

DATE: March 10, 2009
WHERE HELD: Stevens

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Bob Speck

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham
Tim Kelliher
Patre Kuziak
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck
Michael Wolf

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, Dan LeClaire, Tim Brunson, and 60 others.

There was an executive session at 7:00 PM to discuss negotiations.

President Robert Speck called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the February 24, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of textbooks.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachments

John Blowers arrived at 7:50 PM.

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 1

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the retirement of Barbara Oberdieck, School Social Worker at the High School, effective 6/30/09; the approval of the tenure appointments of Gail Austro, Jennifer Bennice, Julie Benson, Timothy Brunson, Christopher Deso, Eric Devine, Santina Florio, Amber Haggerty, Tracy Hall, Megan Jones, Carolyn Litynski, Jennifer Martin, William McQuay, Michael Mosall, Jennifer Peterson, Cassandra Steitzer, Renee Tolan; and the approval of the substitute teacher appointments, so noted on the attached list.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 2

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

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 3

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Annual School District Meeting Notice.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 4

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the appointment of officers – Theresa Barclay (Deputy Clerk of the Board) and Jacqueline St. Onge (Deputy Treasurer) and the approval of other appointments - Theresa Barclay (Auditor of Extra-classroom Activity Fund & Purchasing Agent in accordance with Section 170.2(b) of Commissioner's Regulations).

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 5

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Wolf seconded the motion to table the approval of the Opening of School Date for 2009-2010 until the April 7th Board meeting. After listening to concerns raised during Privilege of the Floor the Board charged the committee to come back with a 186 day calendar with students starting after Labor Day.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 6

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Requests for the Varsity Baseball team.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 7

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Wolf seconded the approval of the District Plan for Physical Education.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 8

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

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 9

Privilege of the Floor

Cathy Todd spoke on behalf of some community members voicing opposition to the proposed calendar for 2009-10 which starts prior to Labor Day. She has checked with other school districts to see when they are proposing to start the school year. She also asked for the Board to consider changing the calendar and to consider having a parent representative on the calendar committee for next year. She provided clarification that they are referring to the impact of starting school prior to Labor Day for students, not staff. Superintendent Jim Schultz explained the process used by the calendar committee and how input was received from each bargaining unit. Information was provided to bargaining unit representatives two weeks prior to the calendar committee meeting. Dispatcher Julia Duchesne voiced concerns relating to scheduling the student pickups if school starts prior to Labor Day. Gail Anderson asked a question regarding the number of days of required attendance, snow days, and holidays. John Kelch asked a question about the school year being stretched out from past years and if it was done for educational purposes or to respond to bargaining units. Superintendent Schultz responded with clarification about the calendar. Linda Fieldhouse voiced a concern specifically related to the limited number of days in November for student learning to take place. Elizabeth Opie and her husband operate a business that is heavily reliant on the school calendar and she would like that perspective considered as well.

Mike Nally voiced concerns about the budget and feels that there are two things that should not occur as part of the budget process – 1) staff reductions, and 2) any tax increase for the community. He expressed his opinion that BH-BL staff should consider not taking salary increases. John Kelch voiced concerns about the budget process and contract negotiations. Superintendent Schultz responded that questions about the budget should be brought to the budget forum where there is an opportunity for a response. During privilege of the floor, the Board typically listens but does not respond during the meeting.

Finance Committee Agenda

Joe Pericone reported that there will be discussions on the Superintendent's recommended budget. Superintendent Schultz reminded Board members that this meeting will be an opportunity for questions from the Board and he will be bringing his three tiered budget model. There will also be discussions about community input. John will report on the legislative breakfast that he will be attending and any other lobbying activities. Mike would like to discuss the input from both forums at the next Finance meeting. Board members discussed changing the date of the meeting on March 19th due to a conflict with the Nanotechnology presentation by Dr. Alain Kaloyeros at the High School. The Board decided it was too important and well publicized to change now.

Policy 9380 (Annual District Meeting)

Superintendent Jim Schultz brought to Board members attention an error in Policy 9380. A sample policy was obtained from ERIE 1 BOCES and their model had a different percent for required signatures on petitions for submission of propositions. Proposed changes will be made and brought to the next meeting for action by the Board.

Referendum Update

Jackie St. Onge reported on the work of the Critical Infrastructure Needs Committee for the next referendum. The number and scope of projects continues to expand. Several subcommittees have met to gather additional input for projects like window replacement, traffic flow & site design at Stevens, Charlton Heights kitchen, etc. The full report is scheduled for April 7th and the Programmatic Needs Committee will be invited to attend. There was discussion about delaying the Programmatic Needs Committee until after Board members have a chance to further explore the scope and timing of the next referendum. The Board may charge the Programmatic Committee to review and react to the recommendations of the Infrastructure Committee.

Reports & Communications

- John Blowers attended Stevens PTA meeting. He reported on the PTA's lobbying efforts resulting in many letters that he will personally deliver at the legislative breakfast. John has been meeting with community colleges and exploring high school to college partnerships. He also will be attending the SGO meeting. Food Service Director, Nicky Boehm will be there to explore menu planning by the students again. John wants to be considered to represent the Board on the student information software system committee to replace SASI.
- Joe Pericone attended the Rappers Club meeting for recognition of students who raise their GPA.
- Rick Evans reported on activities of the Early Intervention Committee. They are currently recommending a new kindergarten screening instrument for identifying incoming kindergartners' needs.
- Superintendent Jim Schultz told Board members that Dan LeClaire will be one of the co-chairs for the SASI replacement committee. He also asked members of the strategic planning committee to pick a date for their next meeting. It was decided to be held at 3:30pm in Rocco Montesano's room in the Middle School on

March 18th.

- Bob Speck attended the Pashley pre-school registration meeting. Board member Patre Kuziak will serve on the District Health & Wellness committee that Bob served on previously. He gave her his notebook from past activities.
- Tim Kelliher informed Board members that the Education Foundation meets tomorrow.
- Mike Wolf attended the Middle School PTA meeting. Since this is the final year for Monopoly Madness, the PTA is planning a publicity event for the 25th of April with memorabilia from past years.

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Wolf seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board