



# JANUARY 4, 2023 BOD WORK SESSION MINUTES

01/04/2023 [07:00 PM-08:00 PM] @ Alice Schafer Annex  
Gym

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## JANUARY 4, 2023 CSD BOD WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

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

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#### Minutes

Mrs. Luckock opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. She noted discussion item 3.B.A will be struck from the agenda.

It is noted all nine board members were present.

The following Administrators were present-

Jarrin Sperry, Greg Mayle, Rick Kelly, Frank Kimmel, Jeff Hans, Matt Vannoy, Ed Pietroski, Dave Maskrey, Troy Messerall, Adam Jardina and Doug Parks.

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#### 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.

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#### Minutes

No one addressed the Board.

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### 3. Discussion Items

#### 3.a. School Director Recognition...Mr. Sperry

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##### Minutes

January is PSBA School Director Month. Mr. Sperry provided recognition certificates to each of them and read some general facts about school board directors in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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#### 3.b. Maintenance Updates...Mr. Kimmel

##### 3.b.a. Batting Cage Quotes - Item Struck from the Agenda

#### 3.c. Update on LLL Property...Mr. McQuiston/Mr. Klink

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##### Minutes

Mrs. Luckock provided a brief background on this topic. As we may recall back in spring there was an agreement drafted for the district to assume/purchase the Lynn Summers Memorial Complex. But due to a changeover in officers with the Linesville Little League it has delayed in getting final paperwork completed. As well as some confusion between the old officers and new officers. Mr. McQuiston and Mr. Klink attended the meeting last week with the Linesville Little League to clear up some questions.

She turned the discussion item over to Mr. McQuiston and Mr. Klink.

Mr. McQuiston first noted most important some information was out there that maybe they were concerned the district would take over the project and sell for profit. Obviously we didn't promise that to them but that we are interested in using the field for the youth. The board didn't express interest in changing the name and we didn't make any promises to anything. There was some general public at this meeting including Mr. Walker their attorney to make sure documents were done correctly. Of all in attendance most were appreciative of the district taking over and cleaning it up, mowing and taking care of the property overwhelmingly. Wishing for the district to pick up the field. Our intention is to use it for overflow sports, maybe a track in the future. At this point no definite plans and we are not accepting the property with any conditions as we don't know what this board will be in the future. The consensus was that someone happily taking over and maintaining with the desire to keep the Summers name. That is the intention of this board but no future guarantees he told the League. The League recognized that if the district didn't take over the maintenance no one will.

Mr. Klink heard comments potentially for youth in the future and in speaking to historians of the League they were excited for the opportunity for it to continue on.

Mrs. Luckock thanked them for attending and clearing up misconceptions.

### 3.d. Savings Tracker Report ...Budget Committee

#### Minutes

Mrs. Luckock opened up the discussion noting we are going more in depth of the categories on the tracker. Mr. Sperry, Dr. Mayle and Administration have put together a presentation tonight which was presented at the Budget Finance Committee Meeting held prior to this work session. It is the Committees recommendation to bring it now to the full board for review.

Mr. Sperry noted the first slides we looked at in October with the student enrollment from 2008 through 2022 so a quick overview. The enrollment numbers dropped 799 students between 2008 and 2022. The projected enrollments for 2023 through 2030 drop even more by 240 students, using state birth/kindergarten numbers. Mr. Sperry discussed the slide with current building level enrollments comparing each school building to 2012. Current configuration showed three of the five school buildings capacity lower than 50% leaving Conneaut Lake Elementary and Conneaut Valley Elementary at 55% and 64% respectfully.

The current budget constraints include;

- 2021/2022 Operating Loss of \$900,000
- 2022/2023 Budget deficit without ESSER funds \$1.9 million and this is after the additional \$1 million from state funding. A tax revenue per mill of \$285,000 noting one mill raises the average homeowners tax liability \$25/year. Mills to cover the deficit at 6.67 (\$167 per year for the average homeowner).

Millage history for Conneaut School District over the last decade 1.5 mills (\$38 for average homeowner) and the national inflation of 29.67% compared to Conneaut School District at 2.99%. Penncrest School District over the last

decade millage is 4.7 and Crawford Central at 7.3. The current millage by district is Conneaut 51.55; Penncrest 53.25 and Crawford Central at 56.87.

Minor budget items include transportation (increase ride time), staffing attrition via retirements, extra days, reduce printing/copying, travel/professional development, vehicle fleet, curriculum and supply lists. Mr. Sperry emphasized these items could be cut and not potential affect curriculum or education, although any cuts affect students but these could be trimmed and not affect as much. Right now the board always had an ideal transportation time of one hour max, We have talked many times with Rick Bridge and he reminds us he runs out of time before he runs out of stops. He cannot fill a bus in one hour with our districts area. With an increase in ride time there is a savings. The state does not mandate kindergarten but again we should have it as it is a great benefit all around. For many students it is the first introduction to formal education, not all go to preschool. Athletics is part of middle school and high school but 1 million dollars in our budget is for athletics. These all build what we do and cost money. Transportation is over 4 million. By law we don't have to transport students.

Major budget items to consider include kindergarten (not a state requirement to have kindergarten but the District feels it is very important), athletics, extracurricular, intramurals, supplies, transportation, staff and electives.

Staffing numbers were compared showing in 2008 the district had 199 teaching staff; 2012 with 165 teaching staff in the consolidation year; and 2022 with 154 teaching staff and 2 staff members are ESSER funded and will end in June 2024.

Estimated operating costs saved from our middle and elementary buildings if closed or sold were presented and the PDE reimbursement lost if closed for each building showed Conneaut Valley Middle School as the only building where there is no longer any reimbursement.

Attrition over the next 3-4 years with 9 teachers and one administrator saving \$1,2 million, some transportation costs as buildings are more consolidate and the total savings per year approaching \$1.2 million.

The feasibility of Alice Schafer as a middle school was reviewed by the Administration. In summary, using elementary schools or current middle schools as elementary schools and due to size of buildings and amenities (using the current middle schools as K-6 elementary schools was investigated. Keeping the elementary schools open and closing middle schools was also discussed. Meetings were held to develop the practicality of reconfigurations. 7th and 8th grades at Alice Schafer was reviewed showing curriculum options would be lessened; Middle schools as elementary would require bathroom upgrades and playground creation; 7th-9th grade was determined to be the greatest use of space for both Alice Schafer and the High School. Keeping one middle school open for 6-8 was determined to be best for cost savings.

Two options emerged;

Option A: Grades K-5 at both elementary schools, 6-8 at CLMS, 9-12 at Linesville campus. Curriculum offerings stay the same with all grades or increase. No loss of PDE PlanCon monies and there is a need to renovate the Valley Elementary School kitchen as it is a satellite of the middle school, staff transport food down each day.

Option B: Grades 7-9 at Alice Schafer with K-6 at both Middle schools. reduced curriculum offerings 7-12 (Science, Tech, and scheduling difficulties). Loss of PDE revenue in closing both elementary's and upgrades to playgrounds and bathrooms at the middle school.

Logistics- this is what each option would look like-

Option A: CLMS becomes the district middle school grades 6-8 with 412 students in 2023, 382 in 2024. Both elementary schools increase by the size of their new kindergarten class Currently CLE 302, CVE 312. CASH stays as it is and Conneaut Valley Middle School is closed.

Option B: CLMS becomes CLE (K-6) current enrollment 457. CVMS becomes CVE (K-6) current enrollment 446. CASH grades 10-12 current enrollment 435. Alice Schafer 7-9 current enrollment 438. Close CLE and CVES.

Option A includes movement of materials during the summer from CVMS to CLMS, align 5th grades staff in both elementary schools and 6th-8th grade staff at CLMS, renovate CVES kitchen, adjust transportation and alert the state and begin the process of closing a building. We have 90 days or more out then a public hearing and the board votes at least 3 months after the public hearing.

Option B includes planning on movement of materials during the summer, ensure the the second floor of Alice Schafer is clean and operational, move Music to the main building, add lockers to Alice Schafer, align staff in both elementary schools and Alice Schafer, adjust curriculum and supplies as necessary, add playgrounds to new elementary schools and add Kindergarten bathrooms, adjust transportation, adjust storage and office spaces in district, align sports schedules/practices, alert the state and begin the process of closing buildings.

Additional options for the CVMS include contacting the NW Regional college, LECOM or adding more CCCTC programs. We don't own the welding equipment.

Mrs. Luckock when looking at timeline if one option ends up being the preferred option for serious consideration there is no way anything will happen for adjustment in the Fall of the 2023/2024 school year. We have run out of time for voting, public hearing and to really do due diligence. These needs evaluated before this important decision. The Budget Committee realizes, and this is informational piece to get an idea of the size of buildings. The Committee has also requested additional slides information to be compiled to include in each option what is the first-year cost, i.e., the Valley Elementary kitchen needs updated, bathrooms if middle school was to become an elementary need renovated therefore, the Budget Committee has asked for that first year cost and recap ongoing costs and reimbursements that would either be coming or lost. Once this is compiled we will work on.

Mrs. Klink asked for busing estimates for K-12 routes with each option so we can see numbers with the time added for each bus. Mr. Bridge noted a lot of time is eaten up going between buildings on a k-12 schedule. This is where we lose time. Also, the biggest issue in looking at that is a lot is the window of time you need to be at each building. Flexibility like 15 minutes to drop off so a rather large window to make it work. It ends up an issue created is stacking on the school side having personnel to accept the students. He has played around with this scenario in the past.

Mr. Hall is looking at this if asked for recommendations and doesn't feel there is enough to even attempt one. This presentation doesn't show startup costs and in every meeting this has been unveiled I have asked for an education plan. This has to happen, we haven't been given that. I challenge this, we need classroom sizes and having an educational plan is a reasonable request. He is not sure how many more times he asked, numbers I know we are talking startup numbers. What does this mean to us, it doesn't mean anything if no numbers. If it cost \$4 million to save \$1 million then that isn't enough. I don't have enough information o feel comfortable to ask the community. We are asking to change the face of this community and we are missing so much information. This is a huge decision for everyone. Mrs. Sperry noted he is going to talk about committees for a deep dive. Mr. Hall disagreed and felt we need the information now to have a plan. That is the basis to start and we cannot fine tune which direction. We don't have enough today, this is similar to what was presented two months ago. Mr. Sperry replied that when we consolidated in 2012 we had 6 plans with different modules, we meet for 6-8 months and looked at all the plans/options with 4 different committees. To do well this needs to be brought out in the committees. Mr. Horne understood that but we need more numbers to take to people, even the cost to upgrade

the CVE kitchen. We should be able to see class schedules and sizes and how the option affects the students and staff. Some of those numbers go along way helping in the committees. We need more data.

Mrs. Luckock was a committee member for the 2012 consolidation, along with Mr. Hans, Mr. Parks, Mr. Maskrey and Mr. Sperry. She started in the committee with one attitude and at the end of the process had a different opinion. Not saying that Mr. Hall is wrong but if she recalls she didn't think the board delved in having administration bring all that prior to the committees. Probably had some but most was done in the committee work. Mr. Schell, the former buildings and grounds director focused on the facility committee. The business manager was in financial/budget. Curriculum Committee had the Curriculum Director. Board members were also on the committees, two board members on each committee and there was a liaison that reported to the board for each committee. The Board President and Superintendent floated from committee to committee. Staff, employees, volunteers, community members were all on these committees. People submitted names and their interest level that we had 100 or more names submitted and they were broken out into committees. We tried to get people with their first choice of committee but that didn't always work. Remember, please come in with an open mind willing to look at data and numbers then be objective. Mr. Sperry noted the committees were so organized and knew what their tasks were. The appointed liaison also relayed information to the other committees if need be. Mrs. Luckock reminded again, in the beginning it might not be the decision you like but the one that makes the most sense. The board would represent from each region cross section.

Mrs. Klink asked if we should get the committees started. Mrs. Luckock suggests creating an ad hoc committee again with the board and community participation. She tossed this idea out in the budget committee earlier this evening and they all supported that recommendation to look at trying to create that structure so that options can be looked at in depth. Mr. Sperry added back in 2012 we had a day when every committee came back together and the committee representative gave a presentation and why they found, recommended which and why. Then there was a public hearing and then the board voted on it several months later.

Mr. McGuirk reminded everyone that in 2012 consolidation was a real big issue, it was three high schools with identities and personalities and blended into one... this was a much bigger issue. He doesn't think now it is really consolidation but downsizing to protect the future. It is quite different this time highlighting from the tech center last time. that was a great thing for our district as far as he saw. We are no longer having students traveling from Valley to Lake to take a Chemistry class every day. Now a student can have any choice they want. What we are doing now is like survival, deciding on now is a part of what we need to save money and cut back so more of a cut back and downsizing.

Mr. Burnham spoke clarifying on positions lost in the consolidation, remember not all those were done away with at that time but later in retirements and attrition. Mr. Sperry interjected stating he furloughed 34 people; some were retirements which include administrators. He and the CEA President drove around and furloughed that many people, he will never forget it, was one of his worst days. Then starting in 2012 if someone had been furloughed and a position opened up and they had the certification we had to call them and offer them. Until they said no we had to keep them on the list. Once they said no they were off the list. Attrition is way better than furloughing.

Mrs. Luckock added that the committee thing isn't something that many of us are looking forward to having extra meetings, is there interest in looking at a committee process. Mr. Sperry and she can bring the framework next week. Mr. Hall said we have to do it, and he supports them. Mrs. Klink agreed we need to get rolling. Mr. Horne agreed it is more of a reconfiguration, not a true consolidation but while ESSER monies we should be proactive before it dries up. The discussion needs to be now to discuss the deficit.

Mr. Sperry reminded we have only raised taxes 1.5 ml in over a decade, no one around us can say that, we are very watchful of our community.

Mr. Burnham remembered this district screwed over the community with building construction and before the rate was 29 mils and it went up to 50 once the projects were approved and the money was borrowed. When that bond issue is paid back we will have that money to go back to, remember that!!! Mr. Sperry noted that is in 2035. Mr. Burnham replied that is not too far off. Mr. Hornstein said we will have to take that to plan for remodeling and maintenance.

Mrs. Luckock noted that as difficult as those tax increases were back then, if recall by far the majority of the public said to raise taxes and keep our three high schools. It was not the proposal to build a high school in Harmonsburg. As difficult in that time there was public support to keep the three high schools. Mr. Burnham blurted we overbuilt and no supporting evidence in justifying it. Mrs. Klink responded we cannot hash the past. Mr. Burnham burst again you don't live in Conneautville, you live by Hickernell. Let us support ourselves with a cyber charter school if you want tax money for income averaging. We bring the average earned income down which allows us to bring in more state money. If you didn't have Valley what would Lake and Linesville be like he ended. Mrs. Klink responded that it is the same for students in the Geneva area to do the same thing, we are trying to do what is best for everyone and living in the past is not helping. Mr. Burnham shouted everyone forgets about reality. Mrs. Klink responded that we are trying to move forward.

**3.e. Policies for 1st Reading...Mr. Sperry**

Policy 004 - Membership

Policy 007 - Distribution

Policy 009 - Tobacco/Nicotine Use

Policy 204 - Attendance

Policy 237 - Electronic Devices

Policy 246 - School Wellness

Policy 323 - Tobacco/Nicotine Use

Policy 913.1 - Commercial Advertising in Schools

**3.f. Superintendent's Report...Mr. Sperry**

**Minutes**

Mr. Sperry read his report.

**3.g. Ethics Reminder...Mrs. Luckock**

**Minutes**

Mrs. Luckock reminded the board of their duty to complete the Pennsylvania Financial Form, a.k.a., Ethics Form and return to Beth Moss no later than May 1, 2023.

**3.h. Agenda Review...Mrs. Luckock**

**Minutes**

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The Board reviewed the draft agenda.

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#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

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##### Minutes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

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#### 5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

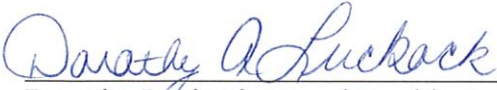
**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, specifically to discuss personnel concerns.

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##### 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.

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Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
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S. Beth Moss, Assistant Board Secretary