

JAY/WESTFIELD JOINT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday March 8, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.  
AT THE JAY/WESTFIELD SCHOOL

Board members in attendance: Sally Rivard, Myra Alix, Jeff Morse, Kevin Amyot, Chad Prue, Kristy Pillsbury

Administration/School Personnel in attendance: Kristy Ellis, Principal; Tara Morse, Bookkeeper; John Castle, Superintendent; Rebecca Velazquez, Recording Secretary.

I. At 6:11 pm the J/W School Board meeting was brought to order by Kristy Ellis

II. Kevin Amyot moved to approve the Minutes of February 9, 2016. Chad Prue seconded the motion, and the vote carried.

III. Discussion of 2016 Town Meetings

Information/Discussion:

A. Kevin Amyot introduced Kristy Pillsbury, elected to the Westfield School Board. Kristy is mother to two students at Jay/Westfield Elementary School and expressed excitement about being part of the School Board. The Board gave her a warm welcome.

B. Kevin reported that no Westfield resident expressed interest in being Westfield's representative on the NCUHS Board. He stressed how important it is that Westfield has representation on the High School Board and expressed disappointment that the seat remains vacant.

C. Sally Rivard asked Kevin and Chad about Westfield's reception to the prospect of NCUJHS Union District Membership. Kevin reported that it was positive. He noted that a Selectperson asked, "how much more representation would we get?" After learning that they currently get no representation at all, the Selectperson strongly favored the decision to join. John Castle and the Westfield Board agreed that they would plan a vote for Election Day in November. John will work to get approval votes on the ballots of all NCUJHS Union District member towns. Kevin, Chad and Kristy Pillsbury plan to hold informational forums for residents prior to that vote.

IV. Board Reorganization

Discussion:

A. John Castle wanted to confirm that the Board would like to move forward with the change to bylaws regarding representation on the NCSU Full Board and Executive Committee. The Supervisory Union attained a variance that would allow the Jay and Westfield School Boards to each have 2 representatives and 1 alternate on the Full Board. Each School Board would also have 1 NCSU Executive Committee member, Policy Committee member and Negotiations Committee member.

These changes effectively double the number of Jay/Westfield Board members able to attend the meetings and give each individual Board representation. John Castle stated that the SU does not see this as "a power grab," but rather a way to encourage attendance and participation.

John acknowledged that if Jay and Westfield wind up creating a Joint School District, the number of Full Board representatives and Executive Committee members would decrease again. He wondered if the Board would still like to move forward with the increase knowing that it may decrease again in the future. The Board confirmed their desire to move forward with the changes to the bylaws. They would rather not lose the opportunity for increased representation, especially if a Joint School District is not created in the near future.

Actions:

A. Sally Rivard moved to enter into Recess in order to hold the individual Jay and Westfield meetings. Myra Alix seconded the motion. Recess began at 6:31pm. Recess adjourned at 7:02. Board Reorganization commenced.

B. Jeff Morse nominated Sally Rivard for Chairperson. Vote called by Kristy Ellis. Sally Rivard elected unanimously. Sally called all remaining votes.

C. Jeff Morse nominated Kevin Amyot for Vice Chairperson. Vote called. Kevin Amyot elected unanimously.

D. Jeff Morse nominated Chad Prue for Clerk. Vote called. Chad Prue elected unanimously.

E. The Newport Daily Express was designated as official newspaper.

F. Jay/Westfield Elementary School, Jay Town Clerk's Office, Westfield Town Clerk's Office, Jay Country Store, Westfield General Store and Westfield Recycling Center were designated as Posting locations.

G. Regular meeting dates and times were established as the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

V. Superintendent's Report:

Information/Discussion:

A. Upcoming Meetings

1. John Castle urged attendance at the upcoming Legislator/School Board Education Forum. Local legislators will be present to discuss the future of cost containment and governance, two matters that John considers serious issues for the SU and local School Boards. The meeting will take place at the Career Center on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm.

2. John Castle encouraged attendance at the Annual Meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the High School library. The meeting will include breakout conversations about such matters as the State's push for "fewest districts practicable" and the general functioning of the Supervisory Union. John feels there is a strong case to be made, to the State, that "the SU does a great job at educating [their] children."

3. John Castle noted that, in preparation for these meetings, surveys will be sent to local School Board members and administrators. They will include perception questions along with data collection.

B. Joint School District Timeline

1. John asked the Jay/Westfield Board if they would be pursuing the creation of a Joint School District. He wondered if they might be able to put it on this November's ballot, at the same time as Westfield's move to join the NCJHS. The Board felt strongly that pushing both at the same time would hurt, not help their chances at passing either. They also expressed their own desires to fully look at the Pros and Cons of a Joint School District before pursuing one.

2. All agreed that Act 46's call for "the fewest districts practicable" makes this matter more pressing. The Board, John and Kristy Ellis expressed a desire to consolidate on their own terms if mandated consolidation appears imminent.

3. Sally Rivard asked if Kristy could go through the procedure of creating a budget for both scenarios in order to really understand where the sticking points would/could be.

4. The Board felt that one of the biggest sticking points would be transportation costs. Jay currently pays to bus their Junior High students to their doors and Westfield does not. John said that a mock budget could use a doubling of Jay's current transportation budget as a rough estimate. John Castle added that Act 46 calls for the centralization of transportation. The SU has a waiver until 2018.

5. Sally Rivard asked if population fluctuation could be examined within a Joint Union District structure, in which there is no differentiation between students living in Jay or Westfield. Kristy mentioned that the Jay/Westfield School Board could always just change the bylaws of their existing joint contract to address that matter.

6. Jeff Morse asked how many members a Joint Union District Board would have. John said that there would be 5 Board members. They would be elected indiscriminate of whether they reside in Jay or Westfield

7. John Castle said that he would consult with attorneys to see what dissolving existing contracts and creating a Joint Union District would entail.

VI. Executive Session: Sally Rivard moved to enter Executive Session at 7:38. John Castle, Tara Morse, Kristy Ellis and Rebecca Velazquez are invited to stay. Motion carried. Sally Rivard moved to exit Executive Session at 7:58. Motion carried.

Actions:

A. Jeff Morse motioned to regretfully accept the resignation of Ruth Klansky. Chad Prue seconded and the motion carried.

B. Jeff Morse motioned to retroactively increase Dawn Blau's pay rate from \$13.10/hour to \$14.10/hour in order to correctly reflect her confirmed degree. Chad Prue seconded and the motion carried.

C. Myra Alix moved to grant Donna Petit's request for 3 additional days of paid leave in the 2016/17 school year. Kristy Pillsbury seconded and the motion carried.

D. Kevin Amyot moved to give Kristy Ellis the authority to post an anticipated job opening for a School Nurse (0.4 FTE). Myra Alix seconded and the motion carried.

VII. New Business

Information/Discussion:

A. John Castle explained that the supplemental pay rate for licensed staff has not increased in, roughly, 16 years. It has been recommended that the current rate of \$24.00/hour should be increased to \$30.00/hour. The Supervisory Union would like this rate jump to take place incrementally over the next three years. Therefore, the Board would be approving an increase to \$26.00 with the expectation of future increases to \$28.00 and, finally, \$30.00.

John Castle also recommended a supplemental pay rate increase from \$12.00/hour to \$14.00/hour for support staff. Kristy Pillsbury asked if this rate could be expected to increase at the same rate as the licensed staff rate. John Castle said that he did not see another increase in the immediate future.

John Castle noted that Central Office would like these rates to be Supervisory Union-wide, but it is ultimately up to local governance.

Action:

A. Jeff Morse motioned to approve new supplemental pay rates of \$26.00/hour for licensed staff and \$14.00/hour for support staff. Myra Alix seconded. Vote carried.

VIII. Financial Reports:

Action:

A. Kristy Pillsbury motioned to approve the February 2016 Financial Statement. Chad Prue seconded and it carried.

B. Orders were reviewed and signed. General Fund check numbers began with #2908 and ended with #2953. Food Service check numbers began with #106 and ended with #114.

IX. Other Business:

Discussion:

A. Kevin Amyot proposed formal recognition of Loren Petzoldt's 18 years of service to the Jay/Westfield School Boards. The Board agreed that some special gesture is in order. Ideas were brainstormed.

Action:

A. Chad Prue moved to adopt the revised policy D.1 Personnel: Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Checks for Staff. Kevin Amyot seconded the motion and the vote carried.

X. Future Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting:

A. April 12 at 6:00pm is confirmed by all as the next Board Meeting date.

B. Agenda Items will include a Discussion of the Pros/Cons of creating a Joint Union District.

XI. Adjourn : Kevin Amyot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38. Vote carried.

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<i>Legislator/School Board Education Summit</i>	Monday	March 21	6:30pm	NCCC Room 380
NCSU Full Board/ Annual Meeting	Thursday	March 24	6:30 p.m.	NCUHS Library
Jay/Westfield Board	Tuesday	April 12	6:00pm	Jay/Westfield School

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Velazquez  
Recording Secretary