

DATE: February 23, 2010
WHERE HELD: High School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and 5 others.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:35 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 February 9, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 7-0

Strategic Framework Committee

Rick Evans presented the report from the District Strategic Framework Committee on Preparing Students for the 21st Century. One of the strengths of this report is its ease of use for directing the instructional component. Rick described the charge from the board and the development of the guiding questions. The committee developed a survey to collect input and Rick went over the survey responses. Currently substantial time is needed to cover curriculum and meet the standards and teachers feel there is very little time for unique student learning opportunities. Committee members spent a great deal of time looking at research about the trends in learning and where we should be heading for the future. Some of the research cited included Daniel Pink and Rowland Barth. One of the important points made by Barth was that 50 years ago students graduated knowing most of what they needed for the rest of their lives while today's graduates leave school knowing much less of what they will need for the future. Another interesting statistic was that only 28% of 12th grade high school students feel their school work is meaningful. How do these national statistics compare with BH-BL? Rick shared the recommendations of the committee and highlighted the themes and skills that emerged from the research. The green themes included global awareness and energy and sustainability. Life balance themes included life balance & wellness, passion, desire to learn, ethics, leadership, character development and personal responsibility. Next he went over the themes and skills that committee members identified as most important and from these emerged the guiding questions. Board members asked some questions including how will this document align with the new Commissioner of Education's report on preparing students for the future and making academic progress. Another topic was the use of media in the lives of 8-18 year olds and how many teachers currently use technology in the classroom. It was suggested that Board members may want to do some reading on some of the research topics identified in the report. Research indicates students need more math, and students do well on mastery of material, but not on application to real life problems. Also discussed was global collaboration and expanding our thinking to partnerships that will enhance the learning experience. Elizabeth Herkenham mentioned a biotechnology grant received by Hudson Valley Community College with a component targeted as a pipeline for students. Tim Kelliher asked if the committee looked at balancing these 21st century skills with the traditional skills being taught in school currently such as the arts, music, etc. The committee evaluated the skills from the perspective of moving forward rather than evaluating them based upon existing curriculum. The committee spent time discussing the angular student versus the well rounded student and how to resist the temptation to focus on math & science. Bob Speck asked if we should look at the Standards of Excellence through the lens of the report. James Maughan questioned if our staffing supports this type of structure. As a District we need to engage in those conversations. We have the vision of the 21st learners but now how do we align our structure and our curriculum towards this vision and can we tie this into existing structures and infuse it into our professional development. Superintendent Jim Schultz commended the committee on the report and their work. This document could be picked up by any of our teachers and be used right now. Patre Kuziak wondered how do we tap into the media that kids are tuned into now for the purpose of learning. Facilitator Linda Doherty responded that we need to leverage the technology that kids are using and learn from teachers' collective wisdom. Students can take their passion to the next level by going beyond the knowledge that the teacher has and researching much further. When are we educators, when are we facilitators, and when are we encouragers? By going through this process, teachers are already talking about the work of this committee and how will it be put in front of staff. Ideas included making it available on the network, embedding it in staff development work, using it in conjunction with summer curriculum projects and creating visuals to be placed all around the District. At the end of the report Rick Evans presented Linda

Doherty with a book dedicated in her honor for her work as the facilitator for the Strategic Framework Committee. The book was chosen by her son and will be available in the Charlton Heights Library. John Blowers recognized the committee members with BH-BL Board of Education mouse pads as a token of appreciation and thanked them for their time and energy over the past five months.

Privilege of the Floor

Charlton Heights parent Don Partridge presented a document with specific requests to the Board to improve transportation safety. His daughter, a kindergartner at Charlton Heights, slipped and fell after exiting the school bus and damaged her front teeth. Mr. Partridge addressed the Board with suggestions to improve safety in transportation for all students. Mr. Giniecki, a resident of the school district, addressed the Board about his school taxes. As a business owner and operator he recognizes the impact that the economy has had on business and he has been forced to work harder and longer at times. He has seen his taxes increase annually, but they have never gone down. He spoke about the Teachers Association contract with regards to increases and tenure. He feels the public sector pension is much richer than private sector which has been hit hard by the economy. He resents having to contribute to public employees' pension plans during times of economic stress.

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded the acceptance of the retirement of George Seymour, K-12 Science Department Head, effective 6/30/10; the approval of the tutor appointment of Reid Lonergan at \$25/hour; the spring coaching assignments of Paul DeLuca, Varsity Baseball; Rob Duell, Assistant Varsity Baseball; Josh Hadcock, JV Baseball; Jeff Page, Modified Baseball; Mike Meier, Boys Crew; Donica Nalbert, Girls Crew; Thomas Schwan, Varsity Boys Lacrosse, Jason LaPietro, Assistant Varsity Boys Lacrosse; Shawn Kline, JV Boys Lacrosse, Jack McHerron, Varsity Girls Lacrosse, Sallie Gililand, JV Girls Lacrosse; Allison Bernardi, Varsity Softball; Megan Cross, JV Softball; Sean Merchant, Modified Softball; Geoff Leggieri, Varsity Boys Tennis; Peter North, JV Boys Tennis; Chip Button, Boys Track; Dennis Harrington, Assistant Boys Track; Matt Shell Assistant Boys Track; Shaun Zepf, Girls Track; Andrew Lancaster, Assistant Girls Track; Megan Jones, Assistant Girls Track; the approval of the Volunteer Coaching assignment of David Ball, JV Boys Lacrosse; the approval of the substitute teacher/nurse appointments of Ryan Ahl, Megan Coolbaugh, Marie Davis, Heather Harpine, Heather Naylor, Erin Ploetz, Annmarie Rizzo, Lauren Stennie, Jeffrey Stubits, Adam White.

Motion carried 7-0 (except Elizabeth Herkenham abstained from voting on the coaching assignment for Shaun Zepf)

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

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for the Girls Lacrosse Team.

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the Non-Resident Tuition Rates for the 2010 Calendar Year.

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of revised Policy 3560 (Petty Cash Funds).

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Science Research Student's Overnight Trip to the Upstate Junior Science & Humanities Symposium at the UAlbany – March 22nd & 23rd.

Motion carried 7-0

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

Motion carried 7-0

Internal Auditor

Jackie St.Onge informed the Board that the District's Internal Control Auditor was ready to begin the current year audit. Some suggested areas for the audit were discussed including Medicaid and the School Lunch program. It was agreed that School Lunch would be the focus of his audit.

Finance Committee

The Legislative Task force meeting will be moved to before the budget forum due to inclement weather. John Blowers reviewed the draft for the District's position paper going through the main points – opposing cuts to education aid, Star exemption being reduced, mandate relief, identifying key areas of mandate relief including Wicks, Special Education, State testing and the importance of an on time budget. There was some discussion on keeping the

position paper to a more universal appeal versus specific & unique to BH-BL. The Board wants to include Triborough reform on the paper and move STAR to the end. Historical experience suggests that it's more important to focus on the main points with bulleted talking points to be handed to legislators. This letter will also serve to inform our community so it needs to be concise. It was agreed that the Finance committee meeting will be held even if school is closed. Jim Schultz discussed how he will present his recommendations at the meeting.

Reports & Communications

- Bob Speck called attention to an article on the last page of the February 22 NYSSBA publication, *On Board*, with Board member John Blowers. Bob remarked, Good job, John! Bob received a call from the Schenectady Gazette reporter about an article about tough times scare off School Board candidates. Tim Kremer from NYSSBA was contacted about the problem statewide.
- Elizabeth Herkenham reached out to Patti Southworth and has not connected as yet. She is still looking for a PTA letter for Board members to use.
- Jim Schultz reported that the Town of Glenville is meeting tonight to talk about their master plan and our Hostetter property. He mentioned that a site visit is being conducted for Don Germain as he is a candidate for superintendent in another district. Jim answered a question about tuition rates and the ability of the District to accept a tuition student from another district.
- Joe Pericone announced that Hoops for Haiti is next week. At the Pashley PTA meeting they are working on fundraisers for repairing/replacing the stage curtain at the High School.
- James Maughan thanked Board president Joe Pericone and central administration for responding to privilege of the floor with written letters stating that it's a good Board practice.
- Jackie St.Onge informed the Board that the property adjacent to Stevens owned by the Mauet family is now listed for sale.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board