

DANSVILLE SCHOOLS
Board Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2009

A regular meeting of the Dansville Schools Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Mike Kapp.

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

Members Absent: Carolyn Jones

Administrators: Ron Stoneman, Faith Norman

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation

None

Special Presentations

Board Reports and Correspondence

Superintendent's Report:

- Superintendent Stoneman introduced an additional action item for the agenda. Unfortunately, there is a layoff situation for a teacher in the Middle School. An existing part time teaching position was given additional duties pertaining to special education, which changed the qualification requirements. The current teacher is not "highly qualified" to teach the position. An emergency certification was applied for, received and will expire at the end of this current year school year. The position will be posted according to state requirements.
- Superintendent Stoneman is beginning to work on the budget for 2009-10. He will be meeting with administrators and the Finance Committee in March.
- Superintendent Stoneman discussed snow removal/ground maintenance for the district. He is investigating the district owning their equipment and having a full time ground maintenance employee.
 - A full time person would be outside and one full time person performing inside maintenance. The positions would be separate. The district would no longer contract out lawn maintenance or snow removal.
 - Superintendent Stoneman will request bids from financial institutions to obtain the lowest rate on the needed equipment.
- Kingscott personnel met on March 11th with administrators of each department for assessment, needs and concerns.
 - Superintendent Stoneman suggested the development of a steering committee to help with the Kingscott assessment.
 - President Kapp questioned the need for a steering committee before the assessment. He requested a timeline from Kingscott as to the process and development of a master plan.
 - Treasurer Phil Minshall suggested a steering committee be developed to help triage the assessment and for future reference when a specific master plan was achieved. A separate Facilities Planning Committee will be developed to administer the master plan.

High School Report

- The High School Principal report is available on the school website.

Middle School Report

Principal Terry Jones reported:

- The Middle School Principal report is available on the school website.

Elementary School

- Principal Faith Norman reported the Elementary teachers are receiving instruction on balanced literacy from Susan Sturock, Literacy Specialist, during their professional development workshops. These workshops are funded by the Title Grants.
- Developmental Reading Assessments have been submitted. These assessments are being used to draft guided reading groups in each classroom.
- Spring parent/teacher conferences were held in March. The district had a large turnout.
- March is reading month. "Bucketfillers for Life" was initiated with assemblies for K-5 students. The theme integrates literacy with teaching children to encourage others with acts of kindness.

Board Reports

Transportation Committee Update -

- Superintendent Stoneman and Committee Chair Phil Minshall discussed the different options of purchasing a bus; off-lease, purchasing or leasing or not at all. If the district were to lease, there could be the option of combining the bus and lawn equipment purchases for a better rate.
- The overage of the actual cost for the routing software implementation and maintenance was discussed. It is suggested Dansville Schools have more access to the program to enable the district to keep program maintenance costs down.
- Crossing guard use was reviewed. The district has paid \$4000 for the 2008-09 school year to help fund these positions. The Board requested the Transportation Committee schedule a meeting with the Village and Township to discuss the crossing guards for next year. After discussion, it was decided that Superintendent Stoneman would contact the Village and Township to set up a meeting to discuss future use of crossing guards and the financial obligations, if any.

Finance Committee Update

- The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet at the end of March to discuss the 2009-10 budget.

Facilities Committee Update

- Superintendent Stoneman reported that Kingscott will be performing their assessment of our facilities during Spring break.

Policy Committee

- Committee Chair Mary Clinton reported this committee is scheduled to meet April 13th.
- The proposed re-numbering system has been completed and review/discussion of policies will begin with the Board.
- Superintendent Stoneman suggested that with the review of school handbooks starting in April, those handbooks should reflect Board policy and the Board should take action on any policies that would affect the handbooks. One suggestion was the cell phone policy.

Treasurer Phil Minshall commented on the recent band festival our school band attended at Jackson High School. Dansville's band performed very well, receiving a 1 score. They also received a sight reading score of 1, which is very difficult to achieve.

For Action

- Motion by Mary Clinton, seconded by Charlie O'Rourke, to approve the Consent Calendar Items 1 – 7, with a change to the February 23, 2009 minutes pertaining to Board Policy 831.3 to read “*The policy that was on the Dansville Schools website was not the updated*”
 - 6 yes, 0 no 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**

- Motion by Mary Clinton, seconded by Charlie O'Rourke to approve the layoff resolution as presented by Superintendent Stoneman effective as of the last day of school in the 2008-09 year, with a clear understanding of the recall rights.
 - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**

Discussion

1. All day Kindergarten program
 - a. Mrs. Norman discussed the option of all day kindergarten at Dansville Schools. Mrs. Norman presented advantages, which are available in the Superintendent's office for review.
 - b. Mrs. Norman could find few disadvantages to all day kindergarten.
 - c. All day kindergarten was mandated by Gov. Granholm for the 2009-10 school year, but that has since been rescinded for 1 year. It is now mandatory for the 2010-11 school year.
 - d. Representatives from the DEA as well as one of Dansville's kindergarten teachers were also in attendance and support the change to all day kindergarten.

- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Dave Lilly requesting Superintendent Stoneman to proceed with accommodations and budget that would allow for all day kindergarten in 2009-10.
 - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**

2. November election
 - a. The Board continues to look at moving the school elections to November to reduce costs. If this change were to become effective, current board members would need to extend terms if district moves to November elections.
 - President Kapp was asked to include information regarding moving board elections to November in the article he volunteered to write for the next school newsletter. The article will detail information regarding the change from a 1-year operating millage request to a 2-year request.

3. Request for guest to attend Dansville prom
 - a. A former student was disciplined by the Board and not allowed to attend any further school dances. This former student is requesting to attend the prom with his girlfriend, a current Dansville student. As this person is no longer a current student, the Board felt no action necessary on their part. Board consensus was this was a High School Administration decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Pheils, Secretary