

CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Constantine, Michigan

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, January 11, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Shuler in the High School LGI at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Pat Touse, Connie Dalrymple, Mary Smith, Terry Burgess, Marilyn Ritzer and John Shuler

Members Absent: Chuck Colley

Shuler appointed Terry Burgess as interim Secretary due to the absence of Chuck Colley.

Moved by Smith and seconded by Touse that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of January 11, 2010 be adopted as written.

Voice Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Smith and seconded by Burgess that the consent agenda, including the Regular Meeting minutes of December 7, 2009, Work Session minutes of January 5, 2010, and bills in the amount of \$ 209,420.95 for the regular Board Meeting of January 11, 2010 be adopted as written.

Roll Call Vote: M.S. aye, T.B. aye, C.C. absent, P.T. aye, C.D. aye, M.R. aye, J.S. aye

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Action Items:

Moved by Smith and seconded by Ritzer to approve the granting of a high school diploma for Alternative Education student, Samantha Webb.

Voice Vote:

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Audience with Individuals: None

Building Reports:

a) Mike Messner, Athletic Director discussed the current status of Constantine and its position in the KVA. Problems are being discussed and no changes are on the horizon. He also addressed the current success (or lack thereof) within the girls sports programs.

b) Tom Muckel was absent, Frisbie related that the Asbestos report is completed and trouble spots are being addressed.

c) Craig Badman, ES Principal talked about upcoming technology that will be looked at during PD day next Monday. ES numbers are up at 398 and there are two more potential students next week. The PTO is very

active and getting students and families involved at no cost to the family. He also praised the mentoring program that brings over students from the HS to work with the ES students. The second dose of H1N1 shots will be delivered tomorrow.

d) Todd Boyer, RS Principal stated that the H1N1 shots will begin at RS tomorrow and then head to ES. He had a successful staff meeting today which discussed implementing a beneficial positive behavior plan. The geography bee will be held this week, hosted by Frisbie.

e) Jean Logan, MS Principal noted that the geography bee will involve the MS this week also. The MS received the MACUL grant which will enable a team of 5 staff members to attend this year's conference free of charge. The MS is becoming a Title I building and all the details are being finalized this week. The MS is now doing archery classes thanks to free equipment and training. Hoops for Hearts is coming in February. Clint Fund, Science teacher, received a YAK grant and his classes made thermometers for the community. The initial MEAP results are in and look promising. The Alternative Ed building has purchased OdysseyWare and it is enabling a gifted 7th grader to take some Algebra classes at this time. She will meet with Boyer to coordinate the CHAMPS program with RS for their behavior plan.

f) Michael Mulligan, HS Principal recognized the government class students that were present at the meeting for extra credit purposes. Last month's holiday dance was a great success with 244 in attendance. Upcoming art exhibits will be in Sturgis this weekend. Seussical auditions are finishing up today. The HS is also utilizing the OdysseyWare program for a dual enrolled student. The CTE Sturgis students will begin in the media center here next week. School Improvement staffs are using indicators from the ACT and MME testing to look at possible progress options.

Superintendent Update (Discussion Items):

a) The district phone system crashed the final day before Christmas break and the district is now looking at options to replace or repair the system. It looks like the best option is to go with the ISD system and it should be installed around Spring Break. We will go out for bid on system parts.

b) Finance Reports were available at the meeting. Due to the uncertainty of state funding, the budget has been up in the air. The final reduction looks like it will be \$165 per student this year and \$268 next year. This changes November's amended budget by adding approximately \$200,000. On the revenue side we will not be receiving around \$17,000. Stimulus money has also been worked into the current budget. The total result is approximately an increase of \$133,000. The Finance Committee will take a closer look at the best use of these additional funds, including employee groups which took a 0% increase. The committee will meet Wednesday January 27th at 5:30.

c) The St. Joseph County School Board Meeting takes place January 26th in Colon at 6:00 p.m. All members plan to be in attendance.

d) Race to the Top (RTTP) Resolution will replace the No Child Left Behind legislation. The district has the opportunity to receive up to \$95,000 but it isn't likely. The changes will still be required. They will continue to look for a consistent evaluation process. Donna Strawser, taxpayer is concerned that with federal involvement at the state level, teachers will end up teaching to a test and the students will suffer.

e) Board Seat Petition Deadline – Shuler, Colley, Ritzer are up for re-election. It looks like all members will run for re-election. It is also School Board Appreciation month and Frisbie thanked the Board for their support and stated that he truly enjoys working with them.

f) A Service Consolidation Plan is required by the state. Business, transportation and “service” related areas need to have a plan to consolidate which would not affect student education.

Action Items:

Moved by Burgess and seconded by Smith to approve the NEOLA Policy changes.

*Frisbie clarified what NEOLA is and how school policy is affected for the audience.

Voice Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Smith and seconded by Ritzer to approve Transportation Department handbook, as presented.

Voice Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Burgess and seconded by Dalrymple to approve the slate of winter coaches as presented.

Clint Fund	7th Girls Basketball	Step 5
Christina Furlong	7th Girls Basketball	Volunteer
George Timm	8th Girls Basketball	Step 5
Mindy Timm	8th Girls Basketball	Volunteer
Dale Davidhizar III	MS Wrestling	Step 4

Roll Call Vote: M.R. aye, C.C. absent, P.T. aye, C.D. aye, M.S. aye, T.B. aye, J.S. aye

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Smith and seconded by Touse to approve the request for proposal (RFP) for the district telephone system.

Roll Call Vote: T.B. aye, M.R. aye, C.C. absent, P.T. aye, C.D. aye, M.S. aye, J.S. aye

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Smith and seconded by Burgess to approve the Teacher Retirement Incentive for 2010/2011 as presented.

*Frisbie clarified the separation agreement that would pay teachers \$27,000 over 2 years, to retire. All the information will be distributed to teachers within the next 2 days. The teachers have been made aware of the proposal already. Malcolm Wilson, student questioned the creation of the plan and Frisbie answered that it was brought up during negotiations by the teachers. Tom Davis, student wondered how paying the teachers to retire would actually save the district money. Frisbie stated that it is a short term gain. A seasoned teacher makes around \$57,000 while a new teacher would make around \$32,000.

Roll Call Vote: C.D. aye, M.S. aye, T.B. aye, C.C. absent, P.T. aye, M.R. aye, J.S. aye

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by and Smith and seconded by Touse to approve the FMLA request of LaNae Yager, Eastside teacher, as presented.

*Ashley Spears, student asked what FMLA stood for and why it needed to be approved. Frisbie clarified.

Roll Call Vote: C.C. absent, P.T. aye, M.R. aye, C.D. aye, M.S. aye, T.B. aye, J.S. aye

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Ritzer and seconded by Touse to approve the Consolidation Service Plan as presented.

*Ricky Waterman, student questioned about the consolidation of rival schools. Frisbie stated that this plan would only consolidate services and not schools at this point. Tom Davis, student asked if consolidation of schools was a serious possibility at this time. Frisbie stated that it is not being looked at right now, but would be imposed by the state if necessary. Malcolm Wilson surmised that the service consolidation is being forced by the state so that school consolidation may not be necessary.

Roll Call Vote: T.B. aye, C.C. absent, P.T. aye, M.R. aye, C.D. aye, M.S. aye, J.S. aye

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Smith and seconded by Ritzer to approve the purchase through Traxis Financial Group (Blue Bird Leasing) of 3 buses at a total cost of \$114,000.00 for the final balloon payment.

*Ricky Waterman questioned if the crowding of the buses was a direct result of the consolidation of services, and Frisbie answered yes.

Roll Call Vote: C.C. absent, P.T. aye, M.R. aye, C.D. aye, M.S. aye, T.B. aye, J.S. aye

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Additional Audience with Individuals: None

Board Member Items:

1. Dalrymple thanked the students for their attendance and participation. Ritzer agreed.

Shuler adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Terry Burgess, Interim Secretary
Board of Education