

DANSVILLE SCHOOLS
Board Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2009

A regular meeting of the Dansville Schools Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Superintendent Stoneman.

Superintendent Stoneman explained he was temporarily in charge of the meeting as it was the yearly organizational meeting and new board officers needed to be elected.

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

Members Absent: Mary Clinton

Administrators: Ron Stoneman

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation

Kari Ream asked for an update regarding 1st grade for the 2009-10 school year. Superintendent Stoneman replied at this time, there no update to give. A decision has not been made by the Elementary Principal as to whether or not there will be two or three 1st grade teachers. Superintendent Stoneman stated after the first 10 days of August it will be determined by Principal Norman the number of classes and she and will communicate to parents. The district will either add a 3rd first grade teacher or assign aides to the existing rooms. It is the Board objective to maintain small class sizes.

Special Presentations

Superintendent Stoneman stated the Board needed to elect officers and asked for nominations. Member Phil Minshall asked if he could propose slate nominations, in which Superintendent Stoneman stated yes. Phil Minshall motioned, and Dave Lilly seconded, to re-elect the same officers as last year; Mike Kapp as President, Mary Clinton as Vice President, Dan Pheils as Secretary, Phil Minshall as Treasurer.

Roll Call Vote

Phil Minshall - yes
Charlie O'Rourke - yes
Dan Pheils - yes
Dave Lilly - yes
Carolyn Jones - yes
Mike Kapp - yes
Mary Clinton - absent

AS MARY CLINTON WAS RE-ELECTED, SHE WILL NEED TO BE SWORN IN. MARY CLINTON WAS ABSENT FROM THE MEETING, AND WILL TAKE HER OATH OF OFFICE AT THE AUGUST REGULAR MEETING. WE ANTICIPATE HER ACCEPTING THE APPOINTMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT AND POSITIONS ON LISTED COMMITTEES AT THAT TIME.

President Mike Kapp resumed control of the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Board Reports and Correspondence

Superintendent's Report:

- Superintendent Stoneman updated the Board regarding the proposed Practice field behind the soccer field. The district asked Vern Elliott of Elliott Trenching to evaluate the area and he stated he felt it needed to have tile to help the drainage issues. A second evaluation was done by Tim Chattaway who gave an estimate of \$3500 to tile the area. Superintendent Stoneman also met with Athletic Director Nancy Jungkans on this issue. Superintendent Stoneman reiterated the district could not afford to fund this project. Estimates from Mark Collins for the cost of seeding and fertilizing are \$2500 annually. Superintendent Stoneman asked Ms. Jungkans if the Athletic Boosters and/or the Athletic Department could raise \$3500 for tile work and solicit the DCAA and FFA to help with the annual \$2500 for re-seeding and fertilizing. He asked Ms. Jungkans for a 2 year financial commitment to maintain the area. Superintendent Stoneman stated the district could find money in the budget to fund mowing and striping of the area.
 - Trustee Carolyn Jones asked if the district was going to let non-employees use the lawn equipment to help with maintenance. Superintendent Stoneman replied due to liability and warranty issues, he would have a district employee operate school equipment.
 - President Mike Kapp suggested using the same method as Haslett schools who lined a larger area and utilized mobile goal posts so as not to use the same area of field all the time, reducing lining/stripping and damage of the field.
 - Superintendent Stoneman stated the current football facility needs repair; the infields of baseball/softball fields need maintenance and the district needs to maintain current areas before taking on more responsibility.
 - President Kapp stated he appreciated the boosters and all the volunteers, but district finances are not available from the school. Unfortunately, the Boosters will need to generate more money.
 - Superintendent Stoneman reminded everyone that the district needed to complete projects the correct way instead of the easiest/fastest/cheapest.
- The district is now OCR compliant with the new path to the elementary playground. The pea stone has been removed and is being used to help build up the pathway at the Nature trail.
- The district received a bid from TomCo for a pathway from the high school parking lot to the baseball/softball fields which was \$11,830.
 - LaValle Lamphere stated the bid includes blacktop on the visitor side of the softball field, under the bleachers, gate entry by restrooms, a 5-6 foot wide path to the scoreboard with a pad for other bleachers, continuing to the baseball field, with a pad for those bleachers. Another path will cross to the baseball field. Accessibility is to visitors to softball, baseball and soccer fields. It is the least obtrusive and most direct route.
 - Superintendent Stoneman stated this is in compliance with the OCR and will remove this item from the OCR complaint checklist. He would like to complete project prior to the start of school.
 - President Kapp asked that if the price would be lower in the off-season, would it mean a better price for the district.
 - LaValle Lamphere stated this was the 2nd bid from TomCo and a good price.
 - Superintendent Stoneman stated the district would get another bid.
 - Superintendent Stoneman stated the elementary sidewalk is uneven, cracked, and unsafe by the kitchen entrance. The cost to repair the kitchen area is \$2600. The district will collect a concrete bid also.
 - One of the 1st grade classrooms had a leaking roof but has been repaired. Water damage left bad carpet that needs to be removed. LaValle will paint the ceiling and walls but the room needs new carpet. The room is being converted to another kindergarten room. The quote for new carpet is \$4000.

- A past recipient of the Julia Leffler Scholarship, Jason Cremer, sent the Board a thank you letter.
- Superintendent Stoneman requested to add a discussion item 5 to the agenda regarding Administrative contracts.
 - Superintendent Stoneman communicated with Mike Simeck and Dean Adkins via e-mail regarding Board Personnel Committees that were formed in the past. Both responded the Committee discussed non-union employee contracts.
 - The Board needs to finalize administrative contracts in August. Thrun Law Firm has advised the district to insert language into the contracts regarding “financial emergencies” with 2 year contracts. The discussion will be regarding the Principal and Special Education Director contracts.
 - The Finance Committee will discuss contracts and to recommend action to the Board.
- Superintendent Stoneman met with a facilitator (Nancy Colflesh) who will work with the Administrative staff to help develop teamwork. The facilitator is paid for by the ISD. Three meetings will be held, starting in August. The Administrative staff will work to be on same page and move forward together.

High School Report

- There is no High School Principal Report for July.

Middle School Report

- There is no Middle School Principal Report for July.

Elementary School

- There is no Elementary School Principal Report for July.

Board Reports

Transportation Committee Update - No report

Finance Committee Update – Need to schedule a meeting.

Facilities Committee Update – Discussed in bullet 1 of Superintendent’s Report.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee - Need to schedule a meeting.

Policy Committee – Need to schedule a meeting.

DESPA Negotiation Committee – On-going negotiation at this time.

Trustee Carolyn Jones discussed attending the Health Occupation Students of America National Leadership Conference in Tennessee. Dansville student Hanna Berning placed first in for forensics competition.

Trustee Jones also sent a letter to Gov. Granholm, Representatives Byrum and Whitner through MASB regarding the current economic conditions in schools and Speaker Dillion’s proposal to consolidate benefits.

Superintendent Stoneman stated negotiations are currently take place between the district and DESPA (support personnel) and feels they are going well. The district is receiving good feedback. Superintendent Stoneman thanked the Board Committee for their shared leadership in these negotiations.

For Action

- Motion by Dan Pheils, seconded by Dave Lilly, to approve the Consent Calendar Items 1 through 9.
 - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**
 - Treasurer Phil Minshall questioned the negative fund balance listed in the 08-09 actual column of the 2008-09 General Fund Revenue/Expenditures as of June 30, 2009 (not final) report in the Board packet.
 - Superintendent Stoneman stated the last state aid payment was not added in.
 - Trustee Jones stated it is common practice to close school years in August. Journal entries will be entered back to June and will reimburse the 2008-09 school year.

- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Charlie O'Rourke to adopt the bylaws for Dansville Schools as presented.
 - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**
 - Trustee Jones asked if the Quarterly meetings should be listed in the bylaws
 - President Kapp stated the bylaws can be amended at any time with proposed changes by the Board.
 - Treasurer Minshall stated the bylaws will be reviewed during the next Policy Committee meeting to review needed changes.
 - Secretary Pheils asked if the district was still utilizing Mason State Bank
 - It was confirmed that activity accounts were still managed through Mason State Bank.

- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Carolyn Jones to authorize the Superintendent or his/her designee, to conduct and manage any school elections for the 2009-10 year.
 - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**
 - President Kapp stated the Board and district are far removed from elections.
 - Superintendent Stoneman stated the district approves ballot language but the township and county offices maintain all other aspects of the elections.

- Motion by Dan Pheils, seconded by Charlie O'Rourke, to authorize the Superintendent to accept professional staff resignations on behalf of the Board.
 - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**

- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Charlie O'Rourke to withdraw item 13 from the agenda, while recognizing administrative and staff efforts to develop a new mission, vision and values statement through the current Failure Is Not An Option process.
 - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**

- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Dave Lilly to approve proposed board committee appointments;
 - Facilities Committee – Dan Pheils, Mary Clinton, Mike Kapp with Dave Lilly as alternate
 - Finance, Budget and Personnel – Mike Kapp, Phil Minshall, Dan Pheils with Carolyn Jones as alternate
 - Ad Hoc Committees:

- DEA Negotiations – Mike Kapp, Phil Minshall, Dan Pheils with Carolyn Jones as alternate
 - DESPA Negotiations – Dave Lilly, Mary Clinton, Charlie O’Rourke with Mike Kapp as alternate
- Policy Review – Mary Clinton, Dan Pheils, Phil Minshall
- Superintendent Evaluation – Mike Kapp, Carolyn Jones, Charlie O’Rourke
- Dissolve Transportation Committee
- MASB Legislative Delegate and ISOA Representative – Carolyn Jones
- 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**
 - It was suggested to dissolve the transportation committee, but with the understanding it could be reconvened if necessary.
- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Carolyn Jones to accept final reading of proposed policy changes, including the changes noted to policies 5348.62 & 2341.4
 - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**
 - Policy 2341.4 – remove word “and” from second sentence to read “*and adopted on a continuing basis in accordance with a plan.....*”
 - Policy 5348.62 – language added to second paragraph to read: *Inappropriate behavior by attendees may result in ejection from an event by the Superintendent or his designee”.*
- Motion by Charlie O’Rourke, seconded by Dan Pheils to approve the MHSAA Membership Resolution as presented.
 - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent
 - **Motion passed**

Discussion

1. Fall Coaches
 - a. Same list as last year
 - b. The Board questioned whether or not they need formal action to approve list or if it was informational only. It will be discussed at the September quarterly meeting. The Policy Review Committee will research any current policies that may exist regarding this or propose a new one.
 - c. Superintendent Stoneman stated he has been approached by staff members suggesting eliminating assistant coaches to help save the district money. The assistant coaches could volunteer for the 2009-10 school year.
 - d. Trustee Dave Lilly questioned the amount of savings to the district if the assistant coaches were not paid for their services.
 - e. Superintendent Stoneman stated his intent is to meet with coaching staff and receive feedback on eliminations of paid assistant positions. The size of each team could be a factor.
 - f. Trustee Jones asked Superintendent Stoneman to speak with the coaches without assistants and how they manage.
2. 2009 Tax Levy
 - a. Will be presented at August Board meeting for action.
3. Draft Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes are currently approved at the following meeting, a one month timeframe.

- i. Posting draft minutes could cause concerns as the minutes could be altered or be interpreted incorrectly. There are sometimes significant changes to the minutes.
 - ii. Secretary Pheils stated the minutes should be posted on the website in accordance to the Open Meetings Act to encourage community input.
 - iii. President Kapp suggested sending the draft minutes to all Board members for review before posting after 8 days.
 - iv. The unapproved minutes will be posted as draft minutes with an appropriate disclaimer.
4. Ingham School Officers Association Representation
 - a. It was decided during the committee appointments Carolyn Jones would be the District Representative.
5. Administrative Contracts – Added to agenda
 - a. Superintendent Stoneman asked for available dates from the Finance Committee to review the administrator's contracts.
 - i. A meeting was scheduled for July 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Elementary Library
 - ii. President Kapp asked how the administrators felt about the additional language. Superintendent Stoneman replied that it is always hard to accept a limited contract, but it has been advised by Thrun Law Firm during the current economic status. Superintendent Stoneman stated he will speak with the administrators about it and invite them to the July 27, 2009 Finance Committee meeting where they will have another opportunity to express their views.

A Superintendent Evaluation Committee meeting was scheduled for 6:00 pm on August 18, 2009 in the Elementary Library.

Trustee O'Rourke confirmed a DESPA Negotiation Committee meeting on August 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Other Matters

The Board welcomed LaValle Lamphere to the district as a full time employee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Pheils, Secretary