

# BOARD MEETING OVERVIEW

Bexley City School District

348 S. Cassingham Road, Bexley, Ohio 43209



**NEXT MEETING - Regular Meeting - Monday, 11/16/09 - 6:30 p.m. - Cassingham Community Room**

- Board Reports
- Influenza Communications
- ODE Updates
- Operations Report
- Public Comment
- Community Based Athletic Clubs Policy
- Five-Year financial Forecast
- Other Items

All Board members were present for the Bexley Board of Education's regular meeting on Monday evening, 10/12/2009 at 6:30pm in the Cassingham Complex Cafe.

## Board Reports

. Vice President Joan Fishel, the Board's representative at negotiations between the Bexley Education Association (BEA) and the school district, said that the parties meet next with the federal mediator tomorrow, 10/13/2009.

. Board Member Craig Halliday noted the upcoming Technology Roundtable meeting on 11/2/2009.

. Student Representative Rebecca Carroll said that over 350 students attended the recent homecoming dance. She listed upcoming Student Council activities, including a blackout at this Friday's football game and Charity Newsies in November. The BHS Environmental Club and other clubs involved in district recycling efforts are lobbying for the elimination of styrofoam trays in the school district.

## Influenza Communications

Superintendent Mike Johnson presented materials that the district distributed providing information about flu prevention and possible school closings. "We are taking an active daily attendance for both staff and students, with particular attention to those with flu symptoms," he said. As per school policy, the district would take direction from the Franklin County Board of Health before closing.

The Board of Health will offer clinics in Bexley with free flu vaccinations for students. The district is currently waiting for more information from the Board of Health defining clinic dates and procedures. All students under the age of sixteen will have to be accompanied by a parent in order to be vaccinated. The district will survey parents/guardians to find out how many students will be getting the vaccination. For more information about district efforts concerning the flu, visit [bexleyschools.org](http://bexleyschools.org).

## ODE Updates

Dr. Anne Hyland, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, noted that the Ohio Department of Education is revising all of its content standards. She commented that much of the work that the district has been doing with STEM fits in with the direction that the state is going with the standards. "ODE is changing some of the standards to be more in line with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills," she said. The ODE web site is very informative about the changes that will begin to happen this school year.

## Operations Report

Operations Director Barry Zwick updated the Board about the Cingular/AT&T cell tower project. The school district has met with Cingular to talk about the project, with the tentative start date of 11/7/2009. "If we have a home game after that date, then we will push the date back," he said. "We didn't want anybody interrupting our educational or extracurricular programs." If the weather permits, the mostly weekend work could be completed before the end of the year.

Dr. Zwick spoke about flu prevention, noting that the district is wiping down all surfaces, including on school buses, with an environmentally green cleaner that kills viruses, germs, etc. The best way to avoid sickness is for individuals to wash their hands often. "Stay away from people who are sick. If your children are sick, keep them home," he urged.

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The clinics conducted in Bexley by the Board of Health will each require 15-30 volunteers, such as retired nurses and doctors and people giving administrative support. He encouraged volunteers to register as medical reserve corps members on the columbuspandemicflu.org web site so that they will be covered by the Franklin County Board of Health liability policy.

## Public Comment

Several Bexley Schools staff members and two community members spoke in support of a swift, fair resolution to the Bexley teacher contract negotiations which are ongoing.

Bexley Middle School Principal Harley Williams introduced his school's PTO Co-Presidents, Lori Feuer and Patty Martin. They presented background on a proposed International trip for BMS students that has failed to earn Board approval. They encouraged the Board to reconsider the Europe trip that will "help prepare children to be internationally-minded." BMS teacher Natalie Mroz spoke in support of overseas travel for this age group.

Parent Andy Gogan repeated requests from the boys lacrosse club team. "By definition, we are the Bexley High School Lacrosse Team," he noted. Board President Andrew Sutter addressed several of Mr. Gogan's concerns: "This is a question of priorities, of how to cover. It may seem like a small matter, but it's the question of the hour, of the week, of the month, what do you want to cut? How do we pay for it, how do we have enough staff to cover it and how do we do this year in and year out? It's a constant dilemma, the tension between wanting to do everything, support every program, but it's not only my money. ... It's a question of 'what more can we sustain?' in a district, in a high school in particular, that in a couple of years will have 70 fewer students than it does now."

Mr. Halliday suggested to Mr. Gogan that boys' lacrosse coordinate with girls' lacrosse, noting that a policy establishing district-recognized club teams was on the evening's agenda. "It's important that we all do our homework on these issues before we discuss more," he said. "We're trying to create one policy for multiple

activities and we're getting different requests from different groups. We're trying to coordinate the policy so we can apply it generally." Mr. Sutter said that the prospect of the district providing transportation for boys' lacrosse is low.

## Community Based Athletic Clubs Policy

Board members reviewed the status of the proposed policy based on discussions held at the last meeting. Mr. Halliday noted the two outstanding issues: (1) eligibility standards and personnel is charged with overseeing this status; and (2) designating a contact person regarding game-day decisions. "We are trying to draft something that will apply to all sports organizations and extracurricular programs," said Mr. Sutter. Board Member Diane Peterson said she prefers to think of this in terms of all programs, not just lacrosse.

Mr. Sutter noted the travel section of the policy has been rewritten to say that the club will be responsible for arranging and paying for transportation. The district would not insist that the whole team travel by one bus or carrier. The girls' lacrosse club allows parents to bring their children home from away games, with prior approval.

Dr. Johnson said administration had worked through the game-day decision-making procedures. The Athletic Director will not be responsible for signing contracts. Dr. Johnson said lacrosse is using Bexley as a host site; activities can still run on the district site without a staff person involved. If there is a change on game day, clubs would

be required to work through the facilities use contract to reschedule. Athletic Director Molly Feesler commented that communication channels can be navigated using common sense, without complicated language in the policy.

Mr. Grossman asked for clarification on the eligibility issue. Dr. Johnson requested that the policy use state-association-level eligibility standards because, if the policy uses the school district standard as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, "we start getting the school involved in administering eligibility." Mr. Sutter suggested that the policy could refer to our district's

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requirements without getting our administrators involved in enforcing them.

“You’ve got a policy here and I’m going to administer it,” noted Dr. Johnson. “If you don’t follow the policy, you can’t use the facilities. Otherwise it’s going to be a nightmare.”

John Kellogg, BHS Principal, stated that the district is trying to regulate something that it does not own. He suggested that the club organizations agree to the facilities use policy if they just want to use the field. If they want additional recognition, such as yearbook representation and varsity letters, they petition the school for that particular item.

“If we’re struggling in deciding how to allocate resources, the teachers come before extracurricular activities,” said Mr. Sutter, of lacrosse. “We have done everything we can to keep you in the game, if you don’t need this policy to keep you in the game, you don’t have to do it.”

Ms. Fishel, who had originally asked that all BHS athletes be held to the same, district standards, conceded that the policy could be scaled back to define OHSAA standards as the requirements for eligibility. Ms. Peterson proposed an amendment to the language in the policy, using OHSAA standards. The amendment was defeated. Board Members approved the policy by a 4-1 vote, with eligibility defined by the district standards.

### **Five-Year Financial Forecast**

Treasurer Chris Essman presented a five-year budget forecast, as required by the Ohio Department of Taxation. He highlighted lines for federal stimulus money for FY 2010 (\$273,118) and the 23 percent decrease in School District Income Tax revenues expected in 2010.

“As the district is entering into the end of the levy cycle, we are spending more money than we are bringing in this year,” he said. “Current projections show the district will need to look at a levy in 2010. By next August, when we have to decide about a fall levy, we will have a clearer picture of many financial issues.” He said the district is probably looking at another levy in 2013 if it returns to the three-year levy cycle. Nothing in the forecast reflects new revenues, or a new levy.

Ms. Peterson noted that, as she looked through the report, “it just doesn’t get any better.” Board Member Steve Grossman granted that the forecast included many assumptions. “But, basically, we’re going to see, at best, flat income for the next four-five years.

Our income over the next five years, given how we understand the world today, is not going to increase,” he concluded.

In response to questions by Board members, Mr. Essman noted that in order to assemble the forecast, he has to make assumptions about district salaries. “If I don’t include this, it’s an unfair labor practice, so a three-percent raise is built in here,” he said. “The forecast is filled with assumptions, saying ‘if this happens, if that happens.’ We’ve historically always used a three percent increase for teachers; this is an assumption like all the other assumptions.”

### **Other items**

- . The Board gratefully accepted several gifts, including books, paint and a photo scanner.
- . The Board approved a Middle School PTO fundraising partnership with Bexley’s Bruegger’s Bagels for late start mornings.
- . The Board approved the September Financial Report as presented.
- . Ms. Fishel stated at the end of the meeting: “Never in my representation of the Board have I considered the teachers’ negotiations a ‘competition,’ or a ‘game,’ or opportunity for hardball activities. I view it as two groups advocating for what would be the most sustainable agreement, which will always be a compromise.”

### **BOARD REPORTS**

- Bexley Middle School - February 2010
- Montrose Elementary School - March 2010
- Maryland Elementary School - April 2010
- Cassingham Elementary School - May 2010
- Technology Department - July 2010

*The official minutes of the Board Meeting are on file in the District’s Board of Education Office.*