

ASHWAUBENON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session
Held on Monday, January 26, 2009

A. CALL TO ORDER:

President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the District Offices.

B. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Aubinger, Crowley, Laukka, Van Laanen, Williams
Board Members Excused: None
Others Present: Dave Schmidt, Keith Lucius, Brian Nelsen, Linda Noel, Brad Taylor, Jen Kozak, Kurt Weyers, Pete Marto, Mark Sheedy, Collette Wilichowski

C. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Quorum present.

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge was recited.

E. ADOPT AGENDA:

Moved by Van Laanen, seconded by Aubinger to adopt the agenda as written. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

F. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

President Williams announced that in accordance with W.S. 19.85(1)(c) an executive session will be held at the end of the meeting for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, employment issues, employee evaluations, and employment negotiations.

G. CITIZENS AND/OR DELEGATIONS:

1. Public Forum: No one appeared.
2. Student Report: Cameron Kelley and Sam Wisneski from Parkview Middle School updated the Board on activities taking place in District schools.
3. Bright Lights: Kurt Weyers, Principal at Valley View Elementary School, talked about the new school improvement model at their school which resulted in the presentation this evening on Literacy Links. This program is a result of the work done by the building's action learning teams and Kathy DeBroux, Katie Berg, Deb Patterson and Amy Kupsh shared their experience with piloting Literacy Links as members of an action learning teams. Joseph, Gracie, June Ellen and Simon (students in Mrs. Kupsh's class) demonstrated some of the lessons/techniques used in Literacy Links.

H. CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Laukka, seconded by Aubinger to approve #1,2,3,4,5,7,8 of the consent agenda as listed below:

- Minutes of the regular meeting held on Monday, January 12, 2009,
- Schedule of checks written 01/05/09 – 01/19/09 (Checks #73090 - #73132)
- Schedule of checks written 01/05/09 – 01/19/09 (Checks #73134 - #73276),
- Schedule of High School athletic checks written 01/01/09 – 01/16/09),
- Schedule of manual checks written 01/09/09 – 01/20/09,

- The list of co-curricular contracts as recommended
- The resignation submitted by Juli Dickman from her 0.50 FTE Educational Associate – ELL Position at Parkview Middle School, effective January 23, 2009.

Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

Moved by Van Laanen, seconded by Laukka to approve #6 (schedule of checks written 01/19/09 to the Ashwaubenon Howard Suamico Press). Aye 4, nay 0, Abstain 1 (Aubinger). Motion carried 4:0:1.

I. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION ITEMS:

Brian Nelsen introduced Justine Souto, Native American Coordinator for the District, who updated the Board on the Native American Program in the District, projects she is working on, and trends she is seeing. This year she is working with 108 students and is looking for ways to connect with Native American students. Justine is also the advisor for the Diversity Club at the High School and she was recently approved to teach a summer school class for Native American students. Justine is currently funded through the Title VII Indian Education Grant Program from the federal government.

J. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

1. WASB Update:

Dave Schmidt reported that he along with Keith Lucius, and Ginny Laukka attended the convention last week. Dave gave a brief update to the Board on some of the issues highlighted at the convention. Ginny Laukka shared her experiences with the delegate assembly.

2. Inclement Weather Days:

Dave Schmidt reported that at this time the District needs to make up one additional school day. This will be done at the end of the school year.

K. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Spelling Program:

Collette Wilichowski reviewed the proposed changes to the District’s spelling program with the Board. She said that currently the District is working with Houghton Mifflin which has a spelling component and some word work but it they have found that it isn’t difficult enough for students. As a result the District is looking at “Words Their Way” as a spelling, vocabulary, and word study program for students. Several teachers are piloting the program this year in their classrooms which is for struggling spellers but also for advanced students.

Melissa Ellingson, Grade 4 instructor at Valley View, shared her classroom experiences with the Board and what she has seen this year as one of the teachers piloting this program. Collette and Melissa answered questions from the Board on what they are recommending and how it positively affects student learning.

Dave Schmidt reviewed why this issue is before the Board this evening for action. He said the District will be doing systematic training for teachers on Words Their Way and then expect them to use it in their classrooms – this will not be a choice for teachers. We would be implementing Grades 2-6 next year and then the following year in Grades 7 and 8 – after we can figure out how the scheduling will work.

Ginny Laukka asked about the testing for this program. Melissa and Collette explained how this works and how parents are involved. Ginny asked how this fits into the District’s goal of increasing reading scores.

Dave Schmidt said this connects to improved reading skills and the district's reading instructors have been involved in this issue. He said that this change is more about finding the time for teachers to learn the new way of teaching – not about the money for buying materials. However, we are hearing that teachers are willing and wanting to learn this new way of instruction.

Moved by Aubinger, seconded by Laukka to institute the Words Their Way curriculum Grades 2-6 next year. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

2. Retirement Request:

Moved by Aubinger, seconded by Van Laanen to approve the retirement request of Dave Bruehl, Grade 7/8 Instructor at Parkview Middle School, effective the end of the 2008-09 school year. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

L. BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mark Williams said he was contacted by a parent about getting open enrollment information to Holy Family and other parochial schools about the in the area.
- Mike Aubinger was asked to announce the “Taste of Ashwaubenon” which will be held March 18th at the SC Grand which is being sponsored by the Jaguar backers.

M. FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS & TOPICS:

- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Mark Williams asked for an update on the new Senior Program and how it is working at the elementary schools.

N. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Van Laanen, seconded by Laukka to adjourn to executive session at 8:00 p.m. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

O. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:14 p.m.

P. ACTION, IF ANY, ON ISSUES DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

None

Q. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Laukka, seconded by Aubinger to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Van Laanen, Clerk