set some trees on fire. The land was bought by the FFA students and controlled by district. Mrs. Aurand wanted to wait for her replacement as the FFA director to make the decision on what to do. Mrs. Medrick has now been here a year and walked the property, she has decided to sell the property.

The Board is different with new members now but the FFA wants assured the proceeds will go to them as it was bought with FFA funds and didn't think it would be a problem. Mr. Joseph has provided clarification when purchased in name of predecessor as the school district Linesville joint. Because FFA could now own it but it is titled in the District successor therefore properties owned by district can be sold.

The Board did not object to place this on the agenda for next week to move forward with selling the property.

Mr. Burnham noted we should have some discussion with Ernst if there are any wetland plants with some value that we don't know about. Mr. Kimmel said the property is mostly soggy wet, Mr. Burnham felt there might be some with an extremely high value per ounce depending on what it is, Mr. Kimmel did have Martin Lawrence, a forester, walked with him and said we could cut trees down

to allow paper mill growth, we would end up spending money to do this. Mr. Burnham reiterated he is not talking about forestry, he is talking about plants. Mrs. Luckock would be happy to make that contact and introduce Mr. Kimmel to him. Mr. Jacobs would add to it as well.

#### *Data Updates...*

Principals/Mrs. Kantz it is mid-year so we do not have standardized test scores. We do however have Keystone scores on Canvas using new data warehouse. The charts are showing winter keystones students took course did not pass first time so these are the re-takers. This is not a cross section of the whole student body.

Mrs. Miller asked historically how does this compare; about status quo per Mrs. Kantz.

Each building provided an overview for their student body.

Mr. Sperry would like to add to the agenda a remediation run for the remainder of this year and then for next year put remediation teachers in the middle schools. This year the proposal is to run buses for those students who cannot stay after school, this way they can. It includes students with multiple failures with us trying to help students stay to study. We have the teachers and with these scores we are identify better those to help with remediation. We have a large number of students who don't have the means or way to get home if they stayed after school for remediation.

Mrs. Miller feels that PDE has a site to get information, so what are we doing to get it to them. Mr. Wentling replied that a lot of parents have seen these reports but it is based on individual tests, comes through classroom with a lot of students getting them from the teachers. This again is for students who need the help, the students doing fine are not getting the reports. He cannot say every parent has seen it and not every teacher does it. Mrs. Krachkowski felt progress reports would be good to send home. Mrs. Miller asked so the after school programs such as homework club really wasn't getting at the heart, so if working to institute now, would we not have homework club? Mr. Sperry answered that is correct, it is now remediation and we use the data to see what that student needs help in.

#### *Cyber Tuition...*

Mr. Sperry reminded the Board about 2 years ago Jamestown School District had approached us for one or two of their students to attend our cyber school. We have a Memorandum of Understanding that exists but we never set tuition rate. The MOU never had a tuition amount. Mr. Sperry believes we need an amount ready to go as he has had other Superintendent inquire. His memory thought we had it set at \$5,000 for full a full days' worth of classes. If the Board is in agreement can use that number and bring MOU forward. Mr. Joseph added that he didn't feel we needed to bring it forward until we had a District interested as we would need a separate MOU for each District. So how is jarring safe at \$5,000.00. The MOU would be on a yearly basis though as it would depend on the teachers cost. In order to establish a cyber-tuition rate the District could use \$5,000 for a full time student and \$800/class for a part time. The District could establish a set tuition rate in July or August and bring an MOU for any individual district later. Mrs. Walters suggested the Board consider a special education cyber program tuition rate as well at the high school level. Average cost across the state is approximately \$20,000 for special education students.

*Policies for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading...*

Mrs. Kantz/Mr. Jardina noted this month the committee is only going are 610, 611 and 625 updates due to an increase in the bidding threshold. There will be no 300 policies going for first reading as we are discussing possibly combining 300, 400 and 500 similar to other districts.

*Policy 005 – Committees*

Mrs. Luckock took to the Policy Committee and now to bring to the board that at the time of appointing committees she looked at a standalone policy to appoint board members. That was the Athletic Ad Hoc which requires 3 members who had to be from separate regions. She did not realize that the other two committees, policy and finance incorporated the same version of Policy 005. That is not how she appointed members on the policy and finance committees, she appointed so that everyone served on a committee or the CTC or IU Board. Doing that she tried to look at skill set, past experience, interests is how she appointed on the policy committee and finance committee, and it does happen to be doubles from the same geographic area. She asked Mr. Josephs opinion as at the end of the day she wanted who she felt was best to serve on the committee, for the purpose of the committee and why she appointed as she did.

If the Board is willing they can vote to set aside the restriction or propose to adjust the policy to remove the voting region restriction in appointment of the committee members. She asked the Board to give that some consideration and if not, she will remove and reappoint.

Mr. Joseph added historical perspectives stating it operated as a committee of a whole, and it is recognized as an established policy for the committees. It was decided to incur it as a standing policy in 005 so drafted and brought over the wording. As a board these are your procedures and you choose to operate as a board.

The Board asked regarding sharing information, discussion and other board members able to come to committee meetings. Mr. Joseph stated the documents are public and can be shared, the public is also present for the discussion.

Mrs. Krachkowski had a strong opinion and is the one that called the imbalance to the board president's attention. Mrs. Luckock stated she would have appreciated being notified personally. Mrs. Krachkowski reminded everyone the policy states each voting area is to be represented on the committees, our constituents are voting us into represent them which is important to keep in mind. Each region is very unique, we are voted by regions and option of being voted at large meaning anyone in the areas can be voted on the board rather than voting regions.

The Board discussed adding the number of board members to a committee by one. A few Board members felt it was the Presidents prerogative to assign/appoint members based on background and everything goes to the board for final voting anyway therefore all the constituents are represented. We are one District and having fewer members on a committee has helped save how long we are here at meetings, not going late into the evening. Mr. Hornstein agreed that the committees do not vote, a recommendation is brought to the board to vote.

Mrs. Miller finds that if we, especially in this timeframe, are ready to go for consolidation, every group going through needs to have information from the budget committee such as what was discussed, decided, bits and pieces and ideas of what is happening, where monies are spent. Then we can go back and really sell the decision of our board and admin to constituents. That is why we were elected. I wanted to be on the board to stop small town nuances, and function as a whole district and no secrets. We need people who know the details, involved in them not saying we need committees as a whole, but having the ability to have a say for my constituents.

Mrs. Miller stated coming into the Budget/Finance Committee meeting she was treated as the public, no information was shared. Mrs. Luckock reminded her in the past we had no visitors so did not know she was coming, therefore did not prepare extra backups/documents.

Mr. Joseph indicated that some information is executive content.

Mr. Burnham asked why, as a member of the Board are we not entitled to the same information. Mr. Joseph sated that if we have it available on Canvas, in electronic form any Board member could log in and look at it.

Mrs. Krachkowski asked, if a Board member came to the committee and had questions to ask or if opinions they wanted to give, are they welcome and received because being appointed you can help deliberate and fact find and if not appointed you are only there as public.

Mr. Joseph believes yes, you are able to give input just as we give public comment. Mr. Burnham felt the Board should be able to give comment as long as not disruptive.

Mrs. Luckock suggested the board move to set aside for this year and if defeated then policy goes as written, defers to policy, 1 each region but if to change motion or set aside is defeated policy goes as written.

Mr. Joseph recommend along Mrs. Luckock's lines to suspend the rule one from each attendance area to allow committees to stand. A suspension of policy by policy requires 2/3 vote so 6 to suspend it. For the current year and then he would assume that if there is a vote to suspend that the direction for policy committee would be to explore revising it moving forward.

If no objection to put it on the agenda,

Mrs. Miller emphasized transparency for this Board is very important in the budget committee meeting may not be making decisions but she is hearing information and really have to be transparent to the committee and Board as a whole to our committees. She feels the meetings are scheduled at inconvenient times. Mr. Ellis reminded her that meetings cannot be convenient for everyone, they used to be during the daytime and are now late afternoon for board and principals. Mrs. Luckock agreed, we have to have a balance, we try to not have administrators here all day and evening.

Mr. Hornstein asked Mrs. Miller if she was implying that the Board was not transparent and we were hiding something on the budget committee as he didn't want her to be thinking that. She replied, yes, that is what I am saying.

#### *18/19 SY School Calendar...*

Mr. Sperry presented the next school years academic calendar, which is almost a clone to last year. Mrs. Klink suggested moving graduation to a Thursday due to most other high schools are the same night (Friday). At least one district needs to shift to another night. There would be argument of travelers. If Saturday a lot of kids leaving, mid-day heat, and band students are already gone to graduation parties as we discovered in the past. Mr. Sperry would move the graduation date to Thursday with the Boards majority agreement.

#### *Maintenance Updates ...*

Mr. Kimmel started with the *Conneaut Valley Middle School gym floors* are repaired. There was one section bigger than originally thought but the cost is still under \$5,000. Did find some items that had to be cleaned up, would like to talk in future about re-sanding the floors as records show it has not been done in over ten years. We will continue with some further work to rid of cuffing but they are good for the school year with no crack in the concrete, as insurance company had suspected. He resubmitted the repairs and results to insurance.

#### *Retirement-*

Maintenance has one employee retiring. This will drop his department to four and he would like to replace the individual with hiring before he retires to shadow. The total years of experience in the department currently stands at 40 years of experience and his total staff experience would drop to 20 years total after this retirement. He anticipates the employee would be using up vacation and be done around the end of May. The Board was in agreement to post, hire and appoint therefore placing a motion on the agenda next week.

#### *Chrome Books to replace iPads 1:1 CASH...*

Mr. Kelly announced the intent is to replace the iPads at high school with Chrome Books next fall. In working on this the past six months, the reason behind this is a full keyboard, provides more value of which iPads are not providing more curricular areas in the writing assignments, typing is limited on iPads, teachers still take students down to the library for their writing assignments. The iPad management software struggles with updates on the iPads.

The cost to replacing to Chrome books is 20 percent cheaper year over year with long term savings. Middle and elementary school are older iPads from the high school. In Mr. Kelly's opinion the rolling over of the devices had not yet begun and that was a problem as it should have started earlier. His plan is to replace the devices at high school is to replace iPads and will resolve middle and elementary school with supplemental devices at the high school.

We started investigating and over the summer we put some in the classrooms to see the feedback, bought a handful of devices, and had volunteers to use in classrooms. With wide support from teachers such as Mr. Huber, who was ecstatic in the idea?

We plan on using the monies budgeted for the iPads this year but also are taking out of the Technology budget for replacement without going over in the budget. In working with Mr. Messerall we only see one or two areas.

*Superintendent Updates/Academic Intervention...*

Mr. Sperry provided his update.

*PSBA/NSBA Updates...*

Mr. Ellis/Mrs. Luckock

*Agenda Review...*

The Board reviewed the draft agenda.

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.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:02 pm.

  
Mrs. Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
Mr. Greg Mayle, Board Secretary