

**DANSVILLE SCHOOLS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 17, 2009**

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

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation

Mick Ream stated he had questions regarding a third 1st grade position and wanted to know if he could address them during the scheduled discussion time or if he should at this time. President Kapp stated Mr. Ream could speak during the discussion time.

Special Presentations

Superintendent Stoneman issued the Oath of Office to Mary Clinton.

Board Reports and Correspondence

Superintendent's Report:

- Superintendent Stoneman stated employees and contractors are working on district facilities. The pathway to the playground is complete, concrete pads for bleachers as well as access to the athletic fields are underway. Concrete work in front of Elementary School by the trash containers and kitchen has been completed. Contractors leveled the concrete walkway for safer entry. The district will try to complete a little cement work each year.
- Boys soccer numbers are high enough to warrant a JV team. This is a rare situation and there is a possibility of a non-traditional schedule.
- All administrators are working with a facilitator to become a better team.

High School Report

Principal Amy Hodgson reported:

- The High School Principal report is available on the school website.
- At this time, the High School has added 5 students.

Middle School Report

Principal Terry Jones reported:

- The Middle School Principal report is available on the school website.
- Mrs. Jones introduced new Middle School staff member, Greg Shaw. Mr. Shaw will be working in special education with Candyace Rogers.
- Current enrollment in the Middle School is 220 students.
- Treasurer Phil Minshall asked which company the Middle School used to sell used texts to and Mrs. Jones responded Follet Book Service.

## Elementary School

Principal Faith Norman reported:

- The Elementary School Principal report is available on the school website.
- Mrs. Norman gave an update of current lower elementary enrollment by grade; Kindergarten 64, First Grade 55, Second Grade 56, Third Grade 51 students.
- 28 teachers are attending a literacy workshop August 24 and 25 with Amy Oak, a literacy specialist.
  - The focus of the workshop is implementation of Lucy Caulkins philosophy of writing.
- A question was answered regarding the number of years a teacher is probationary, which is 4, unless they have had tenure at other schools. It would then be 2 years unless otherwise negotiated.

## Board Reports

Dave Lilly made a statement regarding Dansville students who were involved with activities at the Ingham County Fair. He stated they were receptive to all learning and he was very proud of their behavior.

Finance Committee Update – All topics are on the agenda for discussion

Facilities Committee Update - None

Superintendent Evaluation Committee - Meeting scheduled for August 18, 2009

Policy Committee – Need to schedule a meeting.

DESPA Negotiation Committee – Will be discussed in closed session.

## For Action

- Motion by Phil Minshall, seconded by Charlie O'Rourke to approve the Consent Calendar Items 1, 3, 4, 5 and adding item 5A as payment for purchases made on District purchasing cards.
  - 7 yes, 0 no, 0 absent
    - **Motion passed**  
Treasurer Phil Minshall requested PCard purchases be a separate item on future consent agendas.  
Item 2 will be a separate vote as requested by Mary Clinton due to her absence from that meeting and she would like to abstain on that vote.
- Motion by Charlie O'Rourke, seconded by Dave Lilly to approve item 2, the July 20, 2009 regular board minutes.
  - 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Mary Clinton), 0 absent
    - **Motion passed**
- Motion by Mary Clinton, seconded by Dave Lilly to approve the 2009 Tax Levy (L4029) as presented.
  - 7 yes, 0 no, 0 absent
    - **Motion passed**
- Motion by Mary Clinton, seconded by Carolyn Jones to approve the revised board policies as presented; 8212.1, 2333, 2341.4, 6721.2, 9461, 5348.62.
  - First and second readings have been approved at prior meetings
  - 7 yes, 0 no, 0 absent
    - **Motion passed**

- A Policy Review Committee meeting needs to be scheduled soon.

## Discussion

### 1. Release Time Bible Classes for the 2009-10 school year

This proposed action is in accordance with the MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT NO. 1” P.A. 270. This is an annual request for student release. (Note: The letter submitted to the district should state “for the school year 2009-10.”) Approximately 12 students participate each year. This item will be brought for action in September.

### 2. Administrator’s Contracts

The Finance, Budget and Personnel Committee met on July 27, 2009 to develop a recommendation for the administrator’s contracts. The committee discussed the option of not renewing with 2 year contracts due to poor economic conditions and decided to recommend 1 year renewals. Superintendent Stoneman provided a letter he requested from Thrun Law Firm recommending the Board support a 2-year contract with an emergency clause to give the district the right of layoff with a 90 day notice due to a financial emergency. Vice President Clinton suggested that the Finance, Budget and Personnel Committee meet and discuss Mr. Stoneman’s recommendation. The committee will meet September 14 at 6 PM, one hour before the scheduled quarterly board meeting.

### 3. Assistant Coaching Positions

The Finance, Budget and Personnel Committee recommended temporary elimination of paid assistant coaching positions from schedule B. It is hoped that we can attract volunteers until the district is in a better financial position. A concern was raised regarding the sports that have already started and Superintendent Stoneman recommended no change to fall assistant coaches. Jason Gubeno, Dan Price, and Mick Ream all expressed the importance of assistant coaches and questioned whether there were other alternatives. Superintendent Stoneman and President Kapp reminded everyone that over the next 2 school years over half million dollars needs to be reduced from the budget and, while every employee is valued; some very difficult decisions will have to be made in order to keep the cuts as far from the classrooms as possible.

### 4. First Grade Teacher

Superintendent Stoneman feels small class sizes are important to Dansville. Current enrollment in first grade is 55. With two first grades, we would have classes of 27 and 28 students, which would require 1 paraprofessional per room. In addition, each room is only 900 square feet. Mick Ream stated he has a School of Choice grandson who attends Dansville Schools. He feels the district should keep small class sizes to continue to attract School of Choice children. Teacher, Rhonda Toles, stated it’s hard to plan for the school year without a definite class list. Having 28 students in one class is very difficult; it can be done, but will be very challenging. Vice President Clinton stated that a decision needs to be made, soon for the sake of the students and parents. Dave Lilly said that the district needs a third 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, which was supported by the other board members. Superintendent Stoneman agreed to discuss the recommendation with the administrators and decide how to proceed.

## Other Matters

Closed session to discuss DESPA negotiations.

Motion by Mary Clinton, seconded by Dave Lilly to enter to closed session to discuss DESPA.

**Roll Vote**

Clinton – Yes

Jones – Yes

Minshall – Yes

O'Rourke – Yes

Kapp – Yes

Pheils – Yes

**Motion passed**

The Board reconvened back to open session at 9:19 p.m.

General discussion on the school budget and challenges facing the district in the 2009-10 and 2010-2011 school years.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Dan Pheils, Secretary