

Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
November 9, 2004

AMENDED AND APPROVED 11/23/04

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Egbertson, Mr. Jerram, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Kenneson, High School Principal Conner, Middle School Principal Osypuk, Superintendent Dr. Roberta Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury, Student Representative Amy Cimmino. Visitors: Rev. John Rankin, Mr. Sidney Van Leer, Colebrook, Rev. Bulkely, Bridgeport, CT, Mr. David Zitzkat, New Hartford, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Walsche, Barkhamsted, Mrs. Shelley Lloyd.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. John C. Rankin, President of the Theological Education Institute of Hartford, CT, addressed the Board members concerning former teacher Joyce Sperow's pending case. He believes that she has been completely vindicated before the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights.

PUBLIC

Mr. Sidney Van Leer, Reverend Bulkery, Mr. David Zitzkat and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Walsche voiced their support for Mrs. Sperow.

Mrs. Yard wished to correct the minutes of the October 26, 2004 Board of Education meeting: Page One, Present, remove Mrs. Lafave's name it is listed twice and add Mrs. Yard to those present. Mr. Jerram wished to correct the minutes, Page Two, Paragraph Two, Call to Order, to read Mr. Thomson assumed the Chair at 7:38 p.m.

CORRECT
MINUTES
10/26/04

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2004 regular meeting of the Board of Education as amended.

APPROVE
MINUTES
10/26/04

Student Representative Amy Cimmino reported that the band members participated in a "Lock In" on Friday with rehearsals for three hours and activities and games for the rest of the evening. The House Council has been organizing Thanksgiving baskets for distribution to families in need and planning a visit to a local nursing home. The varsity boy's soccer team defeated Morgan High School in the first round of the state tournament at home.

STUDENT
REP. RPT.

Middle School Principal Osypuk reported on the following for the Middle School: 1.) Four large bags of clothing have been donated to FISH, a local group that distributes the clothing to families in need. 2.) Each home room is putting together a turkey basket beginning Wednesday, November 10th with the goal being twenty baskets. 3.) A used book sale will be held during parent conferences November 22nd and 23rd with proceeds to go to the "Super Dance Charity" to be announced. 4.) A town meeting will be held November 10th celebrating our student's achievements and honoring our armed forces in recognition of Veteran Day. 5.) The PTO "Afterschool Fun Day" will be held on November 16th from 2p.m. to 4:30. Ms. Perez is coordinating the activities in the gym and the PTO is hosting games in the cafeteria. Kate Atkinson a local artist has offered her talent to work with our students that afternoon.

MS
RPT.

High School Principal Mr. Conner spoke to the Board members about various outside of the classroom experiences that have been taking place with our teachers and students. Ms. Majewicz of our English Department took 45 students from her American Literature class to Sturbridge Village to experience what it was like to live in an 1800's community. Mrs. Delaini, School to Career Coordinator took 15 students to Connecticut Construction Career Day and 24 students to Career Day at Hartford Hospital. Mrs. Deasy of our Business Department recently took 18 students from the Accounting Program to the annual Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants at Fairfield University to learn about careers in Accounting. Mrs. Cady of the Art Department took her Ceramics 2 and Honors Ceramics students to Vincent Garcia's studio in Simsbury to explore methods of Raku firing techniques. Mr. Garcia is a nationally recognized potter. Seven students from the Agricultural Education program recently returned from the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Andrew Thomson recently attended the National Youth Leadership forum in Washington D.C. and another student Diana Connelly was recently selected as one of eight students from Connecticut to be interviewed for the 2005 United States Senate Youth Program Scholarship. The varsity girl's volleyball and girl's soccer teams qualified for the state tournament, and played their first round, both away. The varsity girl's soccer team won the Western Connecticut Soccer Official's Sportsmanship Award.

HS
RPT.

Dr. Ohotnicky reported that a summary letter went home to parents indicating what proficiency level students are performing at. Dr. Ohotnicky will be meeting with the town selectman of all four towns on Thursday November 18, 2004. Our school continues to refine school safety plans. Ms. Perez has developed an after hours school safety plan. The proposed "Celebration Garden" which would celebrate the many achievement of our students is being discussed with possible locations being looked into. The news from Northwestern Regional appeared in the New Hartford Town News newsletter with a column on our student's high performance on the CMT and CAPT tests.

SUPER-
INTEN-
DENT
RPT.

Mr. Newbury presented the transfers that need the Board's approval. MOTION by Mr. Egbertson seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to approve the transfers as presented by Mr. Newbury.

BDGT.
RPT.

The Board members were reminded that the CABE/CAPSS convention will be held on November 12th and 13th.

CABE
CAPSS
CONV.

Mr. Newbury presented the Board members with a CL&P conservation proposal. The proposal involved independent contractors conducting an energy efficient search resulting in a savings of 242,000 kilo watt hours annually. The savings would be \$71,500.00 with Northwestern's share of the savings being \$24,000.00.

CL&P
PRO-
POSAL

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to accept CL&P's conservation proposal.

A discussion took place among the Board members as they reviewed the Superintendent's proposed school goals for 2004-05. Dr. Ohotnicky suggested that with budget constraints being the way they are, a two year strategic plan might be considered as opposed to a five year plan.

SUPER-
INTEN-
DENT'S
GOALS

The High School, Middle School and Special Education Strategic School Profiles for the 2003-04 school year were briefly discussed by the Board members. The demographic information was of particular interest, citing our efforts in reducing racial and economic isolation, hours on instruction, physical fitness performance results and our drop out rates. The Board members feel that the drop-out rate is low partly due to programs that have been developed to meet individual student's needs.

STRAT.
PLAN

Items for Future Agendas: Annual organization meeting, Mr. Tom Jokubaitis, Technology, English Dept. Curriculum reports.

Mr. Bray inquired about CL&P's conservation proposal. He suggested that the score board in the gymnasium be looked into as it runs continually.

PUBLIC

Mrs. Shelley stated that she feels that the public needs to attend more of the regular Board meetings in order to make informed decisions about the budget process.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Egbertson, and passed unanimously, to go in to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations at 8:15 p.m.

EXEC.
SESSION

Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Egbertson, Mr. Jerram, Mrs. Yard. Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Kenneson, Superintendent Dr. Roberta S. Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Egbertson, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Re Johnson

