

Special Session – 14-13
May 12, 2014

President Bennett called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. in the High School Panther Meeting Room and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Treasurer called the roll:

Mrs. Jennifer Bennett, President – Present
Mr. Patrick Santelli, Vice President – Present
Mr. Rob Knight, Member – Present
Mr. Jason Sams, Member – Present
Mrs. Cindy Webel, Member – Present

Also present were:
Mr. David Dunn, Superintendent
Mrs. Stephanie Hagenbush, Treasurer

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

14-93 Mr. Santelli moved that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

Mr. Sams seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs.Bennett,Mr.Knight,Mr.Sams,Mr.Santelli,Mrs.Webel
NAYS: Motion Carries – 5-0

BOARD BUSINESS

Discuss Graduation Procedures:

Mrs. Bennett – Reviewed the procedure for speakers at graduation – the board followed this procedure. The Valedictorian was not selected as a speaker and has asked for a change to the procedure - if not this year, for next year. At the last meeting, the Board voted against allowing the Valedictorian and Salutatorian to speak.

Mr. Knight – Prior Valedictorians have asked to speak in the past; Valedictorian thought she was able to speak, misunderstanding.

Mr. Sams – There is not a policy. It is not changing for one student - Had no message or call against this; still for her speaking.

14-94 Mr. Sams moved that the Board of Education allow the Valedictorian to speak at Commencement for up to 5 minutes.

Mr. Knight seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mr. Knight –This has spiraled out of control. Has respect for committee process; meet in the middle and make all happy so all win.

Mrs. Webel – There is a change offered from committee; came from Graduation Committee.

Mr. Sams – Mr. Knight wanted compromise; her speech is 4.5 minutes.

Mrs. Bennett – Spoke with the family and they agree with 2 minutes.

14-94 cont. Mr. Santelli read proposal from Graduation Committee:

The 2014 Class Valedictorian will be offered the opportunity to address the Senior Class after she is recognized as the Class Valedictorian.

The Top Ten Students will be recognized from tenth to first place. After the Valedictorian receives his/her medallion and plaque, the High School Principal will take a moment to say a few words about the student. He will introduce the Valedictorian, who will be allowed to deliver a pre-approved address to her classmates. The printed address should be no more than two minutes long and delivered in writing to Mrs. Ward: Senior Class Advisor, and Mr. McBride, no later than Tuesday, May 27th, for editing and/or approval. Additionally, the Valedictorian must present his/her address verbally to Mrs. Ward and Mr. McBride at that time.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mr.Knight,Mr.Sams

NAYS: Mr.Santelli,Mrs.Weibel,Mrs.Bennett – Motion Fails 2-3

Discussion:

Mr. Santelli – Initial vote was not against Valedictorian; worked with committee to compromise to allow her to speak; it was vote to maintain the process and not to undermine committee.

14-95 Mr. Santelli moved that the Board of Education accept the proposal from the Graduation Committee.

Mrs. Weibel seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mr. Sams – Appreciate Mr. Santelli going to committee; will continue to support her speaking.

Mr. Matt Housley – 1982 Valedictorian Sandy Suppan – thought Valedictorian should get to speak; He has petition from change.org with 343 signatures; states Valedictorian should have opportunity to speak; read a few comments – thinks by definition Valedictorian should have opportunity to speak; how do we grow without change; need to challenge to make changes; people make changes – Please reconsider your decision – Sorry people were not nice and disrespectful – Board has his complete respect, proud to be from Norton – need good change.

Mrs. Bennett – Address Valedictorian– please know this is not directed to her – it’s at procedures.

Ms. Krawczck – didn’t think she was “featured” speaker – thought as Valedictorian she had a right to speak.

Mr. Housley – President gets to speak, not fair

Pat Milhof – both sides are digging in – need to make compromise – doesn’t know why we don’t do this – please change for future- time to change procedure.

Mr. Sams – appreciate people coming to talk- recognize not easy to do – believe only have best interest of district at heart – thanks to Board for coming back to reconsider this.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mr.Sams,Mr.Santelli,Mrs.Weibel,Mr.Knight

NAYS: Mrs.Bennett – Motion Carries 4-1

ADJOURNMENT

14-96 Mr. Santelli moved that the Board of Education adjourn the Special Session at 9:20 p.m.

Mr. Sams seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mr.Santelli,Mrs.Weibel,Mrs.Bennett,Mr.Knight,Mr.Sams

NAYS: None – Motion Carried 5-0

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“Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the provisions of Policy and Regulations of the Board of Education which was adopted in accordance with §121.11 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Procedures Act.”

Jennifer Bennett, President

Stephanie Hagenbush, Treasurer