

**Conneaut School District**

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION  
Minutes  
Wednesday, June 5, 2019  
7:00 PM**

The Conneaut School Board of Directors met Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at the Alice Schafer Annex cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Mrs. Dorothy Luckock.

The following members answered to roll call:

Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ellis	Mr. Hornstein
Mr. Jacobs	Mrs. Klink	Mrs. Luckock
Mr. McGuirk	Mr. McQuiston	Mrs. Miller

**Administrators Present-**

**Superintendent:** Jarrin Sperry

**Technology Coordinator:** Rick Kelly

**Director of Special Education:** Susy Dressel

**Business Manager:** Greg Mayle

**Director of Buildings and Grounds-** Frank Kimmel

**Principals:** Mr. Maskrey, Mr. Burns, Mr. Jardina and Mr. Parks.

**Visitor Recognition**

Mrs. Luckock offered a Visitor Recognition on Agenda Items\* noting as \*Per Policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings. All visitors who are recognized during the Visitor Recognition are allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes to address matters of their concern, unless otherwise determined by the Board President. Visitor recognition is to be limited to thirty (30) minutes unless otherwise decided by the Board.

It is noted no one approached the podium.

*Discussion Items*

*Budget...*

Mr. Mayle provided a budget update as follows;

He noted there was little change since the May update with rental revenues increased \$4,500; Social Security/PSERS Subsidies decreased by \$3,838.00 and Property Tax Reduction Allocation increased by \$1,020.00.

On the Expenditure side; Staffing Adjustments decreased by \$2,780.00; Budgetary Reserve increased by \$25,000; Food Service Fund transfer decreased by \$25,000.00; Departmental adjustments decreased by \$3,023.00 and there was an increase in substitute rates by \$6,307.00.

The General Fund Balance on 6/30/18 was \$13,585,423.00, a projected deficit in 18/19 was - \$2,467,576.00 equals an estimated fund balance at 6/30/19 of \$11,117,847.00. Taking this

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balance minus the 19/20 budgetary deficit of \$349,067.00 equals an estimated fund balance at 6/30/20 of \$10,768,780.00.

The General Fund 5 year projections with key assumption sin revenue of a 1.25% assessment growth, a 1% Earned Income Tax Growth; a 1% Per Capita Tax Revenue Reduction, a .5% Basic/Special Ed Subsidy Growth and an even Federal Funding.

The Key Assumptions in Expenditures include salaries tied to agreements; 5% Health Insurance increases; flat transportation expenditures; flat cyber charter expenditures; flat supplies/equipment and not including fund transfers.

Mr. Mayle provided a slide showing the General Fund 5 Year Projections with Revenues, expenditures, increase/decrease in Fund Balance, fund balance/beginning of the year and the fund balance at the end of the year from 2019/202 through 2023/2024.

He explained the Capital Projects fund for 19/20 has budgeted expenditures in the amount of \$777,356 and the 5 year plan total of \$2,801,031.00. He provided a funding calculation for this.

Food Service Fund- This is an RFP Year and we received proposals from 3 vendors. We had requested an alternate proposal with the base proposal status quo and the alternate proposal to include the CEP/Community Eligibility Provision, an After School Dinner Program (CACFP). State is requiring proposals to be scored by evaluation committee.

The alternate proposal rationale for current operations includes current budgeted deficit of \$59,859; a low current usage percentage as breakfast at 27% and lunch at 57%. "Lunch shaming" legislation shows 16/17 negative balances at \$6,731 and current negative balances of \$23,882 which must be absorbed by the General Fund.

What is CEP? It is a Community Eligibility Provision with free breakfast and lunch for all students regardless of economic status and requires a minimum 40% identified student percentage (ISP). Only counts those certified for free meals without the use of applications such as SNAP, TANF, etc. Our Districts current percentage is 45.5%.

The winning base proposal shows a financial loss of \$28,602.20 with no increases to breakfast/lunch prices and a guarantee of a loss of \$15,000. The winning alternate proposal has a financial loss of \$27,423.36, an estimated participation growth in breakfast from current 29% to 74.92% and lunch from the current 54% to 79.94% and a guarantee breakeven.

Mr. Mayle is recommending to accept the alternate proposal which would be The Nutrition group, they had the highest score. It will require Administration level discussions regarding building level best practices, implementation strategies, etc and earl and frequent investment in promotion during the first year, promotional items, giveaways, marketing etc.

#### *Substitute Pay Rate...*

The District is having a difficult time getting substitutes at \$9/hour for our service professionals. The pay rate has not been increased in five or six years. Sheetz is even offering \$11/hour and we are asking substitutes to come and work in our cafeteria 2 to 3 hours. We are very short on cafeteria and secretary substitutes. Administration is asking to raise the rate to \$10.50/hour to

entice people to substitute in the hourly positions. Mrs. Luckock noted this was brought to the Budget/Finance Committee and the committee supports it, it has already been incorporated in the new budget.

We also run into the concern of keeping hours below 30 hours per week. If a substitute goes over we have to offer health insurance. Our tracking system does not keep track of the hours. We found a solution that does help out with an automatic tracking and works with Kronis. Mr. Mayle recommends purchasing this system and transition to it. It would have a \$1,400 increase in cost.

*Handbook Review...*

Mr. Sperry reviewed the handbook changes for the 19/20 school year. They are not on the agenda but would like to add them next week.

*ATSI Plan...*

Mr. Sperry indicated our special education students did not perform at the high school compared to other students in the area. These scores of these students and some others (approximately 70 to 100 students) have to come up as well as attendance so he has a committee formed and a plan is on Canvas. A team was started two years ago in the elementary buildings and is developed to go through the high school but ASI plans has pushed the plan quicker.

*Buildings and Grounds...*

Mr. Kimmel and the Buildings and Grounds Committee have discussed projects for this summer and have revised the projects from six to three for this summer. Hot water is an issue at CASH and we probably need to redesign the system; lighting at Conneaut Valley and an air conditioning unit in the Life Skills room are the three we are looking at this summer.

There are some window problems around the district which several are on the voting agenda.

The Board discussed an awning or cover between the CASH and Annex, Mr. Kimmel is looking at alternatives.

The entrance to the high school and the problems with no lighting, even after 5 years it is still a traffic issue with drivers coming in the exit and the entrance not lit up. Mr. Kimmel noted we do not own on the East side of the entrance so we would have to put the sign too far back, it would not be seen. Solar power was suggested and this topic will be an item for the Committee to investigate.

*Policies for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading...*

Mr. Sperry reviewed with the Board the minor changes for the policies up for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

*Curriculum...*

Mrs. Kantz was not present for an update.

*Establishing Informational Meeting...*

Mrs. Luckock noted that one of the Board goals was to become better informed on mental health issues with the student population. There has not been as much support from county government and their budget(s) since Stairways left the county. Emergency response teams for students in

crisis from the county does not exist so if a principle has a student in that situation our staff gets ahold of county for transition into inpatient mental health help. But that team basically does not exist at the moment in the county. There will be a delay of hours when someone might be able to call family. Crawford County is behind in funding compared to other counties. She is suggesting to the Board to have a meeting with the County and the other districts as they need to hear our story.

Mrs. Luckock would be happy to coordinate and facilitate it but we all need to be an advocate for our district with students.

*Superintendent's Report...*

Mr. Sperry updated the board on his activities;

1. I attended our first Military Signing for CASH graduates on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event was held in the library at CASH, and I'm sure it will be a yearly event. We have 15 students entering the military this year.
2. I attended the CASH drama "Comedy of Errors" on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The play is from Shakespeare and of course difficult to pull off, but our students did a great job. Ryan followed it well, so if an 11yr old can follow the plot, our students did a great job with the play.
3. Mike Costa and I went to the Venango County Career center on May 6<sup>th</sup> to learn about a program that used to be in Crawford County. The program pays for instruction in various disciplines (like: Welding, Precision Machining, Mechatronics, Facilities Maintenance, and Electronics.) The students that are eligible have to be 18-24 years old and meet some other criteria as well. Our guidance counselors at the high school are aware and attempting to recruit current and former students.
4. I attended the May IU5 Superintendent meeting at Iroquois High School in Erie County. The meeting was held there so we could watch a multi-school eSports competition. The teams played Super Smash Bros, Rocket League, and League of Legends. The superintendents got to ask questions and talk to both advisors/coaches and students about eSports.
5. Lisa, Ryan, and I attended the Prom Parade of Couples at Conneaut Lake Hotel on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The weather was nice and the kids looked great. The prom went off without incident.
6. Kurt and I attended a "Safety Summit" in Slippery Rock on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mike Verb from the PA Attorney's Office headed the summit. Mike is the leader of the team that implemented the Safe 2 Say program for the state. The first half of the summit was about the Safe 2 Say program. The second half of the program was about cyber bullying and was conducted by a panel of educators and officers from the Attorney General's office including agent Phil Little who has presented before to PSBA members. We are trying to get Phil to present in Crawford County this fall.
7. On May 17<sup>th</sup> I had the opportunity to tour Channel Lock in Meadville. With about 380 employees, Channel Lock is a major employer in our area. The manufacturing process there is truly amazing, and if you ever get the chance to tour it I highly recommend it.
8. Norm Isler and Gary Worthington from "You Can Fly" came to Conneaut on May 17<sup>th</sup> to meet with Bill Stevenson and I. Norm and Gary offered their support in any way for Conneaut as we embark on getting students ready for careers in aviation. Norm had actually flown in to Meadville, and he has offered to provide actual flights in his plane next year for students. Additionally, Bill and I went to both middle schools and talked to

interested 8<sup>th</sup> graders about signing up for the program as they enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade next school year.

9. Susy and I attended the “Northwest Central Human Capital Coalition” at Clarion University on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The coalition (presented and organized by PDE) is about creating, and retaining quality teachers in Pennsylvania. From our region, Conneaut and Erie were the representative school districts.
10. The Eagles Foundation met on May 28<sup>th</sup> to select the scholarship winners for both the Eagles Foundation Scholarships and the Superintendent’s Scholarship. All names and identifying data were removed from the packets. Each member present at the meeting reviewed the packets, and winners were selected. The awards were presented to the graduating seniors at the Senior Awards Assembly on Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the CASH gym. The Superintendent Scholarship winner this year was: Benjamin Kullen. His application was deemed to be the best by the committee and Ben will receive a check for \$1,000.
11. Our Senior Awards Assembly was held on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Over 2.5 million dollars was awarded to our graduating seniors. A number of the individuals granting scholarships and awards commented on how incredible our students are. They commented on how they support one another and how they were very respectful as an audience. Many of the presenters have/had presented at numerous schools in NW PA, and said that this was the best student group they had been in front of. In fact, a gentleman who was here as a presenter had many kind words about our students. He was “impressed with the seniors” and how respectful and supportive they were of each other. He also mentioned the “pride of our staff members” in regard to our seniors. He said it was obvious that the pride and respect of the teachers feeds the pride and respect of the students. He was so impressed with the whole event that he is going to create a scholarship for next year with one of the other organizations he belongs to. He really couldn’t say enough good things about Conneaut.
12. Our CCCTC had its first ever signing day on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Numerous students from almost every program had students and their new employers there for a ceremonial signing signifying their entrance into the world of work.
13. The Systems of Care meeting was Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. We approved a few expenditures including expanding two days a week bus service to the Conneaut Valley area as well as funds for expanded summer programs for kids and funding for continuation of counseling for students over the summer. After the meeting we started the process of building a new five year plan as the current plan is coming to an end.
14. Don Ellis, Tim McQuiston, and I attended the CCCTC graduation this afternoon at 1:00 at Meadville Area Senior High School. The event is always fun to attend and is the CCCTC’s formal graduation for seniors. The CCCTC’s senior of the year for CASH (Their Valedictorian-per high school in the county) is Heather McEwan (Health Occupations)!
15. The three Crawford County School District Superintendents have organized a County Wide Safety Summit. This summit featuring two presenters from the Attorney General’s office will be held at Meadville High School on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. The topics to be covered are: Social Media and Internet Safety, Human Trafficking in Western PA, Opioids, and A.L.I.C.E.

*PSBA Update...*

Mrs. Luckock asked the Board to think about who wants to attend the Fall Leadership Conference. Mr. Ellis and Ms. Dressel had expressed interest.

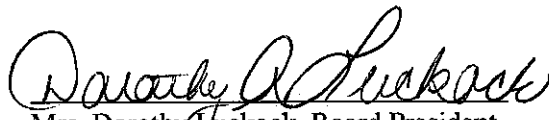
*Agenda Review...*


The Board reviewed the draft agenda with a few questions.

Mr. Burnham reminded the Board of the hostilities 75 years ago in Normandy and asked for a moment of silence. He then briefed everyone on the logistic nightmare, coordinating of plane fiascos, beach defenses problems and he feels modern day issues compare.

**Mrs. Luckock announced there would not be an EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

  
Mrs. Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
Mr. Greg Mayle, Board Secretary