



SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 CSD BOD WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

09/06/2023 [07:00 PM-08:00 PM] @ Alice Schafer Annex gym

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1. Call to Order

Minutes

Mrs. Luckock opened the meeting noting she would move the discussion topic of The Superintendent's Middle School consolidation recommendation to before the Visitor Recognition with the hopes it may answer some of the visitors questions.

It is noted all of the board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Klink.

Present included - Mr. Burnham, Mr. Hall, Mr. Horne, Mrs. Luckock, Mr. Klink, Mr. McGuirk and Mr. McQuiston.

Administrators present included- Mr. Sperry, Ms. Krankota, Dr. Jardina, Mr. Kimmel and Mr. Kelly. Principals included- Mr. Messerall, Mr. Vannoy, Mr. Pietroski, Mr. Maskrey, Mrs. Sada, Mr. Parks and Mr. Hans.

1.a. Moment of Silence

1.b. Salute the Flag Ceremony

2. *Visitor Recognition on Agenda Items

*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 explained this evening the Board is making adjustments to the allotted timeframe for visitor recognition and any input may not receive a prompt response from the board, depending on topic, if we have the information we can field questions. If someone has follow up questions, she asks that one wait until all who have had a chance to speak for the first time before entertaining a 2nd trip to the podium.

No one approached the podium.

3. Discussion Items

3.a. Start of School Update(s)... Each Building Principal

Minutes

Mr. Hans reported for CLMS, he noted the start of the school year this year was probably the smoothest he has had in his fifth year as principal. The biggest hiccup was getting 5th graders through lunch in a timely manner, they struggled a bit as they discovered their newfound freedom to sit with friends and talk. We had to coach them to

move along. He made a point to walk around Thursday morning to each of the 5th grade first periods and ask how many were anxious about coming here. They all raised their hands. HE also asked how many thought it was a pretty good place and again all raised their hands.

Mr. Maskrey reported for CVMS, he noted a very smooth start of the school year. It seems students have learned how to play in school again. It too is the smoothest start in a number of years.

Mr. Parks reported for CLE, agreed his too was a very smooth start with others coming out of the pandemic it is the smoothest we have had. Kindergarten lunches make him nervous each year.

Mr. Vannoy and Mr. Pietroski reported the high school had a really good start, a number of students returned from outside cyber, and they are excited about that. Mr. Pietroski has been to each classroom at least once. Mr. Vannoy noted the start was so smooth it definitely stuck out for him and the only hiccup were the lunches, students get confused when their lunch is.

Mrs. Sada reported for her first year at CVE, she thanked the board for her opportunity and feels blessed with the well-oiled machine. She feels very welcome and appreciated. Her highlights were in "meet the teacher night" which was well attended and was very positive. She is currently trying to get to all the rooms and getting to know the kids and their families. She started having students show up saying how well things are going. A shout out to the faculty and staff, custodians and all have been wonderful providing anything she needs.

Mr. Messerall finished out the building updates echoing his third year went smooth with a lot of kiddos in the program. There has been a lot of help from staff and secretaries in distributing the materials. He has been able to bring back Art and New Journalism and maxed out all of the seats for Art. Conservation Science is being offered for the first time this year and he has brought in modules for featuring and spreading in the regular buildings. Good feedback from everyone.

3.b. Discussion on Superintendent's Middle School consolidation recommendation...Mrs. Luckock

Minutes

Mrs. Luckock noted that last month confirmed the board received this information, along with a follow up on the website and handful of copies for the public have been printed here tonight. she asked questions from the board to cover at this time? There were none.

3.c. Letter to Legislators...Mrs. Luckock

PARSS looking for letters to Legislators from school boards and districts to emphasis the importance of addressing the order of the Commonwealth Court to address the unconstitutional funding system in Pennsylvania.

Minutes

Mrs. Luckock asked if the Board would consider a letter to Legislators addressing the order of the Commonwealth Court for unconstitutional funding system in Pa. There were n objections to adding it to the voting meeting agenda.

3.d. Superintendent's Report...Mr. Sperry

Minutes

Mr. Sperry read his report.

3.e. Superintendent's Evaluation...Mrs. Luckock

Minutes

Mrs. Luckock received a number of evaluation papers back for the Superintendent. She asked for those who have not turned theirs in yet to please make arrangements to get them to her by next week to get tallied for October results.

3.f. Agenda Review...Mrs. Luckock

Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft voting meeting agenda.

4. *Visitor Recognition

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Minutes

Mr. Travis Crytzer addressed the Board. His focus to the board was imploring them to have a plan for what becomes of that building and not the same as what has become of the Summit building. He asked that the cost savings are actually looked at consistently and adhered to. He expects more savings reported and looked into. He concluded that the Summit building deterioration is not a good judgement call for the Board or maintenance. If purchased by Summit Township the cost is just a continued burden to the community as the taxpayers would continue to maintain. He does not wish this same to the Conneaut Valley residents for the middle school.

Jeremy Burnham approached. He addressed concerns for keeping the water and heat on at CVMS and he is not sure how some of the numbers are reported. He asked what would become of the welding program, Is there county level discussion so are students left high and dry as he assumes the tech school does not have room. Mr. Sperry replied to the welding program will go back to the tech school if the building closes and they have a plan. With a maintenance area they will repurpose it for the welding and their precision machining program is down to one teacher so they can take over the other side. Mr. Burnham asked about the ranking in comparison to others in our district. He felt the district doesn't have a building problem, you have a curriculum program. Instead of talking about a building we should be talking about the education so is there a response. Mr. Sperry noted we are increasing AP offerings. Mr. Burnham asked why some offerings such as Guitar don't have an AP offering. Mr. Sperry replied that specific class is an elective, not an AP class. Mr. Burnham argued that the system is failing. Mr. Pietroski added the high school has four AP classes and we are adding another one in a year, a second English AP in the following and increasing concurrent offerings which is a significant increase. We have 18-20 students in AP biology and around 40 in AP Human Geography, a class of 16 or more in AP English. Mr. Burnham argued the percentages should be higher and that we are not preparing out students.

Mr. Hall asked to extend Mr. Burnhams five minutes and stated if you read the plan you say we should not talk buildings. He sat on the education committee and feels we offer the best for out kids. By combining sections we will be able to combine resources and offer more at that level and carry that into the high school. This isn't about building closure, this is the toughest decision in a voting direction he personally has had to make and believes it makes us stronger educationally. Ad you are standing there telling me we are not. Mr. Burnham argued there is a

tremendous about of labor and you are not walking away from that attendance area. Greenwood building is a prime example. The only ones who can afford those buildings is that such group. No one can afford that valley building and have a successful business. He still isn't sure why we are talking about this, we want to be better and better educated. I work in the private sector so if the budget comes up, it is in labor. Nowhere in these discussions do you talk about labor. You say furlough but that is a drop in the bucket, so Mr. Burnham is not sure where you are at in these schools it is the wrong conversation and doesn't feel the building is educating our kids. Mr. Hall asked him if he feels we should keep our buildings open which doesn't answer our long-term problem of fixing the deficit.

Board member John Burnham jumped in, stating one thing that jumps out is there is a junior and senior high school and 5th and 6th grade is still in elementary. We have been playing this middle school game for two decades and maybe the real problem is both 5th and 6th should be in the elementary school. Does this solve problems? You have grandiose schemes and talk about AP courses, let me tell you once they are out of Pennsylvania most outside universities are about the AP courses, Private school and public, if you want to utilize AP have to take the test, colleges come back and examine the schools AP program, recruiters told my kids it is all the same thing so chew on that for a bit.

Robert Burnham addressed the Board asking if there is any metric educationally for consolidating the high schools. In looking at the numbers if you go on the district website and the state data with individual subjects English is the only one we were on par with state projections. All the others were way behind, science specifically. If we want to double down on consolidation he asked if there is a metric for the high school. Mr. Sperry replied we have a 95% graduation rate, college success rate and most of our stay in college is higher than the national average. Five students went to the Navy JUC, which has a high dropout rate and ours stayed. Our numbers are there. Mr. McGuirk added consolidation makes it better for the district with the career center as Conneaut gets there the earliest and stay longer. Mr. Burnham noted Mr. Sperry's explanation doesn't explain why our numbers are low. Mr. Burnham noted that it seems now the primary reason behind the closure of the school is financial but during the hearing back in May the superintendent stated the best financial option is K-12 schools so why is that not looked into further. Mr. Sperry replied that is not what he said, Mr. Hornstein added that was the best scenario if down the road from now K-12 campus if enrollment doesn't level out in the years. Mrs. Luckock added the transportation committee said it is the most efficient when sending to a single location, but she does not remember the same way you are Robert. He then asked if it was ever considered in each community a K-12. Mr. Sperry replied we would have to hire staff to do that, back in 201 students drove every day to get to another school for specific classes. When you have three K-12 and want Physics in all three it is cost prohibitive. Mr. Burnham asked aren't most teachers proficient in more than one, Mr. Sperry replied they might be but are not certified. Mr. Burnham stated his last comment is it really feels you are alienating the Valley and not fixing the financial problem. I hope people understand that if this was your community.

Paul VanDusen approached; he noted he looked at the plan and gets why we are doing it but reducing administration by one and teachers by ten and support staff but the agenda motion doesn't say attribution. He is asking and added he is kind of bias with that but ask the principals and teachers and support staff as they are a big part of the schools. We are here for a job too.

Kurt Dennis approached. It was mentioned was you poured all this money into these two schools and now closing one down. By a show of hands anyone on the board was here when that decision was made. Mr. Burnham announced he was the only one and voted against it. Mr. Dennis stated this board now is finally doing what should have been done many years ago. We were told consolidation and we did the opposite, spent money and we knew this day was coming. Mr. Burnham argued that point back then. Mr. Dennis appreciates what you are doing and agrees with Mr. Hall for the students in learning, say with a 100 percent accuracy he is very pleased to see a new Chemistry teacher position open up as his son is in his freshman year at PSU and in his Chemistry class has no clue so Kudos to you for seeing that and making a change for the betterment of the students.

Nathan Heck approached- tough decisions are never easy on either side, I commend you for looking at it before getting too far down the road but I do challenge you as you are not doing enough. You eluded tonight you are not looking from a comprehensive strategic plan but just how to get out of this. How many times have we done this. I lived in Meadville 18 years and Conneaut 4 years and heard every 5 years we need to do something and do just what is needed to get by. Kicking it down the road sounds like when I grew up in the Midwest and traveled and saw small towns. The best practices from running schools are on one campus. Separate buildings but K-6 in building and 7-12 in a building general. Separated for more efficiency. That is the best practice anywhere that is how it is done so when looking at downsizing buildings but not strategically enough. What is the most efficient ten or more years. You are saying in the document you have to address it again, where is the plan that says this is where we are going so the community knows ahead of time. What is the best for this district going forward and yes we have to downsize that affects me as a family from Conneaut Valley. Anything we do affects them but how often are we doing this as we are beating our heads against the wall 1st time 3rd time and here the opportunity to make a step forward and head is our phased approach to managing the buildings, students, curriculum and more. If we don't plan now the options are costly down the road, buildings are meant to be occupied. If left empty they deteriorate so don't hit the easy button, make the decision on what is best for five, ten and twenty years from now. The rest of the country isn't taking a few grades to another area, we are going to save a few pennies to do what? Where is the district going in twenty years, instead drag us through whatever enrollment has done or plan for that now, this is the time to do it.

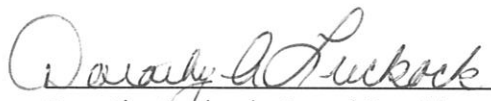
Mrs. Luckock concluded the visitor recognition noting Mr. Heck the building committee and education committees each studied in depth other options and to some degree 7-12 would fit on this campus and right now they don't fit without extensive construction or decline in educational opportunities, but we did include that option. Mr. Heck replied he feels if there is a will there is a way.

5. BOARD CONCERNS

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

7. 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 and student concerns.


Dorothy Luckock, Board President


Christine Krankota, Board Secretary