

Nippersink School District 2
Regular Board of Education Meeting
June 23, 2009

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Nippersink School District 2, was called to order by President Patty Anderson at 7:00 P.M. in the Nippersink Middle School Library.

Members Present: Anderson, Bushing, Bianchini, Callaby, Samuel

Absent: Langlois, Maurer

Also Present: Dr. Oest, Superintendent and Dr. Hain, Business Manager

Consent Agenda

The bill from Ameresco was removed from the Board Bills. The Village of Spring Grove presentation will be moved to follow Administrative Reports. The Staff Retirement Notice will be moved into Closed Session.

Items listed on the Consent Agenda included the following:

- ✓ Regular Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2009
- ✓ Closed Session Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2009
- ✓ Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2009
- ✓ Board Bills \$1,093,598.96
- ✓ Treasurer's Report
- ✓ Resignation: Dale Dalessandro (date change), Alexander Hardt
- ✓ Employment of Staff: Heather Wirch, RGS 3rd Grade; Carrie Fox, RGS 10 mo. Secretary; Chris Kaminsky, SGE Nurse
- ✓ Staff Leave of Absence: Rose Richer
- ✓ Discard Closed Session Audio Recordings from November 27,28, and December 5, 2007

Motion by Bushing and seconded by Bianchini to approve the consent agenda items as amended.

Roll Call

Ayes: Bushing, Callaby, Bianchini, Samuel, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Public Input

Terri Nelson addressed the Board regarding her concern that there is very little Spanish taught at Nippersink and that it is taught at the upper grade levels when it would be best introduced much earlier. She asked what parents could do to bring it back to the curriculum. The Board and Administration explained that Spanish was removed from the curriculum a number of years ago as part of the District's financial recovery plan. Dr. Oest suggested that the Administrative Team could review Spanish, as well as the re-installment of other programs to the curriculum if and when the Board directed that be done.

Reports

- Revenue/Expenditure Report, Special Education Revenue/Expenditure Report, Impact Fee Report, IMPREST Account Report, ISDLAF Report, Transportation Report

- **Administrative Reports**

- Superintendent

- Dr. Oest shared that he has received information related to the November 20-22 Tri-Conference in Chicago. Information will be shared with Board members. The Shared Service Committee will meet at RBCHS on June 25 at 7:00 p.m. He also distributed a handout of legal insights from the District's attorney.

- Business Manager

- Dr. Hain will speak to his agenda items at a later point.

- Principal Reports

- Dr. Oest reminded Board Members that the Principal Reports this evening would focus on the SIPs (School Improvement Plans). The plans are developed using the E-Plan approach. Our District is not "required" to prepare such a plan based on the performance at each building, but choose to do so. This is a formalization/methodology used to promote continued improvement.

- Each principal spoke to their individual SIPs, addressing student demographics, subgroups, trends, objectives, goals, and strategies.

- Mrs. Jones followed up her report with an explanation of the Textbook Review/Purchase Cycle which has continued with some alteration from the time of its creation in District 13. Due to the struggle to complete the review process in one year, consideration is being given to increasing the review cycle to 2 years with purchase in the 3rd year.

- Special Education Coordinator

- Mrs. May-Zelle shared student enrollment numbers and locations for children attending "outside" of district schools.

- New Business

- Village of Spring Grove "Grove" Development Presentation

- Dell Houghton and Mike Lee, Spring Grove Village Trustees, reviewed the presentation given at the Joint Board of Education meeting on June 11, 2009. Having been made aware at that meeting that the schools would be negatively impacted by the development due to the effect on General State Aid revenues, Mr. Houghton and Mr. Lee presented an option to the Board that would allow the school districts to be "made whole," in other words, to not be negatively impacted by the effect on General State Aid revenues.

- Mr. Lee went on to explain that a meeting had taken place with Sue Maurer, District 2 Board Vice President. Mrs. Maurer verified that impact of The Grove, as initially presented, would put Nippersink District 2 "upside down," or having a net revenue loss with general state aid and tax revenue. RBCHS District #157 would remain in the positive.

- The Spring Grove Village Attorney and the Township Tax Assessor, Patricia O'Neil, confirmed that a Community Development Partnership could be formed and through the use of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Spring Grove and both School Districts, the Districts would be "made whole" by monies returned to the Districts by the Village of Spring Grove as per a schedule developed by the School Districts. Mrs. O'Neil will be providing an analysis to the Village of Spring Grove. Mr. Lee offered to pass the information on to the school districts when it is received.

It was explained that when the land is annexed to the Village, it will be identified as TIF property, though it will not be described as “blighted,” no housing is involved and no long term durations to the agreement and the financing is the responsibility of the developer. The Village is not obligating any bonds. This is very different from the recent Richmond TIF attempt.

There was Board concern about the development failing after the land has been improved, thus increasing its EAV. Dr. Oest clarified that the risk is with the Village of Spring Grove only, as a result of the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Another concern was that the laws that govern a TIF are statute and will an IGA hold up in the situation of a failed development? They would also like to know what the worst case scenario might be for the schools if the development were to fail. Assuming that the Board receives satisfactory answers to their concerns, Board consensus was favorable to proceeding with the development.

Old Business

Re-organization Feasibility Study

Dr. Oest shared a compilation of answers to questions that had been generated at the recent joint Board of Education meeting and by Board Members since that meeting had taken place. Also provided was a clarification to one of the reorganizational incentives related to the \$4,000 per certified employee. Due to the “wealth” of the district, determined by EAV and ADA, D2 and D157 are only eligible for one of the four years possible.

Another point requiring clarification was that Dr. Johnson had used a 2% revenue increase forecast for GSA and Taxes while keeping all other revenues flat and imposing a 5% increase to expenditures inclusive of salary. Other expenditures were increased by 4%. This is a very conservative model. Additional clarification was made regarding the tax rate used for the unit district; it would be no higher than the current combined, eroded rate of the separate districts.

Time lines for a possible ballot question would be the February 2, 2010 Election with a final decision to do so occurring by August 10, 2009 or the November 2, 2010 Election with a final decision to do so occurring May 10, 2010.

While Dr. Oest, Mrs. Maurer, ISBE and Dr. Johnson have re-run and confirmed the numbers, some Board Members feel that additional work needs to be done to verify other aspects of the report, with a more in-depth contract analysis, including scatter grams.

One Board Member felt that a new budget and new contract should be based on revenues received from the local property taxes and not accept revenues from the state, due to the uncertainty of state funding. That idea was refuted with the thought that if there is a way to configure our school districts to make us eligible for a formula which will bring more state money into the district, it should be considered. The other problem with that idea is having to explain to the local taxpayer that the District is refusing money from the state. A discussion also took place identifying the similarities and the differences to the past re-organization.

Consensus by four of the five Board Members present was to proceed with research for the reorganization option.

New Business

SGE Boiler Replacement

Dr. Hain introduced Colin Marshall of Green Associates, the District's new architectural firm who oversaw the SGE Boiler Replacement bid process. Mr. Marshall described the scope of work and the bid process. The bid opening took place on June 19th. Six bids were received. Dr. Hain identified the bid range. Mr. Marshall qualified the bids presented. The Board may choose to award the job to the recommended bidder or to re-bid the project.

Mr. Marshall had familiarity with all of the bidders. He reviewed the scope and schedule of the project with the low bidder and checked references. He concluded that the low bid received from Dynacoil, Inc. was a responsible bid and would recommend them for award of the project.

Mr. Samuel was displeased with the cost of the project, the bid process, and the low level of involvement of the Building Committee. The differences between a bid process and a performance contracting process were explained to him as well as the legal requirements involved.

Dr. Oest referred to the May Board meeting minutes directing administration to proceed with the SGE Boiler replacement. Mr. Marshall answered numerous questions related to the recommended company, certificate of insurance, and completion date issues. Mr. Marshall was thanked for answering all of the questions.

Motion by Callaby and seconded by Bianchini to award the Spring Grove Elementary School Boiler Replacement Project to Dynacoil, Inc. for \$158,000, as per the bidder tabulation list.

Roll Call

Ayes: Callaby, Bushing, Bianchini, Samuel, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

Public Input 2

None

Closed Session

Motion by Bushing and seconded by Bianchini at 9:55 P.M to enter into Closed Session to consider information pertaining to the appointment, employment, dismissal, performance, discipline and compensation of employees, Imminent Litigation, Collective Bargaining Matters, and Consideration of public release of Closed Session minutes.

Roll Call

Ayes: Bianchini, Samuel, Bushing, Callaby, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

Action Following Closed Session

Return to Open Session at 10:50 P.M.

Motion by Bianchini and seconded by Callaby to approve the release of Closed Session minutes from the December 16, 2008 meeting and the January 29, 2009 meeting.

Roll Call
Ayes: Bushing, Callaby, Bianchini, Samuel, Anderson
Nays: None Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Motion by Callaby and seconded by Bianchini to approve raises as discussed in Closed Session.

Roll Call
Ayes: Callaby, Bushing, Bianchini, Samuel, Anderson
Nays: None Motion Carried: 5 - 0

Adjournment

Motion by Bianchini and seconded by Callaby to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:53 P.M.

Roll Call
Ayes: Bianchini, Samuel, Bushing, Callaby, Anderson
Nays: None Motion Carried: 5-0

Next Regular Meeting, July 28, 2009
Board of Education of Nippersink
School District #2

ATTEST:

Board Secretary

Board President

July 28, 2009