

DATE: April 27, 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 20 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. Blowers seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the April 13, 2010 regular meeting and the authorization of textbooks.

Motion carried 7-0

Privilege of the Floor – None

Program Review – Student Achievement Reports (Elementary, Middle & High School)

Rick Evans introduced the program review on student achievement. Stevens Principal Ralph Rothacker made reference to the data on student achievement included in the Board packet. He spoke about children who need more support and when placed in a less restrictive environment they have a reason to be proud of their progress. He gave an anecdotal story about a student who needed more reading services and ended up in the Skills program. The student made a real connection with his teacher and the boy had a goal for himself which was to graduate out of the Skills program. He was successful and next year the student will be placed in a general education setting as he enters 6th grade. K-12 Lori Maloney discussed a recent email that she received from a parent about her daughter who had struggled with reading. Her daughter came home proud that she could read the book that she brought home. Her mother saw how happy she was and how her confidence had increased. Her child is now picking out books and reading in every spare moment. Pashley Principal Jill Bonacio related how elementary teams are working together and how they have had a literacy focus at the elementary level. She gave examples of how the staff is providing data without being asked and sharing results. One example was an email from a 2nd grade teacher asking other teachers to share more information to move instruction forward. Charlton Heights Principal Tim Sinnenberg provided some examples of achievements in the arts for all three elementary buildings. He cited the number of students participating in chorus has increased and student artwork is on display in many locations throughout the District. He talked about student competitions in physical education that take place before school and our staff volunteering their time. He gave other examples of librarians teaching skills to students in fun ways and how the business model being is being used to help kids learn economics. All three of the elementary schools will have the 1001 books program in place to support literature and there is now a hall of fame for the 1001 book readers. This program has helped to increase the number of kids who are reading books. Board members asked questions of the elementary principals. Bob Speck commented on the quality of the report cards and the valuable information that is being provided by the teachers about their students. Elizabeth Herkenham asked what trends are we seeing in the community currently at the elementary levels? Ralph Rothacker responded that it is more difficult to get support at home and this dynamic presents more challenges for teachers. Jill Bonacio responded that the population is changing which presents challenges from family dynamics including busier lifestyles, losing jobs, state of economy, etc. Don Germain provided a handout entitled The Faces behind the Numbers. At the Middle School, they strive to maintain a balanced program using the team structure to personalize programs for students. He gave some examples including the Morning Show, and Crossing Over Route 50 which involves members of local service organizations who provide tutorial and mentoring services after school. These programs make connections for kids. Middle School students are honored at a breakfast for raising their GPA's and they are doing a lot with clubs outside of the regular school day to enrich students' lives. CTE and Fine Arts programs continue to grow and provide opportunities for a growing numbers of students. Several student success stories were provided. A middle school boy who was really struggling became involved with the drama club and through his participation became more engaged in his academics as well. Suzanne Rayome related a story about a representative from Stratton Air Guard who took pictures of the recent drama production and then created a gift display for the drama club. John Blowers asked a question about volunteerism and budget cuts. Don Germain stated that volunteer support is down. He feels we can still get support, but it may not be sustainable over the long run. He gave some examples where technology volunteers have proven very successful. Joe Pericone asked about the pushcart fair that has now been discontinued. Don responded that the District has gone in a different direction and

there are other activities that are being done that they believe are more pertinent and relevant for students. High School Principal Maryellen Symer stated that like the elementary buildings and the Middle School, they too have experienced a great deal of academic success as a result of teachers, K-12 administrators and the K-12 curriculum structure in place. She talked about several scenarios involving students who have trouble completing their homework and other assignments. The high school has a list of all of the support mechanisms in place currently to address these students. The high school offers students a comprehensive program with strong electives including fine arts and CTE. There are also a number of VOTEC opportunities through BOCES that help some students to remain in school. Making connections with students was mentioned by all presenters and it is very important for student success. There is help for students entering the high school to make connections with older students. Maryellen mentioned the Xfactor club that helps students feel like they are part of a family through the club activities. Other examples cited included various clubs, sports, and the PEACE exchange program. Some of the club activities expose our students to diversity and some such as the science research program help students to connect with mentors in the community to explore career opportunities. Maryellen shared a story about a CDS student who was getting job experience in the community at McDonalds. Her coworkers surprised her with a birthday celebration and it had a significant impact upon her. At the high school they are experiencing more students who are looking at cost factors as they are making choices for colleges. Maryellen shared another very powerful story about a student with special needs who ultimately reached his goal after being encouraged by his teachers and through his own determination. As a 9th grader he expressed his desire to perform a NYSSMA solo. Despite his physical challenges the student performed in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade at the music festivals where he received no scores due to lack of volume and ability to sing. He was encouraged by BH-BL staff and each year his confidence improved. His success was realized as a senior when he performed his Level 6 NYSSMA solo and was praised by the judge and received a score of 94/100. James Maughan commented that these shared stories and experiences are what makes BH-BL so special and he appreciated hearing them as part of the presentation. John Blowers asked what will be different in the year 2020? Will more students graduate with more college credits and are we tracking this data? Maryellen responded that we have charts tracking the credit courses being taken by students. The difficulty in tracking this data beyond high school is whether or not the colleges are giving the credits to students. It depends upon where they are going and their course of study. Rick Evans closed by stating that we asked to focus on data, but the stories behind the data tells even more about our student successes. We are not only making students feel connected, but capable also.

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the temporary appointment of Janice Germain, Grade 3 at Pashley, effective 5/8/10-6/30/10 & Annamarie Aloy, Special Ed teacher at Stevens, effective 5/3/10-6/1/10; the approval of the leave of absence of Kimberly Harrison (extended), Grade 3 teacher at Pashley, effective 5/8/10-6/30/10; Mindi Modiano, Psychologist at Charlton Heights extending 1.0, effective 5/3/10-5/31/10 then .4, effective 6/1/10-6/30/10; Julie Benson, Grade 5 teacher at Pashley, effective 5/21/10-6/30/10; Susan Brennan, Kindergarten teacher at Charlton Heights, effective 4/21/10-5/11/10; Tiffany Tassone, Grade 6 teacher at the Middle School, effective 7/1/10-6/30/11; the acceptance of the resignation of Jeannine Spade, .4 CSE Chairperson, effective 7/1/10 & Laura Siracuse, Business teacher at the High School, effective 5/14/10; and the temporary appointment of Timothy Symer, Kindergarten teacher at Charlton Heights, effective 4/26/10-5/11/10.

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. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the High School Guidance Plan.

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Speck seconded the acceptance of the gifts of 2 ShredMaster Strip Cutter Shredders from Price Chopper's Tools for Schools Campaign to the High School & Pashley.

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of a gift of \$750 to Charlton Heights from the BH-BL Education Foundation received from the Stewarts Holiday Match Program.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of a \$2,000 Grant for the 5th grade students at Charlton Heights from the Saratoga County Arts Council.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the Award of Bid for reconstruction work at Stevens Elementary.

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of BOCES disposition of obsolete textbooks.

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the Health & Welfare Services Contract with Schenectady City Schools.

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the following gifts from Northeast Music:

- a. one cello case valued at \$99
- b. one Bass case valued at \$153
- c. one Timpani cover valued at \$90

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the acceptance of the gift of \$450 to Charlton Heights from the Education Committee for the Eastern New York Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association.

Motion carried 7-0

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

Motion carried 7-0

Budget Hearing

Finance Chair John Blowers conducted the budget hearing stating the 2010-11 proposed budget is \$53,428,188 and proposed tax levy is \$33,386,135.

Grant Proposals

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

Hostetter Plan

Joe Pericone reminded Board members that the Hostetter plan is part of the Board goals and there is a need to consider the alternatives for the building, as well as a need to decide where administration will be housed in the future. Decisions that need to be considered include how much office space will be needed, how much storage space will be required, and we need a plan in the event the building will be offered for sale. Bob Speck commented that some of the past studies that have been done are no longer relevant due to changes in the building condition from the water main break, the economic climate, current enrollment trends, and community support for capital projects. A question was asked about how many commercial buildings are currently for sale in Glenville. Joe Pericone asked if the Board wants to charge a committee to answer these questions. He suggested looking at three possible scenarios and coming up with cost estimates for each. There is a need to have a vision for new construction of instructional space if that's the direction we decide to pursue. Given the economy, it is not likely that the Board would put up another referendum for a couple of years, thus giving more time for decisions impacting instructional space. There was a suggestion to discuss this topic at the next Board retreat and incorporate the Board's long range planning tools. The next Board packet will include possible dates for a board retreat.

Board Self-Evaluation

Joe Pericone asked Board members about using Survey Monkey as the tool for collecting the Board's self evaluation.

Task Force Update

John Blowers reported on recent legislative task force activities. The phone call campaign took place and five key legislators were contacted and urged to restore state aid to education. Neighboring school districts were invited by NYSSBA Area Director Lynn Lenhardt to participate. John indicated that there may be another opportunity to do this same activity again.

Reports & Communications

- Tim Kelliher attended a performance at the Troy Music Hall on Saturday that involved BH-BL students and he commented on how well they performed.
- Bob Speck attended a workshop at the High School presented by Saratoga County District Attorney Jim Murphy on "Texting, Sexting, and Social Networks." Bob then looked at our policy manual and feels that we should look at our policy for possible revisions. He also reminded Board members about Policy 9510

Policy Assistance to New Board Members.

- John Blowers attended the BH-BL Theatre for Children's production of Wonderland. He commented on what a great job was done by everyone. There was a problem with the sound system and a community member stepped in and offered assistance which was a nice example of the community support in our district. John and Jim Schultz met with the Town of Glenville leadership to explore shared opportunities. Elizabeth and John presented the proposed school budget to the Ballston town board and will do the same for the Town of Charlton.
- Elizabeth Herkenham attended the BOCES Annual meeting. During District Superintendent Chuck Dedrick's presentation on the services provided by BOCES, he showcased our online budget forum. Elizabeth attended the grand opening of the Tec-Smart educational facility in Malta which was also attended by local politicians and other local schools. There will be an open house in the future and she would like to encourage more participation. They are seeking platinum level LEEDS certification as a green building facility. She also attended an open house for Global Foundries in Malta to see the construction and they will continue monthly to showcase their progress. Today she toured Applied Robotics in Glenville and would like to explore using them as a resource for internships. Shenendehowa is abandoning the MST program that they spent a great deal of time developing due to lack of student participation in project based learning.
- Superintendent Jim Schultz presented the proposed school budget to staff from our elementary and middle schools. Tomorrow he will be interviewed by News Channel 6 on the proposed school budget. Next scheduled presentations are the Charlton Seniors and the High School in May. At his Capital Region Superintendent's meeting they talked about the next round of applications for Race to Top and it appears NYS will be readmitted with the new deadline. A memorandum of understanding will be presented and we will be signing on again. Jim made the Board members aware of an unusual occurrence at the high school involving the Village of Ballston Police coming to make an arrest of a student. There was no school involvement and it was based upon an outside activity.
- Joe Pericone attended the Honor society where 64 of our students were inducted. He also attended the Glenville Town meeting with Board members Elizabeth Herkenham and John Blowers.
- Rick Evans reported that members of BOCES staff will be coming out to the district to look at e-learning and virtual learning, with staff and Board members invited to attend. Elizabeth Herkenham, Bob Speck and John Blowers expressed interest in attending the session.
- Jackie St. Onge conducted a district-wide emergency tabletop exercise at the Middle School. Local emergency responders from police, fire, and ambulance were in attendance along with building principals and staff from all buildings. She described the scenario and how the activity was conducted. BOCES Health and Safety Coordinator Cynthia Holmes developed the actual emergency scenario and BOCES will be featuring it in an upcoming publication. Jackie told Board members that we have received the engagement letter from our external auditors and it will be in the Board packet for discussion. She talked briefly about the reconstruction work that will be happening during the summer and more specifically described the window project for the Middle School.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board