



# MAY 4, 2022 CSD BOD WORK SESSION MINUTES

05/04/2022 [07:00 PM-08:00 PM]

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## MAY 4, 2022 CSD BOD WORK SESSION MINUTES

### 1. Open of Meeting/Call to Order

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#### Minutes

Mrs. Luckock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

It is noted the following Board members were present;

Mr. Burnham    Mr. Hall    Mr. Horne

Mr. Klink    Mrs. Klink    Mrs. Luckock

Mr. McGuirk    Mr. McQuiston

It is noted Mr. Hornstein is out of town.

Administrators present;

Mr. Sperry    Mr. Mayle    Mr. Joseph

Mrs. Kantz    Mr. Kimmel    Mr. Kelly

Principals present:

Mr. Parks    Mr. Maskrey

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#### 1.a. Moment of Silence

#### 1.b. Salute the Flag Ceremony

### 2. Discussion Items

#### 2.a. Budget Review... Dr. Mayle

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##### Minutes

Dr. Mayle reviewed the changes from last months budget. He noted that at last months meeting he had gone through quite a bit, so would be highlighting tonight with recommendations from the budget committee.

In the No Stimulus Funds for the 22/23 budget summary, he noted every year the district receives allocations from the state for Homestead/Act 1 gaming revenue. Our current school year state allocated \$970,899 and next year the allocation is \$1,223,759. This is unexpected and a pleasant surprise. This allocation had been very flat over the last several years. He is happy to share this good news.

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Dr. Mayle further explained the effect of additional Act 1 funds to homeowners. The more the district receives results in a decrease/deduction in what taxpayer pays.

The Budget and Finance Committee recommends no tax increase for 22/23 school year; reducing the tax discount from 3% to 2 % (this would result in about \$117,000 gain for the District) and establishing a procedure for appealing inappropriately low assessed values.

Considering the last county assessment hasn't been done since 1969 by the county. Mr. Burnham asked what criteria does the county use? Dr. Mayle replied, what the property was assessed for versus what a buyer just paid/sold at. The selling price is divided by the common level ratio, and this gives what the assessed value should be, can see how far off. Mr. Burnham asked proposing a back door reassessment in his opinion, is that where we want to go as a District. His family bought the farm in 1947 obviously an old farmstead but property is increased dramatically. So how do you judge, this may hit me with a huge tax bill. So how does that all work. Mrs. Luckock noted the committee talked about this over the last year, it is in the transfer of properties that have sold recently so someone like your family example where no property has changed hands, would not come up since no transfer of title. Mr. Burnham understands that but at what point does it morph into something else, get that pathway started, it is his concern. Mr. Horne replied, if you get an assessment and discover you overpaid then we would equal it out so to speak, notify that you are overpaying and try to balance it out. Mrs. Luckock agreed we are not at liberty to do a widespread reassessment, that is the county, but the budget finance committee breezed over this almost a year ago and considered some of what your concerns are today. Mrs. Luckock noted the committee did evaluate this in depth some six months or so ago.

Capital Projects- Dr. Mayle noted as we stay ahead of maintenance and projects he will come to the Board with a tentative five year plan for Capital Projects. The overall estimate of the five year plan for capital projects is \$6,739,270. These projects are split between General Fund and Capital Projects due to Stimulus requirements, some need to be in the General Fund.. The current 22/23 school year Capital Projects Fund budget is \$1,124,482 with a projected fund balance at June 30, 2022 of \$1,483,522.

Dr. Mayle will have the Food Service ready in June, it has been sent out and actually will be opened tomorrow.

Dr. Mayle noted there are still a lot of changes to make in the budget. He usually likes to have it close by now but with contracts, rate changes, cuts, adjustments, staffing changes still to come and stimulus-related projects there is still a bit to determine. Revenue side not as much possible, which is always the case. The big item is the state budget and subsidies, and we are waiting on the State to finalize their budget.

Budget Timeline-

Adopting the proposed Final budget tonight at the special voting meeting, after this presentation. June 8th is the voting meeting to adopt the final budget.

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## **2.b. Maintenance Updates...Mr. Kimmel**

### **Minutes**

Mr. Kimmel had reviewed his budget with the Finance Committee tonight. Projects are moving decently, trying to get a bead on the timelines for principals this summer. There are some challenges but workable.

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## **2.c. Fundraising Discussion...Mr. Hall**

### **Minutes**

Mr. Hall- in looking at the LED portion, there are a lot of options to sell ads/fundraising. He is proposing that we allow any club in the entire school to sell those. The ads and menu on it and monies brought in by each club maintained by the clubs. For example, lets use Soccer, they take 75% of that fundraiser. It is allowed to be any program, music, drama etc. and the 25% is for operation of the board. So, it is self-funded, and any balance left is used in the stadium fund. We will bring the final proposal forwards but again whoever sells the ad maintains that portion.

Mr. McQuiston feels someone should oversee this and we need to establish that. Mrs. Luckock asked if you are talking about during a timeout of a football game there could be a message from i.e., yearbooks, FFA holding citrus sale, or do you do a shout out to some congratulations. Is that what you are referring to during down time? Mr. Hall responded yes, we have 44 different events on that field, and it is growing. So, as we bring more events it could be a sponsor of that game, student athlete of the week with flexibility that allows everyone to be a part of the fundraising for their club.

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#### **2.d. Policies for 1st Reading...Mr. Sperry**

Policies for 1st Reading - as follows;

Policy 202.1 Cyber Eligibility

Policy 908 Relations with Parents

Policy 909 Municipal Government Relations

Policy 910 Community Relations

Policy 913 Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals

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#### **Minutes**

Mr. Sperry noted the policies up for first reading. We are almost done with the 900 section, and done with the entire policy book. This started in 2015 or 2016 and most were revised from 1984. This was a heavy lift but just about done.

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#### **2.e. PSBA Membership Dues Renewal...Dr. Mayle/Dorothy Luckock**

#### **Minutes**

Dr. Mayle noted last year was 12,800 and over the last few years we have gone with all access package with extra training at no charge. It also includes policy mlaintenance, state assocation legislation and recommendations. Several board members asked what if we did trainings a la carte as this seems absorbant. We are done with policies so do we need to keep this up, We understand we need the trainings as they are required. Dr. Mayle noted one larger saving was the conferences, all access included that. The Board wanted some more information before deciding.

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#### **2.f. Property Assessment Appeals Discussion...Dr. Mayle**

Recommendation from the Finance Committee.

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## Minutes

Dr. Mayle noted this was covered some during his budget presentation but noted the budget committee will look at this next month in more depth. If the consensus to proceed that way where we would not nickel and dime, check with other districts and Mr. Josephs firm does that to see what benchmarks they use. Mr. Joseph commented as far as the 1<sup>st</sup> process he knows as a countywide assessment; it is not done by this board. We look to the county to do it, but as the county has not done a countywide re-assessment since 1969. There have been questions whether the board can do a reassessment of less than county such as one municipality in the district. The answer is no, but what the district can do is retain services of appraisals to identify properties that are underassessed. Get an appraisal and take those cases on appeal. That can be expensive depending on the property and appraiser. So generally, most districts do not pursue. What they do though is having the property owners themselves identify the property as under assessed. So if a property sells at the calculation of common level ration and is grossly underassessed and we usually, most districts pursuing that, identify a threshold amount of tax bill increase. Use the statement of value that the property owners use. If the difference in the taxes that are above are above the threshold, then you appeal. Eventually piecemeal doing it without hiring an appraiser.

Mrs. Luckock, in reviewing but if memory serves her something during August, we will confirm any application for assessment adjustment that has to be to the county, hearing is in October. There is a timeline that you have to meet each year and then the cycle goes around to the next year. Is there interest by this board to move forward putting together those guidelines? Mrs. Luckock is aware it is an unpleasant topic but loosing at a budget deficit, we need to look at difficult topics over the next few years. Mr. Burnham feels we should go after Legislators, it is high time Districts stop looking at taxpayers ad to the state, they control the education, we don't as local boards. The state should give extra money, there are proposals that look very good but never see the light of day. We should be going after PSBA to twist tails if maintaining membership. Mrs. Luckock felt he was right, several proposals over the years to gain traction and never did. Mr. Burnham asked Dr. Mayle during the years has the county done some overview assessment reviews went in satellite imagery or plane fly over identifying structures. Didn't have permits to do this but did it to get more money. Dr. Mayle felt it did and did realize enough income. Our assessed value increases typically are hard to look at at the end of the year and he says this because of that very reason. Going back a few years there was a year with a jump in the assessed value, it may or was the same year as that incident. Mrs. Klink noted the flip side, they also had a lot go wrong, her property gave us our neighbors building and we had to fight that, we don't need to go down this path. The county won't so why waste our money. Like Mr. Burnham said go after legislator sto help, She appreciates the committee looking into these hard issues but just not sure we need to.

Mrs. Luckock asked Dr. Mayle if he felt this process would sales transactions within last year or two if all that analysis can be done within the business office? Dr. Mayle noted we do not need to hire an appraiser, just as Mr. Joseph indicated. What other costs would include retaining someone to attend hearings on our behalf, the first layer of the work in the business office and depending on the hearings need representation at the hearings. Mrs. Luckock is trying to determine our costs. Mrs. Klink asked is it \$100,000 or \$1,000 in under appraised. Dr. Mayle noted that in looking at this last November and the 3 months of data, transfer tax reports, there were 126,000 of under assessed and 25,000 over assessed. Findings netted out \$100,000 for three months. It is important to mention the committee looked not under assessed but those over assessed. Also, the cut off used was a little conservative with a 20% variance. So, it depends on that cut off.

Mrs. Klink asked are we doing the counties work? Dr. Mayle responded, yes. The committee talked about that, and political pressure. This was more drastic in Erie with a lawsuit to re-assess. That is where the work needs to happen, and it just has not. Mr. Burnham noted the re assessment on the county level seems to hit people who own property does not house, they owned land and are forced to sell due to re-assessment schemes. This is a slippery slop, be careful how hard you push. Mrs. Luckock has had a talk with the county commissioners and Mr. Josephs information session this year. From the way he described it is during a county reassessment it becomes what they

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consider tax neutral. Taking the total amount and reassigning, those that need more get more and those that need less get less, in the end no additional revenue. IN order to do this in a timely fashion and hire more appraisers there is a substantial cost without the revenue to offset it... it is a difficult topic for everybody.

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## **2.g. Superintendent's Report...Mr. Sperry**

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### **Minutes**

Mr. Sperry presented his Superintendent's Report.

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## **2.h. Questions to the Board**

Questions for the Board (to be answered at the May 11, 2022 Voting Meeting) for review at this Work Session, as attached on Agenda Manager.

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### **Minutes**

This is a new style for the Board, anyone attending meetings within government such as ours with input and questions don't necessarily get answered. So, we wanted to see if this avenue to facilitate that better. Sometimes we need to evaluation information we have to get administration and not the board. It is a complex as always as when to start in student matters, discipline, and personnel we are bound to confidentiality guidelines. As a board, that is perplexing to those in attendance and we are not able to share. This is the first time trying this and as mentioned as awe try, it may get tweaked. We received four questions submitted.

The questions we will review and gather the information and answer during the voting meeting.

Mrs. Luckock read off the questions and then asked if anyone from the Board wanting to embrace, research specific questions. The intent is to have the Board share. One of the questions touches the Sunshine Law so we to leave that one for Mr. Joseph.

Mrs. Klink asked about Question 3- it asks what the board thought on changing to an at large board. Mr. Joseph responded that the Board does not have the final say. He has done an analysis after the last consensus of voting regions to comply with one man one vote, are the regions equal size for purposes of each three districts having equal vote. Under the one man one vote standards it allows a 10% deviation, and you are this District is coming up on that, still in compliance but if the trend continues and the gap widens, we will have to relook. He has done this four times, over the past 20 years and will have to address that and evaluate if a change in regions structure will improve that. He hasn't found any change makes disparity any less but that doesn't mean you can change yourself. Voting region method is decided by the Court of Common Please, so any change is by petition to the court of common pleas. We would propose a change and what that would look like, from 3 regions to an at large such as. That hs to be a subject to hearing by the court and a court order approving. You may pursue but have to say we want to look at this change and have him prepare a petition of court and schedule a hearing. Have the issue addressed, it can also be raised by electro's and have to do the same planning, we just cannot go in and say to the judge, have to tell him what the plan is.

Mr. Burnham noted the traditional setup to guarantee representation from all three attendance areas was done because there was great fear that came out of the Vally. May have come out from them when they joined the district. The fear from the CV region would be underrepresented with an at large structure, and I guess people from valley still have that fear now.

Mr. McQuiston agreed, he has been in touch with the area he lives in, 9 board from one area could happen if we made it at large, we would have decisions made based on that area. The setup right now is equal. Mrs. Luckock

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noted while looking at the last consensus we briefly mentioned at a meeting about maybe looking at a combined approach, at large members and some region as well and some of this driven by consensus.

Mr. Joseph noted the census totals. 2022 Census with Conneaut School District having 17,297 persons, region one 5,363; region 2 with 5,613 and region 3 with 6,321. The ideal region consists of 5,766 and a deviation is region 1 with 7% below the average; region 2 is 6.5 percent and region 3 is 9.6 above average. So i.e., bumping 10 percent if the trends continue, they have broadened and if the 2030 analysis is suspected to be out of compliance, we will have to take action if you don't before then.

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## 2.i. Agenda Review...Mrs. Luckock

### Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft agenda.

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## 3. VISITOR RECOGNITION

### 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.

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### Minutes

Mr. Williamson, a Linesville resident of 32 years with five school age children has a vested interest with his girls attending next year. Thank you to the Board for your time and energy spent. He knows it is an elected position, not paid and again thank you. He also thanks the parents and community for attending, we all agree we could find something more exciting. He submitted questions that may be tabled to next meeting and he wanted to provide the context to those questions. In the why he is asking these, research and he has read school board members are individually elected by the community, each school district is accountable for the performance of schools in their district. They are to represent the beliefs and values of the residents of the district. The board governs at board meetings and are responsible for hiring and evaluation the superintendent, adopting district policies and providing local control to accountability, plans and support police officer, adopting budget, student achievement, actively listening to public comments and when I was at a meeting, he was struck with you can't talk at meetings. He finds that odd that you could not ask a question, he understands some questions may involve legal issues, are deferred and garner information to research. He gets that but all that is going on in the work today, there is this adversary of us versus them, board versus community. If that was tweaked some, we could ask a question, you could say that it is a legal matter and let us talk, not circle back. There could have more communication, touch on that as further school boards serve the community by listening and engaging them and setting mission and goals. Student achievement is a priority, all these benefits and engage in actively listening to the community. That is what I wanted to share and provide the context for my questions.

Kurt Dennis, since the last time he was here a lot has happened. He found out information was given to you the board for the past 3-4 years with many claims and rumors were actually more than that. Although shocked, some of you know that the same person, while working part time was caught using a computer inappropriately, did she receive punishment... no, she received a full-time job and now remains free on bond as she waits a hearing on 7 felony charges. April 2022 Tribune reported the hearing was rescheduled. Mr. Joseph was quoted saying she is on paid leave and still receiving pay. Why is she still receiving pay, why paying with felonies and also paying someone to fill her position? IN my RTKR that was granted to me today, I was given the union contract for the CESP. It

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covers this secretary, so may I ask you to look at page 9, article 7 Section C terminology. Any suspension of employee pending charges shall be without pay, suspended and if found not guilty will receive back pay. So directly in this union contract any suspension of an employee pending charges. This secretary doesn't have pending she has 7 felony charge. In closing I am shocked that some of you tonight have known about this and have been told here and shown proof of our claims yet took action to start investigation. You are mandatory reporters, so if you are brushing it under the rug, shame on you, others are armed with proof, any one on this board this statement please resign.

Tenise Scott, a parent and expects no answers from the board, where could or couldn't choose not to. Mr. Dennis statement further concerns me that you put a suspended secretary working from home with school information and no supervision. I would be curious if it is school provided or personal, that opens up a whole new can of works. My private information doesn't belong on someone's private computer. So, like a dog with a bone this is not my first rodeo and since not getting answers here I am calling Harrisburg tomorrow, if I don't get it from them I am going to the Capital this shit needs to stop and you are all responsible.

Brook Leuthold, I start my morning a couple weeks waking up to check the Tribune and they are an eye opener and not just me standing up here telling you what to do, they report on it, more than what you do as what I ask is hush hush. I would like to know if decided who is paying Ed's legal fees, if school is. I am intrigued to know, also what is his role at this moment in the school. It is bothersome to me someone innocent until proven guilty but with the awful secretary you keep, he can walk around with no transparency. He can be in the main building but due to teacher sin that building but the overflow and administration that is his stomping grounds. What is this and why. My son wants to come back to school, and I do hate him, I don't trust the principal, I had a full conversation with him and won't send my son in that building. If you keep Mr. Parks as the school administrator it is more encouraging, a good move, contracts don't hire the other guy back, maybe my son will come back. He is failing cyber school and is a straight A student. He is used to PA Cyber, likes the program it just is not for him, he is struggling, has to be there in person but just won't go around the principal. Why because he is an ..... , should not be allowed near children, he also has charges, the whole man as a bundle rubs me the wrong way. Also say I understand the hush hush with the secretary and principal and charges but now adays do a Maxwell trial but can't talk about the principal, I want to know all the details.


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#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

##### Minutes


The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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Dorothy Luckock, Board President

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Greg Mayle, Board Secretary