

DATE: October 27, 2009
WHERE HELD: Stevens

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:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, Tom Quinn, Jason Lasky, Dan LeClaire, Alison Cuyler, Mike Fanning, Scott Swenson, and Tracy McCarthy.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded the motion to amend the minutes of the October 13, 2009 meeting to reflect voting results for Bond Proposition #4 as follows: 2 for, 4 against, 1 abstention. The motion also included the approval of the authorization of films.

Motion carried 6-0 See attachments

Mr. Blowers arrived at 8:30 PM (at the end of the Program Review presentation).

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the acceptance of the resignation of Robin Gawrys, Assistant Principal at the Middle School, effective 11/22/09; the approval of the tenure appointments of Robert Duell, Susan Gestwick, and Danielle Manning; the approval of the leave of absence of Catherine Mele, Music teacher at Stevens, effective 11/2/09-11/20/09.

Motion carried 7-0 See attachment 1

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 See attachment 2

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Environmental Compliance Resolution.

Motion carried 7-0 See attachment 3

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

Motion carried 7-0 See attachment 4

Grant Proposal – Iron Chefs Estilo Español

Board member Joe Pericone described a grant proposal submitted by staff member Amber Shanholtz. The project will require students to read recipes in the target language, prepare and serve meals, and communicate as part of a cultural comparison learning experience. There is no district obligation of funds and the project will be done during 2009-10 school year.

Assistant Principal Search

Rick Evans included the timeline for the Middle School Assistant Principal search in the packet. The search is a lengthy process and the committee is looking for participation from the board. Human Resources has already received seventy five applications. Since it may take several months, the interim period will be covered by retired elementary principal Jim Denney and Nancy Pearse, the current Dean of Students.

Board Goal

Board president Joe Pericone recapped goals 1 & 2 as provided in the packet. Bob Speck provided a handout of the Board's Self-Evaluation for 2008-09. Jim Schultz discussed the difference between Board goals and District goals. Board members will look at the feedback on their goals. They agreed that goals one and two are fine as stated. There was further discussion about the third goal to come to a decision about the location of administration and storage

space needs associated with the Hostetter building. A suggestion was made to make goal #3 more decisive and focus on a solution. Christy restated the goal and Board members agreed to amend the action items to include language on all three Board goals as written at the meeting.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Maughan seconded amending the Board goals to include language on all three goals as written at the meeting.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 5

Privilege of the Floor – none

Program Review

John Capano presented a program review on the district's technology infrastructure and the long term potential with the installation of fiber optic networks. He began by describing the capacity available through our current microwave network. The instructional computers have the capability to run at much higher speeds than allowed by the network itself. Instructional opportunities are limited by the bandwidth between buildings provided by the microwave network. Updating the wide area network via fiber optic cable would provide district computers with an actual throughput of 1000 MBPS. The network will no longer limit the resources available for instruction. Students and staff will be able to utilize many tools not previously available to them. Internet2 and other real time collaboration will be possible. The second half of the program review was an update from the Student Information System Committee.

High School Assistant Principal Dan Le Claire reported that the Student Information Committee had investigated four student information systems to replace the current system (SASI). Specific criteria was developed and there were on site demonstrations made by SchoolTool, eSchoolData, and PowerSchool Premier. The fourth system, Starbase was dropped early due to its possible limited lifespan. Committee members broke into seven groups to gain more information about the programs after listening to the three presentations. Feedback was sought from school districts currently using these products. Jason Lasky reported that all three of the options will provide opportunities to do more than is currently being done with SASI and will result in numerous improvements. Scotia Glenville is moving to eSchoolData. Questions were raised about the level of BOCES support for these student data systems. Two out of three of the programs are more responsive to New York State reporting guidelines. The other program, PowerSchool is not as focused on NYS because it is marketed nationally. The committee is scheduled to make their recommendations in December. All of the vendors say that the implementation is about two years out. Board members asked questions about parent portals with each system.

Review of Propositions 1 & 2

Jim Schultz gave a powerpoint presentation of the bond propositions that was created by Christy Multer. It is an overview designed to be used by board members for PTA meetings and other opportunities to inform the public about the upcoming bond referendum. It describes the process for capital improvements that has traditionally been accomplished in five to six year cycles since 1978. The proposed propositions will address critical infrastructure needs as identified by the work of two committees over the past year. The three propositions to be voted on in December total \$19.6 million and include energy, student safety, and technology. Detailed descriptions of the individual proposed projects along with financial implications for state building aid and tax impact on residents were provided. Construction manager Tom Quinn and the District's architect and engineer were available to answer questions about the projects.

Reports & Communications

- Elizabeth Herkenham will be attending the PTA meeting at the High School on Monday and would like to present the powerpoint on the bond referendum. She attended a panel discussion on H1N1 for businesses. They expect high rates of absenteeism and strategies for addressing continuity of work flow were addressed at the meeting. She asked what is BH-BL doing to address delivery of education. Superintendent Jim Schultz responded with information regarding some of the plans that have been discussed with staff over the last three months. There have been discussions with transportation, food service, and instructional staff, as well as with other districts about how to deal with issues relating to H1N1 absences. Teachers will provide additional makeup materials for students to review if they are absent. The Center for Disease Control warns that a second wave of absences may even be higher than what was experienced this fall. Absenteeism peaked around 25% at BH-BL and has now decreased.
- Jackie St.Onge attended the District Health and Safety meeting at which Jim Schultz and Cynthia Holmes presented on the topic of H1N1. A FAQ sheet was shared with the committee to discuss concerns relating to H1N1 in a question and answer format. It will be shared with all district staff and available on the website when complete. Jackie told board members that a potential energy grant available through the NY Power Authority Grant is being explored by our architects.
- Bob Speck reported that he had recently visited what had been the old 'wheel house' for the District located on Gleason Road. It is has been renovated as a day care center. He also attended the music concert and

remarked on the huge amount of student participation. Bob will be attending the upcoming Stevens PTA meeting and would like a copy of the bond presentation.

- John Blowers reported that another strategic planning committee meeting took place, however he was not able to attend. A survey was developed and it is available. John asked Board members to take the survey within the next few days. The committee meets again and they are on track and making good progress.
- James Maughan reported that the Charlton Heights PTA meeting is scheduled for next week. The monster mash is this week and he is planning to attend both events. He continues to review board policy.
- Rick Evans informed the Board that a letter from a parent will be in the packet next week requesting that the tuition for their tech valley student be paid by the district.
- Patre Kuziak reminded Board members that the new staff reception will be tomorrow 2- 4:30pm at the Hostetter building. It will be an open house hosted by Board members.
- Jim Schultz indicated that the first budget development meeting will take place on November 5th. Finance chair John Blowers and Board president Joe Pericone will meet with Jim, Jackie, Christy and Rick to begin the process.
- Joe Pericone attended the District Communication Council meeting where they discussed goals developed at the various buildings. He also attended the District Health and Safety meeting, the concert, and the Middle School PTA meeting. It was reported at the PTA meeting that attendance at the craft fair was down.
- Jim Schultz pointed out that several of Christy Multer's publications for BH-BL were recognized in the NYSSBA publication *On Board*. The awards are listed on the last page of the most recent issue. The Board and central administration joined in recognizing Christy's accomplishments.

Mr. Kelliher 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