

**Conneaut School District**

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

**7:00 PM**

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, March 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:

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

**Administrators Present-**

**Superintendent:** Jarrin Sperry

**District Solicitor:** George Joseph

**Technology Coordinator:** Rick Kelly

**Director of Special Education:** Susy Dressel

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

**Curriculum Director:** Brenda Kantz

**Principals:** Mr. Hines, 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.

*Discussion Items*

*Economic Progress Alliance...*

Mr. Jim Becker reminded the Board, the last he was here he was seeking approval for the KOZ extension. This Board, the Commissioners and Greenwood Township granted that. There is a spec building on site which is about 90 percent done. They are waiting on the weather to pour the inside concrete. Currently engaged with six site selecting organizations marketing the facility and are entered into four separate confidentiality agreements. But we are negotiating with two entities for the building for the purchase of it. And if and when successful the next step is to do the same plan, subdivided and do the same thing. The Board had expressed what was needed to show people what can be done and this is seems to be the right path. Mr. Becker felt mid to late summer there will be more building on the property.

It is a 20,000 square foot building with an additional drawn 38,000 in the back. It is built to expand and great to see positive movement.

*CASH Newspaper...*

Mrs. Luckock announced CASH Newspapers were in hand and with one of the Boards goals was to increase activity and information to the public it would be great for each board member to take a stack and distribute in their region. Location drop-offs included grocery stores, beauty parlors, hardware stores and much more, anywhere allowed by the business.

Mr. Sperry hopes to sell advertising next year to help defray costs of the publication/printing. He also thought it would be nice to have a Board member profile in each publication.

*19/20 SY School Calendar...*

Mr. Sperry presented next years calendar to the Board. He indicated we kept 5 snow days and made President's Day Snow Makeup Day #2 instead of a day in May.

*Maintenance Updates ...*

Bleachers- Mr. Kimmel has researched bleachers and found some for the middle school(s). This system is portable but not something that can be pulled around. There is a considerable amount of savings and he feels we only need one set at one middle school. Lake Middle School bleachers are in need of some welding and there are no visitor bleachers. These new ones will be put where ever our middle school football is located at. They are on the voting agenda for approval.

Public Hearing - Mr. Kimmel reminded the Board there is a Public Hearing next week here at Alice Schafer starting at 6:30 pm.

GESA Phase 2- Gary Jacobs from Smart Edge provided a brief presentation on a Phase 2 energy project the District may want to consider. These would involve maintenance and energy savings.

*Board Goals Review...*

Mr. Hornstein noted the Board has completed their goals through item 6.5, with still another 12 to go.

*Superintendent Report...*

Mr. Sperry noted the following activities he was involved in over the past month;

1. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, the Superintendent's Advisory Committee was held at the IU. Safe 2 Say dominated a large part of the discussion and centered on communication with law enforcement. The IU5 districts did not see the initial surge that the state warned about. To date, the Conneaut School District has had 19 tips reported. Flexible Instruction Days were also discussed. Conneaut was the district that started the whole ball rolling in the state with Flexible Instructional Days and there are legislators that are pursuing legislation that will make them permanent. As of right now, the pilot that started them has ended and PDE has stopped them. We also discussed pending legislation about Cyber Charters and their funding.

2. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Susy, Brenda, Joel, Kevin, Dave and I attend a meeting at the IU to build our plan for our special education students to achieve higher scores and greater graduation percentages. CASH is designated as an ATSI school (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement). We are working with the IU and their team to raise the scores and graduation rates of our students with IEP's. We meet with the IU reps here tomorrow, March 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Rick and I met with Chris Rhodes about eSports at Edinboro University. eSports is a growing phenomenon around the world and more and more colleges in the U.S. are offering scholarships to students who are playing certain games. Additionally, more and more high schools are starting eSports teams. (see news release from Edinboro on Canvas)

Of note: More people watched the finals of "League of Legends" in 2018 than the Super Bowl and March Madness..... combined

4. On Thursday, February 28, I attended the IU5 Legislative Committee to listen to Terry Madonna and speak with Curt Sonney. I've said before that if you ever get the chance to listen to Terry Madonna, you should, he's that good and is a wealth of knowledge about politics. Curt talked about his cyber bill and while he doesn't know if it will ever make it out of committee, he is hopeful that it starts conversations about changing how cyber charters are funded in our commonwealth.
5. I read to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students at CVES on February 28<sup>th</sup>. I read Sylvester and the Magic Pebble. This book won the Caldecott Award in 1970.
6. I attended the Systems of Care meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. We discussed the preliminary budget for the next year and also how the "2<sup>nd</sup> Step" curriculum is proceeding in all our districts as well as our universal screening.
7. Today, Susy and I attended a meeting about the Mental Health Worker that we are going to share with Crawford Central. Bethesda Children Services asked to meet with us, and both Susy and I joined Tom Washington to discuss the position. Bethesda has a similar position in operation in Corry, and they feel they can provide the services we are looking for. They are providing us with a proposal within the next week for our review.
8. On many days during the past month, Kurt and I refreshed students on A.L.I.C.E. We have now trained or re-trained all the students in the district, 5-12. From this point on, Kurt and I will train all 5<sup>th</sup> graders and 9<sup>th</sup> graders every year in the fall. Additionally, Kurt and I stay up to date as much as possible with new trends and topics and relay that knowledge to administration and staff as necessary and appropriate so they are up to date as well.

*PSBA/NSBA Updates...*

Mr. Ellis noted the Spring Legal Roundup approaching and some April webinars available.

*Agenda Review...*

Mrs. Luckock provided the IU budget is on the agenda for approval and she has a binder with the details if any board member wished to review.

The Board discussed setting up a facility buildings committee and noted it seems to be the most popular committee on Boards in our region. Mrs. Luckock suggested if this is what the Board wants then to make it an ad hoc committee versus putting in policies as a permanent standing committee. We could start a study committee and decide if it needed to be permanent.

Mrs. Miller was unsure if a subcommittee warrants the necessity of a subcommittee, she asks because she feels it is more of a budget committee and wants to make sure we don't intrude with Mr. Kimmel reporting to the Superintendent and then to the Board. She is not sure she wants to move discussion away from the entire Board. She likes hearing the discussion and having a meeting of the whole. The Budget committee likes the input and the discussions as well.

It was noted that 89% of boards have this subcommittee.

Mr. Joseph noted they are all kind of differently named. Mr. Sperry felt a smaller committee would actually be able to go look at boilers, controllers and the kind.

Mr. Joseph reminded that it is not his role as a district solicitor to say how to conduct business but in his experience as the Northwestern School District solicitor they have three committees; Buildings; policy/personnel and finance and then Education and meet early in the month and make reports to the full board at a study session then they meet as the Board to vote.

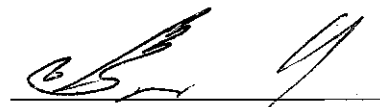
Fairview also does two meetings a month, a committee as a whole like this work session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday with big topics then each committee breaks out and meets after to have their own meeting the same night. Minutes of those committee and the bigger meeting are part in the voting meeting. His experience is small committees are not excluded of the big meeting. Fairview's board is on a committee for 2 years and rotate, the also rotate the committee chairs.

The majority of the Board thought a trial buildings and grounds committee was worth a try and stagger rotations. Mrs. Luckock asked if Mr. McQuiston, Mr. Burnham and Mr. Hornstein would be interested in starting the committee...they agreed.

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 meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

  
Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
Greg Mayle, Board Secretary