

BOARD MEETING OVERVIEW

Bexley City School District

348 S. Cassingham Road, Bexley, Ohio 43209



NEXT MEETING - Regular Meeting - Monday, 8/23/10 - 6:30 p.m. - Cassingham Community Room

- Board Reports
- Financial Report
- Library Trustee
- CISV Presentation
- Technology Report
- Board Policies
- Other Items

The regular meeting of the Bexley Board of Education was held on Monday, 7/19/2010 at 6:30pm in the Cassingham Complex Community Room. All were present, except the Student Representative.

Board Reports

. Board President Joan Fishel thanked Anne Lewis and volunteers of the Bexley Celebrations Association for producing this year's July 4th events.

. VP Craig Halliday reported that next year's Tech Roundtable meetings will be held quarterly on these dates: 9/14 and 12/14/2010, 3/8, and 6/8/2011.

. Board Member Marlee Snowdon attended the July 7 Bexley Rec meeting. An estimated 4,500 attended the Capital University evening fireworks and other activities. The community Labor Day picnic is Sunday, 9/5/2010 and will include lunch. Ms. Snowdon and Superintendent Mike Johnson, along with community members, are working over the summer months on the district's Health and Wellness policy.

Financial Report

Treasurer Chris Essman noted that the district is trying to wrap up its full budget for 2011FY. He pointed out a reduction in state revenue of two percent, or about \$84,000, that has started with the first payment in July.

He highlighted a couple of items from the end of FY2010, specifically comparisons between projected and actual figures for the general fund. The revenue figures are pretty close, with a difference of some \$118,000. The end of year balance numbers showed about \$441,000 more than projected. Mr. Essman said that the biggest savings is in the purchase of natural gas where the district spent \$245,000 less than the amount appropriated, due to Dr. Zwick's negotiated contracts.

"This is good news for the bottom line and for this fall's levy and next levy," said Mr. Essman.

Mr. Essman answered a question about the outside tuition line item: "We get a report from the state that shows how we get billed in different ways for tuition. We could have a student move into the city of Bexley and attend a charter school without our ever knowing about that until the state tells us."

Library Trustee

Ms. Fishel introduced Alan Radnor, from the Bexley Public Library Board of Trustees, who presented a nomination for a new trustee, Denise Mathews to replace Library Board member Rocky Saxbe who is resigning. Ms. Mathews is a 19-year Bexley resident, a magistrate and the BHS PTO president with four children in the Bexley Schools. Mr. Radnor noted that the library trustees serve seven-year terms and it is now posting library board positions when they become available. Ms. Fishel stated the Board's appreciation for Mr. Saxbe's service and Ms. Mathew's willingness to step forward.

CISV Presentation

Sara Resek, Cassingham teacher and co-founder of the Central Ohio chapter of CISV, spoke about the organization, Children's International Summer Village. "One Step Closer" Village, the first hosted by the Central Ohio's chapter, is currently being held in Bexley.

She thanked Bexley Schools for hosting the village, which includes 11-year-old children from 11 different countries; teen junior counselors from five countries and adult staff members. Some 46 Bexley students have participated in the programs over the past few years, according to Ms. Resek. Village Director Scott Brown, a Hilliard teacher, introduced several of the students, including Gustav from Denmark who spoke in English of his appreciation of the good food offered at the village and his favorite activity, a trip to the Columbus Zoo and Zoombeezi Bay.

Ms. Fishel applauded the CISV students' willingness to try something new and different and a little scary.

"Bexley was an ideal place to start this program," said Ms. Resek, expressing gratitude for the support she has received from Superintendent Johnson and BHS Principal John Kellogg. "We couldn't have asked for a better cultural experience for these students."

"This took a lot of trust on your part and the Village has gone really, really well," CISV chapter co-founder Lynn Vottero said to Board Members.

Technology Report

Paul Ross, district Technology Director, noted that the district has been through a 30-month period of change since his arrival in June 2007. The district has replaced operating systems, desktops, servers and network infrastructure; installed SmartBoards "almost everywhere."

"We've applied a systems thinking approach, looking at technology as linked elements," he said. He also listed some of the mistakes made along the way, especially in the areas of timing and overextension of personnel. "We're trying to find the right balance where we can work effectively but at the right level," he said. "We want to be succeeding and innovating, but also maintaining everyone's sanity."

He said that the district's faculty, residents, and administrators support the work of his department, while acknowledging that trying to forecast trends and expenses three years out is a challenge. Based on what he hears from colleagues in other districts, Mr. Ross confirms that Bexley is excelling in all areas.

Mr. Ross listed the department's highlights for 2009 – 2010:

- . expanding PowerSchool use;
- . deploying One Call Now system;
- . implementing Sakai, a collaborative learning environment;
- . remodeling of the faculty's Tech Training;
- . upgrading a third of the network infrastructure;
- . introducing conferencing via Skype and Life Size HD;
- . piloting the successful Citrix program to provide teachers with access to IEPs at home;
- . concluding the district-wide shelving project (he noted that 195 classrooms will be finished by 7/20/010);
- . streaming news shows across the network instead of using TVs.

He described the interesting and unlikely Chicken Watch project, in which the district broadcasted web cam of the ENL class chicken eggs (and then chicks) 24 hours a day for nine days this spring. The department counted over 5,500 sessions from 72 countries, with most viewers coming from the United States and viewers in China right behind. The average viewing time was 53 minutes.

The shelving project, started in 2009 with a grant from Lowe's, has increased utilization of classroom space and helped the custodial staff who now need less time to clean and wax floors in classrooms because they don't have to move the furniture holding the technology equipment.

Mr. Ross discussed how the district makes data driven decisions for academic achievement, with the Inform system providing access directly or integrated into PowerSchool. The district supports this with training provided at staff meetings and after school. In some cases, staff members have investigated data, revealed errors in processing and corrected inaccurate assumptions made by service providers. "We are really digging into the data. 'Why is this one student not making the kind of score we would expect?' We are down to individual student level," he said.

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Mr. Ross attended a recent Sakai 2010 International conference in Denver and made many connections with other schools and universities that are using Sakai. He appreciated learning where other institutions are heading

with the system. Many colleges are moving away from Blackboard and going with Sakai, such as Ohio's Miami University. The Tech Department conducted an eTech Ohio summer institute workshop training about how to administer and install Sakai.

The district is offering many training opportunities for Bexley faculty members and next year's plans include engaging in discussion about what kind of support the classroom teachers need. Some examples of planned tech training in August are: Technology Enable Activities for K-2 (the department has found a lot of good resources in this area); Sakai Digital Learning Environments: the assessment Tools; Video and Audio Production/Services (K – 12).

Mr. Ross listed some recent technology trends, such as Cloud Computing; 3D visualization technology; gaming technology, with free resources like Scratch and Microsoft's Kodu, designed for grade five and up; the move away from perpetual licenses; portable personal operating environments (PPOEs). He said that wireless infrastructure will be a hot topic for the Technology Roundtable this year; he will seek input from the community in this area.

The district will implement Windows 7.0 progressively over next year, while also considering alternate systems. The first Tech Roundtable meeting is set for 9/14/2010 from 6:30-8:00pm in the Tech Room, with topics including wireless infrastructure and Internet filtering. Mr. Ross plans to collect ideas from community, faculty, staff and students.

Ms. Peterson complimented the effectiveness of the Tech Department, even though it operates with only five staff members. Ms. Fishel praised Mr. Ross's enthusiasm and willingness to work with his colleagues.

Board Policies

Dr. Anne Hyland, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, drew Board members' attention to the latest revisions to several proposed policies. Ms. Snowdon noted that one requested change still needed to be made to the policies concerning reporting of child abuse and food allergies. During the discussion, she amended the language to the former.

Ms. Fey and Ms. Peterson said they want the district to strive to be latex free and peanut free – but the district should not represent itself as absolutely free of these items. Mr. Halliday said that the district should not be making policy about what parents can send into school; schools can plan celebrations but administrators can't check everything that comes in, nor does the district want them to do this. Ms. Fey said that the district should focus on education in the area of celebrations, given that 20 percent of students have the potential for a strong allergic reaction to these items. "It's appropriate to have some guidelines when the item being brought in is for general consumption," she said. Ms. Fishel suggested two amendments to the food allergy policy and encouraged the Health and Wellness committee take up the issue.

Ms. Fey asked questions about the policy on Administering Medicines to Children. Dr. Hyland clarified that state law requires an annual update to a student's prescription. Ms. Fey requested that the district post forms on the web site to make them more

accessible. If the school is to administer non-prescription medication, then the parent must deliver the medication and the instructions to the school. This procedure does not preclude students taking their own non-prescription medicine while at school. Both Ms. Fey and Ms. Fishel asked that the policy include language about students not sharing any kind of medication. They also would like to open up a discussion about whether this should be included in the Student Code of Conduct. The Board agreed to alter the resolution concerning this particular policy to call it a "Second Reading" and make revisions for an further reading next month. All resolutions were approved.

Other Items

. The Board accepted with appreciation several gifts including musical instruments from Ms. Fey and one or two books from each CISV delegation attending the program.

. Dr. Barry Zwick updated the Board on several projects, saying that the cleaning and repairing is going forward even though the staff had only 50 days to get everything done. The shelving project work on woodwork at Maryland is completed. He thanked his staff for their hard work.

. The Board approved replacement computer workstations for Montrose and Maryland and units at BMS and BHS.

BOARD REPORTS

Bexley High School - September 2010

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