

Conneaut School District

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION
Minutes
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
7:00 PM**

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, February 6, 2019 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:

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|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mr. Burnham | Mr. Ellis | Mr. Hornstein |
| Mr. Jacobs | Mrs. Klink | Mrs. Luckock |
| Mr. McGuirk | Mr. McQuiston | Mrs. Miller |

Administrators Present-

Superintendent: Jarrin Sperry

Business Manager: Greg Mayle

Technology Coordinator: Rick Kelly

Director of Special Education: Susy Dressel

Director of Buildings and Grounds- Frank Kimmel

Curriculum Director: Brenda Kantz

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

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.

Three individuals approached the podium.

Ben Sperry addressed the Board, as the head varsity boy basketball coach. He was not asking for any special preface, he knows the rules as his team failed to qualify for playoffs. He would like to consider going forward to re-evaluate qualifying though for the playoffs. He does not believe it serves interscholastic competition or the values promoting sports. Our goal is to promote team work and growth and to be better each day. Unfortunately the policy is destructive and hinders some of the goals. The cutoff dates on the policy indicate the team must be at 500 or be at the upper half of the teams. This helps those who have a better start in the beginning of the season that those that start slow such as his team and it actually is a letdown. Currently the policy forces a mandatory knockout, even though we have been teaching since day one to get better. Again he is not asking for special plea but he feels the policy masks the growth his team has had over the past year and it does not make sense to send other teams with less records than us.

Holly and Kris Blair addressed the board asking for a potential waiver for their child to be able to start kindergarten in 2020. His birthday is August 3 and the cutoff is August 1st. They realize it is a year and a half away but pre-K works on a point system, if a student is coming into their 2nd year with pre-K, they will take the 1st year students first. The point system is also for anyone with lower income gets to go first and the lower point system. This year they don't meet the criteria. They have two other children in school, they all work with their son and he already knows how to write his own name. They feel if he is held back with ie is five he would be in pre-k with 3 and 4 year olds. They ask for a waiver to get him in the 2020 school year starting kindergarten. Both parents have a late August birthday and are educated, they understand others may come forward but we just don't want him to fall behind. Mrs. Luckock replied, typically these student matters the Board tends to have an executive session so the Board will discuss specifics at the end of the meeting. Someone will follow up after tonight's meeting.

Kevin McGrath from the Linesville Borough addressed the Board regarding waterline work, gravel and blacktop work they will be starting in April. It is down the corner from this building, where the borough property line stops and the District line starts. He is concerned with the service line and the water pressure going into the fire hydrants. He is recommending the District replace it prior to the sidewalk and blacktop work is done by the borough.

Discussion Items-

Title 1 Distinguished Award-

Mrs. Kantz formally announced the Title 1 Distinguished Award won by Conneaut Lake Elementary School. In October, 2018 we were notified that Mr. Parks was once again received the Distinguished School for the 17/18 school year data. Previously, they were on their 15/16 data. This time on growth for 17/18 school year. The data, previously SPP, is largely on performance with several indicators. She provided a snapshot of the indicators as the slide had 37 pages/slides.

Future Ready -

Mrs. Kantz/Mr. Sperry briefed the Board on the new Future Ready PA Index. Launched in November 2018 the Future Ready PA Index is the result of discussions with educators, parents, policymakers and more across the Commonwealth on how communities "should" evaluate schools. The concept is to move past a single, summative score to increase transparency with a dashboard to present data.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education wanted a one stop location for comprehensive information and data on student and school success. The evaluating tool measures schools in three main categories: the academic performance of students; if student progress is on track; and whether students graduate ready for college or to start a career and succeed.

Parents can search by district, school name, career and technical center and location. They can look at data for one school at a time or use the comparison feature. The dashboard also shows progress in the three main categories by student group – including economically disadvantaged students, English Learners, students receiving special education services, and racial and ethnical groups.

Mrs. Kantz reviewed the Conneaut School District's Index comparing a couple of our buildings.

Budget Presentation-

Mr. Mayle provided the 19/20 school year budget kickoff by recapping the 17/18 school year budget versus the actual with one time expenditures and the operating deficit. He reviewed the 17/18 expenditure analysis expenditures by major functions which increased or decreased the original budget to the actual expenses.

He then reviewed the 17/18 expenditure analysis expenditures by object in the same way, reviewing the original budget to the actual expenses comparing increases or decreases between the two.

Mr. Mayle then summarized a breakdown of the General Fund Expenditures of the 08/09 school year versus the 17/18 school year. This showed only a 3.3 million dollar difference with salaries at 41% of the increase from 08/09 to 17/18.

The Deb Service of Principal Outstanding from fiscal year 2015 to a projected June 30, 2019 was reviewed. He provided a debt service payment schedule for 19/20 to 28/29 school years.

In his 18/19 school year updated, Mr. Mayle pointed out the District had a 1 mill tax increase and estimated current collection percentage to be reduced from 92.71% to 92.16%. The budgeted revenue is \$13,039,802 and so far the actual revenue is \$13,041,079.

The 18/19 school year stated basic education funding was budgeted at \$11,146,444 (flat from the previous year) and the actual allocation is \$11,214,487 which includes a statewide increase of \$100 million. Reminder this was a statewide increase not district.

Mr. Mayle noted the Basic Ed Funding Formula changed a few years back to a much more complex system and he summarized the changes briefly.

Additional 18/19 school year budget reviews included-

- Cyber Charter Expenditures of \$1,502,000 based on 106 student budgeted number of enrolled students with the now current enrollment of 92 students.
- Wages/Benefits budgeted 18/19 amounts compared to the projected for the end of 18/19 school year.
- 18/19 Budgeted Total Deficit was \$2,899,378 which consists of \$2,067,622 transferred to other funds and an operating deficit of \$831,756.

19/20 Budget Update-

Budget and Finance Committee goals discussed included a 3 year roadmap to a balanced budget; alignment of budget to District's goals and desired outcomes; analysis of District programs and services; introduction and tracking of various financial performance benchmarks.

Budget timeline this spring include status updates at each of the March, April and May work sessions. The Board to adopt a proposed final budget at the May voting meeting, a status update at the June work session and then the final adopted budget at the June, 2019 board voting meeting.

Maintenance Updates –

Mr. Kimmel noted he has a retirement in his department coming up. This will allow the opportunity to change the administration office custodial services. He would like to see some cost projections asking to comply with state regulations.

1st Reading of Policies-

Mrs. Kantz/Mr. Jardina announced there were 49 policies from PSBA they reviewed this past month. They are asking to waive 1st Reading and go to 2nd Reading and Adoption on two, some policies we are recommending deleting or retiring as they were melted into other policies.

Agenda Study Committee-

Mr. Hornstein/Mrs. Miller presented their Committee summary. Noting the purpose of this committee was to streamline the agenda; provide enhance communication among board members and from committee to the Board; and determine how to provide information to the public in a more clear and faster way to provide upcoming board meeting topics and allow easier and last minute community and parent involvement.

The Committee specifically reviewed the following portions on the agenda-

- Professional growths/continuing education for the staff was found to be somewhat lengthy and the Committee was not sure if it was necessary to list all of the information. They did differentiate between conferences versus classes and recommended they be submitted no later than the Friday before the work session. This process is already in place therefore no change to any policy. But the Committee may review it again after a defined tool or process is determined.
- Fund raising requests, Policy 618 Special Purpose Fund Policy was reviewed by the Committee. Their summary was to bring to the board any exceptions to the policy such as drinking or gambling off site and what type of fund usage. This would enhance community relations and satisfy a more flexible and responsible changes to last minute add-ons.
- Field trips were reviewed and found that the Board is required to vote on transportation of students and recommend not changing at this time. The committee may review it again once a defined tool or process is made.
- Facility Use Requests- the Committee will reach out to see if PSBA has a standard facility use policy. The recommend using the PSBA as a guideline and move this to administrative with exceptions. The Committee would like to see more flexibility and responsiveness to changes and last minute adds.

The overall recommendations from the Committee are-

- A draft of the work session agenda by end of day Monday before work session,
- Agenda for the voting meeting is fine to have at the work session, not before
 - Hot topics- Board of 10 information sharing, especially if the media has asked for an interview/update.

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- Recommendation for not a formal policy, but if a voting item has or requires backup material, it should be posted to Canvas the Monday prior to the work session.
- Committee report out format-
 - Word template agenda doc and a chairperson report out at the work session
 - Meeting review, Action items, next meeting

The Committee recommends Board Docs as a tool recommendation.

- It provides basic agenda items, access for all 10 members plus administrative team.
- An agenda can be built
- Modernization
- Board efficiency
- Board goal streamline process
- Transparency for community
- Enhancing community involvement experience

Superintendent's Report-

1. Mr. Sperry IU5 Superintendent meeting was held January 11th. Discussion centered on: Safe 2 Say, Sub Rates, and later Start times for High Schools, and Tele Medicine.
2. The CASH newspaper will have an article from me this issue. The article is about New Year's resolutions and the county wide 211 system. 211 is a service available by phone or internet to help individuals and families connect with services available in the county.
3. I have attended numerous meetings, watched webinars and talked to other neighboring school districts about Safe 2 Say. Safe 2 Say went live on January 14th. We had all of our students trained by January 23rd. To date, we have had 10 tips submitted by either students or community members. The state or local police have been involved in five of the instances. We are still waiting on the posters from the state to hang in our schools.
4. I attended a workshop at Slippery Rock University on "A frank discussion on social media, cyber-bullying, and other technology impacting students today." The main presenter (Phil Little from the Attorney General's office) spoke at length about The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in regards to social media and students. I shared what I learned with Kurt as he does a training with kids in our district to try to keep our kids safe with social media.
5. Kurt and I continue to conduct ALICE Trainings in the district. We are almost done with CVMS, and have the juniors to train at CASH. We will be training all new hires and secretaries on the March 8th In-service Day.
6. On Thursday, January 24th, I met with a mentee, (a student at CLES). A mentor/mentee program has been started there, and I am one of the mentors.
7. I attended the Systems of Care on Tuesday, February 5th. All three Crawford County school districts were represented as well as Titusville. Talk centered on mental health services that the districts are trying to accomplish and the pull out of a long time provider (Stairways) from Crawford County. This basically has left us with a mobile crisis team temporarily. We do have a new partner coming into the county, but some changes need to be made and all the local superintendents are scheduling a meeting with the county commissioners to address the needs.
8. Our CASH Wrestling Team won a playoff match in incredible fashion on Monday. I haven't seen a match like that in my 49 years. Down 15-33, they came back to win. The team is now on their way to Hershey to compete for Wrestling Team State Championships which will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday this week.

PSBA Principles for Governance and Leadership-

Mrs. Luckock noted this will be on the agenda for approval. The document has been changed from the original a number of few years ago and an update was given to the Board. Mr. Burnham noted in looking it may be a little different from the last few years.

2018 Ethics Forms-

Mrs. Luckock reminded the Board and Administrators the 2018 Ethics forms are due May 1, 2019.

Board Goals-

Mr. Hornstein noted a few revisions from last month's meeting. This will be on the agenda for approval next week.

PSBA Updates-

Mr. Ellis updated the board on the sectional meeting, legal update and budget release on PSBA to watch.

Agenda Review-

Mrs. Luckock and the Board reviewed the draft agenda for next weeks voting meeting.

Mrs. Luckock announced the Board will 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 student concerns, CEA grievance, and a personnel item.

Mrs. Luckock adjourned the meeting at 9:49 PM.



Greg Mayle, Board Secretary



Dorothy Luckock, Board President