

BOARD MEETING OVERVIEW

Bexley City School District

348 S. Cassingham Road, Bexley, Ohio 43209



NEXT MEETING - Regular Meeting - Monday, 12/14/09 - 6:30 p.m. - Cassingham Community Room

- Board Reports
- Presentations
- Financial Report
- New Legislation
- All-Day Kindergarten
- Public Comment

All Board members were present for the Bexley Board of Education's regular meeting on Monday evening, 11/16/2009 at 6:30pm in the Cassingham Complex Cafe.

Board Reports

. Vice President Joan Fishel attended some of the sessions at the Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA) annual meeting last week. She noted, one in particular, about Board Docs, an electronic system that she plans to research. She also praised the successful fall sports teams. "We can take great pride in the way our athletes represent our school and the community," she said.

. Board member Steve Grossman indicated that many are waiting for the legislature's action on school funding

. Board Member Craig Halliday attended the recent Tech Roundtable meeting concerning Tech Department activities. The next meeting will be 1/4/2010 at 6:30pm to discuss a broad vision of what the schools will look like in five years. Tech Director Paul Ross said that about 75 staff members have subscribed to the new acceptable use policy, allowing broader access to more web sites than has previously been available.

. Board Member Diane Peterson said that the next Partnership Council meeting is in February. The Bexley holiday Pancake Breakfast is set for Saturday, 12/12/2009 at Jeffrey Mansion. She said that the Rec Department's Jeffrey Shop Hop last week raised funds for scholarships. Student Representative Rebecca Carroll recognized the success of athletic teams and the tremendous school support. "The community support was outstanding and really meaningful," she said.

"We can take great pride in the way our athletes represent our school and the community" - Joan Fishel

Presentations

Kristin McCarthy, representing the state School Board and the Ohio Department of Education, presented a banner and offered congratulations regarding Bexley's earning an "A+ Excellent with Distinction" rating for the ninth year in a row. Bexley is one of only 38 districts statewide receiving this rating for nine or more years.

Superintendent Mike Johnson and Board President Andy Sutter presented the district's Star Thrower Award to Bexley High School science teacher Scott Logsdon, for being named Franklin County's 2009 Conservation Teacher of the Year.

Financial Report

Chris Essman, Treasurer, noted that the district audit started today. The school district has received the last payment for 2009 and it is about 22.8 percent down for the calendar year. The five-year forecast as given in October stays about the same.

New Legislation

Dr. Johnson drew the Board members' attention to several recent legislative actions that may require the school district to enact or revise policy. Jarod's Law has been repealed, but the district continues to expect a commitment to children's safety. As per recent legislation, the schools will formalize activities regarding student allergies and create a policy.

Bexley already offers fee waivers for students qualifying for free and reduced lunch; the district will plan to expand this in accordance with new state law. The state is going to ask districts to form Family and Civic Engagement teams. "We are still trying to understand this particular requirement," he said. Bexley must formulate a policy on Community Service and decide whether to require it as part of graduation.

All-Day Kindergarten

Dr. Anne Hyland, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, noted that she has provided Board members with

information on the all-day kindergarten (ADK) program that the district plans to begin in fall 2010, as required by the state. The current Ohio Content Standards will be adopted until others are approved. The Bexley elementary schools have identified space to use for all-day kindergarten. A committee of residents and staffers had developed a classroom schedule that is the working framework for the proposed schedule. The school district must adopt the program in December, at the latest, in order to identify staff and prepare for next fall.

Dr. Johnson noted that he plans to present enrollment figures to the Board in January and recommend staffing patterns in February. "It will be difficult to plan and attract the best teachers if we wait until the spring or summer," he said. He also noted that members of the community have been contacting him about ADK, as they must commit or make deposits to other all-day programs. Bexley cannot ask for a waiver to postpone ADK implementation, because the schools have been able to identify facilities. "Our community has deliberated on this several times over the last decade and indicated that we are ready," he said.

Although anything can come out of the legislature in the coming weeks, Bexley must proceed according to the law that currently exists. Dr. Johnson indicated that administration expects to spend \$250,000 per year to introduce ADK. Mr. Sutter noted that the district will not receive any additional funding from the state to pay for ADK. "We should consider this another unfunded mandate," he said.

"As we plan for the implementation of all-day kindergarten, we will need to factor in adding more teaching time for P.E., Art and Music. We're going to provide a full-day program with heavy emphasis on literacy in the morning. If a parent wants to have their child in the program half day, we will let them know what curriculum the child will be missing. To create a half-day program for very few children will be too costly," said Dr. Johnson.

Public Comment

Bexley resident Mike McKinney spoke in response to a letter written by BHS staffer Al Corn about the recent BEA negotiations that recently appeared in local newspapers. Mr. McKinney said that, contrary to Dr. Corn's point, the salary and benefits Bexley teachers have been earning indicate that the community and the Board have considerable respect for the teachers. He said the conduct of the Board's negotiations showed its respect for the community; and he appreciated the work of the Board in negotiating a contract with the teachers.

Other items

- . The Board gratefully accepted several gifts, including musical instruments that will be made available to students who cannot afford to rent or buy instruments to participate in band or orchestra.
- . The Board approved a textbook adoption and several fundraising activities in addition to an extended field trip for the BHS AP Environmental Sciences class.
- . Board members voted to confer the status of "Community-Based Athletic Clubs" to girls' and boys' club lacrosse teams, per the terms of the recently passed Board policy in this area.

JANUARY BOARD DATE CHANGE

The Board's January organizational and regular meetings have been changed to Wednesday, 1/13/2010 starting at 6:00pm in the Community Room.

BOARD REPORTS

Bexley Middle School - February 2010
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.