

DATE: May 25, 2010
WHERE HELD: Charlton Heights

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Maughan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and 24 others.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the May 11, 2010 regular meeting, the May 18, 2010 special meeting of the Board of Education, and the authorization of films.

Motion carried 6-0

Privilege of the Floor –

Mr. Goldman, a parent of a BH-BL student addressed the Board and administration regarding the school calendar which was adopted for next year (2010-11). The first full day of school is scheduled for September 9th and conflicts with one of their most important Jewish holidays, Rosh Hashanah. In the past this holiday has not fallen on the same day as the beginning of school. They have always made accommodations with teachers and the school to allow them to observe the Jewish holidays. This situation is very different since there is no alternative solution that would be acceptable. They do not want to make Jewish students come in a day earlier in September or wait until the following year to address the school calendar. They do not feel this is an acceptable situation for the upcoming school year and strongly urge the District to consider changing the date for the start of school. A second parent, Mrs. Berkowitz also spoke on the same topic. She has lived in the school district for nine years and throughout has had no concerns about the academics. In the past the most important Jewish holiday has not conflicted with the first day of school. They have been able to manage their children's schedule and religious observance in various ways. She is also asking the Board and administration to be sensitive to everyone and respect diverse religious beliefs. She would like to see the school calendar changed to allow for the observance of Rosh Hashanah.

Richard Evans (district resident) provided a list of 10 items on dealing with negotiations which is available at the District office. He feels community involvement is necessary to provide support to the Board in the negotiations process. Mr. Evans recognizes that once the District engages in the formal negotiations process it becomes confidential and may not be discussed. However he wants to hear the negotiations guidelines developed by the Board prior to beginning the process with the Teachers Association. He commented on the handling of the Meet the Candidates night and believes there should be a neutral moderator. He does not like the way Privilege of the Floor works because it does not allow for dialogue with Board members.

Program Review – District Strategic Framework: Preparing Students for the 21st Century

The entire presentation is available at the District Office. Rick Evans began by giving a brief overview of how the Strategic Framework ties with Culture: Team: Data. One of the major pieces of Culture: Team: Data is the team dynamic and addressing the guiding questions - what do we want students to learn, what are the essential outcomes that we want for our students, and what do they need to become successful? The Strategic Framework was developed to provide a tool for teachers to use to achieve these outcomes.

- Mike Mosall, a high school social studies teacher shared the results of his 21st Century Learners Survey. He developed the survey of about 50 questions for BH-BL students. Classes of 2010 and 2011 are the first true "21st Century Learners." To best prepare these students and provide a framework of necessary 21st century skills for learning, we need to first gauge student interactions with modern technology. Mike described the methodology followed by the condensed results. Mike highlighted many of the statistics for the audience. Students were asked the question how do you learn the least and 57% responded by direct talking and 10% by group work. When asked how do you learn the most there was much more stratification. About 67% of students responded that they prefer to type their homework and other school assignments. 75% of respondents agree that school will have a bearing on their life. Students were asked about reading of non-academic books, newspapers, and current events. When asked about Facebook, 87% of students surveyed indicated they spend time on it daily. The vast majority (99%) of high school students has access to a computer at home with internet connection, however it raised the question of what can we do for the 30

students that don't have computers or Internet access? Another question raised was what can we do to encourage above average computer literacy? We must have a coordinated strategy before high school to educate students about intellectual property and digital morality. Do these tools – cell phones, Ipods, etc. have some value for instruction?

- BH-BL Tech Integration Report – Middle school social studies teacher Andy Lancaster and Technology Coordinator John Capano presented the next section. John pointed out that a list of Tech Activities was provided to the Board as part of the presentation. Examples of media literacy were provided at elementary and secondary levels. Google.docs provides the opportunity for real time group discussions. Andy talked about the next steps for using technology as a tool to help make students successful. Currently we are facing some short term issues including hardware needs and availability of computer labs due to a limited number in each building. The labs are in use most of the time making it difficult to access them on a regular schedule for instruction. We need to address hardware needs with a quicker replacement schedule. Long term we still need to look at hardware for the future, but it's not changing as quickly as in the past. The software is changing very rapidly. Teachers need to embrace technology and experiment with it as a process. There was a question about whether our tech committee is plugged into tech committees in other school districts and the answer was yes. They get together 3 or 4 times throughout the year to share ideas. While the use of technology is similar, our infrastructure is older than some of the other school districts. There was some discussion about the changing role of the teacher as a facilitator with the use of technology. The facilitator model asks students to explore through their own learning while being guided by the teacher to discover the answers. It also involves a differently designed classroom with the teacher walking between groups of students. John talked about the need to upgrade our pipeline with fiber optic connections and the financial impact on the current five year hardware replacement plan. It will decrease the amount of money available for computers next year however, it is necessary to support the new student software package.
- Interdisciplinary Projects & Partnerships – Rick Evans talked about the examples of partnerships that were provided in the Board packet. We have not experienced any barriers to these partnerships and businesses in the community have been very receptive. Our district benefits from these arrangements, but we are also very much contributors.
- Professional Development Needs Assessment Survey Results – Kate Gurley, staff development coordinator and kindergarten teacher, discussed the results of the needs assessment survey included in the packet. The survey is a tool that allows teachers to develop smart goals that address identified needs. It creates an area of focus for these teams. The best staff development is embedded staff development and collaborative teamwork increases the learning and effectiveness. The challenge for evolving Culture Team Data is to find team meeting time for secondary teachers.

Mr. Speck left the meeting at the conclusion of the Program Review.

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the tenure appointments of Margaret Gilgallon, Grade 1 teacher at Pashley, effective 1/2/11; Andrew Lancaster, Social Studies teacher at the Middle School, effective 10/29/10; & Danielle Seaman, Grade 5 teacher at Stevens, effective 9/1/10; the approval of the leave of absence of Erin Hogan, Guidance Counselor at the High School, effective 7/29/10-2/1/11; Monica Hills, Grade 6 teacher at the Middle School, effective 5/24/10-6/30/10; the approval of the temporary appointment of Lisa Flynn, .6 Business teacher at the High School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Christina Rau, Grade 6 teacher at the Middle School, effective 5/24/10-6/30/10; the approval of the extra-curricular appointments as follows:

O'Rourke Middle School –

Art Club	Penny McDonnell Marie DiCristofaro Tammy Flint
Drama Club	Suzanne Rayome Barbara Reeves
Foreign Language Club – French	Lauren Goldblatt-Kirkwood
Foreign Language Club – German	Joseph VanGelder
Foreign Language Club – Spanish	Deborah Mahoney
Literary Arts Journal	Susan LaRosa Laurie Berner
Middle School Jazz Ensemble	Brian Tetlak
NS National Honor Society	Joyce Brown Marge Rizzo
School Newspaper	Valerie Wadsworth

Science Club	Amy Landauer-Ruder
	Marie DiCristofaro
Student Council	Kim Sprenger
Yearbook	Katherine Zyskowski

Middle School Voluntary Club request:

Book Club	Susan LaRosa
Book Club for 6 th Graders	Judy Brinkman
	Marge Rizzo
Chamber Strings Club	Heather Walker
Chess Club	Richard Barton
GO Green Club	Amy Landauer-Ruder
Math Club	Susan Gestwick
Military Mailbag	Anthony Chirico
Sunshine Club	Suzanne Rayome
	Valerie Wadsworth
	Amy Clark
XPE	Geoffrey Leggieri

2010-2011 Curriculum Committee Appointments:

Pashley

Language Arts	Michele Bowker
Mathematics	Roger Kopa
Science	Kelleen O'Rourke
Social Studies	Susan Malinowski
Health & Personal Development	Carolyn Roberts
Special Education	Cindy Blaich
Staff Development	Suzanne Pangie

Charlton Heights

Language Arts	Robert Moore
Mathematics	Andrew Haluska
Science	Bonita O'Rourke
Social Studies	Megan Jones
Health & Personal Development	Mary Grasso
Special Education	Jennifer Peterson
Staff Development	Jill Ollari

Stevens

Language Arts	Sherry D'Angelo
Mathematics	Lisa Febraio
Science	Amy Bennice
Social Studies	Judy Madej
Health & Personal Development	Ellen Sinnenberg
Special Education	Bretton Adams
Staff Development	Janice Dempster

Motion carried 5-0

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

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of revised Policy 3550 (Monies in School Buildings) & Policy 3560 (Petty Cash)

Motion carried 5-0

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

- a. City School District of Albany
- b. Greater Amsterdam School District

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of authorization to borrow \$3,500,000 Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN)

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of authorization to borrow \$3,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN)
Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of authorization to borrow \$1,200,080 Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN)
Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of authorization to borrow \$2,500,000 Revenue Anticipation Notes.
Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Blowers left the room.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of Bid Awards for Energy Bond Construction Projects.
Motion carried 4-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of Bid Awards for Custodial Supplies.
Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Blowers returned.

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of a gift of \$150 from the BH-BL Women's Club for the HOBY Youth Leadership Conference student registration fee.
Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.
Motion carried 5-0

Race to the Top

Jim Schultz told the Board that the deadline for signing on for Race to the Top is tomorrow but as of today we do not have anything to sign. He expects the Commissioner to send a streamlined version to all schools in New York State tomorrow. His belief is that if the legislature does not act on it this week, then the application will not be submitted. Some of its components include raising the charter school cap, performance assessment changes that may be legislated and tied to student performance. The message is that the State Education Department is committed to these changes regardless of the application for Race to the Top. Board members are not supporting participation at this time.

First Day of School

Jim Schultz discussed the school calendar that was adopted by the Board for the 2010-11 school year. It starts with two Superintendent Conference days, and the next day we bring in 6th and 9th grade students for orientation. The first full day of school is Sept 9th which is also the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah. The school calendar currently includes 186 days of school and three Superintendent conference days. Three snow days are built in. In order to receive our state aid, we must have 180 days in session. He gave some options such as reducing the calendar down to 185 days and not having school on September 9th. Board members asked about the impact of not having school on September 9th. Do we have a policy regarding religious observances? The high school has already begun scheduling for student course selection and Christy needs to know dates for the school calendar by the end of June. The Board would like James Maughan (as their policy person) to explore policy and they would like to leave the discussion open for further information.

New Board Member Development

Tim Kelliher will work with the two new Board members to start the process. Joe Pericone and Elizabeth Herkenham will each work with a new Board member throughout the year. They will also be setting up meetings with school administration to bring new Board members up to speed and new Board members are invited to attend the retreat.

Board Self-Evaluation

Currently Joe does not have all of the board self evaluation surveys.

Board Retiree / Student Recognition

At the next Board meeting we will be at the Middle School to celebrate and honor 17 retirees. The building principals will recognize outstanding students as they have in the past.

Reports & Communications

- John Blowers gave an update on the Legislative Task Force. They will focus on research activities and hope to have a template to share at the next meeting. More lobbying efforts are being shifted to the home district level versus efforts at the state level. They have reached out to legislators to meet and discuss the impact of the budgets that passed and the impact of the delayed state budget on schools, as well as the restoration of aid. John will attend an event tomorrow at which Jay Rifenburg will be the speaker. Since we are losing many years of board experience with the departure of Bob Speck and Tim Kelliher, we will be looking for some team building activities.
- Tim Kelliher talked about the Education Foundation grant meeting and commented that there aren't very many exciting grants submitted.
- Elizabeth Herkenham participated in a track event supporting Special Olympics at Shenendehowa. She has been asking Capital Region BOCES to explore new career option models using Carl Perkins grant funding. She asked if any board members are interested in exploring this with BOCES District Superintendent Charles Dedrick. BOCES is interested in the possibility of running some pilots in a school district.
- Superintendent Jim Schultz reminded Board members about the Science symposium tomorrow at the High School. It is an amazing experience and if Board members have never attended they should at least stop by for an hour. Thursday night is Honors Night which is also a very uplifting event. Jim asked the Board how they'd like to respond to the privilege of the floor questions. The Teachers Association has already begun looking at other models for Meet the Candidates Night.
- Rick Evans reported that he and K-12 Math Department Head Bill Mc Quay toured the Tec Smart building. Rick met a person involved in selling commercial properties and he will be following up with a meeting to discuss opportunities for selling the Hostetter building.
- Joe Pericone attended the meeting on E-Learning presented by BOCES at the District office along with Board members Elizabeth Herkenham and John Blowers.
- Christy Multer attended her BOCES team meeting where they discussed lessons learned after the annual school budget vote. She reported that the Business Review has contacted her about taking some photographs.

Ms. Kuziak 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