

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

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Lanctot, Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. Gregor, Mr. Jerram, Student Representatives Michael Welch and Meghan McCoy, Clint Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools and Roger Newbury, Director of Finance and Operations, Middle School Principal Perez, High School Principal Conner.

Mr. Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Dawn Renfrew shared her appreciation for the Board's considerate time and attention paid to the issue of the gym floor. She asked that the Board consider an alternative to waiting until the summer of 2008 to begin the abatement process due to the fact that if only a third of the gym is usable, the students are not participating at a maximum level and that the morale, mental health, and physical health of the students are being negatively affected.

PUBLIC

John Bement would also like to see the floor fixed before next summer, and offered the Board a possible alternative to the current abatement plan. He described a procedure that Mark Jeffko, of O&G, had given to him. Copies of the report will be distributed to Board members.

Superintendent Montgomery explained that all parties want the gym to be restored as quickly as Possible. He indicated that there are many factors involved in the decisions that the administration and Board make as they consider abatement and replacement of the floor. He indicated a willingness to review the report presented, meet with representatives of the group, and take into consideration their concerns about the welfare of the students. He indicated that this timeline is in part determined by the State based on the process for reimbursement for the abatement.

MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to approve the corrected minutes of October 10, 2007. Correction: FUTURE AGENDAS- Mr. Griffey requested further discussion regarding Andrea Ashe's request for child rearing time.

MINUTES
10/10/2007

Mrs. Van Alstyne presented changes and additions to the world language program. She highlighted that there are 722 seventh through twelfth grade students studying world languages. She noted that they are looking to replace the Spanish books, and that the state is guaranteeing two Chinese teachers per year until the year 2010.

WORLD
LANGUAGE
CURRICULUM
REPORT

Principal Perez reminded the Board that NEASC evaluation is starting this Sunday. The Board members are invited and encouraged to come to the High School on Sunday at 3:45 pm to meet the NEASC team. The evaluators' schedule begins on Monday morning with a meeting all the middle school teachers, some students, custodians, and cafeteria staff. On Tuesday, they will observe each class and review student work boxes that have been organized and compiled by Casey DiBella. On Wednesday, the evaluators will begin writing reports based on their observations and the information the school has provided. The results of this evaluation should be ready in February.

MIDDLE
SCHOOL
PRINC.
REPORT

Principal Perez also reported that middle school students are working on a mock trial of the Boston Masacre at Winsted Town Hall.

Principal Perez reported that they are preparing for the first report cards to be available on Power School.

Principal Perez reported on 7th grade teams' trip to Camp Delaware which allows students from the four towns to build relationships with each other and also within their teams.

Principal Perez reported that the bathroom graffiti issue is being investigated and the cameras are working and being adjusted.

Principal Conner followed up on Mrs. Van Alstyne's report with the fact that a Jordanian administrator is coming to Northwestern to shadow administrators, as well as other faculty members for three weeks. He described this experience as culturally beneficial to the students, and perhaps a kick-start to an Arabic Language Program. Superintendent Montgomery thanked Mr. Chichester and Principal Conner for their hard work in initiating the Fulbright Scholarship to get this program started.

HIGH
SCHOOL
PRINC.
REPORT

Principal Conner complimented Student Rep., Meghan McCoy, for being elected President of National Honor Society. The Project Graduation Committee raised approximately \$8500 at the silent auction this past Saturday evening.

Principal Conner distributed an article about Kathy Deasy for her recognition as the "Business Educator of the Year" due largely to her initiation of a banking program. He reported that the use of swipe cards in the cafeteria was being discussed as well as an ATM machine being available.

Principal Conner reported that two students, who won their Chapter and State competitions, are currently attending the FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Principal Conner will be joining them on October 25th.

Superintendent Montgomery has instituted a new pay rate for substitutes. These rates are \$85/day for days 1-11 and \$90/day beginning with the 12th day.

SUBSTITUTE

Superintendent Montgomery reported that The Family with Service Needs Act, PA05-250, will be effective for all schools as of 10/1/07. He reminded the Board of the implications to the school of this legislation.

FAMILY W/
SERVICES NEEDS
ACT

Superintendent Montgomery reported that the drug testing protocol is in place and consists of a parent signing a form that states that if their child is suspected of being under the influence of drugs, they will submit to a random drug test at the McCall Foundation. He indicated that this protocol has been established as part of a broader initiative to ensure zero tolerance for drug use among students.

DRUG
TESTING

Mr. Gregor reported that the plaque in honor of Dr. Ohotnicky is costing more than originally quoted due to its size, and he will inform the Board when the plaque is ready to be hung. It was also agreed that the family members will be contacted regarding the wording of the plaque.

OHOTNICKY
PLAQUE

Discussion about Policy #5141, Use of Alcohol Detection Devices, lead to some some changes. Superintendent Montgomery will include such changes and present the policy at the next meeting for Board review.

BREATHALYZER
POLICY

MOTION by Mr. Griffey, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously to grant Andrea Ashe child rearing time as requested.

MATERNITY
LEAVE

Superintendent Montgomery presented materials that described details regarding the Applications of the AlertNow Notification System. The Board agreed that NWR7 should subscribe to this system.

ALERTNOW
SYSTEM

Superintendent Montgomery reported that in the spring CABA will begin reviewing Board policies for omissions and exceptions. He presented a letter from CABA that Described the process and timeline.

POLICY
REVIEW

Superintendent Montgomery responded to the public concern regarding the gym floor by suggesting a meeting with Mr. Jeffko, Mr. Newbury, and a representative from the public, John Bement.

PUBLIC

Kaye Sweeney commented that Mss. Van Alstyne's report was well done.

Another member of the public thanked the Board for revisiting the maternity leave issue and for the change in the vote.

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 8:38 p.m for the purpose of negotiations, a personnel issue, and discussion of a confidential student issue. Present in Executive Session: Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. Gregor, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Griffey, Superintendent Montgomery, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Tera B. Dunn