

**DATE:** October 13, 2009  
**WHERE HELD:** Middle School

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**6:45 PM** – Audit Committee meeting to discuss the External Auditor’s Report.

**Present:** Joe Pericone, Patre Kuziak, Bob Speck, John Blowers, Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Terrie Barclay, Elizabeth Herkenham, and our External Auditor from Bonadio Group, Rick Bigham.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St. Onge, Rick Evans, Maryellen Symer, Christy Multer, Jason Lasky, Terrie Barclay, Janet Townsend, Tom Quinn, Dan Diggins, Rie Posillico, Dan LeClaire, Rick Bigham, and 5 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 minutes of the September 22, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 7-0 See attachments

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

Motion carried 7-0 See attachment 1

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the temporary appointment of Jeff Page, .3 Physical Education teacher (from .2 to .3) at Stevens, effective 9/1/09-6/30/09, Susan Brooks, Technology Integration Specialist at Charlton Heights, effective 10/1/09, and Brian Banks, Special Education Intern at the Middle School, effective 9/1/09; the approval of the per diem appointment of James Denney, Interim Principal at Charlton Heights, \$450/day, effective 10/6/09, and Susan Buniak, Speech – District, \$257.78/day (40 days), effective 10/14/09-6/30/09; the approval of the High School Fall Drama Production appointments of Eric Shovah, Director; Mialisa Lindholm Herron, Producer; Stephanie Andrejczak, Business Manager; & Chris Lombardi, Stage Manager; the acceptance of the resignation of Kimberly Ferrie, CCR for Health & Personal Development, effective 10/1/09, and the approval of the Extra-curricular appointment of Carrie Roberts, CCR for Health & Personal Development, effective 10/1/09; and the approval of the substitute teacher appointments, so noted on the attached list.

Motion carried 7-0 See attachment 2

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

Motion carried 7-0 See attachment 3

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the following propositions for the December 9, 2009 Bond Referendum:

Proposition 1: Energy Bond Issue Motion carried 7-0

Proposition 2: Student Safety Bond Issue Motion carried 7-0

Proposition 3: Technology Bond Issue Motion carried 7-0

Proposition 4: Instructional & Administrative  
Space Needs Bond Issue Motion not carried 2-5

See attachment 4

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the 2008-09 Internal Audit Report & approval of the contract for 2009-10.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 5

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the acceptance of the 2008-09 External Audit Report

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 6

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Resolution to Participate in a Co-op Bid for Gas & Diesel Fuel.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 7

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of Additional Ordinary Contingent Expense for Transportation Washbay.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 8

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded the ratification of the Administrators' Contract 2009-2012.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 9

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

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 10

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Superintendent Jim Schultz introduced the Principal from Moers, Germany who addressed the board and audience. He expressed his appreciation for the successful program that has partnered his school with BH-BL for more than 20 years and hopes that this exchange will continue in the future. He would like to see even more students participate in this exchange. He thanked the Board and entire school district for the overwhelming support and hospitality. He is an English teacher and he has noticed an improvement in the English skills of his students from being part of this exchange. He commented that the German students have very favorable impressions from being here. The Moers students would have attended tonight's meeting, but their Boston trip was rescheduled to this week. Board President Joe Pericone presented a small token of appreciation to the principal on behalf of the school district. Next representatives from the district's four bargaining units expressed their appreciation to the Board. Janet Townsend, President of the CSEA thanked board members for their time and efforts. Their expertise and contributions help to make our district successful. Jason Lasky spoke on behalf of the Teachers' Association also thanking Board members for their commitment to our schools. Dan Diggins expressed appreciation to the Board on behalf of the Operations Management Organization. Maryellen Symer represented the Administrators also thanking Board members for their countless hours and support. It is evident that our board members have a genuine interest in our schools and really help to make a difference in the lives of children.

### **External Audit**

Rick Bigham, Managing Auditor from The Bonadio Group addressed the board regarding the external audit findings and accompanying management letter. He gave a brief overview of the audit process and the unqualified opinion received by the District. He explained that this is the highest opinion that is given. Jackie St. Onge thanked Terrie Barclay and her staff in the Business Office for their efforts. She also expressed appreciation to Board members for their support of the fiscal operations.

### **Board Goals**

Bob Speck referred to the framework for planning and suggested that it be used as a reference for Board goal development. The two Board goals from 2008-09 were included in the last packet. A suggestion was made to include language such as – to successfully communicate to BHBL voters the critical infrastructure needs of the district. Tim Kelliher asked Board members to consider adopting a third goal to decide what to do with the Hostetter building. Joe Pericone suggested the use of an ad hoc committee. Problems associated with keeping Hostetter is that it is not being adequately maintained due to no student occupation and no state aid for renovations. It was agreed that there is a pressing need to do something because of aging infrastructure. John Blowers was in favor of adopting a goal to move the process forward so a decision is made and a direction set. Elizabeth Herkenham is pleased that we are moving forward with the bond propositions. Board members agreed that there is a need to get rid of Hostetter. The questions that remain to be addressed are where do we put Central Administration and how will we accommodate district storage needs. Board members discussed what type of information is needed in order to make those decisions. All decisions must also take into account the programmatic impact of the solution in terms of the needs of the District.

## **Strategic Framework Update**

John Blowers reported that over the three weeks they have conducted three meetings. The committee has developed guiding questions, agreed upon the committee structure and selected a facilitator. The group is working on who they want to ask questions of, what are the questions, and what mechanism will be used to gather the information. They have come up with three thematic questions to ask each group and identified ten constituent groups. Questions include the type of skills needed for 21<sup>st</sup> century, how effective are we at developing those skills and what do we need to do differently to achieve those outcomes. Christy Multer is working with the committee to develop a survey for the website to gather this information. The facilitator Linda Doherty has been extremely helpful in focusing the team and keeping them on track. Rick Evans discussed research on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and a process used for engaging staff and community in determining these needs.

## **Referendum Communication Plan**

Christy included a draft of a renovations referendum communications plan for the December 9, 2009 vote in the Board packet. State economy and downturn in general will play a role in the communication process. Most of the plan is the same as used in the past. Press releases, bulletins and BH-BL website will be the focus. Christy has been working on displays and handouts. She has developed a calendar with dates of events at which communications and handouts can be made available. Potential referendum dates in November were discussed and the Board agreed on November 19<sup>th</sup> in the High School library. Christy is looking for Board members to volunteer at some of the upcoming events. There was a suggestion to tap into some other community organizations for opportunities to present the information.

## **Reports & Communications**

- Bob Speck is seeking legislative input from the State based upon news about the deficit and potential aid cuts to education.
- Rick Evans told Board members that by law a district can require a student to receive Academic Intervention Services (AIS) even if the parent does not want their child to receive these services.
- Jackie St. Onge attended the first District Health and Safety meeting of the school year. Committee members discussed potential topics for upcoming meetings including H1N1 and a district-wide tabletop emergency exercise with outside agencies.
- Patre Kuziak will be at the Taste of Burnt Hills and she will not be able to attend her PTA meeting. She asked if any other Board members would like to sub for her. The Teachers Association will meet with Board members at the Middle School in the library conference room on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. She is looking for input from Board members as to what they would like to accomplish at this meeting. In the past it has been an opportunity for the Teachers' Association to let Board members know of any concerns. Patre reminded Board members that the reception for new staff members is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> from 2-4:30 at Hostetter building. She needs to know who will be attending the event.
- James Maughan, in his role as the Board's policy representative, has been reading online policy state requirements –from investments to student safety, etc. Student independent evaluations will need some policy clarifications.
- John Blowers announced that the next Strategic Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Middle School library.
- Elizabeth Herkenham attended the first SGO meeting of the school year where they talked mostly about the homecoming activities. She expressed an interest in attending the upcoming Questar III conference included in the Board packet. She is in the process of writing a new grant offered by Capital Region BOCES, Schenectady County Community College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to align resources for nanotechnology. They will invite eight school districts and three teachers to participate. It is a two year NSF grant.
- Superintendent Jim Schultz updated Board members on the latest H1N1 information. He met with Schenectady County Superintendents on Friday and swine flu is present in all districts. We are monitoring confirmed cases of H1N1, student absenteeism in the buildings, and also staff absenteeism. Buildings are tracking the types of symptoms and other information. The secondary schools are seeing significant absenteeism while the elementary buildings are not. Middle School has the most cases currently. Schenectady County will be setting up vaccination clinics and both counties have indicated that they will provide vaccines to those students with parental consent forms.

He received a request to dedicate a baseball field to a former athletic director who recently died. Jim announced that BHBL has a National merit finalist. He asked if the Board wanted to participate in the Saratoga County School Board Association. Board members said yes if it will provide a connection for Global Foundries. Jim discussed an incident at the Homecoming dance held over the weekend.

- Joe Pericone attended the District Health and Safety meeting where H1N1 hygiene protocols were discussed. Other topics included a discussion on hand sanitizers and playground monitor training provided by the BOCES Health and Safety Coordinator. Joe attended the CAPSBA meeting with guest speaker Dr. Pratt who spoke about H1N1 issues and the availability of vaccines for distribution to schools. Joe attended the Pashley

PTA meeting. Their Back to School Night went well. They are looking for a grant award to purchase a new kiln and they have a new program called bucket filling which involves placing positive student compliments in the bucket. Joe reported that Back to School Night at the High School also went well.

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board