

February 14, 2012

The Board of Education of the Northridge Local School District met in a Special/Staff Meeting Session on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 8:15 AM, in the Northridge High School Auditoria in Johnstown, Ohio with the following individuals present: Mrs. Jayma Bammerlin, Mr. Mark Dann, Mr. Doug Hart, Mr. Chris Pokorny, Mr. Jeffrey Schrock, Board Members; Mr. John Shepard, Local Superintendent; Mr. James Hudson, Treasurer; Building Administrators and employees.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15AM by Mr. Mark Dann, Board President followed by roll call for attendance and the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bammerlin, present; Mr. Hart, present; Mr. Pokorny, present; Mr. Schrock, present; Mr. Dann, present.

Discussion Items

1. Staff Meeting – Mr. Shepard read the following questions and the Board members responded:

Questions

Q 4-Where did the money come from for Administrative raises, when we were told there was NO money for teacher steps? We were led to believe that this was the year of shared sacrifice. If there is money, the teachers deserve their steps. Why is there a discrepancy between reasons for which this money could be given? Will we get our steps back?

Q10-How do you plan on passing a levy in this district with the recent decisions made? What do you think the public thinks of our district? You found \$34,000.00 for administrative raises, two weeks after the levy failed?

Q11-Why do you continue to propose ideas to the public when we cannot get a levy passed? When the academic cuts are made and parents/kids suffer from those cuts, why would they ever trust anything you say? For instance, finding the money for raises right after we failed a levy and told the community there was “no money” lost a lot of trust, supporters and yes votes!

Q15-If Jim Hudson takes his new position, (Treasurer of Medina School District) does he have to pay back the retention bonus he has already received? If not, why was he given a retroactive bonus?

Response to questions 4, 10, 11, & 15

•Mrs. Bammerlin: Opening statement on administrative and treasurer contracts.

•Mr. Dann: Follow-up comments: Mr. Hudson does not get a bonus. Instead of paying a higher daily rate on his contract he is only paid his full amount if he is employed with the district at a six month interval. If he leaves early, the district doesn't pay his full salary thus saving the district money.

Q 8-Does the Board realize how upset we are as teachers...and how low the morale is? That one time \$250.00 (before taxes) was a slap in the face!

Response to question: 8

•Mr. Dann: We are sorry to hear the staff is upset with the \$250 payment that was made in 2011. The one time payments versus the compounding effect of steps provided less liability to the District's long term financial future. While it doesn't seem like a lot we wanted to try to do something to recognize everyone's hard work, it was not done in an attempt to insult anyone.

Q 1-What is the date that a decision will be made about the Intermediate Building?

Response to question: 1

•Mr. Dann: The goal is to make a decision no later than the end of March. The District has a Facilities meeting on February 16th with the goal to receive as much community input on the recommended building options as presented by the committee. The Board has committed to further discuss the options at the Work Session Meeting on March 5th and to make a final decision on or before March 19th.

Mr.Shepard, please provide an update on committee recommendations:

•Mr. Shepard: The District should consider a “lease purchase” option for the construction of a 4-5 building. Per the Ohio Revised Code, the lease purchase option allows public entities to issue un-voted debt from a local bank for the construction of a building. Currently the District is spending over \$10,000 a month on the ModSpace rental agreement. The \$10,000 a month has been appropriated in the District’s budget over the next five years. If the District were able to issue debt for less than \$10,000 a month, the long term facility needs of the District would be addressed. The District would need 20,000 square feet to house the 4-5 grade levels and the District office, which will cost approximately \$1.6 - \$2.5 million.

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- The District should consider purchasing the modular buildings at an estimated cost of \$550,000. It is estimated that the modular buildings will have a useful life for an additional 10 years. The District will incur \$136,000 in deconstruction cost if the modular are removed. The estimated actual cost to the District would be \$424,000 excluding the deconstruction cost. It would be recommended to place the buildings on a permeate slab to help extent the useful life of the buildings.

Q 2-Can you show in writing the savings the present bussing schedule has afforded the district this year?

Q 3-Are you aware that the Intermediate students are losing instructional time each day because of the current bus schedule?

Response to questions: 2 & 3

- Mr. Dann: The review of busing will be completed at the end of the school year. My understanding in speaking with Mr. Shepard at the beginning of the year, busing issues that were effecting instruction time had been resolved, it sounds like there is work to still be done in this area.

- Mr. Hudson-/Mr. Shepard: At this time the total transportation savings cannot be calculated due to the timing of the year and billing errors on Petermann’s part. There are several factors that will contribute to the cost analysis that need to be considered when comparing cost from one year to the next. For example, 50% daily rate for bus service cancelation, rate increase of 3.75% per year, and the number of routes that switched from shared to Northridge Local Schools only.

- Petermann made the recommendation to help maximize transportation with little to no impact on operations for FY 2011-12.

- Given several concerns this year, Petermann is in the process of developing recommendations for the District to align bell schedules and routes to improve efficiencies and increase instructional time for FY 2012-13.

Q 5-If we are trying to save money, have you looked into job-sharing? (ex. Millersport and Berne Union are sharing a treasurer.) Neighboring districts are in similar financial situations – instead of hiring a new treasurer, could one be shared?

Response to questions: 5

- Mr. Dann: The Board is currently looking at all potential options for job sharing if the Treasure's position becomes vacant. We encourage all feedback in this area, if there are ideas on sharing other positions in the district we would love to hear those ideas.

Q 6-Why aren’t the board, administration, and teaching staff working TOGETHER in tough times? We used to...why aren’t we now in the toughest times we have EVER faced?

Response to questions: 6

- Mr. Dann: Great question! A question we all need to ask ourselves! The purpose of this meeting was for the Board to reach out to the staff and bridge some of that gap. The Board understands there is a Labor Relations Committee, if the committee would like to have a board member participate in those committee meetings to help foster communication we would like to try to get that done.

- Mr. Hart: comment on letters from Ms. Garee's English class regarding school dress code.

Q 7-How can we expect to keep our “EXCELLENT” rating when all of our young talented staff members (and everyone else who can) are out looking for new jobs? What incentives are there for teachers?

Response to question: 7

- Mr. Dann: We understand this is a real concern with the financial status of the District. The Board has asked Mr. Shepard on several occasions to provide recommendations on what is needed to help maintain our “EXCELLENT” rating.

- Mr. Shepard: The District is committed to and encourages employees to utilize the tuition reimbursement offered to each employee. (Using 590 Professional Development funds.)

Q 9-Do you plan on putting up another levy? If so, when?

Response to question: 9

- Mr. Dann: The Board has not had any discussions on placing another levy on the ballot. To be successful the District will need to clearly state the needs so the public understands the

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importance of the levy and can make an informed decision. In the past there has been a great effort by many people in this building to get a levy passed, in the future it will require a coordinated team effort by everyone with an interest in the District. The passing of a levy cannot rest on the shoulders of any one group.

	<u>March 6, 2012</u>	<u>August 7, 2012</u>	<u>November 6, 2012</u>	
<u>Type of Ballot Issue</u>				<u>Action Required</u>
1. R.C. 5705.21 Levy (Operating or Permanent Improvement)	* December 7, 2011	* May 9, 2012	* August 8, 2012	File resolution of necessity with county auditor File election proceedings with board of elections
2. R.C. 5705.194 Emergency Levy	* December 7, 2011	* May 9, 2012	* August 8, 2012	File resolution of necessity with county auditor File election proceedings with board of elections
3. R.C. 5748 Income Tax (Stand-alone or combined with Property Tax)	November 23, 2011 December 7, 2011	April 27, 2012 May 9, 2012	July 27, 2012 August 8, 2012	File resolution of necessity with state tax commissioner** File election proceedings with board of elections
4. R.C 133.18 Voted Bond Issue	* December 7, 2011 November 7, 2011	* May 9, 2012 April 9, 2012	* August 8, 2012 July 9, 2012	File resolution of necessity with county auditor File election proceedings with board of elections*** File State Consent application****
5. R.C. 5748.08 Voted Bond Issue combined with an Income Tax	November 22, 2011 December 7, 2011	April 24, 2012 May 9, 2012	July 24, 2012 August 8, 2012	File resolution of necessity with state tax commissioner***** File election proceedings with board of elections

•Mr. Shepard read the nomination letter for the Coughlin “You Make a Difference Award” from student, Karen Aston, for Mr. Tao Zhang, High School Chinese Teacher.

Adjourn Meeting

12-027 It was moved by Mr. Schrock and seconded by Mr. Pokorny to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 AM.

Roll Call: Mr. Schrock, aye; Mr. Pokorny, aye; Mrs. Bammerlin, aye; Mr. Hart, aye; Mr. Dann, aye.

The President declared the motion carried. 5-0

_____ Board President

_____ Treasurer

In addition to the minutes an auditory tape is recorded during each Board meeting. The tape is available to the public during regular workings hours of the Northridge Local Schools District Office.