

CONNEAUT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY 6, 2020 WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

5/6/2020 [7:00PM-8:00PM] @ Alice Schafer Annex Cafeteria

- CONNEAUT SCHOOL DIST PUBLIC WS AGENDA -

1. Call to Order

Minutes

Mrs. Luckock opened the meeting at 7:01 PM.

It is noted the following Board members were present-

Mr. Burnham Mr. Ellis Mr. Hall Mr. Hornstein

Mrs. Klink Mrs. Luckock Mr. McQuiston Mrs. Miller

It is noted Mr. McGuirk was absent.

The following Administrators were present-

Mr. Sperry-Superintendent; Mr. Mayle-Business Manager Ms. Dressel-Asst to Superintendent Director of Student Services

Mr. Kimmel-Director of Buildings and Grounds Mr. Kelly-Director of Technology Mrs. Kantz-Director of Curriculum Building Principals- Mr. Hines, Mr. Hans, Mr. Jardina, Mr. Burnham, Mr. Parks, Mr. Maskrey

a. Moment of Silence

Minutes

The Board exercised a moment of silence.

b. Salute the Flag Ceremony

2. VISITOR RECOGNITION

1. Visitor Recognition *

*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.

Minutes

Mrs. Luckock offered a Visitor Recognition, no one approached the podium.

3. Discussion Items

a. 2015 Bonds...Mr. Mayle/Mr.Falgione

Minutes

Mr. Mayle invited Nick Falgione from PNC to talk about the PNC Public Finance Bond Refunding Opportunity. Mr. Falgione has monitored the debt and watched it over a year in regards to the Districts 2015 bonds. While COVID continues to impact the markets globally, higher rated municipal bonds are attracting investors and our Series 2015 bond can be refinanced later this year. Our District is considered A+, which is a very good rating, and we have a refunding opportunity if sold today. The new debt is 1/2 percent lower than current 2015 bonds. This is the 2nd time around to refund and that is extraordinary.

Mr. Falgione noted the timetable and that it was not necessary to have a board motion as yet. He or Mr. Mayle will report back in June,.

Conneaut School District Board of Directors May 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Board Discussion included Mrs. Miller recalling a loss of funding with a previous bond/capital expense involved but fellow Board as if she meant PlanCon. She recalled one of the bond refinancing we lost PlanCon monies. It was the discussion when looking at middle school scenario if we closed one of the buildings who still had PlanCon and obligations. Mrs. Luckock noted since none of that transpired she felt it was only the discussion. Mrs. Miller still felt we paid off a debt early and lost PlanCon monies that would have come to us and wanted to just call it out that if there is a potential of refinancing a bond we would hurry up paying off debt/impact want to make sure we include that calculation. Mr. McQuiston felt this was a no brainer to go to next step, as there is no cost to us. Mr. Burnham asked is there any positive impact on our millage with this? Mr. Falgione replied yes, a debt service savings but not sure how that would impact your taxes. Mr. Burnham would like to see that first. Mr. Falgione didn't feel any imperative with millage. The savings with the bonds might help any other debts. Mr. Hornstein asked if the potential of \$325,000 saved in interest in these bonds with the years. Mr. Falgione said yes over the next three years and more after that. Mr. Mayle felt the savings helps us each year in the budget.

b. Chromebooks...Mr. Sperry

K-6 into our 1:1 transition with purchase of Chromebooks for K-6 this year.

Minutes

Mr. Sperry's long term plan is to go 1 to 1 with K-12. We started that process about a year ago, and under Mr. Kelly's guidance the plan is to go next year 7-12. When we had to go to online learning due to the COVID-19 it became clear we were not ready to do that. We repurposed old iPads and the interaction with our learning system Seesaw was less than stellar. His thoughts are with stimulus monies coming and ramping it up he has presented this idea to the Budget and Finance Committee. The recommendation is to add K-6 next year so we will be K-12 for Chromebooks. The 5th through 12th grades will be much like the high school is now, students are issued Chromebook which is theirs!! Therefore, our recommendation is to add k-6 for one to one transition for 20/21 sy. Mr. Kelly corrected stating we are only looking at sending home 7-12 and 5th and 6th graders are in school with 1 to 1 for 20/21 so we can access what is appropriate.

Mrs. Luckock followed up the Finance Committee review, they discussed this concept and the consensus was to endorse the request and bring to full board for consideration. There is about a 6 year life span.

Mr. Hall asked what is the educational use for a kindergartner if it does not come home. Mr. Sperry replied, they are used as centers and we can eliminate the computer labs, as students will have their own device. We will keep using seesaw not just as home learning. It is much like apps on iPads now. There is still a lot of benefit in regular classroom and if use at home a lot less seamless.

Mr. Hall noted his experience with Chromebook and touch screen has really worked well for both his kindergartner and 2nd grader. He praises the teachers for their interaction on these devices.

Mrs. Luckock noted she has heard nationwide there has been a much higher appreciation for teaching staff. The Board permitted moving forward on this.

c. Budget Overview...Mr. Mayle

2020/2021 Preliminary Budget

Minutes

Mr. Mayle presented the 2020 2021 Proposed final budget to the School Board starting off with the COVID 19 Impact to the District. The current year 2019-2020 financial benefit is expenditures have been reduced through supplies, substitute teachers, travel and more.

Revenues could see a recession in real estate taxes, earned income taxes, etc. Local revenues he anticipates 20/21 sy collections reduced by approximately \$100,000 compared to the 08/09 recession saw a reduction of \$102,067.

Delinquent real estate taxes could see a reduction in the 20/21 collections by \$100,000 whereby 08/09 recession saw \$99,700. Earned Income taxes could see in 20/21 collections a reduction by \$150,000 compared to 08/09 recession saw \$140,798.00 The total effect on local revenue could decrease by \$470,000.

State COVID 19 revenues should see little impact as subsidy levels are protected by Act 13. The next budget year

Conneaut School District Board of Directors May 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

20/21 though could see a shortfall somewhere around \$4 billion. Mr. Mayle does not anticipate a proposed increase to the Basic Education Subsidy but does see a potential decrease to subsidies below the current levels. The Federal COVID 19 Impact in revenues are unaffected at this point with Title I/IIA and IV. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Elementary and Secondary schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) allowable costs include COVID 19 mitigation, technology/distance education resources and allowable costs under ESSA, IDEA, etc. He proposes using the monies for COVID 19 mitigation, distance education technology and existing Special education programs. All three of which fall under the allowable guidelines to use the monies.

Mr. Mayle then switched over to the 2020/2021 General Fund Budget reviewing the Revenue and Expenditures and comparing actual(s) in 17/18 18/19 and the approved budget for the 19/20 and proposed 20/21 amounts.

He identified key changes in expenditure savings to include staffing with 4 teacher retirements. Three have been replaced with a savings of \$40,000 and one was absorbed with a savings of \$107,000. ESL Program is in house saving around 426,000; 2015 Bond Refinance saving approximately \$150,000; Cyber Charter expenditures saving around 4160,000 as the 20/21 projected enrollment to be 71 students and Energy savings of approximately \$35,000.

Key changes for Expenditure increases include health insurance increasing around 8% to 11% and General fund increasing 3.97%. Wages increase 2.49% and PSERS increasing 3.37%.

Capital Projects in 20/21 Mr. Mayle anticipates to be \$963,075 with a 5 year plan budget of \$3,135,505. He is proposing a transfer of approximately \$750,000 to maintain funding and hopes to recommend this transfer in the 19/20 school year.

The Food Service Budget had a profitable year so far through April 30 at \$49,511. Mr. Mayle will be recommending renewing the Nutrition agreement with a district break even budget and losses guaranteed not to exceed \$62,585.00. Mr. Mayle provided a graph showing the Food Service Fund Annual Operating Income/Loss before transfers from 2013-2014 through 2020-2021.

Mr. Mayle identified risks for the 2020/2021 budget to be a decrease in state funding, the remainder of 2019/2020 Capital Projects transfer; Federal Stimulus and the remaining IU Special Education costs.

Long-term risks and opportunities Mr. Mayle foresees as follows; Risks to include PSERS rates, health insurance, unknown length of recession and state funding. Opportunities include Cyber Charter expenditures with an anticipated 71 students in 20/21 sy which is down from 123 in the 15/16 school year. The 20/21 school year could include 12 seniors and 13 juniors.

Mr. Mayle reviewed the PSERS Contribution rates from 12/13 through 27/28 noting the PSERS Contribution rate is already approved and the effect of the recession on future years is unknown, but rates will increase.

The Key takeaways for this budget include a tentative balanced budget, which could change and while the short term outlook is positive, the long term concerns still exist. There are no recommended tax increases and he recommends an extension of the face period for real estate tax collection and the 2015 bond refinance recommendation with potential cost savings.

Mr. Mayle reviewed the budget timeline noting May 6th the Board approves the Proposed final budget; May 21st the budget is available for public inspection; May 29 the intent to adopt the final budget is advertised; June 3rd the final budget presentation is conducted with an update and long term projections and June 10th the Board approves the Final Budget.

get this presentation from greg. strange year, Jamie thanked him for his thought and work, complicated budget.

Tim asked do we have any savings from covid process or not? yes we saved a fair amount in several areas, mileage, supplies, conferences, helped out, transportation even though running a few buses and paying contractor and then saving on fuel.

d. PSBA Membership Renewal...Mr. Mayle

Minutes

Mr. Mayle wished to gauge the interest with the Board on renewing the PSBA membership for 20/21 sy, to include the All Access Package.

Mrs. Luckock was in favor of renewing; Mr. McQuiston admitted he would have had reservations a few years ago

Conneaut School District Board of Directors May 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

but they have really improved. Mr. Hornstein agreed. Mr. Ellis noted some highlights that PSBA is working on for the 20/21 year.

The Board was in consensus to add renewing to the voting meeting.

e. Maintenance Updates...Mr. Kimmel

Minutes

Mr. Kimmel updated the Board on his departments activities. Mrs. Miller inquired about the Conneaut Valley Middle School floor gym and how we were looking at replacing the flooring. Mr. Kimmel noted he was working with architects/engineers and hoped to be finalizing soon, he will update the board on this at the next work session.

f. Graduation...Mr. Sperry

Minutes

Mr. Sperry announced with the COVID-19 situation a normal graduation would not be possible. The Erie County Department of Health (Crawford County does not have a department of health) anticipates Crawford to be under yellow in the summer so gatherings under 25 are not permitted. At this point he foresees passing out caps and gowns next week. Two students are leaving for the military early so we want to take care of their formal graduation. He is considering having students walking across the football field, handing their diploma and taking videos. The rest of the seniors other than the two military we could do the same the first week in June. This would include Val/Sal speeches, scholarships and more. Additionally, yard signs have been ordered, monies coming from the NW REC providing over 500.

This is all to maintain social distancing.

g. CASH Newspaper...Mr. Sperry

Minutes

Mrs. Kullen has done a nice job remotely organizing the Newsletter. We will provide it on the website and links on Facebook. We will attempt to do one in June as well and Mr. Sperry anticipates opening it up to some businesses advertising.

h. Superintendent's Report...Mr. Sperry

Minutes

Mr. Sperry provided his Superintendent's Report: May 6, 2020

1. Every meeting I've attended in the past month has been on either Zoom or Teams. Systems of Care, Superintendents (through IU5), Vendors, Admin meetings, Budget, County Health/Emergency Response, Graduation Discussions, ATSI, NISL, and George Joseph. These and many others have been held as best we could.
2. Christopher Soff (County Commissioner) and I have been playing phone tag for the last three days. It appears they may want to use CASH for a polling place for the June 2nd primary.
3. Following are what the Conneaut School District Principals have to say about what is taking place in regards to student learning as we make our way through this time.

CASH Distance Learning Report: CASH has made the transition to online teaching smoothly. We are sending home 37 packets to students that have Internet issues. High school teachers have been in communication with both Maskrey and Hines. Maskrey appreciates the call forwarding feature from his office phone to his cell. Parents and students have been very grateful for the food distribution, the work being sent home, and how the teachers have responded to their students and how accessible the HS Admin has been to the families

CVES Distance Learning Report: • Out of 320 students, only 29 are not using the online platform of Seesaw and

require packets for instruction. • All students who have requested a device (ipad) from the district have received one. • Engagement has been very high among students and teachers, but continues to be a challenge due to obvious reasons. April 30 - May 6 at Conneaut Valley Elementary School • 6,654 Posts Added in Last 7 Days • 6,267 Comments in Last 7 Days • 6,422 Likes of Student Work in Last 7 Days • 223 Visits by Family Members in the Last 7 Days • Engagement will be a struggle as the weather gets nicer • Teachers should be commended for learning a new program like Seesaw on the fly and implementing it successfully for the continuity of education. • Teachers have come up with some very fun and creative ways to keep students motivated and engaged (getting pied in the face, fun contests, eating ice cream with another family member acting as their arms, etc.) • Our daily announcements are keeping kids engaged and providing them with a sense of normalcy. See link for example: <https://youtu.be/l5d-R1ACH1Y>

CLES Distance Learning Report: Online learning is progressing very well at CLES. Our success has been due to the dedication and effort of our teaching staff, parents, and students. They all have spent a lot of time and energy getting us to this point of solid connection and engagement. The technology department has supplied over 80 of our students with iPads, which has been critical to our students accessing online learning resources. Since beginning to use Seesaw at the end of March we've had over 90% of our students post responses to assignments from their teachers. Instruction continues to become more complex and engaging as our teachers learn more about the capabilities of Seesaw and the availability other online resources. I am proud of all of the flexibility and resiliency that I have seen from all members of our learning community.

CVMS Distance Learning Report: Things seem to be going fairly well for planned instruction. 99% of the students have at least logged on at some point. The conclusion of work is about 70% for the school. The students doing packets have them and are in the process of handing them back in. This at this point is not consistent- so I do not have numbers on this yet- as we just started the planned instruction last week. I have the teachers sending me names of students who have not done much at this point. I will end up calling them directly to see what the issues are. This will begin later this week- probably on Friday.

CLMS Distance Learning Report: • Resources CLMS uses for student engagement and communication: o Canvas, MobyMax, Study Island, Khan Academy, ShowMe Big Ideas, Zoom, Remind, Facebook posts, Youtube, Screencastify, Google drive/docs/classroom, Email, phone calls, conference calls, post cards, • Of 307 students, 256 (83%) students are accessing our online platform, Canvas. • 56% of students receiving packets have returned material • 5th Grade- 93% participation rate for online students, 81% submit assignments consistently • 6th Grade- 92% participation rate for online students, 80% submit assignments consistently • 7th Grade- 81% participation rate for online students, 80% submit assignments consistently • 8th Grade- 94% participation rate for online students, 84% submit assignments consistently • Electives- 65% participation rate of online students • All students that were in need of a device have received one.

Mr. Sperry added the County Commissioners wished to use the CASH facility for 2 precincts polling due to the social distancing guidelines. We are working out the details with the County.

i. PSBA Updates...Mr. Ellis

Minutes

Mr. Ellis noted there is a lot of information sent out over the past few weeks. He asked the Board to look up the video regarding PSBA 125th year,

j. Agenda Review...Mrs. Luckock

Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft agenda.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes

Mrs. Luckock adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.

5. It is noted there will be an EXECUTIVE SESSION after the Voting Meeting tonight.


Dorothy Luckock, Board President


Greg Mayle, Board Secretary