

**SUSSEX TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 15, 2007**

Call to Order

Board President Richard Lewis called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m. in the district office boardroom.

Attendance

Present: President Richard I. Lewis, Vice President Charles H. Mitchell, Patrick J. Cooper, John E. Oliver and Randall E. O'Neal.

Also attending: Dr. Patrick E. Savini, Superintendent; Dr. Sandra M. Falatek, Director of Instructional Services; Dr. A.J. Lathbury, Director of Support Services; Terry B. Little, Director of Facilities and Operations; Linda P. Putz, Business Director; Dr. John Kreitzer, Director of Adult Education; Curt Bunting, Principal; Carolyn O'Neal, Public Relations; and Bryan Denbrock, 2007-08 Teacher of the Year.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

An invocation prayer was provided by Mr. Mitchell and was followed by recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

The board unanimously approved the agenda as presented. Motion/second (O'Neal/Cooper).

Approval of Minutes

The board unanimously approved minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting as presented. Motion/second (Cooper/O'Neal).

Recognition of 2008 Teacher of the Year, Bryan Denbrock

Mr. Lewis presented a certificate of recognition to Bryan Denbrock and congratulated him on being selected Sussex Tech's 2008 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Denbrock will be recognized by the Department of Education at its annual statewide "Teacher of the Year" banquet in Dover on October 23rd.

Adult Education Report

Dr. Kreitzer reported:

- Adult Ed enrollment is currently 1225.
- A representative of the Division of Long Term Care (the state's certifying agency) conducted a site visit of the Nursing Assistant program on September 26th. Her written follow-up report was very complimentary of the program. She was extremely impressed with the equipment and supplies in the new clinical lab. The program coordinator, Donna Racine, was also praised for her level of organization and the successful outcome rates of completions and certifications. The program received recertification with no problems being cited.
- The Department of Education has become more flexible in terms of how transcripts of previously earned credits are analyzed and interpreted, which is proving helpful to students entering the Groves program. Additional changes/improvements are expected to be implemented in the near future.

- The WIB (Workforce Investment Board) program has provided tuition funding for 16 nursing students thus far. A WIB class for Maintenance Mechanics started with nine students, and recruitment has begun for another class that will begin in November.
- Enrollment in the newly designed medical program has been very good, and four sections of the introductory class have been scheduled.
- Apprenticeship trade classes began earlier this month. The Industrial Maintenance Mechanic program will not be offered due to lack of enrollment.
- Adult Ed recently completed the revision of a safety orientation program for Invista in Seaford. The narrated PowerPoint program is required for all employees and contractors coming on-site. Additionally, other ongoing Invista training projects include assessments for new hires, the assessment of current employees for advancement, DOT training, EPA training, and wastewater training.
- A Nursing Assistant program for Genesis' Milford Manor has been completed. Employees are recruited and hired by Milford Manor, and then they report to Sussex Tech for 75 hours of classroom instruction. The clinical component is conducted at the medical facility with one of Sussex Tech's instructors. The Genesis corporate office has contacted Sussex Tech to conduct classes for two more groups of new hires. The classes are planned for mid-November and December.
- Adult Ed was contacted by Perdue in Georgetown regarding provision of an ESL program for their employees.

High School Report

Mr. Bunting highlighted high school activities for the month including:

- JROTC's drill team participated in the County's 9-11 memorial service at Delaware Tech.
- On September 14th, approximately 70 JROTC cadets participated in CHEER's Beach Day Walk in Rehoboth and were successful in collecting \$7,400 for Sussex County Senior Services, Inc.
- On October 23rd, JROTC will have a formal inspection by their higher command. The inspection is held once every three years, and the unit hopes to obtain the status of Honor Unit with Distinction. Board members are invited to attend the inspection, which will begin at 8:45 a.m. in the gym.
- With the help of P.E.P. (Providing a Positive Environment for Play) club advisor, Lisa Swan, Sussex Tech is one of three schools in the nation to be named an "All-American Sportsmanship School" by the Institute for International Sport. Earlier this year, Sussex Tech was also selected as one of seven Delaware schools named as 2006-07 State Champion in Sportsmanship by the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) Sportsmanship Committee.
- Auto Body teacher, Jim Friedel, has been named national "Teacher of the Year" for the I-Car curriculum.
- Earlier today, the school experienced a brief lockdown situation. A staff member reported a suspicious person in the parking lot and a school lockdown was immediately implemented. Investigation revealed that the person was an Adult Ed student who was waiting for a ride, and the lockdown ended after about 10 minutes. A statement has been issued regarding the incident.
- Parent Open House was held on Thursday, September 13th.

- Sussex Tech’s FFA Environthon team (Heather Baker, Cat Richards, Eddie Meade, and Mason Newark) competed at the “Big Eastern Expo” in Springfield, Massachusetts and won 3rd place in the Big E competition. In individual standings, Mason won 2nd place and Eddie was 9th. Mason will be representing Sussex Tech at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October.
- Spirit Week was held during the week of October 5-12 with special student activities featured each day. The homecoming football game against Dover High School was held on Friday, October 12, and the homecoming dance took place on Saturday, October 13.
- Dozens of Sussex Tech student have received certificates of accomplishment from the Department of Education for receiving 5s on the Grade 8, Grade 10, and Grade 11 DSTP tests conducted last spring.
- Upcoming events include:
 - October 26 – SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference will be held in Dover.
 - October 29 – First marking period ends.
 - November 3 – 8th Grade Open House

Mr. Cooper praised Ms. Carolyn O’Neal for keeping Sussex Tech “in the forefront” by submitting so many news releases to the press.

Facilities and Operations

Mr. Little provided an overview of the status of ongoing construction projects:

- Distributive generator installation -- #0640A – Delivery is scheduled for October 19th and will necessitate closing the parking lot adjacent to the district office. Alternative parking arrangements have been made for that day.
- Sewer connection to Georgetown -- #0640A – Construction plans have been received and locations on Sussex Tech property are being finalized with the engineers. The Town of Georgetown will be advertising for bids in the near future.
- Kitchen floor replacement -- #0640B – Pending door installations, this project is substantially complete.
- Roof replacement project -- #0640B – Metal trim has been delivered and is being installed on the 300 wing.
- Renovations to 300/400 wings and classroom addition to replace modular classrooms -- #0740B – Work continues with French & Ryan on design details. The classroom and science lab layouts are ready to be sent to the next phase of the engineering process.

Mr. Little provided photos of the new athletic field fencing, relocation of the gym propane tanks, and progress on the RAC office.

Instructional Services

Dr. Falatek:

- Provided an overview of the 2007 Science and Social Studies DSTP scores including a comparison of Sussex Tech scores from 2000 through 2007.
 - Social Studies – The number of students meeting or exceeding the standard was up nine percentage points in 2007 vs. 2006 (64.26% vs. 55.85%) with improvement seen in all content areas except Civics, which was down slightly

from last year. Dr. Falatek pointed out that Sussex Tech's scores mirror results seen throughout the state. No district has been able to surpass the 66 percent mark for meeting or exceeding the standard in Social Studies. This problem will be referred to the Social Studies Coalition. Hopefully, that group of administrators will forward it to the attention of the Department of Education for review and analysis.

- Science – The percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standard in Science has increased steadily from year to year. The 2007 scores reflected that 74.91 percent of the students met the standard, which was up from 72.83 percent last year. Student success was attributed, in part, to the training offered by the Science Coalition which allows teachers to receive comprehensive training on high-school level science modules that articulate directly with Delaware's Science Content Standards.
- Reviewed handouts comparing the science and social studies scores of all 19 school districts. The percentage of Sussex Tech students meeting or exceeding the standard in Social Studies was 64.26, which was the third highest in the state. In Science, 74.91 percent of the students met or exceeded the standard, which was second highest of the 19 districts.
- Disaggregated data of the Science and Social Studies DSTP test results (i.e., African American and white, low income and non-low income, and special ed and regular ed) will be shared at next month's meeting.

Finances

Mrs. Putz:

- Requested approval of August 31, 2007 monthly financial reports. Motion/second (Mitchell/O'Neal). Unanimously approved.

Personnel

Dr. Lathbury:

- Requested acceptance of the resignation of Noel Lenhart, Even Start Coordinator – Adult Education, effective October 5, 2007. Motion/second (Cooper/Oliver). Unanimously accepted.
- Requested approval of the following After-School Security Guards. Motion/second (Oliver/O'Neal) Unanimously approved.
 - Veronica Hall
 - Robert Coleman
- Requested board approval of Jon Hearn as a volunteer who will help with the volleyball program. Motion/second (Oliver/O'Neal). Unanimously approved.
- Requested board approval of volunteer one-on-one tutors for James H. Groves. Motion/second (Oliver/O'Neal). Unanimously approved.
 - Judith Carpenter
 - Charles Miller II
- Requested board approval of the following winter coaching positions. Motion/second (Oliver/O'Neal). Unanimously approved.
 - Scott Layfield, Head Coach Varsity Wrestling
 - Tom Shaffer, Assistant Coach Varsity Wrestling

- Kurt Schneck, Head Coach JV Wrestling
 - Richard Norwood, Assistant Coach JV Wrestling
 - Jared Allen, Assistant Coach JV Wrestling
 - A.J. Brooks, Assistant Coach JV Wrestling
 - Matt Donahue, Assistant Coach JV Wrestling
 - Joe Thomson, Head Coach Varsity Boys Basketball
 - Matt Spence, Assistant Coach Varsity Boys Basketball
 - Art Perry, Assistant Coach Varsity Boys Basketball
 - Troy Ricketts, Head Coach JV Boys Basketball
 - Greg Hockman, Assistant Coach JV Boys Basketball
 - Lisa Swan, Sportsmanship Coordinator Boys Basketball
 - Wesley Townsend, Head Coach Varsity Girls Basketball
 - Jay Maull, Assistant Coach Varsity Girls Basketball
 - Shelley McLane, Head Coach JV Girls Basketball
 - Eric Callaway, Assistant Coach JV Girls Basketball
 - Sharon Liebal, Varsity Winter Cheerleading Coach
 - Kathy Smith, JV Winter Cheerleading Coach
 - Marty Cross, Head Coach Winter Track
 - Lou Nicoletti, Assistant Coach Winter Track
- Requested board approval to hire Edward B. Seibert as full time business director effective January 3, 2008. Motion/second (Cooper/O'Neal). Unanimously approved. Mr. Cooper questioned if Mrs. Putz would be available after January 3rd to help with the transition of the new business director. Mr. Lewis commented that arrangements have been made for Mrs. Putz to continue working as long as she is needed.
 - Informed the board that the Consolidated Grant review went well and it appears as if it will result in no recommendations be made by the Department of Education.

November Board Meetings

Mr. Lewis reminded the board that the November meeting will be held on November 19th due to the Veteran's Day state holiday being observed on November 12th. The November meeting will begin at the usual 4:30 p.m. starting time.

Items for Information

- Mr. Bunting reminded the board that Honor Society induction will be held on Friday in the gym.
- Thank you notes were shared:
 - Greenwood VFW Post 7478 and Ladies Auxiliary – JROTC participation at the POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 22nd.
 - Delmarva I-Car Committee – Use of Sussex Tech's automotive training facility.
 - Dean Johnson Family – flowers sent at death of Dean's mother.
 - Kevin Elzie Family – flowers sent at death of Kevin's mother.
- Copies of recent newspaper articles highlighting student and staff activities were distributed for the board to review at their leisure.

Executive Session

At 5 p.m., Mr. Cooper moved that the board go into executive session to discuss legal matters pertaining to a hotline concern and an update on the Dorothy Houlihan case. The motion was

seconded by Mr. O'Neal and unanimously approved. Executive session ended at 5:14 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Patrick E. Savini, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary