



# OCTOBER 5, 2022 CSD BOD WORK SESSION MINUTES

10/05/2022 [07:00 PM-08:00 PM] @ Alice Schafer Annex gym

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## OCTOBER 5, 2022 CSD BOD WORK SESSION MINUTES

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

#### 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. Hornstein    Mr. Klink    Mrs. Klink

Mrs. Luckock    Mr. McGuirk    Mr. McQuiston

Administrators present;

Mr. Sperry    Mr. Mayle    Ms. Dressel

Mrs. Kantz    Mr. Kimmel    Mr. Kelly

Principals present:

Mr. Hans    Mr. Vannoy, Mr. Messerall

#### 1.a. Moment of Silence

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

### 2. 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.

#### Minutes

Kurt Dennis followed up on questions asked in the past. You were going to speak to Mr. Joseph and we never heard back. We still believe there is no reason the posted agenda cannot be what is handed out at the meeting, we see the same online. I doesn't 'give less or more and we want to look at the financials online on the agenda. We have asked time and time again, nothing happens. You seem to get the feeling we will go away but that is not the case. If

I can leave tonight and if I send Beth a RTKR tomorrow and get it why not tonight. The thing that the others talk about if the Board thought about dissolving the current makeup of voting and how we vote on school board members and having consolidation pushed down our throats years ago, if we are going down that road, we should have been able to vote on all of you not just our region.

### 3. Discussion Items

#### 3.a. Building Configuration...Mr. Sperry

##### Minutes

Mr. Sperry presented a reconfiguration draft for the board to review. Noting enrollment from 2008 to 2022 showed a decrease of 799 students. 2008 enrollment was 2,590 and 2022 is 1,791. He noted this gradual decrease has been experienced by all three school districts in Crawford County. He thought Erie as well with the exception of Harborcreek and Fort LeBouef. He then provided a review of building level enrollments comparing 2012 (the first year of consolidation) and the current year 2022. In describing each buildings current configuration percentages he noted adjusted capacity for each. Current occupancy in each building ranged from 38% to 64%.

Budget constraints currently show the districts operating loss in 21/22 school year was \$900,000. The current 22/23 budget deficit without ESSER funds is looking like \$1.9 million. This is after the additional \$1 million from state funding. A tax revenue per mill currently is \$285,000 and one mill raises the average home owner's tax liability \$25 a year based on assessed value. He further explained this is based on \$25,000 so if a house was assessed at \$100,000 their taxes would go up \$100.00. The district would need a 6.67 mill increase to cover the deficit.

Millage history for the district with tax raises over the last decade (2012 to 2022) shows Conneaut 1.5 mills (\$38 for average homeowner), PENNCREST at 4.7 and Crawford Central at 7.3. the current millage by district shows Conneaut at the lowest again 51.55; PENNCREST at 53.25 and Crawford Central at 56.87.

Mr. Sperry suggested some minor budget items that could help alleviate the budget deficit- increasing bus ride time, staffing attrition via retirements, extra days some staff is provided (fair, nurses, etc) reduce printing/copying, travel/professional development, decreasing fleet, curriculum (but this comes at a cost down the road) and building supply lists.

Major budget items for consideration include eliminating Kindergarten as it is not required, athletics, extracurricular and after school intramurals, supplies again, transportation again, ancillary staff and electives.

A review of staffing show in 2008 the District had 199 teaching staff; in 2012 the first year of the consolidation 165 teaching staff and it was eight years before the districts total salaries caught up to the same totals as before consolidation. In 2022 we currently show 154 teaching staff and two of this number are ESSER funded which ends in 2024.

The Board tasked us with reviewing the feasibility of using Alice Schafer as a middle school. In his evaluation, in using the elementary schools or current middle schools as elementary schools and due to the size of buildings an amenities, the logical choice was using the current middle schools as K-6 elementary schools.

Meetings were held to develop the practicality of this reconfiguration. 7th and 8th grades at Alice Schafer was reviewed but the best use of space shows 7th through 9th grade in Alice Schafer and the high school.

He noted that 6th graders are not permitted in sports to practice with older grades as this gives them one year too many per PIAA regulations.

Cost savings in reviewing the operating budgets (what it costs to maintain the buildings i.e., heat, water) Conneaut Lake elementary cost is \$352,000 and Conneaut Valley Elementary at \$335,000.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education reimbursement lost if these buildings were closed looks like \$309,000 per year for 11 years for Lake Elementary and \$239,000 per year for 13 years for Valley Elementary. The district is reimbursed these amounts as long as education capacity in percentages is provided each year, otherwise the district losses these discounts due to PlanCon regulations which were set when each building was renovated a number of years ago.

Mr. Sperry also noted attrition over the next 3-4 years would show 9 less teachers saving \$945,000; some transportation costs as buildings are more consolidated and a total savings per year approaching \$1.1 million.

In reviewing the logistics of the middle school at Linesville and what it would look like. Conneaut Lake Middle School becomes the elementary (K-6) and the enrollment would look like 457 with building usage at 61%. Conneaut Valley Middle School becomes their elementary (K-6) and the enrollment would be 446 with building usage at 65%. CASH grades 10-12 current enrollment would be 435 and campus usage at 64%. Alice Schafer grades 7-9 would enroll 438.

If and a big if the district decided to do any consolidation we would need to first off plan a Public Hearing 90 days or more in advance, and the board would vote at least 3 months after the Public Hearing. Align sports schedules/practices, adjust storage and office spaces in the district, adjust transportation, adjust curriculum and supplies as necessary, align staff in both elementary schools and Alices Schafer 7-9, ensure the 2nd floor of Alice Schafer is clean and operational and plan on movement of materials during the summer prior to the school year that the Board decides to consolidate.

Mr. Hall asked as we further this discussion, one thing financials but he also would like to hear what this means educationally. He has a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and as we discuss consolidation, he would like to hear what it would look like, what is the difference and what would we offer more and less of. Also, what does 7-9 look like as we look at these changes.

Mr. Burnham felt one figure left out if you redo buildings, you will have to redo the middle school for small students, costs involved in doing that and here at Alice Schafer. Mrs. Luckock agreed that was a valid point, this is the first high look presented to us if we want them to proceed with a more in-depth analysis.

Mrs. Luckock announced she is offering an opportunity for the public to speak now with the same guidelines as visitor recognition.

Ashley Luke addressed the Board- She appreciates a bird's eye view and great questions asked by the board. She wondered if you considered 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade if that is part of keeping at the middle school. It could be big dynamics in this board space. This gym is not adequate and the cost in remodeling this space. Mr. Sperry replied we looked at the two middle schools as K-8 but they are not big enough, there are too many students. 6-8 together 6<sup>th</sup> grade cannot practice with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> due to PIAA. We used to have 7-12 grade high schools.

Mr. Kimmel showed the public the partition in the board room/gym that opens up and doubles the size of the space we are in.

Brooke Leuthold addressed- she asked about busing if we do something like this, my little ones are at Valley would it lengthen the time. Mr. Sperry responded no, the 2 hours is if we cut transportation but no it would still be under one hour. Brooke asked how soon you are looking to do this. Mr. Sperry noted if the board decides to pursue, they have to have a town hall meeting in 90 days, if we do it next year, we have to get on it. She also asked when consolidation are the middle school here and high school classes in both buildings. Yes Mr. Sperry answered. Also,

the 2 principals, what does that mean for Mr. Hans. Mrs. Luckock replied what would administration look like? Yes, there would be an administrator in this building. She last asked noting she was confused as there was \$1 million in ESSER fund, but she did a RTKR on finances and it was \$10 million on COVID ESSER. Dr. Mayle responded, that is this year's budget and the difference was state versus federal.

Mr. Burnham added as we set forth these scenarios, what about Linesville grade school coming back to Alice Schafer to make a K-8 fit here. Mr. Sperry replied no, to do that you have to have 9-12 in the high school. Mr. Burnham felt down the road it might need to. If we get school voucher program, what happens to the student body. How many are left. Mrs. Klink noted talking about it is still a good thing, we are brainstorming. Mr. Hornstein reminded Mr. Burnham we are looking at a \$1.9 million-dollar operating deficit. Mr. Burnham noted that we don't know what the state reimbursement will be nor who will be governor. Mr. McQuiston agreed with Mrs. Klink and Mr. Hornstein, we talk about it but don't rush and do it immediately. Mrs. Luckock agreed we need to talk in depth and enough time so not to make a knee jerk reaction in the future if we don't review and plan now.

### **3.b. Superintendent's Report...Mr. Sperry**

#### **Minutes**

Mr. Sperry presented his Superintendent's Report: February 3, 2021

1. IU5 Superintendent Meetings have taken place every Thursday or Friday since January 8<sup>th</sup>. Of course the vast majority of the conversations center on COVID: The new strains have come up in numerous discussions in the past month. The bad news is they are more contagious, the good news is current vaccines are effective against them. Vaccine distribution has also been a much discussed topic. While Crawford County had the ability to vaccinate educators, Erie County has not been able to do that yet. There is hope on the horizon with more vaccines becoming available. In addition we can expect pharmacies to begin vaccinations starting on February 11<sup>th</sup>.
2. Four Superintendents: Kelly Hess (Harbor Creek), Shane Murray (Iroquois), Donna Miller (Girard), Amy Stewart (Warren), and I were selected to represent IU5 in a meeting with PA Senator Bob Casey. We explained all of the issues we are dealing with as suburban and rural districts. We covered topics that the federal government could intervene with including: Internet Access to rural areas, Transportation, Vaccine availability, Career and Technical funding for both school age students and adult learning, Cyber Charters, Looming Teacher Shortage, and Federal testing requirements. There was a good back and forth with Senator Casey for about 45 minutes.
3. All three Crawford County superintendents participate in a weekly Pandemic Coordinator meeting (held every Friday). Along with Crawford County, Warren County is also a participant. We discuss issues with COVID that are particular to our Counties. This is a group that was separated from Erie County as the needs/issues of the two counties are different right now.
4. There is also a County specific COVID Meeting every other week with Crawford County Emergency Management, All School Districts, Meadville Medical, Alleghany College, and Social Agencies.
5. I participated in a webinar for the Garrett Lee Smith suicide prevention grant on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The Systems of Care of Crawford County is involved as are Crawford Central and PENNCREST as well as now Mercer and Venango. We were recipients of the grant previously and used it to get students/staff/ and coaches trained in suicide prevention/awareness.

### **3.c. Agenda Review...Mrs. Luckock**

#### **Minutes**

The Board reviewed the draft agenda.

Mr. Burnham asked if at some point, would it be out of keeping to send a questionnaire home with students grades K-10 and ask if choice of voucher to go to another school would you do it? as a sample questionnaire. Mr. Horne commented we should wait for the elections and do it post elections, to do it now is premature.

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

##### Minutes

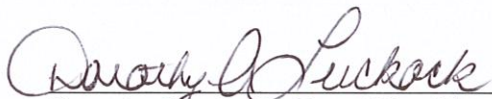
The meeting was at 8:02 pm.


#### 5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, specifically to discuss personnel concerns.

##### Minutes

Mrs. Luckock noted the Board would go into an executive session to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, specifically to discuss some personnel concerns.

  
Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
Greg Mayle, Board Secretary