

**DATE:** February 12, 2008  
**WHERE HELD:** Middle School

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Michael Wolf

**MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**John Blowers**  
**Nancy Della Pia**  
**Elizabeth Herkenham**  
**Tim Kelliher**  
**Robert Speck**  
**Michael Wolf**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Joe Pericone**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**Jim Schultz, Rick Evans, Jacqueline St.Onge, Christy Multer, Rocco Montesano, Dan LeClaire and 10 others.**

President Michael Wolf called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Della Pia seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the January 22, 2008 regular meeting, and the January 31, 2008 & February 2, 2008 special meetings of the Board of Education and the authorization of films.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachments

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Della Pia seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 1

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Della Pia seconded the approval of the retirement of Sally Ellms, Grade 3 teacher at Pashley, effective 6/30/08; the approval of the tenure appointment of Kevin DeBonis, Guidance Counselor at the Middle School; the approval of the substitute teacher appointment and the spring Driver Education instructors, so noted on the attached list.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 2

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

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 3

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the Non-Resident Tuition Rate for the calendar year 2008.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 4

Ms. Della Pia moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the bid awards for Phase II EXCEL Construction Projects

- a. Electrical
- b. HVAC Pashley
- c. General Construction
- d. Asbestos Abatement
- e. Plumbing

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 5

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the Resolution with all Schenectady County School Districts to participate in the proposed 2008-09 Cooperative Bids for:

- a. Bread & Rolls
- b. Custodial Supplies
- c. Duplicating Paper
- d. Filters
- e. Milk & Cheese
- f. Miscellaneous Auto & Bus Parts
- g. Roofing Repairs & Maintenance
- h. Swimming Pool Chemicals
- i. Toners
- j. Trash Removal

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 6

Action on the Revised Property Assessment Tax Exemption for Low Income Senior Citizens & Disabled Citizens was tabled until the next meeting.

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

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 7

### **Privilege of the Floor**

**Liza McErlean** commended the Board and Central Administration on their support of the PACE Program. However in her opinion PACE II Math opportunities are not available for seniors and creates a void in the program. She is asking Board & Administration to consider course options for next year for these PACE students. **Tom Shaginaw** spoke on the same topic. He explained various alternatives that have been explored with the High School math department and by the parents of these PACE students. They are recommending Linear Algebra as an option. **Lysle Perry**, a parent and also a teacher in Scotia-Glenville, thanked Board members for their continued support of the PACE Program. Since a math instructor is not likely to be funded, they have explored other options. They have done some research on the offerings of other school districts. These parents are asking for financial support for an online course, preferable Linear Algebra, to be offered to their students next year.

### **Policy 7350**

Jim presented the revised Policy 7350 on Use of Seat Belts on School Bus Vehicles. It will be presented for a vote at the next Board meeting.

### **Budget Forum**

Christy described a proposed format for the February Budget Forum, a possible title, and the key questions for soliciting community input. Tim reminded everyone that we must clearly communicate that the budget is a work in progress, not a done deal. Christy will explore publicity for the budget forum.

### **Long Range Planning**

Mike Wolf distributed a handout on Board goals & evaluation. He assigned Board members tasks associated with the options for Hostetter as follows:

Maintain current use - Bob Speck

Sell with land - Mike Wolf

Utilize for instructional use - John Blowers

Knocking down building & maintaining land - Joe Pericone

This information will be gathered over approximately the next six weeks.

Jim Schultz talked about some of the projects that have been considered in previous bond referendums and how they may impact the Board charge for the next Bond Committee. He explained a potential grant opportunity that is currently being explored to address traffic safety concerns at the Middle School. At the meeting on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> some proposed projects and their estimated costs were provided. Jim gave Board members a copy of the proposal. There was a lot of discussion about a second access road for bus traffic onto High Mills Road. Since the grant funding is very limited, the committee explored less costly projects including sidewalk construction.

Jim continued reporting on projects that have either been eliminated from previous bond projects, were not able to be funded, have not been completed or will need to be addressed in the future.

Elizabeth Herkenham arrived.

### **Reports & Communications**

- Tim Kelliher attended the Follies and commented on the talent of our students. He also mentioned the blog created by the Moers exchange students and suggested Board members visit the site.
- Nancy Della Pia attended the CAPSBA legislative breakfast along with Elizabeth Herkenham and Joe Pericone. Board members shared their legislative position with representatives.
- Bob Speck will be reporting on the 9000 policy series in March and he has begun working on it. Bob distributed a document containing historical information on NYS Study Commissions for Education Reform.
- Elizabeth listened to Regents Dawson speak at the CAPSBA legislative breakfast. She reported on the initiatives currently being undertaken at the state level. She reported that a representative from the Lt. Governor's office offered to meet with BHBL representatives..
- John Blowers attended meetings of the Interscholastic Sports Committee and reported they are finalizing the 4<sup>th</sup> & final charge and will report out to the Board at the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also reported that on February 5<sup>th</sup> GE hosted 50 BH students (along with approx. 150 from neighboring districts) at the downtown facility. On February 6<sup>th</sup> he attended the BH Business & Professional Association breakfast meeting.
- Jackie St. Onge reported on the status of a proposal for security equipment to be donated by Golub Corporation. Food Service Director, Nicky Boehm met with SGO students to discuss the program. she offered students an opportunity to participate in the menu planning process for the month of April.
- Rick Evans provided Board members with a response to the parents that spoke during privilege of the floor regarding viable opportunities for PACE students in their senior year. He cited numerous examples of the factors

being considered for these students on the part of the district.

- Jim Schultz reported that the BOCES search for a new District Superintendent is down to 2 finalists. The Founders Day Awards dinner was last Thursday night and demonstrated the commitment on the part of parents and community in support of BH-BL students. PTA Council met and are looking for a president. Bob McGuire is continuing to explore the not-for-profit status for the Athletic Education Foundation. Alpine skiers won sectionals for the first time in BHBL history.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a motion to executive session.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a return to regular session.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Deputy Clerk of the Board