

JAY/WESTFIELD JOINT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday May 10, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.
AT THE JAY/WESTFIELD SCHOOL

Board members in attendance: Sally Rivard, Kevin Amyot, Myra Alix, Kristy Pillsbury

Administration/School Personnel in attendance: Kristy Ellis, Principal; Rebecca Velazquez, Recording Secretary.

I. At 6:06 pm the J/W School Board meeting was brought to order by Sally Rivard

II. Kristy Pillsbury moved to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2016. Kevin Amyot seconded the motion, and the vote carried.

III. Congratulations, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens, Meeting Reports

A. The Board congratulated Kristy Ellis on the excellent Spring Concert. Kristy Pillsbury said that she and her family were so impressed with the music program. Kevin Amyot added that he felt lucky to have Wendell Hughes on staff as music teacher. Kristy Ellis reported that a few children who opted out of performing in the Christmas concert chose to participate in the Spring concert. She also said that having teachers join in on harmonica, banjo, and other musical instruments really made it a special evening.

B. Kristy Pillsbury shared that her 6th grader has really benefitted from having the Pre-K program in the building. She said that it makes her daughter's school day more exciting and fulfilling at a time when she is anxious to move on to Junior High.

C. Kevin Amyot reported on the recent Executive Committee Meeting. He expressed concern that after school programs seem to be in jeopardy. Kristy Ellis noted that they will be losing Medicaid funds for their after school program, which is why she made sure to include the program in this year's budget.

IV. Financial Reports:

Actions:

A. Kevin Amyot motioned to approve the April 2016 Financial Statement. Myra Alix seconded and it carried.

B. Orders were reviewed and signed. General Fund check numbers began with #3044 and ended with #3177. Hot Lunch checks ranged from #115 – 121.

C. The Board reviewed and signed the voided check register. Checks #3143-3147 were voided due to wrong check stock. Replacement checks were #3168-3170.

D. Kristy Pillsbury motioned to approve necessary borrowing to cover payroll and NCSU assessments prior to the collection of taxes. Myra Alix seconded and it carried.

V. Principal's Report:

Information:

A. Upcoming Events

1. Each year, the boards sends the school staff out for lunch at the Jay Village Inn on the last day of the school year. Kristy was asking if this was still the plan for this year.

B. Grounds and Facilities

1. Kristy Ellis will move forward with getting State approval to go off chlorination for water testing. This will begin the last student day and last for six weeks.

2. Paul LeGrand, custodian, would like to stay at 40 hours per week. Kristy Ellis supports this request, noting that he handles custodial responsibilities and all maintenance. She sees him as a great asset to the school environment and the building itself, which is only getting older. Any additional support this summer would be for waxing and, possibly, painting.

C. Visits

1. Kristy welcomed principals from other schools into Jay/Westfield for visits this month. She said that they were “blown away” and could notice certain behavior in the students that the staff had actively been trying to cultivate. It was beneficial to see an outside perspective on the school, students and success rate.

Action:

A. Kevin Amyot motioned to grant Kristy Ellis permission to take the staff out for lunch at the Jay Village Inn on the final day of school. Myra Alix seconded and the motion carried.

VII. Unfinished/New Business:

Information/Discussion:

A. Hot Lunch Program

Kristy Ellis reported that 61% of Jay/Westfield students now qualify for free and reduced lunch. The community has hovered at 49% in the past. Kristy recommended taking another look at the Community Eligibility Program now that the number is high enough.

There was a general discussion about the impact of poverty on student learning and teacher preparedness. Kristy Ellis feels that the responsive classroom works to mitigate some of these effects, but feels that there are skills needed by teachers now that were not as necessary years ago.

B. Paraprofessional Position

Dawn Blau will be leaving Jay/Westfield for work in another field. Kristy Ellis used Dawn as an example of a skilled and dedicated paraprofessional who falls short of teacher certification only because she has not fulfilled the “student-teacher piece.” Kristy said that she and John Castle both have an interest in non-traditional pathways to certification. Kristy expressed regret that Dawn will be moving on, citing the level of trust and respect she has earned from the students she works with.

C. Lunch Tables

The Board reviewed the estimate that came in from the third vendor, Shiffler. Their quote was higher than W.B. Mason’s. Kevin Amyot noted that Derby was very happy with the product and installation service of W.B. Mason.

D. School Nurse position

Kristy Ellis reported that there has been little interest in the School Nurse position. John Castle has recommended contracting through the hospital. Sally Rivard asked for Kristy Pillsbury’s opinion about why there would be no interest. Kristy P. noted the huge pay cut a nurse would get working at the school versus the hospital. She cited a “just out of college” nurse’s starting salary as \$23 per hour and

thought that offering something comparable may help. The Board explained that salary is a Union issue and expressed disappointment that they are unable to negotiate the nurse’s contract directly.

Kristy Pillsbury also explained that contracting through the hospital could entail a group of nurses splitting the shifts. The Board and Principal all agreed that having one person, with whom the children grow comfortable, is much preferred.

Kevin Amyot asked if they were having the same trouble filling Special Ed positions within the SU. Kristy Ellis said that 10 of the 13 open positions have already been filled.

E. The Board will wait to review Central Office’s position on a common support staff policy until John Castle is present.

Actions:

A. Kevin Amyot moved to approve the purchase of \$50 Visa Gift Cards for Dawn Blau, Jodi Fortin, and Ruth Klansky. Myra Alix seconded and the motion carried.

B. Myra Alix made a motion to approve W.B. Mason as the vendor for purchase and installation of lunch tables. Kevin Amyot seconded and the vote carried.

C. Myra Alix motioned to approve advertisement for a paraprofessional replacement. Kristy Pillsbury seconded and the motion carried.

D. Kevin Amyot motioned to approve increasing the custodial position to 40 hours per week. Myra Alix seconded and the vote carried.

E. Kristy Pillsbury moved to approve the hiring of summer custodial support, not to exceed 40 hours. Kevin Amyot seconded and the vote carried.

IX. Future Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting

A. June 14 at 6:00pm is confirmed by all as the next Board Meeting date.

B. Agenda Items will include Support Staff Recommendations (dependent upon John Castle’s attendance), Playground discussion, Hot Lunch prices and Community Eligibility Program. Loren Petzoldt will be invited to be honored during Public Comments.

XI. Adjourn : Kevin Amyot moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm. Vote carried.

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	May 26	5:30 pm.	NCSU A213
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	May 26	6:30 pm	NCSU A209
Jay/Westfield Board	Tuesday	June 14	6:00pm	Jay/Westfield School

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Velazquez
 \Recording Secretary