

**DANSVILLE SCHOOLS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 21, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Dansville Schools Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Debbie Hedemark.

Members Present: Debbie Hedemark, Mike Kapp, David Lilly, Phil Minshall, Charlie O'Rourke, Dan Pheils

Members Absent: Mary Clinton

Administrators: Ron Stoneman, Amy Hodgson, Terry Jones, Faith Norman, Nancy Jungkans

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Stoneman asked to add to the agenda the topic of hiring a Middle School Assistant Track Coach this year due to the large numbers of MS track participants. This item was added to agenda as item number 11.

Public Participation:

Dan Stiffler, owner of Dan's Cleaning Service contractor currently cleaning Dansville Schools, read a letter to the Board of Education regarding his services at Dansville Schools. His contract was terminated as of June 30, 2008 due to inadequate services. Mr. Stiffler was upset at how he was notified of this termination and that he was not aware of any problem in regards to service. He stated he performed many extra duties at Dansville Schools and did not charge extra for them. Mr. Stoneman stated that he and Dan met before the letter was written and there was discussion as to the level of satisfaction of services rendered. Custodial service bids have been sent out and Mr. Stiffler is welcome to bid for the next year.

Janine Hedrick read a letter to the Board of Education regarding an e-mail she sent to them. She receives HS announcements via e-mail and through them she was notified that students would be offered the chance to participate in the National Day of Silence against bullying of gays, lesbians, etc. on April 25, 2008. Ms. Hedrick stated she understood there are legal reasons the school faced not to allow this activity but she does not agree with this lifestyle and would like to voice displeasure at this is being allowed at school. She feels certain issues should not be brought up in school. Ms. Hedrick encouraged the issue of stopping all bullying in schools and other issues that would support and enhance the quality of school.

Leanne Minshall, parent, asked what students are doing to participate. Principal Amy Hodgson responded; the students asked to participate in the National Day of Silence. They were informed they could not disrupt the school day with their activities and were asked to participate respectfully. It was agreed that the students would not talk unless an adult spoke to them and they would answer accordingly. The students asked to wear specially designed tee shirts, which were approved as long as the tee shirts had prior approval from the HS office.

Mr. Lilly commended Mrs. Hodgson for thoroughly researching this topic. He stated it is a very sensitive topic and he was glad school policy was followed. It was suggested that this day possibly be incorporated into Rachael's Challenge.

MS Principal Terry Jones had been approached by students in the MS wanting information regarding the National Day of Silence and to participate. MS students were told the same procedure as HS students.

Patty Barker, parent and sub teacher at Dansville Schools, stated that while she was sub teaching, students were talking about this topic. She is concerned about the perception of this day and who participates and who does not.

Marie Meyer, a parent, expressed concern regarding the National Day of Silence. She stated that Dansville Schools do not teach sex education but allow students to explore this other topic.

Tim Whipple, Fire Chief, wanted to say thanks to the district for asking the fire department to attend the April tornado drill. Plans were altered in the Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade hall for safety. A possible knock box outside each building with only Police and Fire Department access is being discussed.

#### Board Reports and Correspondence

Superintendent's Report:

- Mr. Stoneman attended a media event for "Active Shooter in Building". The intent is for schools and law enforcement agencies to agree on emergency response procedures at schools during a time of crisis.
- The Evacuation Committee had a district walk-through with the Sheriff's Dept on 4/1/08.

#### High School Report

Principal Amy Hodgson reported:

- The MS and HS math teachers met to discuss the district Algebra failure rate as well as best practices from other districts. The decision was made to have students take Geometry as freshman and Algebra I as sophomores.
- Spring sports are in full swing.
- The FFA banquet is scheduled for April 27, 2008.
- Hannah Berning competed in the HOSA State Leadership Conference in Traverse City for Forensic Science and took 1<sup>st</sup> place. She will continue on to Nationals in Texas in June.

#### Middle School Report

Principal Terry Jones reported:

- The Dansville MS staff continues to meet to discuss academic support options for students.
- Mrs. Jones confirmed that it is indeed the recommendation of MS math teachers that students take Geometry as freshmen and Algebra I as sophomores.

#### Curriculum Director

Mrs. Terry Jones reported:

- StarNET committees continue to meet. Anticipated start date for Dansville Schools to utilize this system is still the fall of 2009.
- Teachers from the MS and HS are all logging in 80 minutes of PD time practicing using Pearson Inform.

- Data from students in 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades will be collected in a survey before the end of May 2008 using the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY). There is no cost for the district to participate and the survey is completely anonymous.
- Mrs. Jones gave a MEAP Comparison with State Scores (presentation and information is available in the Superintendent's office for review). We were above state average in all areas. Due to our smaller district size, scores can fluctuate drastically by 2-3 students' scores.
- Leanne Minshall, parent, asked if can we identify at risk students. Mrs. Jones stated that student assistant teams can and are identifying those students and will refer them for additional instruction.

### Elementary School

Principal Faith Norman reported:

- March Reading month concluded with 397 students receiving certificates for reaching their reading goals. Those students will receive a white pine tree sapling as an award.
- Grades 2-5 teachers continue to analyze MEAP scores for strengths and weaknesses.
- The Michigan Week Committee is planning a special week of activities for May 19-23. There will be an evening open house on May 22 for elementary families as well as an outdoor presentation for K-12 on the football field.
- Peer observation is being scheduled for teachers who would like to observe other teachers implementing a balanced literacy program.
- Kindergarten Parent Orientation will be April 24, 2008 at 8:00 pm. Kindergarten Round Up will be Friday May 9, 2008.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Night will be Tuesday May 6, 2008.
- The Elementary PTO has provided grants totaling over \$5300 to the Elementary this year. Mrs. Norman suggested a Volunteer Appreciation Day in May.
- Mary Warfle, Elementary Special Education Teacher, was selected to receive the 2008 Stephen Tsai Award for Educator of the Year through the Autism Society of Michigan.

### Board Reports

**Transportation Committee Update** – Completed school manuals are provided to the Board for approval. Mr. Minshall expressed his appreciation to all involved in helping develop the transportation manuals.

**Finance Committee Update** – It was suggested that the Board schedule meeting in May to discuss specifics of the cost reductions to be implemented for the 2008-09 school year.

**Evacuation Plan Update** – Dave Lilly reviewed the April 1, 2008 Evacuation Committee walk-through. Those meeting minutes are attached.

**Facilities Committee Update** – No update.

### For Action

- **Motion** by Mike Kapp, seconded by Charlie O'Rourke to approve the Consent Calendar
- 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
- Motion passed
  
- **Motion** by Mike Kapp, seconded by Dave Lilly to adopt the Transportation Manuals effective for the 2008-09 School year.
- 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
- Motion passed

- Transportation Routing Software
- Additional costs (possible \$7000) added for training and implementation from Stockbridge Schools
- Ann Marie Lindsay will attend the 5 day software training to be Dansville's on-site contact person.
- If Dansville Schools were to purchase the license and software alone, the total would be \$21,600.
- Board members and Superintendent were hesitant about the potential total of \$14,000 but realize the need for more efficient bus routes and the potential \$2000 per route savings.
  - **Motion** by Dan Pheils, seconded by Charlie O'Rourke to enter into an agreement with Leslie Schools and Stockbridge Schools to purchase license of new transportation software as well as training and maintenance of software.
    - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - Motion passed
- Retirement Package for Dansville Bookkeeper
- Mr. Stoneman stated that the elimination of this position was not a reflection of the work performed by the current bookkeeper, Karen Heiler. The district was very happy with Karen's dedication and work for the school.
  - **Motion** by Dave Lilly, seconded by Dan Pheils to accept the retirement package offered to the Dansville Schools bookkeeper
    - 6 Yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - Motion passed
- MS Assistant Track Coach
  - Mr. Stoneman requested the board approve an Assistant MS Track Coach position
  - There are 58 MS students participating in track this year. The salary is \$700, which is the same as MS Volleyball coach.
  - The Athletic Director will post this position and hire the most qualified person. School staff does not get precedence if they are not qualified.
  - **Motion** by Phil Minshall, seconded by Dave Lilly to approve an Assistant MS Track coach position for the current season.
    - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - Motion passed

## Discussion

### CCAA Final Year of Math Credit

Mrs. Hodgson explained that seniors must take 1 year of math while attending CACC. The CACC will incorporate math in each of their classes. This item will be brought to the Board for approval and adoption at the May board meeting.

### Ingham ISD Business Agreement

Discussion on current proposal of what services will be offered by Ingham ISD Business Office. Those services were compared to current arrangements with Williamston Schools. The cost would be \$80,000 per year. This item will be brought to the Board for approval and adoption at the May board meeting.

### Barton Malow Facility Assessment Services

The Board would like to have more than one company be allowed to bid this assessment. They do not want to rush into this project and want the Facilities Committee to be involved in the assessment. Bids will be requested from several companies.

### District Technology

The district technology is going to be assessed by Ingham ISD and they will recommend improvements needed. A Technology Committee will be developed, made up an administrator, teacher, and board members (facilities committee).

### Volunteer Severance Plan

Three teachers have confirmed they will accept the VSP. Mr. Stoneman recommended the Board accept those three commitments, even if the minimum of five is not met. The Board could take action to give Superintendent Stoneman the authority to change the minimum to three instead of five.

### Other matters

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dan Pheils, Secretary