

BOARD MEETING OVERVIEW

Bexley City School District

348 S. Cassingham Road, Bexley, Ohio 43209



NEXT MEETING - Regular Meeting - Monday, 1/13/10 - 6:30 p.m. - Cassingham Community Room

- Board Reports
- Board Members' Departure
- Financial Report
- Presentations
- All-Day Kindergarten
- Operations Report
- Supplemental Positions
- Other Items

The regular Bexley Board of Education meeting was attended by all members on Monday, 12/14/2009 at 6:30pm in the Cassingham Complex Community Room.

Board Reports

. Vice President Joan Fishel reported from the PTO Council meeting this afternoon, attended by school administrators and representatives from various parent groups. She noted that more members were present than at any time in the recent past; she invited all to participate in the upcoming levy campaign.

The group is working on plans to avoid overdoing fundraising activities, for the sakes of parents, Main Street businesses and community members.

. Board Member Craig Halliday reported with Technology Department updates: (1) this past week, the district deployed the Sakai learning management system; (2) Board of Education policies should be online by January; (2) the district is inviting community to help Lowe's volunteers install shelving in January and February; (4) the next Technology Roundtable is Monday, 1/4/2010 at 6:30pm in the Community Room.

. Mr. Halliday noted that on Thursday, 12/17/2010 at 3:30pm, the group dedicated to creating a Bexley Community Foundation will share its progress at the Columbus Foundation.

. Board Member Diane Peterson announced that she will leave the post of Rec Board liaison starting in January.

. Student Representative Rebecca Carroll said that the Student Council raised a record \$3,000 for Charity Newsies.

Board Members' Departure

All Board members expressed their appreciation of the years of service given by Steve Grossman and Andy Sutter, who step down after this meeting. Ms. Fishel noted the fact that both understand "numerous nuances and perspectives" and exhibited the ability to balance those, remaining focused on the success of the district in both the short and long terms. "You share the belief that not only CAN an individual make a difference in the life of a community, but that an individual MUST make a difference," said Ms. Fishel to the two departing Board members. "I want to thank you for your friendship, your service and your dedication."

Ms. Peterson described Mr. Grossman as the champion of school levies who always attends as many school events as possible. She called Mr. Sutter the master consensus builder. Ms. Carroll thanked the two departing Board members for being "great examples of leadership."

"My passion has always been education and the students," said Mr. Grossman. "Parents and teachers are going to need to step up next year. We need leadership and energy." Mr. Sutter thanked the district for the privilege of serving on the Board. "It's been a great experience," said Mr. Sutter. "I know that Marlee Snowdon and Carol Fey will pick up the mantle." Both thanked their families for sacrifices made over the years.

Dr. Mike Johnson said that he knew the superintendent's job would be a positive experience from initial interviews with Mr. Grossman and Mr. Sutter at the time he was recruited for the job. "The kind of service you have given the staff and community has allowed us a lot of freedom," he said. "Thank you for being models on the best Board I have ever been around."

Financial Report

Chris Essman, Treasurer, presented the November Financial Report. He said that the district will receive its next property tax in January 2010 and next income tax settlement at the end of January 2010. The Board approved the report.

Presentations

Dr. Johnson and Mr. Sutter presented Star Thrower Awards to faculty members Beth Bennett and Michelle Frenz who have received their National Board Certification. Several staffers were recognized for their service as SmartBoard-certified trainers, both in Bexley and outside the school district: Chris Amspaugh, Christy Ayers, Julie Blossom, Scott Bushman, Jim Flores, Darla Morris, Rachel Niswander, Paul Ross, Sara Resek, and Shaun Stevenson. "Thank you for doing the training and becoming the experts that you are," said Dr. Johnson.

All-Day Kindergarten

Dr. Johnson said, according to district policy, the All-Day Kindergarten (ADK) curriculum on the agenda must be approved in order to be implemented this fall. This is only one step in the process, as he will present enrollment and staffing projections in the coming months. Assuming that the law stays the same, even if waivers remain available, the school district should proceed with All-Day Kindergarten. "I do not think we would be eligible for a waiver," he said.

Dr. Anne Hyland, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, encouraged the approval of the proposed ADK curriculum, as the initial step in implementation. Later in the meeting, the Board approved the curriculum.

Operations Report

The Board welcomed back Dr. Barry Zwick, Director of Operations, from his recent medical leave. Dr. Zwick thanked the Board for approving the 2007 energy conservation program that is saving the district money and helping it operate in a "greener" way. Updating the Board on this program, he said, "We had estimated a \$143,000 savings per year and 4.5 years to pay off the \$600,000 invested in the program. The figures have come in and we have actually saved \$162,602, higher than estimated."

He noted that the district's demand for electricity is down; there was substantial savings in gas; and the summer boiler turned out to be a good investment. The Cassingham Complex saved over 1 million kilowatt hours, while Maryland realized a \$15,000 savings in natural gas. The Cassingham Complex saved \$26,404 in natural gas, mostly because of the summer boiler.

Dr. Zwick noted that these savings reduce the length of time before the program pays for itself to 3.9 years. In addition, Limbach learned that American Electric Power is offering a rebate program (the public utility must reduce electrical production and is looking for projects to fund). Pursuing the rebates on the district's behalf, Limbach expects that Bexley will recoup \$27,000 in the area of replacement lighting in addition to another \$60,000 in DDC control modifications and variable frequency drives.

Supplemental Positions

Dr. Johnson, responding to a question by Mr. Halliday, explained that these proposed positions – in Social/Emotional and International/Multicultural areas – are changing from half-time district to building positions due to input from Board members, faculty members and teacher leaders. "They all felt we could use these resources more effectively by allowing individual schools to put together particular projects and grants to fund them. This would serve our children better," he said. The new supplemental positions will create professional learning communities to think about these issues and go back to their schools to present opportunities that will suit the individual schools and their best practices.

Mr. Halliday asked whether the Board and district is getting value from all its supplemental contracts. "We need to be careful when we add supplemental positions because they become permanent budget items," he said. Ms. Peterson noted that some of the personnel being considered for these new supplemental positions have had previous experience in their areas. She asked for Dr. Johnson to provide future updates as to how these are going. Dr. Johnson noted that the district is reviewing job descriptions for supplementals and formalizing expectations/outcomes of the programs they represent.

"Before we go before the community and ask for more money, we should account for every dollar we spend on supplemental contracts," noted Mr. Halliday.

Other items

. The Board accepted and expressed thanks for gifts received, including a new sign for Bexley Middle School.

. Dr. Zwick noted that the cell phone tower is up at the stadium and the lights are back on. Beginning next week, when students are out of school, the drilling for the piers for bleacher construction will continue. The district has already received its money for the project, which will go into a permanent improvement fund. Dr. Johnson noted that the amortization on the one cell tower, over 30 years, is \$1.6 million, "a very significant amount over time," he said.

. The Board approved a first reading of a policy pertaining to school ceremonies and observances/patriotic exercises. The proposal, an update to a previous policy, adds language regarding the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next meeting:

The Board will hold its next regular meeting on Wednesday, 1/13/2010 at 6:30pm in the Cassingham Community Room. Preceding this meeting is the Board's annual organizational meeting, at 6:00pm, also in the Community Room.

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.