

BOARD MEETING OVERVIEW

Bexley City School District

348 S. Cassingham Road, Bexley, Ohio 43209



NEXT MEETING - Regular Meeting - Monday, 3/8/10 - 6:30 p.m. - Cassingham Community Room

- Board Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- Superintendent's Report on ADK Waiver and Staffing
- Bexley Middle School Report
- New BHS English Course
- Public Comment
- Board Deliberation on ADK
- Social Studies course of Studies
- Other Items

The Bexley Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, 2/8/2010 at 6:30pm in the Cassingham Complex Community Room. All members were present.

Board Reports

. Board President Joan Fishel, who attended her first Bexley Education Foundation meeting last month, noted the upcoming BRA VO! fundraising event: Saturday, 2/27/2010, 7:00 – 11:00pm at the DSW Headquarters near the airport.

. Board Member Craig Halliday confirmed that the next Tech Roundtable meeting is Monday, 3/1/2010, with participants looking at future technologies.

. Board Member Carol Fey reported from today's PTO Council meeting, noting that each school has created an event to raise funds for Haitian earthquake relief. She asked that the district improve access to event calendars.

. Board Member Diane Peterson noted that the Junior Thespian production of *The Wizard of Oz* is this weekend, Thursday through Saturday, 2/11-13/2010. Some 100 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are participating in cast and crew. The district's Partnership Council meets on 2/18/2010.

. Board Member Marlee Snowdon reported that the Rec Board is working on developing summer offerings and a brochure.

. Student Representative Rebecca Carroll described Homecoming Week activities, noting the basketball game's postponement until this Thursday and the dance being moved to the BHS gym. The girls' soccer

team will be feted at a community celebration set for 7:00pm on Wednesday, 2/10/2010. BHS classes are competing in a "Hands for Haiti" fundraiser, as part of homecoming activities.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Chris Essman presented the January report as well as the Income Tax settlement information for January. He pointed out the large amount of 2009 tax refunds due to taxpayers paying estimated taxes that turned out to be too high. "We're essentially fat, down \$1.4 million for this year," he said of the district budget. "We will receive \$4.7 million [in income tax revenue] this year, versus the \$6.2 we forecast. We have probably hit the bottom, but I don't see much of a recovery this year."

The July income tax settlement is the largest of the year, probably about 40 percent of this year's income. Mr. Essman noted the causes of decline in tax revenue: people moving residence (a permanent loss) and the overall economy.

He provided an update on the state budget, saying that 6-7 percent of the state's budget is federal stimulus money that will go away after FY2011. "Going forward, we will never get another new dollar from the state," he stated, noting that \$4.1 million out of Bexley's total \$28 million budget is from the state.

Superintendent's Report on ADK Waiver and Staffing

Superintendent Mike Johnson presented the proposed Application for All-day, Every-day Kindergarten Waiver for the 2010-2011 school year. He added language to the end of the resolution that the Board is considering tonight: the words "due to economic reasons" were added to the end of the resolution. He also drew the Board's attention to the required plan for ADK implementation for fall 2011.

Dr. Johnson also commented about the retirements listed on the Board's agenda. There will be an attrition/reduction in first grade in school year 2010-2011 at Montrose, as well as a number of HS retirements. The district will replace the retiring HS math teacher and

one of the retiring English teachers. “We could take advantage of additional attrition at the high school, but we would have to make decisions about programs,” he said.

Dr. Johnson commented that Dr Hyland and staffers are continuing to develop job descriptions for all academic supplemental positions that will be brought to the Board for approval.

Bexley Middle School Report

Principal Harley Williams made the school’s annual report to the Board. “We have a lot of things we can celebrate as successes and we also have several items that we need to work on,” he said, reviewing test data. “Our teachers work hard at what they do and we have a lot of parent support. We’re such a small school that we try to keep it intimate.”

BMS is one out of 105 U.S. middle schools authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) world school. Mr Williams described the school’s formula as including “rigorous expectations plus high levels of support.” The school devotes time to the arts, as well as spending about 40 hours each year on advisory activities, helping students learn to collaborate and experience community service.

“We rarely talk about test scores; we talk about how can we create an environment where students are successful,” he said.

Mr. Williams reviewed several developing initiatives: Response to Intervention; Fitness Testing; video conferencing as a tool for enrichment; IB Re-verification; online unit planner for teachers to share with each other; Staff Meeting Collaboration Protocol; and STEM initiative.

Response to Intervention means high quality instruction/ intervention matched to student needs, using learning rate over time and level of performance to make important educational decisions that guide instruction. “The intensity of support increases depending on how a student is performing against his/her peers. Monitoring happens about every one to two weeks, maybe even more frequently with our highest need students,” he said of the RtI model.

Physical education teacher Jeff Landis is assessing 7th graders’ fitness levels and tracking their exercise programs as part of an effort to promote healthy eating and fitness. Students earn awards and recognition for performance.

BMS purchased \$30,000 worth of video conferencing equipment using last year’s STEM grant. Mr. Williams showed several recent uses of this equipment, noting that teachers are just beginning to consider all the ways it can add value to educational experiences.

Mr. Williams talked about implementing an online unit planner for staff as a way to help teachers share their expertise and ideas and collaborate with each other.

“STEM has really tied IB together for us. We are more integrated in our approaches, more interdisciplinary ,” he concluded. “We are tying together skills that we want students to have.” The STEM grant has paid for professional development sessions at Metro High School and time with a STEM coach. He described the yearlong projects underway in seventh and eighth grade and noted that the skills students use in these projects are challenging to measure. Consequently, teachers are developing rubrics to help with these assessments.

New BHS English Course

Dr. Anne Hyland presented a proposed addition to BHS English Department course offerings that will replace some of the current semester elective courses. Representing her fellow faculty members, teacher Julie Horger spoke about the proposed single-year course that will strengthen the 12th grade English experience and include literature, writing, and college readiness aspects.

She said that the teachers reviewed college freshman-level courses – many of which include elements of contemporary cultural analysis -- to develop the new one. The new course will eliminate three of the existing electives (Media and Culture, Contemporary Lit, Humanities). She said that the new course will offer a better capstone to the HS English program and a more solid foundation in reading and writing skills necessary for college. Brit Lit, Creative Writing, Journalism and WINGS electives will remain part of the curriculum.

Later in the evening, the Board approved the new course.

Public Comment

Parent Dana Adler spoke in support of ADK. “I can see no reason to delay,” she said. She noted the upcoming state mandate for ADK, that Bexley has the space, that Bexley educators support ADK and the fact that parents who do not want their children to attend all day can pick up their children in the middle of the day.

Cassingham teacher Sonja Hutchison remarked that Ohio’s state standards are written for a full-day kindergarten program while Bexley only has a half-day

program. "It's very difficult to get in all of these areas in the time we have," she said. Commenting on the areas in which seventh and eighth graders are falling short, presented earlier in the evening, she noted, "Science and social studies get the shortest shrift in the early grades and that's where our middle school students' scores are lowest."

Jenni Goldson, a Bexley graduate with two children in the school system, indicated her support of ADK. Fred Meister, who served as a Board Member and will shortly have grandchildren in the Bexley Schools spoke: "You will have enough money to do the right thing for the community. Don't get tangled up in the funding. Don't use that as an excuse. If it's not your priority, say so. Be honest with the people who put you here. It's their money."

Susan Zanner, former Board member spoke: "All the years of processing and surveying have brought us to this point. The Board members are charged with handling resources of our citizens. ... We do have an upcoming levy and I would encourage all of you to get involved. This is not about one teacher, about one program; it's about supporting the entire operation of our district and all of our children K through 12. This community is far too smart to base their votes on one program."

Michael Flamm, a new resident with two preschoolers spoke in support of ADK. "Education delayed is education denied for a significant number of students in our community," he said.

Mr. Halliday read a statement from Steve and Tracy Parson that described ADK as "overkill" given the economic situation, Bexley's college placement statistics and the fact that there is no measurable long-term benefit to ADK. "Sometimes more isn't better, it is just more," he read.

Board Deliberation on ADK

Ms. Fishel noted that she is back to where she was two years ago, in supporting ADK, and that Bexley may well be one of the few districts not to apply for a waiver. "I simply can't say we are not able to do this, because we can do it," she said. Ms. Fey added that Bexley strives for academic excellence and this should begin with the youngest learners.

Mr. Halliday read a statement, defining his reasons for supporting the waiver. He said school levies are the only time when we find out whether we have the approval of the marginal voter, who will never come to a Board meeting to state his/her objections. "Moving forward

on a controversial program initiative in a levy year will come back to haunt us," he said. He likened approving ADK today to deciding to remodel the kitchen when you have a job review coming up.

Ms. Snowdon encouraged the Board to act as leaders on ADK: "Research supports it, teachers and administrators desire it, community members vigorously support it and now the state has mandated it." She noted that the district would get a four percent increase in programming at an expense of less than one percent.

Ms. Peterson indicated her support of the waiver, saying that this vote is not a referendum on ADK. The Board decided to not seek a waiver from the state, determining that all-day kindergarten in Bexley will go forward starting in fall 2010.

Social Studies Course of Studies

Dr. Anne Hyland, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented a K-12 course of studies for Social Studies. She noted that the state is probably going to change the standards and has decided to eliminate assessments in social studies altogether. Highlighting some features of the new course of study, she said teachers looked at every grade level and defined things that students absolutely must know; it also includes overarching understandings. The Board approved the course of studies.

Other items

- . The Board accepted with gratitude gifts from the Kastan family and Kristin McMahan.
- . Dr. Barry Zwick, Director of Operations, reported that an application for a federal government program discount is due this week. Bexley applies every year for about \$25,000 in discounts for Internet access and long distance phone service.
- . Ms. Peterson acknowledged the vast amount of experience that will be leaving the district with the retirement of several staffers: Peg Antle, Janice Yoder, Lorraine Hilton, Denise Novak, Linda Douglas, Margaret Engelhardt, and Margie Harris.

BOARD REPORTS

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.