

**DANSVILLE SCHOOLS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 15, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Dansville Schools Board of Education was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Vice President Mary Clinton.

Members Present: Mary Clinton, Carolyn Jones, Phil Minshall, Charlie O'Rourke, Dan Pheils, Dave Lilly

Members Absent: Mike Kapp

Administrators: Ron Stoneman, Krista Voss, Faith Norman, Amy Hodgson, Terry Jones

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation

Larry Nofzinger stated he had spoken with Superintendent Stoneman, Dave Lilly and Mike Kapp regarding a personnel committee and wanted to know the status of it.

Superintendent Stoneman stated he suggested utilizing the finance committee, which met at 6:00 pm regarding personnel reductions.

Mr. Nofzinger stated he wanted a personnel committee formed to evaluate all personnel and their job descriptions and if there were any other personnel issues.

Vice President Clinton stated the suggestion could be added as a discussion item and asked why Mr. Nofzinger wanted to establish a personnel committee.

Mr. Nofzinger stated there always used to be a personnel committee to discuss personnel issues. It establishes checks and balances and there should always be a personnel committee.

Teacher Amanda Johnson stated the nature trail was officially finished with what materials and volunteer time were donated. A total of \$6000 worth of materials was donated on the entire project. There is a drainage issue, standing water and it is killing plants.

Vice President Mary Clinton asked for a list of donations and volunteers and would like to acknowledge all.

Superintendent Stoneman stated the football team would like to practice in the old field but there is concern for damage to nature trail. He stated without drain tile installed, there would be damage to the nature trail. He suggested a board member from the facility committee help investigate all options.

Roger Lessa asked if the proposed personnel committee would have only input or be decision makers.

Superintendent Stoneman replied committees make recommendations to the Board and then the Board decides action. Committees have no voting power. They can agree on issues to be presented to the Board.

Special Presentations

High School Counselor Cori Riebow and teachers Tracey Galloway and Amber VanStempvoort gave a presentation on the current modified block schedule utilized at the High School. The presentation is available for review at the Superintendent's office during

normal business hours. The staff felt cost should not be a factor due to the success of the program.

Superintendent Stoneman stated he had asked the High School to research alternatives to the block schedule to compare costs. The concern for the ACT scores was a large portion of the request to research all options available. A potential \$500,000 was also considered.

Teacher Tracey Galloway stated the modified block established 9 years ago and a lot of research was done.

Superintendent Stoneman stated everything should be on the table for review. There are currently low ACT test scores in Dansville and it could be a schedule issue.

The High School staff recognized low scores and that students are not where they should be academically. They are currently working to correct issue.

Teacher Amanda Johnson stated current changes in grading are helping students achieve higher scores. The staff is doing what is best for students and their scores are driving what teachers need to do for students to achieve their potential.

Vice President Clinton stated all aspects of the district were being reviewed and discussed.

Teacher Tracey Galloway stated savings could be with textbooks, utilizing the same book in different classes, reduction in dual enrollment, VHS and distance learning.

The staff stated the High School plan would be modified each year to maintain a rolling 5 year plan.

### Board Reports and Correspondence

#### Superintendent's Report:

- Suggest Facility committee to meet regarding football practice and nature trail.
  - Utilizing the extra property would result in increased mowing, increased staff time, and yet the new complex still needs drain work
  - Trustees Carolyn Jones and Dave Lilly stated they didn't feel the district could move forward without more research
    - A meeting was proposed with Athletic Director, Athletic Booster and Dan Pheils of the Facility Committee.
  - There are many grading and flooding issues with school property.
- Budget update
  - On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the district is required to have a public meeting regarding the budget for following year.
    - The District currently has a balanced budget but does not have funds for a Special Education secretary, third 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher or 10% addition to fund equity
    - Should the priority be to achieve a Special Education secretary and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher or not?
    - Is the Board's direction to by-pass 10% to fund equity?
  - There is the potential of \$250–500 per student reduction in funding in the fall 2009. This reduction will need to be reflected in the budget at that time.
  - School enrollment looks positive. White Pine Academy students are enrolling in Dansville weekly. The district has budgeted 15 students less for 2009-10 school year. School of Choice enrollment continues to rise.
  - Very concerned with status of district and budget for upcoming years.

### High School Report

- The High School Principal report is available on the school website.
  - Trustee Carolyn Jones asked for more clarification on Pearson Inform regarding teachers gathering data on specific students. Mrs. Hodgson responded that Pearson Inform houses all data for students and teachers routinely view that data to help students achieve the their highest academic abilities.
  - Trustee Jones expressed concern with a statement in the High School Shared Vision Statement using the term “explicit expectations”. She felt the wording was very strong and could be taken the wrong way. Mrs. Hodgson stated it was an in-house document and would not be view by parents. Trustee Jones recommended consideration be given to change the wording. Treasurer Minshall agreed.

### Middle School Report

Principal Terry Jones reported:

- The Middle School Principal report is available on the school website.
  - Vice President Clinton asked Mrs. Jones to update the Board on the Middle School overall grade. Mrs. Jones stated the Middle School grade had been reduced to a B and the school did not make AYP. Mrs. Jones appealed that decision and won. The Middle School grade was changed to an A and achieved AYP.
  - Mrs. Jones was asked about the end of day Advisory class for students. She responded the teachers preferred to keep program.

### Elementary School

- The Elementary School Principal report is available on the school website.
  - Mrs. Norman recognized Kathy Supiran, who retired at the end of the 2008-09 school year, for 16 years of service with the Elementary. Mrs. Supiran has been very faithful and careful in taking care of library and media center. The Board recognized Mrs. Supiran for her many years of service.
  - Mrs. Norman was asked if the media position posted had been posted and she responded it was posted internally.

### Board Reports

Transportation Committee Update - None

Finance Committee Update – Discussed throughout regular meeting.

Facilities Committee Update - Superintendent Stoneman was asked if there had been any feedback on the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Kingscott presentation. He responded a list will be compiled and used for communication. A steering committee will be established and open to staff, community, board, etc. Superintendent Stoneman is requesting the Board to contact individuals within the community to help establish this committee.

Outcome from the Community meeting seems to be concerns with old repairs. Community members are upset by quick repairs. Trustee Dave Lilly responded the Board worked with resources at hand at that time.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee - Meeting to be scheduled

Policy Committee – First reading of policies and a meeting will be scheduled

DESPA Negotiation Committee – None

For Action

- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Dave Lilly to approve the Consent Calendar Items 1 - 6 , with notation that Charlie O'Rourke submitted the May 28<sup>th</sup> minutes and Phil Minshall submitted the May 11<sup>th</sup> minutes.
  - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - **Motion passed**

Superintendent Stoneman wanted the Board to be aware of a credit the district has with the Office of Retirement. In March 2009 the district received an invoice for \$5,000. Karen Heiler consulted and helped find an Office of Retirement mistake and generated a \$7900 credit owed District.

Vice President Clinton asked if final action was needed on all day kindergarten. At the time of presentation, the Board instructed the Administration to explore all day kindergarten options.

- The Administration comfortable with that Board direction and requires no formal action.
- Motion by Dave Lilly, seconded by Dan Pheils to approve the proposed 2009-10 school calendar as presented.
  - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - **Motion passed**
- Motion by Charlie O'Rourke, seconded by Dave Lilly to approve the Beverage Consortium resolution as presented.
  - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - **Motion passed**
- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Dan Pheils to approve opening a new bank account at Citizen's Bank to establish an account for the Joanne Manshum CoCo Netta scholarship fund.
  - 6 Yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - **Motion passed**
- Seven teachers were up for tenure recognition. The Board has no authority to approve or disapprove tenure, therefore no action is required of the Board. No vote was taken by the Board.
- Motion by Charlie O'Rourke, seconded by Dan Pheils to approve the non-union employee contracts with no salary increases for 2009-10.
  - Agenda Item 11 was amended to include athletic director contract.
  - It is noted there is no increase in salary for 2009 – 10 for these employees
  - These contracts represent 1 year contracts
  - Doug BeVier's contract will be discussed at the June 22 meeting.
  - Kathy Nofzinger stated she was not told she would not get a salary increase for 2009-10 and is upset she was not told.
  - 6 Yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - **Motion passed**
- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Dave Lilly to approve the new employee contract.
  - 6 Yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - **Motion passed**

- Motion by Dave Lilly, seconded by Dan Pheils to approve the first reading of proposed board policies edits submitted by the policy committee.
  - 6 Yes, 0 no, 1 absent
    - **Motion passed**
    - A Policy Committee meeting will be scheduled within the next 30 days
    - Staff and the community are encouraged to attend these meetings

## Discussion

1. State Aid Borrowing
  - a. Action on this issue will be taken at the June 22 special meeting
  - b. Phil Minshall asked that if, for some reason the district needed to borrow more money, would a new resolution will be need to be approved.
  - c. A new resolution with the additional amount to borrow would need to be approved.
2. MHSAA Membership Resolution
  - a. Will go for action at July regular meeting.
3. Administrator Contracts
  - a. Past contracts have been 2 year rolling contracts. The contracts are generally renewed for 2 years.
  - b. The Board needs to decide the length of contracts for administrators
    - i. 1 year, 2 year, etc.
  - c. The 2010 – 11 school year is in question financially.
  - d. Teacher Tracey Galloway stated if her contract was altered and not offered as the same, she would feel as if she was not appreciated.
    - i. Vice President Clinton stated it was the duty of Board to protect funds for school and this issue had nothing to do with appreciation of employees.
  - e. Dave Lilly stated the Board needs ideas to reduce budget, not ideas on how not to reduce the budget.
  - f. Vice President Clinton stated the status of the district finances is very serious. The practical effects are, if economy does not turn around, a minimum of \$500,000 reductions need to be implemented. Limiting contracts is not about performance, but about the state of the district.
  - g. Krista Voss stated she was given a task to help balance the budget, which was accomplished. More reductions can be made and need to be discussed.
  - h. Larry Nofzinger stated the district needed to look at teacher reductions, field trips eliminations, etc. He stated it is very difficult to make cuts but it has to be done. He suggested investigating 5<sup>th</sup> grade camp and extra curricular activities.
  - i. Cori Riebow stated the current block scheduling should be last topic to be reduced.
  - j. Dave Lilly stated there had been a lot of suggestions of what couldn't be done to reduce the budget but wanted ideas of how to reduce it.
4. High School Counselor Contract
  - a. The District needs Board approval due to the extended year (10 additional day, 5 prior and 5 after school year ends).
5. Personnel Committee
  - a. Request from Larry Nofzinger to establish a personnel committee to review all personnel in district.
    - i. 3 board members, 3 principals, superintendent
  - b. Board would like a committee established to investigate role of proposed Personnel Committee

- c. At this time, the proposed Personnel committee should be directly tied to the Finance committee.
- d. Proposed committee would let superintendent to do his job.
  - i. It was suggested to investigate other schools and their procedures
  - ii. Vice President Clinton stated this issue required more Board discussion and input as to the proposed committee roles.
    - 1. Superintendent Stoneman will call Kathy Hayes to receive directive as to proposed committee.
    - 2. This topic will be a discussion item on June 22 agenda.

Other Matters

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dan Pheils, Secretary