

DATE: January 4, 2011
WHERE HELD: Middle School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: John Blowers

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers
William Farmer
Elizabeth Herkenham
Patre Kuziak
James Maughan
Lee-Ann Mertzlufft
Joe Pericone

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Christy Multer, and 25 others.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Farmer moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the December 14, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 7-0

Privilege of the Floor

District resident Todd Fisher, whose property borders the High School (70-A Lakehill Rd.) shared three concerns of his with the Board. Since his property is so close to the back parking lot of the High School he hears the noise from all of the buses from other schools that park there for sports events. He is particularly concerned because the buses are idling for extended periods of time and they are parked very close to his property. He also mentioned that kids come in to the parking lot late at night and are doing donuts in the lot. This also creates a disruption for him due to the noise. The third issue that he was concerned about was the noise from the dumpster being picked up at 4:30 AM in the morning.

Another community resident, Richard Evans, addressed the Board to renew his request for information on the Board's guidelines and objectives for past negotiations. He is mainly interested in finding out the Board's strategy as they entered the negotiations process.

District resident Bill Gliniecki has lived in the BH-BL school district for 35 years and he is concerned about the increase in school taxes each year. He has addressed the Board in prior years and feels that it is unacceptable to have his taxes go up every year. Many people will be in a position to lose their homes if the taxes continue to go up. He does not understand why the public sector believes they have an entitlement to receive more every year. He has his own business and is responsible for his retirement. When times are tough, the private sector is forced to cut back and he does not see that happening in the public sector. Mr. Gliniecki spoke about the differences between salary and retirement benefits in the private and public sector and asked the Board to consider this during the budget process.

ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the extension of the temporary appointment of Jessica Lyons, Guidance at the High School, effective 2/11/11-5/31/11; and Lauren Mattison, Grade 1 at Stevens, effective 1/1/11-6/30/11; the approval of the leave of absence of Jennifer Wolf, World Language at the Middle School, effective 9/1/11-6/30/12; and the extension of the leave of absence of Jennifer Bennice, Grade 1 at Stevens, effective 1/1/11-6/30/11; the approval of the volunteer winter coaching assignment of Shawn Kline, Boys Basketball; the approval of the substitute teacher/nurse appointments of Lisa Allore, Maria Belyea (RN), Lisa Brennan, Danielle Canterbury, Lisa Crawford, Daniel Deitz, Linda Doud, Susan Dowling, Shana Feinberg, Melinda Kennedy, Erin McMahon, Gina Norton, Douglas Racette, Daniel Vollweiler, Jennifer Whittle-Clark, Paula Young (RN); the approval of substitute teachers being removed from payroll (see agenda item #3 for complete list).

Motion carried 7-0

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

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the acceptance of the Grant Awards from the BH-BL Education Foundation.

Motion carried 7-0

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Mertzlufft seconded the acceptance of the following gifts to the High School:

- 1) a donation of \$75 to the BH-BL Educational Support Association Scholarship Fund from Ms. Janet Vanamersfort
- 2) a donation of \$1,640 to cover the cost of the Rachel's Challenge Assembly Program from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Van Vranken.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Mertzlufft moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of a donation of books values at \$440.56 to the High School Library from Karen Ferris-Fearnside.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the acceptance of a Residency Grant of \$3,000 for fifth grade students at Charlton Heights from the Saratoga county Arts Council.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition request for the Ice Hockey Team.

Motion carried 7-0

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

Motion carried 7-0

Hostetter Update

Jim Schultz reported that we have received an option on the Hostetter property for future purchase. The option allows the potential buyer time to conduct preliminary studies, evaluate the property and enter into discussions with the Town of Glenville on the proposed use of the property. If and when all conditions are satisfactory, the purchase offer is for \$1.1M. Our school attorney has reviewed the contract and made some revisions that were discussed with the Board and Central Administration. Board member Joseph Pericone asked if the District has begun to look at where Central Administration would relocate to and how it would be accomplished. Jim Schultz said that we have begun exploring the space needs and rental space options. Some of the information was presented in the program review given by Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Dan Diggins.

Budget Development & Communications Plan

Finance Committee Chair James Maughan reviewed the 2011-12 Budget Development and Communications Plan. He was looking for Board comments after the most recent revisions. Elizabeth Herkenham felt that it seemed to capture their points effectively. Will Farmer asked to have the sentence about \$333,000 in new expense be changed to more clearly address the revenue side of the equation. There was additional discussion about the third budget objective and ideas to make it more actionable or talk about multi-year strategies. Should it be changed to 'define and assess new strategies?' Board members talked about ideas to communicate what has been done by the District already to be creative and reduce costs. James Maughan announced that the next Finance Committee meeting will be on January 19th at the High School. At that meeting they can revisit the discussion about budget objective number three and present ideas.

Board of Ed Primer

Christy Multer updated a document called *A Board of Education Primer* which was included in the packet. The primer defines and describes the Board meeting elements including format, purpose, components, and how the meetings are conducted. It helps the audience to understand how they can participate. The plan would be to have these available at all meetings. It was done in the past and has not been done in about five years. Christy will do some additional work on it to make it more current.

Reports & Communications

- Lee-Ann Mertzlufft had a meeting with the school historian Bob Speck. She also had a legislative task force meeting prior to tonight's Board meeting. She gave members a legislative position paper on school transportation issues that she received from Assistant Superintendent Jackie St.Onge. Some concerns were voiced about volunteerism and participation at school events being low and the need to get more community involvement.
- Patre Kuziak attended an after school activity at Charlton Heights, Curiosity Shop, where she made a connection with a writer from the Gazette. This led to an article in the Gazette featuring Patre.
- Joe Pericone attended the High School PTA meeting at which they discussed the Founders Day dinner to be held on Feb 3rd at the River Stone Manor in Scotia. They also discussed the Friends of Rachel Club and surveys that have been sent to BH-BL graduates from the classes of 2006, 2008, and 2010.
- James Maughan reminded Board members that the next Board meeting will be January 18th, followed by Finance meetings on January 19th and January 27th. James reported that Mohonasen CSD had their proposed

bond referendum for capital improvements rejected by a 2 to 1 margin. He gave a brief update of some of the news from Albany that may impact our budget process including the State budget deficit, continuation of the layoffs proposed by former Governor Paterson, salary reductions of 5% for Governor Cuomo and his staff, and a property tax cap.

- Elizabeth Herkenham was unable to attend the Charlton Heights PTA meeting because it was scheduled for tonight. She spoke about a Nanotech initiative for this summer at RPI. In the past a couple of our BH-BL teachers have taught some of the classes. She will send the link for teachers to sign up early if they wish to participate. She discussed an upcoming webcast on the Future of Science Education in New York. Panelists will include NYSED Commissioner David Steiner, Board of Regents Vice Chancellor Cofield and others. It is part of a stem initiative and she will forward the information.
- Will Farmer reported that he is making progress on policy review. He has heard comments from 6th graders about a change in location upon arrival at O'Rourke Middle School. Now they go to the Library rather than the cafeteria and they are unhappy about being isolated.
- Jackie St.Onge responded to a question raised by Board member James Maughan regarding the recent news about overtime payments for retiring public employees. She explained that District administrators, teachers, and supervisors are not paid overtime. Members of the CSEA bargaining unit are paid overtime when required by the District. Reasons include emergencies such as snow removal, power outages, and alarm calls, etc. Overtime may also be required for building use beyond the normal work week for sporting events, concerts, academic events, and facility use by outside organizations. The District has limited overtime as much as possible due to budget cuts, however it is necessary at times. The exposure for overtime abuse is limited and must be approved by supervisory staff.
- Jim Schultz is working with Will Farmer on Policy review of the 5000 series. He announced that CASDA is offering a webinar on policy development as required by the Dignity for All legislation and asked if Board members were interested in participating. He had his first Anti-bullying meeting with a shared decision making committee. They will be moving forward with that initiative over the next three months. Jim and other Capital Area Superintendents have formed a lobbying subcommittee and they will be working with other area groups on lobbying activities. Christy Multer, Lee-Ann Mertzluft, and Jim Schultz will be attending the next meeting. Jim reported that as a group, Ice Hockey officials are resisting fingerprinting requirements. He reminded the Board that tomorrow evening our new Middle School Principal Colleen Kane will meet parents.
- John Blowers attended the Dec 15th Junior Achievement shadow program and BH-BL is again participating. He attended both Dignity for All programs at the High School and O'Rourke Middle School. Both were very worthwhile programs. John announced that the Capital Business Review is hosting a breakfast and it will present a legislative opportunity because Assemblyman George Amedore will be there.

Upon conclusion of the Reports and Communications segment of the meeting, the Board revisited topics raised during Privilege of the Floor. Concerns raised by Mr. Fischer will be investigated and a response will be provided to him. Superintendent Schultz will take care of providing information to Mr. Giniecki about future Finance Committee meeting dates. Information requested by Mr. Evans will be prepared and sent to him.

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Pericone seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board