

**DATE:** November 24, 2009  
**WHERE HELD:** Charlton Heights

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**John Blowers**  
**James Maughan**  
**Joe Pericone**  
**Robert Speck**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Elizabeth Herkenham**  
**Tim Kelliher**  
**Patre Kuziak**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, Sharon McTygue, Ralph Rothacker, George Nevulis, Jill Bonacio, Jeanine Spade, Tim Sinnenberg, Dan LeClaire, Jason Lasky, and 10 others.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Maughan seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the November 10, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of a textbook.

Motion carried 4-0

See attachments

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the Tenure Recommendations of the following people: Lindsay Armbruster, Dante DePrimio, Michelle Martin, Lauren Mattison, Michele Moynihan; the approval of the per diem appointment of James Denney, Interim Administrator at the Middle School, \$420/day, effective 11/23/09; the approval of the temporary appointment of Nancy Pearce, 1.0 Dean of Students (from .6 to 1.0), effective 11/23/09, the approval of the leave of absence of Pamela Dintrone, Reading teacher at Pashley, effective 11/2/09-12/23/09; and the approval of the substitute teacher appointments so noted on the attached list.

Motion carried 4-0

See attachment 1

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

Motion carried 4-0

See attachment 2

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the student trip to Montreal & Quebec City from January 28-30, 2010.

Motion carried 4-0

See attachment 3

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Maughan seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.

Motion carried 4-0

See attachment 4

**Privilege of the Floor – none**

**Program Review – Special Education**

Rick Evans introduced the Special Education program review and thanked members of the department for coming to the meeting. Sharon McTygue began the presentation by providing Board members with a snapshot of the services and programs happening at each of our buildings. Currently there are over 500 students with educational disabilities in the District. She explained differences between integrated programs and self-contained programs in the context of least restrictive and more restrictive settings. Each school building offers resource room, consultant teacher services and related services including speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, and assistive technology. For each of the buildings Sharon described the staffing for the number of students served.

Board members had previously asked Sharon to address the question how do special education programs impact equity among the elementary buildings? Sharon and her department provided a number of responses describing the inequities that do occur between buildings. There is a disproportionate increase in class size and composition, fragmented related services, loss of instructional time, transfers out of home schools, and loss of classroom space for special classes. The next question addressed was what are the short-term and long range plans for Special Education programming in the District? Meetings with staff are held to determine staffing and space needs for specific programs as students transition up to middle and high schools. Sharon addressed the last question from the board. What are some of the most promising measures being taken to enhance instruction, programs, and student learning? The areas of focus for 2009-10 include consistent communication within the department, quality professional development on explicit literacy instruction, and increasing the number of functional behavioral assessments and

behavior intervention plans. Formal de-escalation and therapeutic crisis intervention training has been provided for faculty and staff working with students with behavioral difficulties.

Accomplishments of the special services staff include training on literacy and behavioral interventions, contributions to grade level content area teams, improved results on ELA/Math assessments, highest graduation rates for SWD's in the region, and low dropout rate. State target for dropout rate is 19% and ours is 7%. The Special Services department continues to seek ways to meet student needs so that they can achieve at their highest level and become productive citizens within the community. Stevens Principal Ralph Rothacker spoke about the challenges that they face with such a large number of special education students attending specific programs housed at Stevens versus serving these students in their own home schools.

Board members asked questions including are measures such as dropout rate and graduation rates the right way to assess the effectiveness of these programs and their impact on students. Sharon said that these are only a couple of the measures being used and that there are many other ways that are already in place. Another question was regarding recent legislation and whether there are some areas of focus to target for lobbying activities as we approach the budget process for the next couple years. How sustainable is our special education program based upon recent budget cuts? Sharon described the overall reduction in staffing due to budget cuts coupled with an increase in the number of programs.

### **Board Policies**

- Medicaid Compliance Plan – James Maughan explained recent changes in law that requires school districts to adopt a Medicaid compliance plan. Changes are a result of fraud, waste and abuse in New York State's Medicaid program. New York State is requiring mandatory compliance with two sections of law, 18NYCRR 521 and Social Services law 363-D. Districts must have a Medicaid compliance plan that addresses eight specific points which were included in the Board packet as part of the proposed sample plan. There was also language for a board policy to be acted on at the next meeting.
- Investment of Surplus Cash (P3230) - James highlighted points.
- Purchasing (P3600) - Both policies have been reviewed and no changes are recommended.

### **Board of Ed Communication Link**

There was a suggestion to make one electronic communication link available on the district website that would be forwarded to all board members. Discussion followed to address concerns that no single board member should be responding to emails. If a response is necessitated then it will come from the entire board. An automated reply should be crafted to indicate receipt of the email. There were concerns expressed about foiling emails that will be further investigated.

### **Budget**

Finance Chair John Blowers discussed the second draft of the context for the 2010-11 budget provided in the Board packet for discussion purposes. This document will need to be finalized prior to the end of January. Board members should review the budget context and objectives for discussion at the next meeting. John Blowers said that there seems to be consensus on having a blended forum that will include a virtual forum. He also provided a handout on forming a legislative task force to connect with the legislature to promote talking points developed by the district. Strategies to connect with other educational organizations on common topics to put kids first were considered.

### **Strategic Framework Update**

John Blowers reported that the committee met again last night. They have finished the data gathering phase with the closing of the survey input. Analysis process is pretty far along. Preliminary report will be provided in December and a final report will be presented to the Board in January. Rick Evans supports the extension of the timeline in order to process the data and commends the work of facilitator Linda Doherty.

### **Reports & Communications - none**

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Speck seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board