

DATE: February 9, 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 9 others.

The Legislative Task Force met prior to the regular Board meeting from 6:30-7:30 PM.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 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 January 26, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of textbooks.
Motion carried 6-0 (Mrs. Herkenham had not arrived yet.)

Privilege of the Floor

Lee Ann Mertzlufft addressed members of the Board regarding their request to have their daughter Ana attend Tech Valley High School. She read from a letter that was presented to the Board stating the reasons why they believe that TVHS represents a unique opportunity for their daughter Ana and for BH-BL schools. A copy is available at the District office. Board members asked some questions including whether there are any scholarship funds available and if we could share transportation costs with a neighboring district. BH-BL would be eligible to receive aid for tuition costs in the following year.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the acceptance of the retirement of Barbara Buckley, Art teacher at Charlton Heights/Stevens; and Alexandra Williams, Speech teacher at Pashley, both effective 6/30/10; the approval of the per diem appointment of Edward A. Carangelo, Interim Dean at the Middle School at \$400/day, effective 2/22/10; the approval of the tutor appointments of Holly Kimble, Ashley McChesney, Jenna Rainville, & Pamela Stafford at \$25/hour; the approval of the substitute teacher/nurse appointments of Tiffany Adams, Annamarie Aloy, Maureen Aumand, Kelley Barnes, Rebecca Bartholf, Danielle Beach, Linda Burger, Katelyn Caddell, Mary Coman, Elizabeth DellaRocco, Ashley English, Kristin Feeley, Katherine Ferree, Jessica Goldstein, Ronan Haldane, Katrina Hale, Megan Hopkins, Lindsey Hoyt, Melody Kearney, Joseph Malone, Leslie McCullough-Miller, Peter Murphy, Matthew O'Connor, Margaret O'Donnell, Margaret Patterson, Julie Peltier, Sharon Rose Pulliam, Sara Purcell, Stephanie Russell, Meghan Ryan, Robert Scherzer, Elizabeth Schiappa, Susan Smith, Angela Spelman, Erica Stevenson, Olga Tamchin, Kristine Tateo, John Urbanski, Julie Walsh, George Wilkerson, Vanessa Zaranko, Scott Ziobrowski.
Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the civil service personnel action as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.
Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the participation on cooperative bids with Niskayuna for:

- a. Swimming pool chemicals
- b. Miscellaneous bus parts
- c. Toner cartridges
- d. Filters - HVAC

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Contract for Health & Welfare Services with:

- a. North Greenbush CSD
- b. North Colonie CSD
- c. Scotia-Glenville CSD

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval to write-off obsolete computer inventory to Elfuns.
Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the motion to table the approval of the \$1,000 stipend for Strategic Framework facilitation for further discussion.
Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the renewal the Cooperative Electric & Gas Purchasing Agreement with OCM BOCES.
Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for the Varsity Basketball Cheerleaders.
Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.
Motion carried 6-0 (Mr. Blowers left the room.)

Hostetter Property

Joe Pericone described a proposal from the Town of Glenville requesting the use of a portion of the Hostetter property for a walking path that would connect the town's two properties. They are seeking a temporary easement from the Anderson property on Swaggertown Road through the Hostetter property and connecting to Indian Meadows. Jim Schultz explained the options that our legal counsel discussed with the Town of Glenville. Jim asked Board members if they have reservations about any of the options. We will continue having our legal counsel work with the Town on a solution.

Budget

- **Legislative Task Force** – John Blowers reported that the Legislative Task Force held its first meeting to begin discussions on lobbying activities. Sixteen volunteers consisting of Board members, District staff and community members met at the High School. John shared copies of the NYSSBA position paper with the group and discussed a proposed timeline and structure for meeting with legislators. The task force is looking to the District to develop a draft position paper prior to the next meeting. The group will meet again at 6:00 PM prior to the next Finance Meeting on February 24th. He expects to have templates for letters to our legislators.
- **Webinar** – John Blowers, Finance Chair reported that the webinar was a success with about 40 people in attendance and approximately another 40 participating online. The feedback was very good and online participants were appreciative of this option. The entire session will soon be available on the District website. BOCES featured this initiative at a conference today and a representative was present at the meeting to tape the whole presentation.
- **Reductions** – Superintendent Jim Schultz told Board members that we have been meeting with budget managers and having discussions about the impact of the Governor's proposal and proposed budget reductions for next year. At our next finance meeting we will be looking at the proposed reductions and/or increased revenues from the Superintendent and that information would be presented at the next forum. The Superintendent's recommendations will take us from the preliminary budget and propose tiered changes that take it down to the contingent level. Jim mentioned proposals for retirement incentives and requested an executive session to discuss contractual implications. An update from the Teachers' Association President Jason Lasky regarding the State's proposal for a retirement incentive.

NYSSBA Lobby

John Blowers reminded the Board that we need to submit our names for the lobbying effort at the Crown Plaza in Albany in mid-March. So far Bob Speck, John Blowers and Elizabeth Herkenham are planning to attend.

Policy 3560 (Petty Cash Funds)

Jackie St.Onge explained a proposed change to Board Policy 3560 (Petty Cash Funds) to increase the amount available to the Athletic Department. There was some discussion and a revised Policy will be included in a future Board packet.

Reports & Communications

- Bob Speck encouraged Board members to read the article in the American School Board article on budgets and education, as well as the NYSSBA On Board articles.
- Elizabeth Herkenham shared some ideas for revenue generating including ways to evolve our tax base from

mainly residential to more commercial. She talked about incentives from IDA to bring businesses into towns and entering into partnerships. She asked if we should reconvene our town supervisors to discuss looking at our region for opportunities to bring businesses or an industrial park into the Northeast portion of our district. Can we learn from district residents who are already active in lobbying activities for not for profits and learn about the structure that is already in place? We need to be looking for a long term strategy to bring in other revenues. One idea was to have Town of Ballston Supervisor Patti Southworth come to our next public forum. Elizabeth will be exploring NSF grant opportunities with RPI. She also had a meeting with the Schenectady Chamber and their funding is at risk. She reminded Board members of the SGO meeting on March 10th.

- John Blowers attended the CAPSBA meeting at which Shenendehowa Superintendent Dr. Oliver Robinson was the speaker. Lynn Lenhardt shared information on special education mandates (230) and is looking to Albany for mandate relief. They gave an update on the lawsuit for delayed state aid by the Governor. Dr. Robinson also hit on some lobbying points, suggesting that we lobby legislators to take action on certain things, but perhaps we should be engaged in efforts with the Regents. John mentioned an article in the next On Board issue regarding his testimony at the legislative hearing in Albany.
- Jim Schultz commented on the level of support from the community as expressed at the Founders Day celebration. This week he will be meeting with other superintendents to discuss sharing services. A contract with the interscholastic bargaining unit was recently settled and the impact on all schools will be increased officiating costs.
- Joe Pericone attended the Founders Day celebration and was impressed with the activities and community support. He received a booklet from the NYS State Assembly Mental Health Committee titled “Stopping Mental Health Stigma.” It is a guide for teachers and students which he gave to Jim Schultz.
- Elizabeth Herkenham initiated a discussion about the proposed stipend for the Strategic Framework Facilitator. The discussion included past practice for this type of activity and checking with our legal counsel on several issues.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded a move to executive session.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded a return to regular session.

Mr. Blowers 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