

DATE: April 13, 2010
WHERE HELD: Pashley

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 7 others.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the March 23, 2010 regular meeting and the March 31, 2010 special meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 7-0

Privilege of the Floor

District resident Richard Evans provided the Board and central administration with a handout that is available at the District Office. He voiced concerns about the lack of concessions from the various unions and asked for information about the specific concessions agreed upon by each of them. He feels the unions would rather lose jobs than offer concessions. His other concern is the manner in which the budget forums are conducted. Mr. Evans would like the forums to be conducted like town meetings and allow all voices to be heard. He said that his school taxes absorb 10% of his annual income and he feels that this level is unsustainable.

Another district resident and parent of an elementary student, Eileen Stone spoke to the Board and administration about the recent budget forums. She most recently served on the Strategic Long Range Planning Committee. She bought property in Charlton for the rural character of the area and she is passionate about education. Ms. Stone participated online for the first forum and then attended the 2nd forum. Although the community was asked for input, she felt she was not given enough information on the real impact of the budget cuts on the students. Thus she did not feel she could give feedback without a better understanding of the proposed budget cuts. She felt that the breakout groups were good at the 2nd forum, but the 3rd forum should allow full group participation. Since next year will be even more difficult, she asked how are the teachers being involved to help make changes to solve the budget problems.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the temporary appointment extension of Heather Coons, Grade 2 at Pashley, effective 4/24/10-6/30/10; the approval of the leave of absence of Marcy Raeder (extended), Grade 2 at Pashley, effective 4/24/10-6/30/10; Mindi Modiano, Psychologist at Charlton Heights, effective 3/18/10-5/3/10; Kelly DelMonaco, Grade 5 at Pashley, effective 7/1/10-6/30/11; Dennis Harrington, English at the High School, effective 7/1/10-6/30/11; the approval of the tutor appointment of Katie Abrahamson; the approval of the substitute teacher appointments of Sara Brassard, Alan Danahy, Megan Mahoney, Joseph McGrath, Eryn Monaco, Nanette Nikiforov, Lauren Petrick, Christin Potak.

Motion carried 7-0

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

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

- a. Boys Track Team
- b. Girls Track Team

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded the acceptance of the gifts of 3 ShredMaster Strip Cutter Shredders from Price Chopper's Tools for Schools Campaign to the Middle School, Stevens, & Charlton Heights.

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of a gift of \$1,010 to Caylie Boudreau's Memorial Fund.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the Proposed 2010-2011 Budget & Bus Proposition.

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

Budget Newsletter Outline

Christy provided a draft of the 2010-11 proposed budget brochure. She is looking for feedback from Board members. Next Monday is the cutoff date for changes because the brochure must go to print on April 20th in order for it to be back by the end of April. Board member James Maughan commented about two themes – the specific program cuts and their definable impact. Other comments about the brochure included differentiating between budget cuts and program cuts as well as the treatment of staff cuts. We should also include information on how people have worked very hard together to minimize the impact upon students. Christy will provide an updated draft to Board members by Friday April 23rd. Currently there are three board candidates and she reminded Board members that Meet the Candidates night is May 4th. There was a suggestion to provide information about the contingent budget being lower than the budget being put up for vote.

Grant Proposals

Rick Evans gave Board members some information about the two grants submitted by Charlton Height principal Tim Sinnenberg.

Legislative Task Force

John Blowers gave a brief update on the activities of the Legislative Task Force. They will reconvene Thursday to talk about the legislative proposals and their role in communicating the various positions. Should we consider having the task force break off as its own entity rather than remaining a board directed committee? The committee could be similar to a political action committee which would create a separation from the Board and school district. There was a concern voiced about sustaining this committee if it were to be a separate entity. Is the cycle only connected to the budget process or should it be broader to encompass other ideas? Also suggested was meeting with legislators on a more regular basis rather than only during the budget cycle. Other concerns about workloads being created by having representation from several groups and political competition from fraction groups. It was agreed that it should remain a board directed activity.

Reports & Communications

- Bob Speck reported that on Sunday he attended the memorial service for Ruth Angel, a former employee of the District. It was very well attended by retirees from BHBL. Bob has been reviewing committee reports. He commented that the Town of Glenville newsletter does not contain any references to education and the need for connections between the town and schools. Bob reminded Board members about their responsibility to do their Board self-evaluation and the Superintendent's evaluation.
- John Blowers reported that he and the Superintendent went to the BOCES meeting on cost sharing ideas. He shared that the group had generated a healthy list of ideas. Similar meetings are being conducted around the state. Elizabeth Herkenham and John presented the proposed school budget at a meeting for the Town of Ballston. They gave an abbreviated version of the proposed budget. They also discussed spirit of partnership and exploring creative partnerships with the town. John presented at the Middle School Career Day on nanotechnology opportunities.
- Patre Kuziak attended the Middle School PTA meeting where they celebrated their spelling bee winner, eighth grader Ashley La Mere. Another topic was the rigorous testing schedule for Middle School students and the impact it will have on finals. This is the first group of students to have been tested every year since 3rd grade as testing has been phased in. Patre wondered if there has been any evidence of changes in learning styles or creativity, or if any type of measures are in place to provide this data.
- Elizabeth Herkenham requested some feedback from the teachers who attended the recent STEM conference held at Ballston Spa.
- James Maughan participated in the Career Awareness Day at Charlton Heights remarking about the fun, spirit and attitude of the participants. He really enjoyed it and commented that they did a great job. James mentioned the amount of cyberbullying in the news recently and asked Board members if they want to consider looking at our policy. Another policy question centered on how much board members can advocate and where do they cross the line. Board members discussed whether we should have a policy that addresses

employment and supervision of family members. James suggested that the Board needs to start the Board self evaluation in May per our policy requiring that it be done.

- Superintendent Jim Schultz talked about the change in fund balance over the years and stated that increasing fund balance has been St. Onge's goal as recommended by our auditors. He expressed his appreciation for these sound fiscal practices. He also thanked Dan LeClaire for volunteering to put together the scheduling for the Career Awareness Day. Jim reminded Board members that the BOCES budget vote is coming up and they will all meet at 4:00pm at the Middle School after his budget presentation on Monday, April 26th. He will be presenting the proposed budget to all elementary buildings tomorrow at 3:30. Jim also discussed cautions from legal counsel about presenting to closed sessions. Although it is not an issue we just need to be aware of the legalities. George Seymour is networking with a local company using digital imagery and they would be open to having High School interns. Jim and Dan Diggins met with the Town of Ballston highway committee to discuss shared opportunities and they explored some possibilities including shared washbays, used equipment, grants for a shared facility, cooperative purchasing, sand, use of our grant writer, rental of equipment, etc.
- Joe Pericone attended the District Health and Safety meeting where discussion focused on the upcoming district-wide emergency tabletop exercise scheduled for April 19th at the Middle School. He also reported that the Board self evaluation and Superintendent's evaluation will begin in May. He will not be able to attend the May 4th Meet the Candidates night.
- Rick Evans reminded Board members that the student achievement program review will be coming up soon. In the past the Board has given direction and unless told otherwise they will use that same template for this presentation. He is asking presenters to use this opportunity to share positive outcomes using success stories. Tim Kelliher asked for information about things that we are not doing anymore based upon the data that we are monitoring. John Blowers would like to know how data is shared from building to building and if there will be consistency as to how the data is presented.
- Jackie St.Onge reported that Moody's has scheduled a teleconference to update the District's bond rating. It is a very comprehensive process that occurs typically every four to five years. She provided advance information on existing debt service, tax base, growth, local economy, new developments, housing, fund balance, impact of delayed state aid, general state aid implications, GASB 45 accruals, and long range plans for financial and capital construction planning. Jackie did some research on bus leasing vs. bus purchases. She gave Board members a brief summary of the differences and will continue to explore potential savings.

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