

DATE: December 15, 2009
WHERE HELD: High School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:
John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham
Tim Kelliher
James Maughan
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Patre Kuziak

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and 10 others.

Executive Session: 6:30 to discuss negotiations.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the November 24, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education, the authorization of a textbooks and the Internal Claims Auditor Report.

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Maughan seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.

Motion carried 5-0 (Mr. Blowers left the room)

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded the acceptance of the resignation of Sylvia Foster, .5 Occupational Therapist at Pashley, effective 12/24/09; the approval of the tenure recommendation of Carrie Neary, Grade 1 teacher at Pashley; the acceptance of the leave of absence of Robert Moore, Grade 5 teacher at Charlton Heights, effective 1/4/10-4/30/10; the approval of the substitute teacher/nurse appointments, so noted on the attached list; the approval of the Middle School Drama appointments, so noted on the attached list; and the approval of the mentor appointment of Kevin DeBonis.

Motion carried 5-0

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

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of Policy 3591 (Medicaid Compliance).

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the Contract for Health & Welfare Services with Saratoga Springs City Schools.

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for:

- a. Indoor Track Team
- b. Ice Hockey Team

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the acceptance of the Settlement Proposal from Utica National in the amount of \$1,335,464.65 for the Hostetter Building damages, loss of rents & extra expenses.

Motion carried 6-0

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

Motion carried 4-0

Privilege of the Floor

William Farmer, a district resident and BH-BL parent addressed the Board on the issue of ability grouping of students. Mr. Farmer read from a statement which he later gave to the Board. A copy is available at the District Office. He feels that the District PACE programming is minimal and does not provide adequate time for students to exercise critical thinking skills. Mr. Farmer would like students to be grouped with their intellectual peers and for assignments to be differentiated and appropriate for their abilities. He believes more can be done for these students at little or no cost. He provided some statistical information on student performance and urged the Board to address the needs of these students.

Initial Report of Strategic Framework Committee - A copy of the powerpoint from the Strategic Framework Committee is available at the District Office.

John Blowers began the report from the Strategic Framework Committee by describing their charge and the approach taken by committee members as it relates to how we equip our students in the best way for whatever path they choose to pursue. Committee members have been meeting since September to develop a plan, identify consultants, gather data and synthesize results. They developed a survey and Maryanne Doyle and Nora Cerniglia highlighted the results. 699 surveys were completed by parents, students, staff, and BHBL graduates and the survey results were shared. They observed some common themes in response to the question about how effective is BHBL at developing abilities, skills and attitudes for future success. Highlights included a concern for too much emphasis on testing, teaching to the test, and being a numbers driven community rather than teaching students how to think, problem solve and be creative. The reality is that effectiveness is judged on such things as test scores, standards of excellence, and the framework for planning. The challenge is how to meet the standards and expectations while doing what's best for students. There was a discussion on whether or not the State has the right standards and are we adhering to them because Albany says so or because they are right for students. In order to achieve mastery of all the standards, it is estimated that it would require about 150% of the current available instructional time. Rie Posillico talked about the research done by the committee and highlighted five categories of research that they explored – national organizations, visionaries, leading educational institutions, regional research, and workforce research. Many different frameworks exist for 21st century learning for all students. They explored essential partnerships as well as educational initiatives and discussed emerging skills vs skills that have always been needed. Eileen Stone presented on some interesting research findings including the importance of emotional intelligence and how do we bring meaning & purpose into the classroom for our students. The types of jobs requiring people skills have increased. Rick Evans discussed the need for global awareness, analytical and critical thinking skills, and the emotional quotient. We need to cultivate the desire for learning, because knowledge is growing exponentially. When students leave high school they used to know 80% of what they need and now they leave with approximately 5% of the knowledge because it is continuously changing. The committee presented their findings in terms of key themes and key skills. Sample guiding questions were developed and they asked for feedback from Board members. A question was asked about leveraging effective teaching of 21st century skills with required standardized testing to enhance both rather than balancing one against the other. Discussion followed about the wide curriculum vs diving deep into specific subjects and exploring questions. One size education doesn't fit all and we would not expect all kids to come out with the same skills. Some will excel in certain areas and we don't want to hold any students back. Many districts around us don't strive as hard as we do for the comprehensive and very rich experience that we are committed to at BHBL. Essential partnerships will play a role in developing guiding principles and the question was asked if there are opportunities to draw attention to new models, will they be explored? Another idea was to have committee members ask recent graduates for their thoughts as well.

Board Budget 2010-2011

Superintendent Jim Schultz asked Board members if there was a need to change any of their line items for the 2010-11 budget. There was some discussion around the value of their New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) membership since they were not attending as many conferences as in past years. There was a suggestion to freeze the dues at the current level. Some Board members recognized that NYSSBA is a voice in Albany and feel there is value in their membership for lobbying activities. The total Board budget will be frozen at the 2009-10 level.

District Budget – Factors & Objectives

John Blowers went through the budget calendar and timelines. He announced that they had successfully tested the virtual forum working with John Capano. Board members were asked for their input on the March 2nd forum regarding the location. There was discussion about changes to the budget context including revision of the last bullet of the external factors, simplifying the entire document, taking out the known factors, including more connections with the community, and blending internal and external factors. The Board is working on the 4th draft with the help of Christy Multer. John discussed the legislative task force and how to engage the community. Do we start reaching out to people and contacting legislators? Some ideas were explored including upcoming PTA meetings.

Bond Referendum

Joe Pericone discussed the outcome of the recent bond proposition, pointing out that it was good news that the energy

proposition passed in the amount of \$12.5M. It was a pretty good turnout considering the weather. Board members discussed what can be learned from the outcome and the exit poll survey that can be used to inform the budget process.

Medicaid Compliance Plan

James Maughan explained the recently enacted legislation requiring school districts to implement a Medicaid Compliance Program. After discussing the proposed plan and board policy at the last Board meeting, both were on the agenda for tonight and were approved.

Reports & Communications

- Jackie St. Onge briefly talked about the budget process and the context that was presented to budget managers as they develop their 2010-11 budget requests. Information about what's happening at the State level and potential impact for BHBL was discussed. Jackie, Tom Quinn, and Dan Diggins met with the District's architect and engineer to discuss the proposed scope of construction projects for the summer of 2010. Next steps will be to meet with building principals.
- Rick Evans updated the Board on the interview process for the Assistant Principal position at O'Rourke Middle School. He talked about the Capturing Kids Hearts Program which is a great program but has proven to be very costly. Staff have devised their own version called CREST which is a great initiative to continue successful measures of the original program. Rick asked Board members for input about the Special Education program and addressing equity issues between buildings.
- James Maughan attended the Charlton Heights PTA meeting where they focused on the upcoming Career Day. He mentioned several Board policy issues in the news recently including a bike policy, weapons policy, and school health policy.
- John Blowers attended the Theatre for Children performance at the Middle School and reported on what a great job was done by the students. John spoke to David A. Little, Esq., NYSSBA Director of Governmental Relations about developing a legislative task force and Mr. Little offered to attend the January 12th Board meeting to discuss this topic.
- Jim Schultz reported that the 1st Flu Clinic for Schenectady County went well today. The next one will be for our Saratoga County schools and is expected to take place in January. He reported that 291 students and staff members were vaccinated. Jim received a call from a developer that is proposing building developments in the Town of Ballston that will be part of Shenendehowa School District as well as Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District. As part of the proposal there are plans to run sewer and water and they would consider a set aside of land for BHBL.
- Joe Pericone asked Board members for feedback on a request from the Town of Glenville to have an easement through the Hostetter property. There will be more discussion on this topic. He reported that the District website now has an email address for residents to contact the Board by sending an email to the Board President. He will forward emails to Board members. The Board will need to develop a protocol.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board