

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of CONNEAUT BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

March 15, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Conneaut Area City Schools Board of Education was held on Wednesday March 15, 2023 at Conneaut High School. The Regular Meeting was preceded by a work session that began at 10:03 a.m.

Work Session: Mr. Jim Kennedy, Conneaut Middle School Principal, reviewed the course guide for the 2023-2024 school year with the Board. Mr. Kennedy also highlighted the value of the Gear-Up program provided by Access and the positive impact it has in our district by providing additional opportunities for students like field trips to experience potential career fields. He also noted the district has increased opportunities for students to participate in a variety of activities, Wizard of Oz performances, track, and tennis, which supports students with a sense of belonging. The annual Create a Blizzard Day, provided by local Conneaut Dairy Queen business owner, Keith Schreiber, will be at the end of May.

Mrs. Lori Riley, Superintendent, shared that third grade testing would be paper and pencil this spring. She reviewed the 2023-2024 school calendar. Mrs. Riley added that she would be posting an Assistant Principal position at Lakeshore Primary School due to the departure of Mr. Eric Kujala. Also, with a need for guidance support, she will be posting an Assistant principal/Guidance position for Gateway Elementary Schools. Mrs. Riley thanked the Music Boosters, Mr. Nathan Wise, Ms. Elizabeth Bernardini, Mr. Austin Blair, students, and parents, for a successful band trip to Chicago for the St. Patrick's Day parade, stating that she was very proud of the group as they represented Conneaut Area City Schools. Mrs. Riley also a reading and math update using data provided by SST. The data reflects that prior to CoVid, CACS was seeing positive trends in both areas and since CoVid, data reflects higher than usual student absenteeism which is affecting educational growth. DLT will continue to analyze data provided by SST to make adjustments to the educational path for each student as needed.

Meeting began at 10:32 a.m.

Members Present: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Norton.

Agenda Modifications: An agenda modification was made for the addition of an executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and the employment of personnel, using 03-2023-11 to move into executive session and adding 03-2023-12, motion to adjourn, upon return to open session.

Presentations: Mrs. June Penniman presented the Student of the Month award. Honored this month was Laini Hale, by her teacher, Mrs. Mary Holdson. Mrs. Holdson shared that Laini is beyond measure as a remarkable student, an exceptional young lady who goes above and beyond every day. She is motivated and kind, being a good friend to her peers. Laini is also an honor roll student and recently received second place in the spelling bee.

Delegations and visitors: None

Correspondence: None

Public Participation: None

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Committee Reports:

Legislative – Mr. Coltman – Mr. Coltman shared that with a new legislature, many bills have been presented that affect schools and need to be watched closely to see how they develop.

A-Tech – Mr. Nesbitt shared that A-Tech is seeking a portion of funding from OFCC for construction to support expansion of programs.

Athletic Council/SPARC– Mr. Brecht shared the SPARC committee would be meeting over spring break.

Student Achievement Report and DLT – Mrs. Armeni – Mrs. Armeni and Mrs. Riley shared comments regarding DLT progress and spring activities. State testing will be occurring at grade levels 3-12 periodically, beginning April 6 and continuing thru May 9. DLT has narrowed choices for reading curriculum down to two publishers. Also, teachers have more access and are digging deeper into data than they have been able to previously.

City Council - Mrs. Norton announced the Spartan Student of the Month was Alyssa McFadden for March.

Board President - Mrs. Norton commended the wrestling team for having multiple wrestlers qualify for State competition and commended the band for their successful trip to Chicago.

Superintendent's report: Mrs. Riley shared that Conneaut had been selected by SST to participate in one hour webinars from February 22 to April 19 that provide insight and instruction on how to interpret data to promote and provide education that benefits all students. The process dovetails into the recent board approved strategic plan on how to better engage students to address chronic absenteeism and increase attendance and participation. Mrs. Riley shared data on tests scoring from pre-COVID levels to current levels and shared that pre-CoVid testing data reflected increasingly positive results. Using current data, Mrs. Riley and the DLT are formulating best practices to return to year over year gains.

Treasurer's report: Mrs. Miranda noted the fiscal office are beginning an exit off boarding process similar to the current onboarding process. The importance is to meet with departing staff members individually to review details, answer questions, and provide resources for staff as they move into the next phase of their career or into retirement.

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03-2023-01 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2023 be approved as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
 Nays:
 Abstain:
 Motion Carried

03-2023-02 Moved by Mr. Nesbitt and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the financial reports be approved as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
 Nays:
 Abstain:
 Motion Carried

03-2023-03 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the following donations as presented.

- Donation in the amount of \$1,300.00 from Conneaut Eagles for SPARC, fund #019-9100
- Donation in the amount of \$90.00 from Conneaut Athletic Boosters for CHS Fall Athletic Awards/Sponsorship, fund #300-9001
- Donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Conneaut Eagles for SPARC (November 2022), fund #019-9100
- Donation in the amount of \$30.00 from Conneaut Rotary Club for Girls Tennis, fund #300-9001
- Donation in the amount of \$10.00 from Anonymous Donor-Rotary Event, for Athletics, fund #300-9001
- Donation in the amount of \$317.00 from Conneaut Athletic Boosters for CHS Junior Class, fund #200-9024
- Donation in the amount of \$60.00 from Chris Brecht State Farm Insurance for Fall Athletic Awards/Sponsorship-MVP for Volleyball and Cross Country, fund #300-9001
- Donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Terry Moasio for SPARC Scoreboard Fund (formerly Cole Walker Memorial Fund), fund #019-9101
- Donation in the amount of \$2,824.80 from Conneaut Athletic Boosters for Girls' Softball Jersey Uniforms, fund #001-0000
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Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
 Nays:
 Abstain:
 Motion Carried

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- 03-2023-04 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mr. Nesbitt that the Board approve Ohio Schools Council Cooperative advertising and receiving bids for school bus chassis and bodies. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 03-2023-05 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the Board approve the resolution authorizing required third grade assessments in paper format as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 03-2023-06 Moved by Mr. Nesbitt and seconded by Mr. Brecht that the Board approve the district calendar for school year 2023-2024 as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 02-2023-07 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mr. Nesbitt that the that the Board approve the Administrative Salary Schedule as presented.
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 02-2023-08 Moved by Mrs. Armeni and seconded by Mr. Brecht that the Board approve the Dean of Students job description as presented.
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 02-2023-09 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the Board approve the Conneaut Middle School course description guide for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried

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03-2023-10 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the Board approve the following personnel resolutions, pending proper certification and successful completion of pre-employment testing and personnel paper work as needed, in accordance with scale as adopted by the Board.

10.01 Approve resignations as presented:

Certified:

- Terri Dixon, due to retirement, effective 6/15/2023. She has been with the district for 26 years.
- Cindy Cronin, effective 3/7/2023

Classified:

- Brenda Nadeau, effective 3/15/2023

10.02 Approve leave for the following personnel.

Tiffany Neal, unpaid leave of absence, effective February 27, 2023 through December 31, 2023

10.03 Approve a one (1) year contract for the following classified personnel for the 2022-2023 school year.

Fred DeMarco, HVAC Maintenance, step 4, 8 hrs./per day, 260 days/per year, effective 4/17/23

Patricia Johnson, Custodian/2nd shift, step 1, 8 hrs./per day, 260 days/per year, effective 6/1/23

10.04 Approve the following changes in classified contracts.

Tammy Fetterhoff, Paraprofessional, step 10, from 4 hrs./per day to 6.5 hrs./per day, effective 8/30/22

Tammy Fetterhoff, Paraprofessional, step 10, from 6.5 hrs./per day to 6.75 hrs./per day, effective 3/15/23

Holly Ekholm, Paraprofessional, step 0. from 4 hrs./per day to 6.5 hrs./per day, effective 2/21/23

Melissa Reydak, Paraprofessional, step 0, CMS-Mon/Wed, GES-Tues/Fri, from 6 hrs./per day to 6.25 hrs./per day, effective 3/15/23

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- 10.05 Approve employment for the following certified personnel as home tutors at \$20.00/hr. effective March 16, 2023 through May 31, 2023.”

Adam Holdson

- 10.06 Approve employment for the following substitute classified personnel for the 2022-2023 school year.

Jennifer Kent

- 10.07 Approve supplemental contracts for the 2022-2023 school year.

Colin Priestap	Boys Tennis	Step 1
Heather Harmon	CMS Tennis	Step 1

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Board Summary: The Board thanked all involved for the successful band trip and congratulations to the accomplished wrestlers reaching the State competition level. The Board reminded the community to attend the exciting theater drama, Wizard of Oz, being held March 23, 24, and 25. The Board also thanked Conneaut Rotary for sponsoring Day in Court and thanked Judge Nick Iarocci for continuing to share with students the inner workings of our legal system.

- 03-2023-11 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of discussion of negotiations and employment of personnel items.

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Moved into Executive Session: 11:39 a.m.

Out of Executive Session: 12: 43 a.m.

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03-2023-12 Moved by Mrs. Armeni and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board adjourn this regular meeting.

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Mr. Nesbitt exited the meeting at 12: 30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Treasurer

President