

MSD of NEW DURHAM TOWNSHIP

School Board Public Hearing

Minutes of February 9, 2022

Executive Session: None

Those in Attendance:

Board Members

Wayne Hodge

Mark Parkman

Lynn Wilson

Karen Jedrysek

Staff

Dr. Sandra Wood Superintendent

Absent

1) Call to Order

Mr. Parkman, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call

4) Blackhawk Pride/Good News Report

The Blackhawk pride recipients spoke about why they are proud to be a Blackhawk. Those that attended the meeting are Avery Glass 4th grade, Wesley Lancaster Kindergarten, Hayley Sommer 6th grade, Chase Olsen 1st grade, Mallory Glanz Kindergarten, and Laila Koch 1st grade.

Gavin Hutchison and Jasmin Hussain read the Elementary Good News Report.

Michael Malloy read the Secondary Good News Report.

William Smith presented on behalf of the CTE department.

Toni Biancardi won Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Biancardi teaches Middle School/ High School Business Vocational.

Jane Bachman won Classified Employee of the Month. Ms. Bachman is the High School Secretary/ ECA Treasurer.

The mission of MSD of New Durham Township is to ***Inspire, Challenge, and Educate!***

5) Community Input

Branden Nimtze – Followed up from last meeting with concerns with face masks and quarantine.

Stephanie Fenters – Spoke on behalf of WTA regarding concerns with HB 1134 bill and Senate Bill 356. Mrs. Fenters asked the board for their support to rally against the bills.

6) Superintendent's Report

Covid update: county level at a level red (highest level). We do see a drop in positive cases within our community. Currently we have 2 active cases with 0 students and staff quarantined.

7) Solar Update

Dr. Wood went over the NIPSCO bills for January and February. There are some inconsistencies with our bills because of the error that occurred with our January bill. As noted January's bill shows 6 weeks of service and February's bill shows 2 weeks of service. Difficult to compare the two months to previous years. Zero credits were on February's bill. Dr. Wood spoke with Performance Services to see why this may have occurred. They mentioned the panels may have produced enough to run the building, but not enough for a credit outside of what is being used.

Presentation by Performance Services Solar Annual Year 3. It was stated by Tony from Performance Services year 3 we are at 79% of what they had predicted for year 3. Year 3 had many challenges. Challenge 1: June 2021 through October 2021 the system was offline. Challenge 2: November 2021 through February 2022 communication down. Performance Services is currently working on communication issues. They mentioned changing from a wireless system to a hardwired system should have fixed the communication issue. They did this at their cost. However, it did not fix the issues.

Dr. Wood ask about the issue with snow on the solar panels causing communication problems and production. Performance Services will look into this issue; they plan on going back to the manufacture to ask why this is.

Dr. Wood also brought up the point, that after the snow melts and the weather is nice and sunny the inverters are still down. According to Cal from Performance Services, snow should power off communication, but they should still be producing. As the snow melts they should turn back on. Performance Services will look into this issue as well.

A question was brought up regarding if Michigan City Schools were having the same issues. Their system was installed the around the same time with Performance Services. Performance Services responded, they haven't heard Michigan City having these issues, but will contact them and follow up.

Dr. Wood ask the question, at a certain point if we continue to have issues with our communication and inverters. Is there going to be a point where we say we have a bad system and go back to the manufacture and replace the system? She then stated, a system only operational for 3 years, with the level of issues we had come up, has been excessive. Tony from Performance Services stated that there is a 10-year warranty and they've been replacing inverters as issues come up. Tony also mentioned that they would have to see what it takes to go back to the manufacture to have all the inverters replaced. Tony will look into that and follow up.

The second half of the presentation Cal went over our electric consumption. Cal mentioned it was hard to gather all the data because of all the communication issues we've been having. He had to go to each individual inverter and track it. Cal went over a couple of graphs. The first graph compared the base electric usage (before solar panels) to reporting year (with solar panels). Cal focused on our total electric cost we want to see that going down and has been going down. After analyzing the bill Performance Services saw an increase in our building consumption. The second graph shows our utility bill versus Kronos website (system they use to show the amount of sunlight per day). Cal said we could also track the meter day to day to get an accurate reading.

Mrs. Wilson stated her concerns with the project. Mrs. Wilson stated: as a board member I am very upset and would like to see everything changed out. We are asking a lot of Todd and Sandra; this isn't working as it was projected to work.

Mr. Parkman wanted to make aware a few key points. 1. On the original paper work that Performance Services handed to them, it states right here on a monthly basis our performance insurance engineers will download the run times and analysis the utility data. 2. If there is any variance to the agreed upon schedule or utility cost, you will review with your client. There were 11 inverters out not producing any power. We were not notified.

To back up Mrs. Wilson's concerns our projection was to make \$164,751.00 off of our system. Our bill for is \$166,000.00 off set the solar and electricity with the payment. We were supposed to be \$20,000.00 in the positive in the first year. Your paper work said we produced \$147,979.00 worth of electricity. Mr. Parkman ask the question: If NIPSCO had us off grid is there a way to go back to NIPSCO and say our school lost that money? Is there a way to produce the proper information to recoup some of that money back? Tony said this is hit or miss, but he will follow up with our superintendent. Tony stated that the monitoring system is another proposal called the Performance Guarantee, which we didn't sign up for.

Dr. Wood ask Performance Services: So not everything in this binder ended up in the final contract? (Dr. Wood was not Superintendent when solar panels were proposed) Tony said, yes not everything in our proposal was selected and signed off. Mr. Parkman asked Performance Services if they have monitoring firms they work with; could you pass that along to our superintendent.

Followed by a series of questions and answers.

**8) Approval of January 12, 2022 School Board Minutes
Approval of January 31, 2022 Work Session Minutes**

Mrs. Wilson made a motion to approve the School Board Minutes as posted and Mr. Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9) Personnel

A. Resignations

B. Recommendations

C. Volunteers

*No action needed as there were 0 Resignations, Recommendations, and Volunteers

10) Appointment of New Board Member to fill Board Vacancy

The School Board of Trustees appointed Seth Clinkenbeard to fill the board vacancy position.

Mrs. Jedrysek made a motion to approve Seth Clinkenbeard as the New Board Member and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11) Professional Leave Requests

*No action needed as there were 0 Professional Leave Requests

12) Donations

*No action needed as there were 0 Donations

13) Approval of DECA State Conference

*Overnight Trip

Mr. Parkman made a motion to approve the DECA State Conference trip and Mr. Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

14) Approval of Contract Boyce / Komputrol Web Based Software

Mrs. Wilson made a motion to approve the Contract Boyce / Komputrol Web Software and Mrs. Jedrysek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

15) Approval of 2022 -2023 Academic Calendar

Mrs. Jedrysek made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

16) First Reading, NEOLA Policy Update 34-1 and Technology Policies

*No action needed at this time

Approval of Resolution to Transfer Amounts from Education Fund to Operations Fund

Mr. Hodge made a motion to approve the Resolution to Transfer Amounts from Education Fund to Operations Fund and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

17) Financials

Mr. Parkman made a motion to approve the Financials and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried

18) Correspondence

Mary Pointon – Thank You card, for the board, for sending flowers.

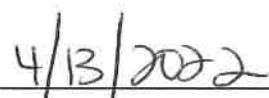
19) Adjournment

Mr. Parkman adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.

Next Regular Meeting Date:

Wednesday March 9, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center


Lynn Wilson, Secretary


Date