

JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BETWEEN THE
HADLEY-LUZERNE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND THE
CORINTH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT @ Corinth
Monday, October 7, 2013

MINUTES

Meeting Place: Corinth Central School, High School Library, 105 Oak Street, Corinth, NY
HL Members Present: Mr. Othmer, Mr. Hanlon,
Corinth Members Present: Ms. Boni-O'Neil, Mr. Coltrain, Mr. Lueck, Mr. Lozier, Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Lockhart, Ms. Baker,
HL Members Absent: Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Novotarski, Mrs. Visscher
Corinth Members Absent: None
Others in Attendance - HL: Hadley-Luzerne Superintendent of Schools– Paul Berry, HLHS Principal – Beecher Baker, SMTMS Principal – Patrick Cronin, and 13 others.

Others in Attendance - Corinth:
Superintendent – Dr. Starr, CMS Principal/CSE Chair – Ms. Lisa Meade, CHS Principal – Mr. Brian Testani, CES Principal- Mrs. Steimle, Corinth School Business Administrator – Mr. John Hales, Corinth Student Board Member, Mr. Blake Basmajian and District Clerk, Helen Bardin.

CALL TO ORDER

President Boni-O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME

Ms. Boni-O'Neil welcomed everyone to meeting for the purpose of discussing the sharing of services. The agenda was set by both the superintendents and presidents at a joint meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Starr announced that the vandalism incident doesn't detract from what we're trying to accomplish which is exploring ways the two districts can collaborate.

CONSENT AGENDA – CORINTH

Corinth conducted business.

SHARING OF COURSE OFFERINGS UPDATE

Hadley-Luzerne High School Principal Beecher Baker noted the two districts are sharing high school classes and special education services. Two Hadley-Luzerne students signed up to take a forensic science class that is being taught at Corinth, however, the low number of students seems to be a matter of logistics as opposed to student apprehension about going to another school district.

For most students, the special course offerings didn't fit into their schedules.

Corinth High School Principal Brian Testani said both schools plan to promote the course selections more this year. He wants to hold events in which students can walk around to different tables displaying information about courses offered, in the form of a fair, modeled in a similar format as the college fairs.

Two Corinth middle school students attend classes at the Stuart M. Townsend Middle School for a specific program. One has since moved out of the district, as noted by CMS/Principal CSE Chair, Lisa Meade.

Other topics were discussed, such as duplicating course offerings to open up schedules; distant learning verses course sharing, substantial cost of distant learning, transportation, student scheduling concerns, and advertising on both district websites of the course offering fairs. Course offerings will go out to all high school students again in December, along with advertising about the fairs, in time to set up January schedules.

It was noted there are no plans to merge the districts, but the schools are exploring all ways they can share services so students have continued and improved programs

The goal is to increase the opportunities for all students, while trying to contain the costs as best as we can. Neither district is charging the other for the services. Currently the sharing is a "gentlemen's agreement." The cost/enrollment of the Corinth middle school students will be offset by five Hadley-Luzerne teachers taking a free training workshop at Corinth in therapeutic education.

GRANT STATUS

Hadley-Luzerne Superintendent Paul Berry noted the districts submitted a joint application in March for a \$50,000 shared services grant from New York Department of State, but that we have not heard back. Contacts with the state will not give a time line for their final decision.

THOUGHTS ON SHARING SERVICES

Board members talked about building a joint bus garage.

Corinth Superintendent Daniel Starr said state officials told him the best strategy would be for the district that receives more building aid to construct the garage and lease space to the other district.

Sharing transportation services was discussed since the districts are so close to each other. Some of the bus routes cross one another and efficiencies could be made in the setup. The districts could share a transportation supervisor and/or buildings and grounds supervisor when one retires. The districts could also save money through joint purchasing of supplies and equipment such as lawnmowers.

There was discussion on the importance of protecting jobs when services are shared. There were varying opinions on the issue, and it was noted the important issue was student programming.

Mr. Othmer suggested having Hadley-Luzerne join forces with Corinth in girls' soccer. Hadley-Luzerne is having difficulty recruiting enough girls to field modified, junior varsity and varsity soccer teams. Discussions on this topic continued and it was concluded that a report be given at the next joint meeting in January, with the numbers, student feedback and the opinions of the principals and athletic directors.

In addition, the board members asked that Dr. Starr report back on the issue of a joint bus garage, it's funding and a map of routing suggestions so the board members could have clarity on the issue.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Comments were made on the topics of privatization, retirements, attrition, sharing employees, giving appropriate support for shared staff, job descriptions, not cutting current staff, combining purchases for bulk

purchasing and equipment, better quality equipment, too much state control, health insurance, cutting staff, opportunities for students, field hockey, girls soccer, youth soccer feeder program, youth soccer participation (Corinth Community Youth Soccer Coach), the damage caused by eliminating JV sports (Corinth Soccer Coach), opinions of students, shared athletics – could drive shared services (Corinth Community Youth Soccer Coach)

COMMENTS FROM CTA, CSEA, ASU

Larry Deso, Varsity Soccer Coach, Corinth; Thanked everyone including the Corinth Booster Club and attending board members for the successful Corinth Cup Soccer Game.

Louise Carney, Corinth; Thanked everyone for sponsoring the meeting and noted the community and budget support that Corinth Board members have received and continue to receive. She noted they should not feel, in any way, backed into a corner.

Jeff Fedor, Corinth; Thanked and noted the very successful Annual Food Drive conducted by the CTA.

ADJOURNMENT

The board members unanimously adjourned the joint meeting for a Corinth executive session at 8:14 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: _____
Regina M. York, District Clerk