

**DATE:** November 23, 2010  
**WHERE HELD:** Charlton Heights

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** John Blowers

**MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**John Blowers**  
**William Farmer**  
**James Maughan**  
**Lee-Ann Mertzlufft**  
**Joe Pericone**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Elizabeth Herkenham**  
**Patre Kuziak**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Christy Multer, and 3 others.

President John Blowers called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Pericone moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the November 16, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of films and the acceptance of the Internal Claims Audit Report.

Motion carried 5-0

**Privilege of the Floor**

Richard Evans addressed the Board of Education and would still like to have a response to his comments at the meetings during privilege of the floor. He has not received responses to his written communications. He gave the Board and Administration a handout outlining his frustration with receiving no response. He raised several points and questions. He believes the Board should be operating as a two way communication link between residents and the Superintendent. He is unhappy with labor contracts and teacher negotiations. He presented information on student achievement. His statement is available at the District Office.

**Program Review**

Jackie St.Onge introduced Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Dan Diggins and gave a brief overview of his responsibilities. Dan began his presentation with information on the Hostetter building and space utilization. Since the building is currently for sale, we need to consider plans for relocating staff and district storage. One of the most critical storage issues is for the annual paper order. It would be difficult to move quickly without addressing some of the remaining items still being stored in the building. Dan provided information on current square footage, rental rates, and how much it would cost the district to rent similar space. He also provided some real estate and storage options available in the area. Next Dan provided an update on the status of infrastructure projects at each building that have either been completed, critical to be addressed, or need to be addressed in the future. Dan provided a list of his top priorities for infrastructure needs. The final part of his presentation addressed 21<sup>st</sup> century framework technology needs including a network upgrade, wireless access throughout the district, servers, and fiber optic cables connecting between buildings. In addition, our district phone system is obsolete and needs to be upgraded to Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP). As technology is increased, we will need to address the increased power demand and need for energy management. Dan will be asking the Board and Administration to consider an energy manager position which he believes will pay for itself. There are some challenges that we will face including: fire safety, student & staff security, and the capital outlay for upgrading our technology infrastructure.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Mertzlufft seconded the approval of the extension of the leave of absence of Julie Benson, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Pashley, effective 1/3/11-1/31/11; the approval of the extension of the temporary appointment of Amanda Cotrupi, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Pashley, effective 1/3/11-1/31/11; the approval of the substitute teacher/nurse appointments of Julia Auster and Ashley Semerad; approval of the tenure recommendations of Merry Mazzotti, Jennifer Sala, Jacqueline Somerville, Michelle Reilly, Amy Landauer-Ruder.

Motion carried 5-0

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

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Farmer moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the gift of a HP LaserJet 4000 printer from Janet Judd valued at \$135.

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Mertzlufft moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of a gift of \$2,000 to the Music Department from the Burnt Hills Rotary club to help with the cost of the new main stage curtain at the High School.

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Pericone moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition request for the Ice Hockey Team.

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Mertzlufft moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the Resolution to Ratify Legal Action against Essential Industries, Inc. and E.A. Morse & Co., Inc. to recover for damages to the Middle School gymnasium floors.

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Mertzlufft seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.

Motion carried 5-0

### **Finance Committee Meeting**

James Maughan reported that we will be having a finance committee meeting next Tuesday, November 30, 2010. He asked Board members if they wanted to discuss the agenda and a question was raised as to whether the financial modeling tool created by Tim Kelliher would be used. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. We will look at the finance calendar and talk about potential forum dates. It will be helpful to meet with the Administrators prior to the meeting to hear their budget concerns as they impact instruction. James has created a set of ten questions that can be answered using the survey monkey tool and he hopes that they will be useful in shaping our budget objectives. Another idea that was discussed was to ask for input from constituent groups prior to presenting the budget. There was discussion about using several tools to collect input.

### **Tech Forum**

John Blowers commented that the Tech Forum was very successful. It worked very well and we had good media coverage. Board members offered their comments. It would have been nice to have more people attend and more students. Rick Evan's presentation was very well received by the audience. Panelists did a good job and sent clear messages about the skills that students will need to be competitive in the job market of the future. Since the evening was videotaped we may be able to use short clips on the website. The story that aired on Channel 13 is available via a link on our website. Christy is working on a newsletter and she will include a feature on the Tech forum.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Framework Implementation Committee**

Rick Evans discussed a draft of the next steps to be taken to implement the District 21<sup>st</sup> Century Framework for Learning. The process would begin with internal questions that need to be answered in order to inform the instructional committee's work. The committee would include a much broader membership and their work would continue into next year. Then the third committee would be formed to address the technology infrastructure needs via a bond referendum in October 2012. There was a lot of discussion about the urgency to address the District's technology needs. Can these groups be working simultaneously? Are there other ways to gather input and more concurrent activities that might occur? Given the economy and recently defeated technology proposition, would the community support another technology referendum so soon?

### **Upcoming Dates**

– John Blowers reminded Board members about two upcoming events. He talked about the format and meeting agenda for the CAPSBA meeting scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Two weeks from tonight on December 7<sup>th</sup> Board members have been invited to tour Niskayuna to see the recently completed renovations from their \$90 million bond.

### **Reports & Communications**

- Lee-Ann Mertzlufft asked the Superintendent about a meeting to introduce the new Middle School Principal Colleen Kane to the community. Superintendent Jim Schultz responded that we are exploring several venues for that purpose.
- Will Farmer asked a question about the uncollected tax rolls that must be turned over to Saratoga County and Schenectady County after the collection period ends. He wanted to know how this year's amount compared to last year. Jackie St. Onge responded they are approximately the same as last year. He also attended the drama production of The Odd Couple and enjoyed it. Will raised a question about looking at different ways to address privilege of the floor or questions received from the community.
- John Blowers reported on the recent PTA Council meeting at which they were reminded about the comments from the Internal Control audit. John offered to compose and send an article on behalf of the Board to the building PTAs in an effort to have relevant and timely Board communications published in their newsletters. John offered to meet with Jim Schultz and a community member to respond to privilege of the floor.

- Rick Evans received a request from the Special Education Director for additional staffing due to a new student entering our district and requiring additional services at the elementary level.
- Jim Schultz mentioned a Facebook presence in the district known as BH-BL Citizen 31. Board member Will Farmer asked if the Administrators would like to include a discussion on the budget at their meeting with the Board on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Jim responded that they have already requested that the budget be one of the topics. Jim informed the Board about a concern raised by a parent about the flag not being flown at the Charlton Heights Elementary School everyday. After speaking with the building principal it was determined that on one occasion the student in charge of raising the flag that day had forgotten to do it. This week the flag was not flown one day due to rain. When the flag gets wet, it is difficult to dry and it becomes moldy. After reviewing the protocol for displaying the flag, we are in compliance. Since the other buildings have a light for their flags, they can be left out. Charlton Heights does not currently have a light at the flag pole; however we are looking into remedying the situation. Will and Jim will be reviewing Board policy for two series, 5000's and 6000's. Jim talked briefly about a new way to accomplish a census that would identify all students in the household. In the past we have conducted a door to door census and we are exploring the possibility of a mailing. He spoke briefly about a letter from school attorney Robert Van Vranken to the Town of Glenville regarding the assessment for the Hostetter building. Today was service day at the Middle School and Christy Multer arranged to have media coverage for our students

Mr. Farmer moved and Mr. Pericone seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board