

Minutes of CONNEAUT BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

November 18, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Conneaut Area City Schools Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at The Conneaut High School 381 Mill Street, Conneaut, Ohio 44030. The Regular meeting was preceded by a 5:05 p.m. Work Session.

Members Present: Suzanne Bernardini, Christopher Brecht and Joan Norton

Members Absent: Penny Armeni and Christopher Bartone were excused

Others Present: Superintendent Lori Riley, Treasurer Jacelynn Miranda, Martha Sorohan, Sarah Baumgardner, Keith Troia, Kris Mucci, Susan Trost, Sherrie Douglas and Brian Haytcher.

President Christopher Brecht called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Certifications by Treasurer that the Board of Education is in Compliance with meeting Requirement rules.

President Christopher Brecht led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Work Session: Mrs. Krissy Mucci, Lakeshore Primary School Principal, provided board members with an update on Lakeshore Primary School progress during the "Gold 4" education schedule. Mrs. Mucci shared a video of students in the classroom using the newly purchased one to one ratio tablets and Chromebooks for students. Students and staff are benefitting from smaller class size having a positive effect on behaviors. Students remain with the same teacher all day with one set of expectations from one teacher. Mrs. Sarah Baumgardner, Special Education Director, added that the preschool schedule had adjusted to two full days rather than four half days, also has been working well. Mindful Mondays, has been implemented for staff that rolls over into student interactions and can be used to help with family engagement by creating regulated environments during an unstable time in the world.

Agenda Modifications: None

Public Participation: None

Delegations and visitors: None

Correspondence: Mrs. Riley read a note from the Downtown Coaches Club with their heartfelt thanks for the board purchase of team jerseys.

Presentations: November Student of the Month was presented by Mrs. Lori Riley, on behalf of the Conneaut Chamber of Commerce to Gateway Elementary School student, Nicholas Vendetti. Teacher Mrs. Jessica Cunningham shared that Nicholas is kind and polite. She enjoys having him in class and know he will go on to do great things.

Committee Reports:

Legislative – None

A-Tech – Mrs. Bernardini shared the quarterly A-Tech newsletter had recently been mailed out featuring two students for the engineering program next year.

Athletic Council/SPARC – Mr. Brecht announced that Mr. Chris Ricourte, has joined the SPARC committee as a co-chair, replacing Mr. Mark Wheeler. He shared that Mr. Wheeler's service and commitment to the SPARC Athletic Complex has been appreciated. noted the weight room equipment had been procured with flooring being installed. This improvement to the high school building supports expanding health and wellness curriculum for students.

Friends of the Conneaut Public Library/DLT – While Mrs. Armeni was not present, she sent in her report noting that the library has seen a great increase in digital usage in the under 18 demographic, reflecting that while classroom instruction has changed, this increase in usage shows that the partnership with the library is benefitting students.

City Council – Mrs. Joanie Norton shared that Gavin Hedrick, 10th grader, was honored at the October 12th City Council meeting as Spartan of the Month and that Clarissa Post, 9th grader, would be the next Spartan of the Month.

Board President _ None

Superintendent's report: Mrs. Riley provided an update for paving at Lakeshore Primary. The project is on track to be completed by the end of November or first week of December. Mrs. Riley is clarifying projects around buildings that could be worked on if students were to go 100% remote. During virtual conferences, teachers are surveying parents regarding their interest in participation in the SOAR 100% remote education plan. This will help for planning for second semester on site instruction, transportation and food service. Mrs. Riley shared that the Conneaut Health Department believes the "Gold 2" plan has allowed Conneaut student to remain in school buildings much longer as opposed to 100% remote, where there has been more community

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spread. Mrs. Riley also proposed Learning Phase Plan to revise the Red Phase. All schools will switch to 100% students being remote the week of Dec. 1 thru Dec. 4. After consulting with the health department on Dec. 3rd, the decision will be made regarding on two following weeks and then again prior to Dec. 29th to consider a Jan. 4th return to school for students. Mrs. Riley asked Mr. Joel Taylor, Athletic Director, to share with the board regarding athletics. Mr. Taylor shared a survey had been requested by Ohio High School Athletic Association regarding competition and practices for winter sports. Conneaut had voted to practice in house and postpone full implementation of winter sports until January 1st. The results of the statewide survey shared that 56% of those district surveyed chose not to postpone competitions or practices and to move forward and continue with a regular season.

Treasurer's report: Mrs. Miranda presented the five year forecast. Mrs. Miranda highlighted the loss of state foundation revenue in FY20 of \$283,000 followed by the \$283,000 loss again in FY21 as implanted by Governor DeWine. The forecast reflects negative spending in FY22 thru FY25 based on current foundation funding. During COVID-19, federal funds distributed thru the ESSERS and state CRF funds have assisted in purchasing Chromebooks, tablets, electronic equipment, cleaning and building supplies, but added that once those funds are exhausted, any additional costs will affect the general fund. Having community support to continue collection of the emergency levy in FY2023 will be important for the district finances. In this moment, the good news during this time of instability is that the district is situated financially to be able to adjust how we do business to support our students. Mrs. Miranda also took a moment to express her appreciation for Loretta Andes, General Office Secretary, who works in the fiscal office. Mrs. Andes is retiring after 31 years, serving in multiple positions in the district. She has been a valued school employee and as a resident of the community has always been cognizant of the spending of tax payer dollars.

- 11-2020-01 Moved by Suzanne Bernardini, seconded by Christopher Brecht that the minutes of the regular meeting of October 21, 2020 be approved as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
Ayes: Bernardini, Brecht and Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 11-2020-02 Moved by Joan Norton, seconded by Suzanne Bernardini that the financial report be approved as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
Ayes: Bernardini, Brecht and Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 11-2020-03 Moved by Suzanne Bernardini, seconded by Joan Norton that the Board approve the Five-Year Forecast as presented (ENCLOSURE)
Ayes: Bernardini, Brecht and Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 11-2020-04 Moved by Joan Norton, seconded by Suzanne Bernardini that the Board approve the following donations as presented.
- Donation in the amount of \$66.00 from Andover Bank for Back to School, Fund #001-0000
- Ayes: Brecht, Norton and Bernardini
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 11-2020-05 Moved by Suzanne Bernardini, seconded by Joan Norton that the Board approve the resolution to support the Fair School Funding Plan, as introduced in the Senate Companion Bill to substitute H.B. 305, and to encourage the 133rd General Assembly to expedite the passage of the bill.

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Ayes: Norton, Bernardini and Brecht

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

11-2020-06 Moved by Joan Norton, seconded by Suzanne Bernardini that the Board approve the agreement between the district and the General Electric Company as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

Ayes: Bernardini, Brecht and Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

11-2020-07 Moved by Joan Norton, seconded by Suzanne Bernardini that the Board approve the agreement between the district and the Spire Institute and Academy as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

Ayes: Brecht, Norton Bernardini

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

11-2020-08 Moved by Suzanne Bernardini, seconded by Joan Norton that the Board approve the revised Reset and Restart Plan for school year 2020-2021 as presented.

Ayes: Bernardini, Brecht and Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

11-2020-09 Moved by Joan Norton, seconded by Suzanne Bernardini that the Board approve the following policies and revisions as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

- 6144 INVESTMENTS
- 6152 STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND CHARGES
- 6152.01 WAIVER OF SCHOOL FEES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
- 6325 PROCUREMENT FEDERAL GRANTS/FUNDS

Ayes: Brecht, Norton and Bernardini

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

11-2020-10 Moved by Joan Norton, seconded by Suzanne Bernardini that the Board approve the following personnel resolutions, pending proper certification and successful completion of pre-employment testing and personnel paper work as needed, in accordance with scale as adopted by the Board.

10.01 Approve resignations as presented:

Loretta Andes, due to retirement, effective 12/31/20. She has been with the district for 31 years.

10.02 Approve leave for the following personnel.

Claudia Fill, satellite school helper, effective 11/19/20 through 6/4/21 using unpaid personal leave of absence.

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Tiffany Neal, paraprofessional, effective 11/19/20 through 6/4/21 using unpaid personal leave of absence.

- 10.03 Approve a one (1) year contract for the following classified personnel for the 2020-2021 school year.

Kelly Wojtowicz, step 10, 22 hrs/weekly, bus aide w/paraprofessional certification, effective 9/24/20

- 10.04 Approve employment for the following substitute certified personnel for the 2020-2021 school year.

Sarah Sablyak

- 10.05 Approve employment for the following substitute classified personnel for the 2020-2021 school year.

Beth Briestensky

Sarah Sablyak

Heidi Spero

- 10.06 Approve the following changes in classified contracts.

- Bus Driver changes, effective 9/14/20:
 - James Faidley, from 25.5 hrs/weekly to 26 hrs/weekly
 - Patty Jackson, from 24.5 hrs/weekly to 26 hrs/weekly
 - Sharon Salhoff, from 22 hrs/weekly to 23.5 hrs/weekly
- Bus Driver/Bus Aide changes, effective 10/19/20:
 - Sherri Douglas, from 29 hrs/weekly to 29.5 hrs/weekly
 - James Faidley, from 26 hrs/weekly to 26.5 hrs/weekly
 - Pauline Jarvi, from 24.5 hrs/weekly to 25.5 hrs/weekly
 - Heidi Spero, from 21 hrs/weekly to 22 hrs/weekly

- 10.07 Approve volunteers in the District Athletic program for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Level 1 - Mark Vendetti
- Level 2 - Kris Mucci

Ayes: Norton, Bernardini and Brecht

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Board Member Summary: The board expressed appreciation to all staff and the Conneaut Health Department for continuing to work thru the challenges of COVID. They also wished Mrs. Andes congratulations on her retirement and thanked her for her years of commitment. Mrs. Bernardini noted the full page tribute in the Star Beacon to William Hill and also the State Farm full page ad congratulating fall sports on their seasons. Mrs. Bernardine and Mrs. Norton represented the Board of Education at the Truck World Ribbon cutting and shared that it really was a first class event and the district was recognized as one of the entities that was instrumental in getting the project off the ground. The board also thanked the City of Conneaut for the partnership on the paving project in front of LPS.

- 11-2020-11 Moved by Suzanne Bernardini, seconded by Joan Norton that the Board adjourn this regular meeting.
Ayes: Bernardini, Brecht and Norton

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Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Treasurer

President