

DANSVILLE SCHOOLS
Board Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2011

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

Members Present: Phil Minshall, Charlie O'Rourke, Mike Kapp, Carolyn Jones, Dave Lilly, Mark Slabaugh, Chris Schmidt

Administrators: Amy Hodgson, Jason Feig

Pledge of Allegiance

President Kapp introduced new Board member Chris Schmidt.

Oath of Office

Superintendent Hodgson administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Chris Schmidt.

Approval of Agenda

Board consensus was approval.

Public Participation

Athletic Director Nancy Jungkans stated she attended an Eagle Scout presentation for Ethan Gureki, a Dansville student who constructed dugouts for the softball/baseball fields as his Eagle Scout project. Congratulations and thank you to Ethan.

Community member Barb Culham stated the agenda listed as an action item a proposed salary increase for non-union employees. Mrs. Culham asked how the district can afford a wage increase with the \$470 per student proposed funding cuts from the state. Mrs. Culham also stated the district will have to make large budget cuts for the 2011-12 school year.

Community Member Wendy Witchell stated she heard bullying was discussed at the last Board meeting, which she was unable to attend. She requested an update of administrator actions. Superintendent Hodgson discussed a program implemented at Leslie Schools regarding bullying. She stated the Dansville Administrative team is utilizing this program and developing a pilot program in the 5th grade for Dansville Schools. All Dansville staff will be trained to help identify bullying behavior for the start of the next school year. The High School has developed a student group to help identify and target problem areas.

Parent Dan Glynn stated his son was involved in an altercation last week and heard the other student involved has had past issues of the same nature in school. Mr. Glynn asked if a bullying procedure is being implemented soon. He feels Dansville has a serious bullying problem and it needs to be addressed. Superintendent Hodgson stated she could not discuss the incident of last week as the investigation is ongoing.

Community member Leanne Minshall asked why each building didn't have a pilot program for bullying and why just the 5th grade. Superintendent Hodgson stated the district was targeting areas with the greatest need.

Special Presentation

A Field of the Year Award presentation was given by Mark Collins. Mr. Collins nominated and submitted information regarding Dansville Schools Athletic Field. The athletic field was awarded the 2010 Field of the Year award. Athletic Director Nancy Jungkans thanked Mark Collins and

Doug BeVier for their hard work on this project. Ms. Jungkans also thanked Chris and Nanette Fuller for their dedication to this project. Appreciation plaques were presented to the Fuller's and Mark Collins.

Board Reports and Correspondence

Superintendent's Report:

- Supt Hodgson reported:
- A Reproductive Health Advisory Committee was established and will be meeting monthly to develop a stated mandated policy for the district. Elizabeth Graf and Sara Oesterle will co-chair. Each meeting will be posted on the website.
- The district switched to Volunteer Energy for natural gas and is receiving savings of over \$2000 per month.
- The district is switching long distance phone service, from AT&T to Qwest. Superintendent Hodgson is also investigating a discount contract the district signed with AT&T which did not get put into effect. The district is asking for a rebate back to July 2009, when the original contract was signed.
- New standard extra duty payments established district-wide. All staff will receive the same compensation for activities.
- The unconfirmed February student count is 902.
- The Dansville Education Foundation raised \$20,000 at their dinner and Superintendent Hodgson is currently discussing with them different options to invest their contributions within the district.
- Superintendent Hodgson attended the February 21, 2011 Ingham Township meeting.
- The Elementary School has continued leaking roofs. The roofing company has visited numerous times to investigate problems and try to resolve.
- The district has 3 staff members retiring at the end of this school year; Kathy Driggs, Rod Clickner and Kathi Minnis.
- The district will lose current RtI coach, Terry Jones at the end of this school year. Grant funds will not be available in 2011-12.
- The district continues to align the curriculum with core standards. The teachers are very receptive to targets.
- Each building met and performed a self evaluation, which will be submitted for the school improvement plan.
- American Academy works with students who have dropped or are floundering to achieve credits for diplomas. The district will receive the full foundation amount for students and in turn reimburse American Academy.
- The transportation department is actively working to fulfill the need for substitute bus drivers. Superintendent Hodgson met with other area superintendents to discuss this issue and discovered they are also in need of sub bus drivers. They talked about possible sharing of subs. Superintendent Hodgson also met with Dean Transportation regarding possible sub bus drivers. Superintendent Hodgson will continue to investigate options for sub bus driver options, transportation management and address our aging bus fleet. The area schools are willing to work together to help each other with transportation.
- Treasurer Minshall asked if the Reproductive Health Advisory Committee meeting will be posted. It was confirmed the meeting is posted on the website and the next meeting is March 23, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

High School and Middle School Report

- The High School and Middle School report is available on the school website
- The K-12 ELA Committee will meet and hope to achieve the same goals as the K-12 Math committee. The goal is to be consistent throughout the district. The Math committee is achieving positive results.
- The Science Olympiad will be held March 19, 2011 at Lansing Community College. There are 15 Middle School and 12 High School students from Dansville attending.

- Middle School Awards Ceremony and Honors night was held and was a success.
- The wrestlers won team regionals but, unfortunately, lost at the state level. Five individual wrestlers qualified for state.
- Jim McNally was honored for his 20 years of service as a coach at Dansville Schools.
- The band performed at competition in Lansing on February 25, 2011. They received a 2 on their performance.
- MME testing for the High School is scheduled for March 1, 2, 3, 2011.
 - President Kapp stated he attended the Middle School Awards Ceremony and Honors Night and it was very nice.

Elementary School

- The High School and Middle School report is available on the school website

Board Reports

Finance, Budget & Personnel committee - None

Facilities committee – None

Policy Review committee – None

DESPA Negotiation committee – None

Superintendent Evaluation committee – None

County Consolidation Group – Vice President O’Rourke reported that transportation was a topic of lengthy discussion at this meeting. He stated Superintendent Hodgson detailed the discussion during her report.

Secretary Jones reported there was no ISOA meeting in February.

For Action

- Motion by Dave Lilly, seconded by Charlie O’Rourke and Carolyn Jones, to approve the Consent Calendar Items 1 – 5A.
 - 7 yes, 0 no, 0 absent
 - **Treasurer Minshall stated the correct PCard approval amount should be \$4263.95, which was the current February outstanding balance.**
 - **President Kapp requested to add the January 31, 2011 Superintendent Evaluation Committee meeting minutes as Item 5A.**
 - **Treasurer Minshall questioned two charges for the Elementary kitchen sink repair. Maintenance person Doug BeVier explained the repairs.**
 - **Treasurer Minshall stated that the current budget report with approved amendments show 36 line items over budget which need to be watched carefully.**
 - **Motion passed**
- Motion by Charlie O’Rourke, seconded by David Lilly, to approve the 2011-12 school calendar as presented.
 - 7 yes, 0 no, 0 absent
 - **Motion passed**
- Motion by Charlie O’Rourke, seconded by Dave Lilly, to approve the non-union salary increase of 1% on schedule and 1% off schedule.
 - 5 yes, 2 no (Carolyn Jones and Phil Minshall), 0 absent

- Superintendent Hodgson recapped the proposed salary increase. She stated the non-union employees have had no increase for 3 full school years. Superintendent Hodgson stated this group changed insurance to save the district approximately \$4000 per month.
- President Kapp stated he supported the increase in order to align this group of employees with the DEA and DESPA past salary increases. He restated the savings from the insurance change by this group.
- Secretary Jones stated it would not be a fiscally responsible decision to give a raise. She stated these employees did deserve a raise but not at this time. She stated the increase in retirement rates would impact future budgets as well as losing state/federal funds along with additional cuts from the state. Secretary Jones suggested giving the group a bonus now but not a salary increase due to the probability of having to cut \$630,000 from the school budget.
- Treasurer Minshall stated that DESPA negotiated no increase for 1 year. If the district grants this salary increase, then it should be given to DESPA also.
- President Kapp stated that DESPA got a 1.5% three years ago and additional benefits in the current contract to equal this amount. He also stated the teachers took a risk but did get a 1% salary increase and 1% off schedule.
- Treasurer Minshall and Secretary Jones agreed it would be a slap in the faces of any employees who would have to have their hours cut or be laid off next year due to a shortfall in the budget. They stated the students should be put first.
- Superintendent Hodgson explained that the insurance switch of non-union employees and savings of \$4000 per month would cover this dollar amount. Treasurer Minshall questioned the legality of HAS.
- Vice President O'Rourke voiced support for the increase.
- Trustee Slabaugh stated the uncertainty of future funding and is having difficulty supporting an increase. Mr. Slabaugh reminded the Board of past budget reductions that were very difficult.
- Treasurer Minshall stated Secretary Jones purchased lunch for 19 students while on a field trip for those students who could not afford it.
 - Motion passed

Discussion

1. Board Workshop
 - a. MASB workshop – Superintendent Hodgson stated there were funds available in the superintendent tuition account to use for this workshop. The workshop could be customized to meet the needs of individual boards. This workshop is highly recommended by other districts who have utilized it.
 - b. Trustee Slabaugh stated he attended the MASB 101 course and felt it was very beneficial to any new member. He stated if this workshop was comparable to the 101 course, it would be very beneficial.
 - c. Secretary Jones voiced support for this course. She feels it would be beneficial to all board members to attend this.
 - d. Board consensus is to proceed with this workshop. Tentative date for this Board workshop on March 14, 2011 at 6 pm.
2. Superintendent Hodgson requested a Budget, Finance and Personnel committee meeting to review mostly likely, best and worst case scenario for the 2011-12 school budget. The Board committee scheduled a meeting for March 15, 2011 at 6:30 pm. It was suggested that if MASB was not available on March 14, 2011, the Budget Finance and Personnel committee meeting be moved to that date.

Other Matters

None

Public Participation

Community member Barb Culham asked if the final superintendent evaluation would be available to the public? President Kapp stated after the March 7 evaluation meeting it will be available to public.

Community member Warren Douglas asked for confirmation on who voted for the non-union employee raise. It was confirmed that Kapp, Lilly, O'Rourke, Slabaugh and Schmidt voted for this.

Parent Dan Glynn questioned what the anticipated insurance increase was to be for the prior non-union employee insurance. Superintendent Hodgson stated the prior insurance was to increase 8%.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Jones, Board Secretary