

Nippersink School District 2
Regular Board of Education Meeting
October 27, 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, Maurer, Bushing, Bianchini, Callaby, Langlois, Samuel
Absent: None

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

NMS Cross Country Team Recognition

Mr. Augustyn introduced Jake Hepner, Coach of the Cross Country Track team, who introduced members of the team. The 2009 season was the 2nd conference championship for the Nippersink Middle School Cross Country Team and the 2nd time participating at the state level as a team (this year, missing the sectional title by one point). The championship plaques were presented to Board President Anderson. The Coach and team were congratulated.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda included the following:

- ✓ Regular Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2009
 - ✓ Special Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2009
 - ✓ Board Bills \$1,169,341.94
 - ✓ Treasurer's Report
 - ✓ Staff Leave of Absence: Lisa Torstenson
 - ✓ Discard Closed Session Audio Recordings: 4/7/08, 4/9/08, 4/15/08, and 4/22/08
- Motion by Langlois and seconded by Samuel to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Bushing, Callaby, Bianchini, Maurer, Samuel, Langlois, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

Public Input

Becky Johnson – addressed the Board to promote the NWA Test, a nationally “normed” test used in the Grayslake School District where she teaches. She distributed information about the test and offered to continue conversation if the Board desired.

Rob Johnston – made comments about the Reorganization Petition under consideration. While appreciative of the work done by the Board, he would like to see a list of advantages and disadvantages. He expressed concern about the state's guarantee to pay the incentive money, long term costs, and seven people as opposed to 14 people overseeing the schools, and a desire that the vote will be delayed.

Dan Petersen – revisited the nursing issue he spoke to the Board about in August and his displeasure with the qualifications of the individual hired in the hiring process, and the Board's failure to engage him on this personnel issue.

Jay Marshall – offered his support to the Cross Country Track Team and would love to see it grow. He expressed concerns with the fees and would like to see them reduced.

Reports

- Revenue/Expenditure Report, Special Education Revenue/Expenditure Report, IMPREST Account Report, ISDLAF Report, Transportation Report
- Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Dr. Oest shared the information that Daniel Markofski, former SGE Principal, had been released from incarceration and is currently under community supervision. Both Police Departments have been made aware and will be notified immediately if Mr. Markofski is spotted on school grounds. This information has been posted to the school websites. Other items mentioned included:

- A meeting with MCDH and Centegra regarding the H1N1 Immunization Clinic scheduled for D2 and D157. The schools are expecting to be notified in 7 to 10 days about arrival of the immunizations. D157 and D2 won the lottery to be the first schools in McHenry County to provide H1N1 Immunizations to their students and staff. Information on this voluntary program will be shared with parents when available.
- The 2008-09 School Report Cards have been received and will be posted to District websites by Friday. Dr. Oest addressed the operational expense per pupil in D2, \$7,775. The state average is \$10,417. This amount reflects a per pupil increase of \$127. The state's average increase was \$510. Considered a wealthy district, the EAV per student only increased by \$20. The Principals will address ISAT scores in their reports.

Business Manager

Dr. Hain addressed the following issues:

- The standard flu shot is made available to District employees as part of their insurance benefit.
- The steam heating system is up and running. Cost overruns were paid for by Ameresco.
- The new hot water boiler at Spring Grove School, installed by Dynacoil, will be operational by October 31st.
- Current internet service at D2 operates with limited bandwidth. Financial details are being researched for sharing a wireless service with D157 that should cost less in total than what D2 currently pays.
- The Resolution with Intent to Levy will be shared with the Board at the November meeting.
- There has been a .1% growth in the CPI. Foreclosures are suppressing assessed value which will flatten the local property tax. Tax bills will grow, though, because the dollar amount of the tax rate will be spread over fewer taxpayers.

Student Board Member

Eric Paparigian was introduced by Mr. Molitor as the new NMS Student Council President/Student Board Member. Eric was welcomed and joined the other Board Members at the table.

The following items were addressed in his report:

- The very successful fall sports season has concluded
- Plans for Red Ribbon Week
- Conclusion of the Mega Event Fundraiser

RGS Principal

Mrs. Jones announced that RGS had met Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). During 2008-09, RGS students needed to have 70% meet/exceed state standards in order to make AYP. In reading, RGS had 88% and in math, 93.5% meet/exceed. Mrs. Jones credits the hard work put forth by students, and teachers, along with supportive families. There was some disappointment in the writing scores on the ISAT as using the 6 + 1 Traits writing program has resulted in improved test scores in the classroom. Teachers will strive for improvement.

SGE Principal

Mr. Pittman announced that SGE had met Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). During 2008-09, SGE students needed to have 70% meet/exceed state standards in order to make AYP. In reading, SGE had 90% and in math, 93.2% meet/exceed. Writing is an area that SGE looks to improve upon. They will expand on the Six Trait Writing program to improve scores in this area.

NMS Principal

Mr. Molitor acknowledged that NMS failed to make AYP in Math, citing the need to further address the scores of the subgroup which includes those students with disabilities and alternative placements. General Education students actually had scores placing NMS third in the county.

Special Education Coordinator

The presentation of RTI interventions by the Special Education Teachers has been postponed until the November Board Meeting. Given that much of the day to day in special education is confidential, Mrs. May-Zelle sought input from the Board on what topics they would like reported on.

Old Business

IASB/Board Training

Mrs. Anderson stated that the Board had a very productive evening and would look to further discussion on future steps.

New Business

Annual District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy

Dr. Oest explained that this process is a yearly requirement in order to receive Federal Title One funds. He thanked Mrs. Jones for overseeing the process on behalf of the District.

Motion by Maurer and seconded by Langlois to approve the District-wide Parental Involvement Policy, local school Parental Involvement Policy, and the School-Parent Compact as submitted.

Ayes: Callaby, Bushing, Langlois, Maurer, Bianchini, Samuel, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

Audit 2008-09

Dr. Hain announced that the highlight of the audit is that District 2 is financially in Full Recognition. June 30, 2009 shows D2 to have a fund balance of \$1.3 million. The next 2 or 3 years will be very challenging. The District will need to be as careful over the next few years, as they were in overcoming the deficit. The Board should be proud, and the community as well. Dr. Hain was thanked for his efforts.

D2/D157 School District Reorganization Petition Consideration

Dr. Oest recapped the discussion by Board members during the recent Joint Board Meeting which resulted in the request to provide information on what insurance costs would look like for a new district if one insurance plan was “leveled up” to the other district. As it turns out, the cost was negligible and the projections that Mr. Busch used absorbed most of any additional cost. This information was shared with both Boards.

Mrs. Anderson prefaced the discussion with a reminder that the Board is not voting on consolidation of District 2 and 157, but on whether to place the option of consolidation on the ballot for the public to vote on. She encouraged all to share their thoughts.

Comments and concerns expressed included:

- The reliability of state funding was questioned
- Decisions should be made based on revenues of local taxpayers only
- The last combination did not work well
- 14 Board Members are better than 7 Board Members
- Concern for equal representation on a new Board
- It would be irresponsible of the Board “not” to consider the issue of combination based on the information
- The Boards have enough information to move forward gathering more detailed information
- It appears that the only benefit is the additional revenue from the state
- Would like to see a list of pro’s and con’s
- A Board Member shared her list of pro’s and con’s
- Enough compelling information has been presented to warrant moving forward with placing the issue on the ballot for the community to make a decision
- Comparisons to the previous combination made and refuted
- Board Members need to make “fact based” decisions
- A request for more time was made
- Concern that the public had not expressed their opinions
- Reminders that a number of open meetings had been held following all the mandated requirements for notification
- Board Members were reminded that they had been asked over the past two months if more information was needed to make this decision; other than the insurance issue, no requests were received.
- The need for expediency was expressed to assure the time needed for the Committee of Ten to complete their work

In addition to the individual thoughts shared by Board Members, process and timelines for putting the question on the ballot were discussed. The role of the Committee of Ten was outlined and discussed with requests for clarification of the formation of the Committee of Ten. Hearing no new concerns, Mrs. Anderson called for a motion.

Motion by Callaby and seconded by Maurer to proceed with the creation of the appropriate legal petition and establishment of the Committee of Ten in consideration of the consolidation of School Districts 157 and 2.

Ayes: Maurer, Bushing, Bianchini, Callaby, Anderson

Nays: Samuel, Langlois

Motion Carried: 5 - 2

IASB Board Delegate

Dr. Oest explained that Boards of Education typically appoint one of its members to serve as representative at the November joint conference. The Delegate Assembly has the opportunity to vote on resolutions. Mrs. Maurer volunteered to serve as the IASB Board Delegate if no other members are willing or able, but does have a conflict during that time period. Mr. Langlois volunteered for the position. Board Members were asked to contact Mr. Langlois prior to the meeting to share their thoughts on the proposed resolutions.

Public Input 2

Dan Petersen - expressed his displeasure on the Board's decision to move forward with placing the issue of combination on the ballot and shared his opinion on combination and the Committee of Ten duties. Referencing Dr. Hain's report on the audit, he also stated that we all know that the audit numbers can be manipulated.

Erin Godonis – shared her opinion that the Board should have waited to make the decision on the combination issue. She also volunteered for the Committee of Ten and stated that anyone on the last committee should not be allowed on this one given that the first combination was a disaster.

Bert Irslinger – requested clarification about the Committee of Ten and supported the dissemination of information both for and against the combination. He also expressed questions and concerns about the combination and future negotiations.

Becky Johnson – made comments about the Board's job being one of "directing" and the teachers and administrators as the experts. She wondered if staff and administration had been asked for their opinions. She commented positively on the report from the Student Board Member. In closing, she questioned the state incentive money, and which funds it would go into.

Kay Johnson – expressed that change is constant and hoped that the Committee of Ten would bring forth enough information to allow the community to make an informed decision. She thanked the Board for allowing the issue to be brought to a vote and thanked them for their service, stating that her children had received a great education in District 2.

Closed Session

No need for Closed Session

Adjournment

Motion by Maurer and seconded by Bushing to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Roll Call

Ayes: Samuel, Maurer, Langlois, Bushing, Callaby Bianchini, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 - 0

Next Regular Meeting, November 24, 2009
Board of Education of Nippersink
School District #2

ATTEST:

Board Secretary

Board President

November 24, 2009