

Regional School District No.7
Board of Education Minutes
January 24, 2007

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Gregor, Mr. Griffey (7:32 p.m.), Mr. Jerram, Mr. Lanctot, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Yard, Acting Superintendent Newbury, High School Principal Conner, Middle School Principal Perez, Student Representatives Michael Welch and Meghan McCoy. Visitors: Clint Montgomery, Director of Shared Services; Claudia Mossman, Housemaster and Director of Student Activities; Robin Waring, House Council Advisor; Stacey Zematis, PE/Health Department Asst.; Fred Williams, Athletic Coordinator; Ken Chichester, Housemaster and Science Department Co-Chair; Ingrid Burke, Science Department Co-Chair, Shellie Lloyd, Parent.

Mr. Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

There were no members of the public to speak on agenda items.

PUBLIC

Michael Welch wished to have the minutes of January 10 corrected to include his reporting on the music festival and qualifying students.

MINUTES
CORRECTION

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of January 10, 2007, as corrected.

MINUTES
1/10/07

Clint Montgomery, Director of Shared Services, reported on the STEP program which has been in existence for 12 years at Northwestern. This is an after-school program that services 25-30 students with a variety of issues and unusual needs that cannot be met in the normal school program. Introduced this year is the Alternate Discipline Program (ADP) to meet state guidelines on student suspensions and to help students with disciplinary concerns and receive extra help. The STEP program helps to reduce the number of outplaced students by providing an appropriate educational setting for students within the district. When appropriate, out-of-district tuition students are taken into the program. A question and answer period followed.

STEP
PROGRAM

Ken Chichester and Ingrid Burke, Science Department Co-Chairs, gave a powerpoint presentation which touched on the following topics: Staffing as it exists and future needs; 2007-2008 Course offerings; current average class size; changes in science at Northwestern; Integrated Science; Changes in CAPT; Science Graduation requirements; technology update; challenges and a plan to meet these challenges; future considerations. As part of the question and answer period, Mr. Chichester talked about the dual credit courses with NCCC and AP/UCONN, and graduation statistics if graduation requirements were changed to three credits in Science after a question from Mr. Jerram.

SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT

Claudia Mossman, Director of Student Activities, and Robin Waring, House Council Advisor, distributed copies of a booklet on Northwestern Middle and High School activities available to students and presented information to the Board through a powerpoint presentation. Highlighted items included the Student Council affiliation with the Leo Club, Blood Drives, Christmas Angels and the Heifer Project contribution. Each activity was explained in the handout and future plans for new clubs were discussed.

STUDENT
ACTIVITIES

Fred Williams, Athletic Coordinator, distributed copies of pamphlets on the interscholastic athletic program for middle school and high school, a copy of the student athlete handbook and a listing of the number of athletes who have and are participating in athletics last year and this year to date. Mr. Williams spoke about the trainer services, the website for athletics, the radio station, the Gilbert/Northwestern football co-op and ice hockey co-op, budget requests for the coming year and long-term projects including the tennis courts and track resurfacing. ATHLETICS

Stacey Zematis, PE/Health Department Assistant, reviewed the highlights of the 2006-2007 school year, summer work on the middle school curriculum, and developmental guidance and curriculum in the high school. She outlined the addition of a low ropes course, reviewed the child development course including a demonstration of the "Baby" in the Baby Think It Over Program and talked of additional electives including nutrition, a CNA program, Sports Medicine and Allied Health. Mrs. Zematis reviewed her budget request for an additional .4 teacher to reduce class size and for additional teaching time to accommodate the additional electives. PE/HEALTH

Mr. Thomson stated that the proposal for land acquisition was waiting for a release on the property and is in the lawyers' hands. The grievance hearing has been rescheduled to one-half hour prior to the next BOE meeting. Mr. Newbury stated that the radon testing was completed for 128 sites in the building. He received the results which showed no areas of concern. The report was being forwarded to the State to comply with State regulations. The budget will be handed out at the next meeting scheduled for February 14, 2007. Mr. Jerram spoke to Mr. Baxter's letter. Mr. Thomson distributed copies of that letter. UPDATES

Mr. Jerram objected to the grievance hearing postponement. He stated that the contract wording for a Level 3 grievance stated the hearing shall be held within 20 days.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Griffey, to hear the Level 3 grievance per the conditions of the teacher contract. Aye: Mr. Jerram, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Gregor, Mr. Lanctot, Mrs. Sweeney. Nay: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard. Weighted vote: Aye: 6.45, Nay 1.55. Motion carried. GRIEVANCE
HEARING

The Board reviewed the draft of the budget timeline. BDGT. TIMELINE

MOTION by Mr. Lanctot, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to approve Policy #9321 as presented. POLICY
9321

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Sweeney, and passed unanimously, to approve the following bank resolution: That any two (2) of the following six (6) are authorized to sign checks of withdrawal or make deposits and transfers pertaining to the following account at Northwest Community Bank: Account #6660000297, Regional School District No. 7, Student Activities Account: John Wayne Conner, High School Principal; Althea C. Perez, Middle School Principal; Cheryl A. DePaoli, Executive Secretary; Theresa C. Kuhlberg, District Bookkeeper; Kathleen A. Carfiro, Bookkeeping Assistant; Faith Richard, Bookkeeping Assistant. BANK
RESOLUTION

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Bill Baxter, First Selectman, New Hartford distributed earlier in the meeting and from Candy Perez regarding use of gym for camp. CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION by Mr. Griffey, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to approve the request from the Northwest Basketball Camp for use of the gymnasium July 9-13, 2007. NORTHWEST BASKETBALL CAMP

Mr. Jerram reported that he received a letter from Charles Calder offering to underwrite the cost of Meghan McCoy's project to bring in speaker, James Binnall, at a cost of \$750 to speak to students about student drinking. CHARLES CALDER DONATION

Mr. Newbury read a letter of resignation from Laurie Bocchetta, former Board Clerk. BOCCHETTA RESIGNATION

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, to accept Ms. Bocchetta's resignation as Board Clerk.

PUBLIC PORTION: Shelley Lloyd asked for a review on the update concerning property acquisition. PUBLIC PORTION

MOTION by Mrs. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl DePaoli, Clerk