

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of CONNEAUT BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

September 20, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Conneaut Area City Schools Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at Conneaut High School. The Regular meeting was preceded by a work session that began at 10:00 a.m.

Work Session: Mrs. Lori Riley introduced Ms. Karen Fronzak from Community Counseling, to provide the board with an update of the mental health supports and services that Community Counseling provides for students, staff, administration and families in our district. Ms. Fronzak shared that there is one Community Counseling support member at CHS, CMS, and LPS with a day treatment provider at GES. Ms. Fronzak noted that service supports are available twelve (12) months per year, not just during the school year. On a daily basis, support members make home visits, assist with PBIS and PAX, engaging students and families, grief support and more.

Meeting began at 10:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Norton.

Agenda Modifications: None

Presentations: Mr. Jim Kennedy, Conneaut Middle School Principal, noted the great response to the two-day open house for students prior to the start of the school year with about 92% participation of families. Mr. Kennedy continues to implement opportunities for students to receive additional assistance. Thru a grant provided in coordination with the Ashtabula County Educational Service Center (ESC), CMS has a mentorship program is providing additional supports to maximize student success. Mr. Kennedy continues his weekly Lunch with the Principal where he takes several students to Conneaut Dairy Queen each week for lunch, compliments of Mr. Keith Schreiber, owner. Mr. Kennedy proudly shared that CMS state testing results revealed four (4) stars, and will continue to improve.

Delegations and visitors: None

Correspondence: None

Public Participation: None

Committee Reports

Legislative – Mr. Coltman reported there have been introductions of many bills on school funding that need to be watched closely for the effect they may have on public school districts No report.

A-Tech – Mr. Nesbitt reported he will be attended the September 18 meeting where A-Tech reported receiving 4.5 stars with a graduation rate in the high ninety percentages. A-Tech remains hopeful to be considered for state funding for construction of additional classrooms.

Athletic Council/SPARC- Mr. Brecht reported progress on the new Cole Walker Memorial Park is now 90% complete. SPARC is pursuing planning construction of a field house and Eighmy Track and Field/Garcia Soccer Field lighting provided by private donors and also still seeking light replacement project bids for Ricaurte Stadium/Joslin Football Field.

Student Achievement Report and DLT – Mrs. Armeni had no report due to the restructuring of the DLT team.

City Council – Mrs. Norton shared the SOM for September and October will be held at the October City Council meeting. Mrs. Norton asked the board to consider a quarterly joint meeting date with City Council.

Board President – Mrs. Norton had no report.

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Superintendent's report: Mrs. Riley shared that the start of the school year was the most successful since she came to Conneaut in August, 2016. Open houses were held in each building with high participation by families. Along with meeting teachers and being familiarized with classrooms, transportation and food service staff were available to families to provide bus numbers, pass out free lunch applications and samples of student lunches, field questions, and provide information to help ease the start into a new school year. Mrs. Riley also discussed current guidelines regarding COVID. The district follows the CDC guidelines and in coordination with Conneaut Health Department, remind families, staff and student that we are coming into cold, flu and COVID season and to follow good protocols as recommended by the CDC; cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, washing hands, stay home if you are not feeling well. There are no mandates, only recommendations. Mrs. Riley shared that as part of the district strategic plan, the technology committee is creating a plan for best uses for educational technology in the classroom. Mrs. Riley also reviewed the first reading of several board policies. Mrs. Riley shared that the district would be meeting with the Impact Group to create a communication plan for the district including modeling, review of the website, suggestions and branding. Mrs. Riley and Mrs. Keri Hayes, Curriculum and Instruction Supervisor, reviewed testing results for the 2022-2023 school year and steps being taken to continue improvement. Grades 4-8 are making progress with math and reading results trending upwards.

Treasurer's report: Mrs. Miranda reviewed the annual appropriations and resources requiring board approval and due to the county auditor prior to September 30, 2023. Mrs. Miranda also explained the first amendment to the board adopted Section 403(B) plan that will now allow for an employee's severance funds to be forwarded to any board approved 403(B) provider, rather than the only one provider, VALIC. Mrs. Miranda reviewed the land improvement at the corner of Reig and Maple avenues, as the Cole Walker Memorial Park. Mrs. Miranda explained that the improvement was funded by private donors. Mrs. Miranda also explained to the board the purpose and structure of the additional permanent improvement levy for November 7, 2023 election. The summer of 2023 property tax collection concludes the bond collection for construction of CMS, GES, LPS structures and the renovation of CHS (002 fund), along with the maintenance fund bond collection (034 fund) that voters had approved in March 2000. The board is proposing to the voters of the district to replace the expiring bond collections (total of 1.5 mills) with a 2.0 mill permanent improvement levy and if approved the board would work with the county auditor to rescind the remaining collections of the existing 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy, providing property owners a decrease from 3.0 mills collected to 2.0 mills collected. Mrs. Miranda also explained that according to Ohio Revised Code, the ballot language must read the levy is an additional tax, even though overall it is a reduction in millage for property owners.

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09-2023-01 Moved by Mrs.Armeni and seconded Mr. Coltman by that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 16, 2023 be approved as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

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

09-2023-02 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mr. Nesbitt that the financial report be approved as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

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

09-2023-03 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the following donations as presented.

- Donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Fraternal Order of Eagles Conneaut Aerie #408 for SPARC, fund #019-9100
- Donation in the amount of \$41.00 from Fraternal Order of Eagles Conneaut Aerie #408 for Theatre, fund #300-9060
- Donation in the amount of \$942.76 from Erie Community Foundation on behalf of the Eighmy Family for SPARC, fund #019-9100
- Donation in the amount of \$5,000.00 from American Legion Post 151 for SPARC Flag Pole Project, fund #019-9100

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

09-2023-04 Moved by Mrs. Armeni and seconded by Mr. Brecht that the annual appropriations for FY2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) and the Certificate of Estimated Resources be approved as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

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

09-2023-05 Moved by Mr. Nesbitt and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the first amendment to the Conneaut Area City School District Section 403(B) Plan.

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

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- 09-2023-06 Moved by Mr. Nesbitt and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the solicitation of bids for district snow removal as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 09-2023-07 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the Board approve the land improvement of the Cole Walker Memorial Park located at the SPARC Complex as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 09-2023-08 Moved by Mrs. Armeni and seconded by Mr. Brecht that the Board approve the Student Activity budgets for 2023-2024 as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 09-2023-09 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mr. Brecht that the Board approve the agreement between the district and the Spire Institute and Academy as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 09-2023-10 Moved by Mrs. Armeni and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the service agreement with Impact Group Public Relations/Marketing Communications Inc. as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried
- 09-2023-11 Moved by Mr. Coltman and seconded by Mr. Brecht that the Board approve the Conneaut Area City School District Test Security Plan to comply with Ohio Department of Education test security guidelines as presented. (ENCLOSURE)
- Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton
Nays:
Abstain:
Motion Carried

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09-2023-12 Moved by Mrs. Armeni and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board approve the Conneaut Area City School District Gifted Identification and Service Plan as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

09-2023-13 Moved by Mr. Nesbitt and seconded by Mrs. Armeni that the Board approve first reading of the following policies and revisions as presented. (ENCLOSURE)

- 0141.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST
- 2623.02 THIRD GRADE READING GUARANTEE
- 3120.08 EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL FOR CO-CURRICULAR/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
- 4120.08 EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL FOR CO-CURRICULAR/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
- 5113.01 INTRA-DISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT
- 5320 IMMUNIZATION
- 5337 CARE OF STUDENT WITH ACTIVE SEIZURE DISORDERS
- 8120 VOLUNTEERS
- 8210 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

09-2023-14 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mr. Coltman 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.

14.01 Approve resignations as presented:

Classified:

- Timothy Gross, due to retirement, effective 9/14/23, He has been with the district for 47 years
- Jodie Benson, effective 8/21/2023

14.02 Approve a continuing contract for the following certified personnel for the 2023-2024 school year.

Molly Todaro M+15, step 16

14.03 Approve movement on scale to reflect additional education.

Darlene Dohanac, from M+15 to M+30

Lesley Gerics, from B to B+15

Adam Holdson, from B+15 to M

Mark Salvaterra, from M to M+15

Georgia Woods, from M to M+15

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- 14.09 Approve employment for the following as substitute classified personnel for the 2023-2024 school year.

Karla Beatman	Patricia Hahn	Donna Jones
Larry Latva	Paula Oster	Tina Slapnicker

- 14.10 Approve supplemental contracts for the 2023-2024 school year.

Julie Phares	NHS Advisor	step 1
Melodie Bimle	CMS IAT Chair	step 3
Nicole Culek	LPS IAT Chair	step 3

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Board members' summary: The board praised and thanked Mr. Timothy Gross for all his work for 47 years of service in the district and wishes him well in his retirement. The board thanked Chris Brecht Insurance for another successful White Out event for the community. The board also expressed their support for administration and staff on researching testing data and improvement on the path forward. They praised the staff for a successful school start and expressed appreciation to Community Counseling for support they provide daily for the district. The board commended Mr. Kennedy and Mrs. Hayes on their reports.

- 09-2023-15 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board move to executive session discuss negotiations and to consider the employment and compensation of the Superintendent and Treasurer.

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

The board moved into executive session at 11:55 a.m. for the purpose of Superintendent and Treasurer evaluations, employment and compensation.

The board returned from executive session at 1:05 p.m.

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09-2023-16 Moved by Mr. Brecht and seconded by Mr. Coltman that the Board adjourn this regular meeting.

Ayes: Armeni, Brecht, Coltman, Nesbitt, Norton

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m

Treasurer

President