

DATE: November 10, 2009
WHERE HELD: High School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham
Tim Kelliher
Patre Kuziak
James Maughan
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, Paul Fedoroff, Jason Lasky, Andy Haluska, Tracy McCarthy, Lyndsay Rosa, Aimee Miller, Valerie Wadsworth, Raelene Noll, Mike Mosall, and Dan LeClaire.

7:00 pm – Prior to the regular Board meeting representatives from the Teachers' Association provided Board members with a handout citing the impact of budget cuts at the various building levels. Paul Fedoroff presented on behalf of the High School followed by Valerie Wadsworth on behalf of the Middle School. Lyndsay Rosa and Aimee Miller presented information on the impact at the elementary levels. Board members asked questions including given the budget cuts enacted, were these expected or unexpected outcomes. Feedback was received from Middle School parents regarding the absence of the security monitor at O'Rourke. Teachers were asked if they felt these cuts were sustainable or if instruction will be impacted.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:44 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the October 27, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachments

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 1

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the probationary appointment of Karen DeFuria-Marshall, Social Worker at the High School, effective 11/23/09; the approval of the temporary appointment of Janice Germain, Grade 2 teacher at Charlton Heights, effective 10/28/09-1/4/10; the acceptance of the resignation of Erin Rightmyer, 2 Social Studies teacher at the High School, effective 11/25/09; the approval of the leave of absence of Lindsay Armbruster, Health teacher at the High School/Middle School, effective 1/4/10-2/22/10; Marcy Raeder, Grade 2 teacher at Pashley, effective 10/26/09-1/18/10; and Carrie Sunkes, PACE Coordinator, effective 1/27/10-6/30/10; the approval of the winter coaching assignments, so noted on the attached list; the approval of the volunteer coaching assignments, so noted on the attached list; the approval of the substitute teacher appointments, so noted on the attached list; and the approval of the tutor appointment of Charles Bitley.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 2

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

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 3

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded the acceptance of a gift of a Grant Award from the BH-BL Education Foundation.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 4

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of a gift to the Music Dept. of a Wing Street Mark 10 Alto Saxophone valued at \$1,000 from Bob Van Vranken.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 5

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for the Varsity Wrestling Team.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 6

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the Report of the Saratoga & Schenectady County Tax Collector and the list of uncollected taxes.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 7

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

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 8

Privilege of the Floor – none

Montreal Trip

Raelene & Bonhomme, her French mascot, presented the itinerary and reasons for a proposed student trip to Montreal and Quebec City. The trip is open to all students in grades 10-12. A one to ten chaperone ratio is expected. Raelene addressed alternate plans pending a snowstorm. She answered questions from Board members about the cost, transportation and required documentation for students.

Board Self-Evaluation

Bob Speck discussed the process for Board self evaluation and how the results of the survey were compiled. His recommendation for an area of focus is to develop a more effective way for the Board to address their stated goals. Bob would also like to focus on legislative activities. Elizabeth commented that the formation of the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee will facilitate educational planning. Jim Schultz reminded Board members that we signed a contract with the Administrators that will re-examine job descriptions.

Budget Planning

Finance Chair John Blowers kicked off the budget development process for 2010-11. Three topics to be discussed were the schedule, context and budget objectives. John proposed the use of other electronic means of participation in the budget process, such as a virtual town hall, possibly to replace the first forum. Another suggestion was to do both a public forum with the availability to participate via electronic media. The benefit of holding a public forum is to hear the positions of all the various constituent groups. The first forum may be an opportunity to start asking the hard questions and get feedback from the community. Different methods of taking questions need to be explored for audio broadcast such as screening calls, moderating the questions and callers, etc. to ensure a respectful exchange. Another idea was to have the powerpoint available prior to the meeting for preview. Last year there was interest by the public to get involved in letter writing campaigns to legislators and do we want to further encourage and organize legislative activities? Next part of the discussion focused on the context for the 2010-11 budget. Jim talked about the emphasis on budget development using a two year perspective. Budget objectives were reviewed. New and different ways to provide expenditure data about the budget process are being considered.

Reports & Communications

- Bob Speck attended the Stevens PTA meeting at which he and Jim Schultz presented on the upcoming bond referendum.
- John Blowers updated the Board on the progress of the Strategic Planning Committee which has met five times so far. He reminded Board members that the survey is available until Friday and should be completed. Final product goal is for it to be useable. He gave Board members some information on how other local districts direct input to their School Board members.
- Patre Kuziak attended the O'Rourke Middle School PTA meeting and followed up with the bond presentation. There were concerns about the number of fundraising activities in the district. There are too many currently and should consider efforts to consolidate and coordinate activities. They will offer their suggestions to PTA council.
- James Maughan attended the Charlton Heights PTA meeting at which he presented on the bond referendum. He reported that it was well received by attendees.
- Elizabeth Herkenham met with SGO this month and discussions centered around how to improve Homecoming week due to poor turnout this year. She also attended the High School PTA meeting where she presented the bond referendum powerpoint.
- Rick Evans mentioned the need for an additional teacher assistant time for special education. He gave Board members a handout describing how the additional time would be structured. The added cost totaled \$70 per day. He mentioned that there may be a parent request for Tech Valley tuition reimbursement. The Board has not approved participation in Tech Valley; instead they have opted to allocate money to infuse technology into more classes. Rick reported that they have already received more than 150 applications for the Middle School Assistant Principal search and have received great input from parents and staff. A blog has been set up for the Education Council team to discuss *The Six Secrets of Change*, a book that they are reading. It is proving to be a great learning tool.

- Jackie included some information in the Board packet about the NYSERDA grant that was submitted. We were unsuccessful in securing funding for this round but we will revise and resubmit another energy efficiency grant. We will also seek to submit two photo voltaic projects under the renewable energy category with the help of our architects. These appear to be the majority of the type of projects that were successful. It appears that the available stimulus funding targets green initiatives that reduce the carbon footprint over energy efficiency initiatives.
- Jim Schultz attended the Veterans ceremony at the High School where the breakfast was hosted by our SGO students. Mike Mosall did a web cast of the ceremony for the rest of the student population. Jim met with other Schenectady County Superintendents where they received an H1N1 flu update. Statistics for this area were provided and it is tracking as expected. Plans are still being made for student immunizations and if that happens we may see a site in Schenectady County. There is expected to be a second wave later in the year. Jim will be sharing an information packet with our nurses and building principals from the recent pilots. He also reported that he will be sending a link to a video made by Roger Kopa's class at Pashley.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board