

DATE: January 26, 2010
WHERE HELD: Pashley

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham
Patre Kuziak
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Kelliher
James Maughan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and 7 others.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the January 12, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 4-0

Privilege of the Floor

Dorie Mac Arthur spoke on behalf of the Burnt Hills Ballston Lake Education Foundation presenting a list of all of the grants given to date. She also provided details about the 2009 Fall grants awarded and being presented for Board approval tonight. Dorie described the type of discussion that occurs to make the decision to fund these opportunities. The philosophy is to provide funding for new opportunities and generate excitement in learning. She thanked people for their donations and participation in the Taste of Burnt Hills fundraiser at the High School.

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Speck seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.

Motion carried 4-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the probationary appointment of Nancy Pearse, Assistant Principal at the Middle School, effective 1/27/10; the temporary appointment of Kathleen McManus, Health (.6 MS/.4 HS), effective 2/15/10-3/13/10; the Tenure appointments of Lindsay Armbruster, Dante DiPrimio, Lauren Mattison, Michele Moynihan, Carrie Neary, effective 9/1/10 & Sharon McTygue, effective 3/26/10; the Driver Education appointments of William Cassidy & David Ruetsch at \$34.95/hour; the approval of the leave of absence of Kimberly Harrison, Grade 3 at Pashley, effective 3/4/10-5/7/10, Lindsay Armbruster (extended), Health, effective 2/15/10-3/13/10; Diane Clary, Special Education at Stevens, effective 3/3/10-6/1/10; Monica Hills, Grade 6 at the Middle School, effective 3/22/10-5/10/10; the approval of the following substitute teacher/nurse appointments: Laura Bartlett, Katie Bartone, Brandie Bratton, Anthony Cimino, Brittany Coleman, Erin DeKorp, Andrea DeWitt, Mary Gonzales, Albert Lansing, Amanda Meliosky, Laura Mulvey, Janel Nickol, Kristina Pawlusik, Kathleen Portelli, Heidi Renaud, Kara Risley, Jessica Serviss, Jessica Waterstram, Jeanna Wiegert; the approval of the contract services appointment of Susan Joki, Occupational Therapist - \$65/hour, effective 1/11/10-2/12/10; and the approval of the following tutors - \$25/hour: Sheri Donnelly, Jillian Donohue, Patricia Greenwood, Tracey McQuay, Cecilia Oballe, Rebecca Ripley, Christina Smith.

Motion carried 4-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the civil service personnel action as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the ratification of the CSEA Contract 2009-2013.

Motion carried 4-0

Elizabeth Herkenham arrived at 7:55 PM.

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the acceptance of the Grant Awards from the BH-BL Education Foundation.

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Contract for Health & Welfare Services with South Colonie CSD.

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the Property Assessment Tax Exemption for Low Income Senior Citizens & Disabled Citizens.

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the gift of \$3,000 from the Friends of Music to the Music Department for the April trip to Virginia.

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for the Varsity Basketball Cheerleaders.

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.

Motion carried 5-0

Budget

- **Finance Committee** - John Blowers reminded us about the Finance meeting on Thursday at the High School. We will be talking about the preliminary rollover budget, revised version of core beliefs and premises relating to the budget process, the public forum, and the legislative task force.
- **Public Forum** - The Finance meeting will be the last chance to touch base before the public forum at which we will conduct our first virtual town meeting. Practice is Thursday at noon for a dry run.
- **Legislative Task Force** - We will also discuss the initiatives for our legislative task force. John asked if there was a way for people to participate right now to register their concerns. Christy Multer responded that the School News Notifier will be used for communications. John Blowers will be testifying on behalf of the BH-BL Board next week at the Joint Legislative hearing on the State budget. He provided a handout of the points that will be made on behalf of our Board. We need to spend time creating a list of the specific impact that the loss of state aid revenue will have on our programs and develop a true mandate relief position paper. Bob Speck will provide Board members with copies of past legislative issues that are still applicable for legislative lobbying efforts. John Blowers stressed how important it is to meet with our legislators face to face. One of the things that local area Superintendents would like to emphasize is the importance of a timely budget. Elizabeth Herkenham came across a New York Times article which will be shared in the next Board packet. In the article Governor Paterson states that the cuts to education will not be painful because public schools have reserves funds that can be tapped to fund the loss in State revenues. Using a school district's 'rainy day' fund is not a sustainable or fiscally responsible solution, and would leave schools without the resources to address any emergency situations that might arise.

Reports & Communications

- Bob Speck reminded the Board that at the last forum held prior to the bond proposition vote, it was difficult to limit the individual time allocated for audience members. He asked how will the upcoming forum be structured to prevent attendees from monopolizing the floor? The meeting will begin with a presentation of budget information and then breakout into small groups to facilitate questions with Board members. During the meeting, index cards will be provided so that audience members can write down any questions that they would like to have answered. Questions will also be taken from online participants and addressed during the meeting if possible.
- Elizabeth Herkenham mentioned the upcoming NYSSBA webinar meeting profiling the Syracuse School District and she will follow up on that and provide information to Board members.
- Jim Schultz reminded Board members about the Founders Day celebration and the upcoming Saratoga County School Board Association meeting. John Blowers is planning on attending the Saratoga County SBA meeting at which Shenendehowa Superintendent Dr. Robinson will be the guest speaker.
- Jackie St. Onge provided information on the District's data communication network and phone system beginning with the Microwave Tower project to the present. She described the work that was done and associated costs. Jackie reported on the required Safety Refresher Course for Transportation employees. A guest speaker from WSWHE BOCES gave a presentation entitled "Driving with Distractions." It was well received by the Transportation Department. Our School Resource Officer John Healy also presented some of his findings from a recent safety audit of the department. Jackie attended a fundraiser breakfast for the Burnt Hills Ballston Spa Hockey team. Bob Speck and Jim Schultz also attended. It was a wonderful event and the team did a great job serving patrons. Board member Patre Kuziak was working hard behind the scenes to make the event successful.
- Rick Evans reported on the progress being made by the Strategic Framework Committee. He drew attention to Nancy Pearse in the audience congratulating her on her recent appointment to the position of Middle School Assistant Principal. He thanked the BH-BL Education Foundation for their grant funds stating that he

has seen the impact of the materials from the grants in the classrooms. He cited one example in David Besozzi's classroom where he is using materials from the grant that he would not have been able to do without the funding. Rick talked about the staff development day and highlighted some of the activities. BH-BL staff will be well represented at the STEM Conference in Ballston Spa, taking advantage of the proximity of this event.

- Dorie McArthur, founder of the BH-BL Education Foundation and former BH-BL Board member, commented on the quality and commitment of Board members. The BHBL Board is the best!!!

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board