

**DATE:** March 11, 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**  
**Joe Pericone**  
**Robert Speck**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Michael Wolf**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**Jim Schultz, Rick Evans, Jacqueline St.Onge, Christy Multer, Rocco Montesano, and 19 others.**

Board Member Tim Kelliher called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the February 26, 2008 regular meeting of the Board of Education, the authorization of textbooks and the acceptance of the Claims Audit Report.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachments

John Blowers arrived at 7:45 PM.

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 1

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the retirements of Carol DiLallo, Grade 2 teacher at Charlton Heights, Carol Douglas, Grade 5 teacher at Charlton Heights, Sharon Jackson, Grade 2 teacher at Charlton Heights, all effective 7/1/08, Robbie Paine, Math teacher/Math CCR at the Middle School, and Gail Venezio, Staff Development Coordinator, both effective 6/30/08; the approval of the tenure appointments of Cheryl Bach, GED teacher; Michele Bowker, Elementary teacher; Jessica Fedoroff, Special Education teacher; Joshua Merlis, Math teacher; Peter Mody, English teacher; Rosemarie Posillico, K-12 Career & Technical Education; Jacqueline St. Onge, Assistant Supt. for Support Services; Maryellen Symer, High School Principal; Kathleen White, Special Education teacher; and Katherine Zyskowski, Science teacher; and the approval of the appointment of Lyndsay Armbruster, Assistant Lacrosse coach.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 2

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

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 3

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Annual School District Meeting Budget Vote.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 4

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the Fire Inspection Reports

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the resolution to pursue Section 75 Proceedings.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 5

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

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 6

**Recognition of Cheryl Brott as a National Board Certified Teacher**

Rick Evans explained the process for National Board certification and described the outstanding accomplishment by Cheryl Brott in achieving this honor. Cheryl shared some of her experiences. Tim thanked her for pursuing this national honor on behalf of the entire Board.

## **Interscholastic Sports Ad Hoc Committee Report**

John Blowers started the presentation with an overview of the process the committee used in addressing the 4 charges. Co-chair Chuck Griswold also spoke on how well the process worked in addressing the 4 charges given to the committee. Several committee members presented the response to each specific charge (see entire report included in the packet). Committee members felt it was important to consider both advantages and disadvantages relating to the first charge. As part of the response to Charge 2, the committee asked the Board to consider a review of existing facility use schedules and explore outlets for adding sports facilities (alternate locations, community space, and expanding district space). In reporting on Charge 3, Tim Brunson noted that a continuous theme of examining how facilities are currently being used kept coming up. He also stated that the committee felt it was very important that sports program reviews occur on a seasonal three-year cycle. Matt Shell spoke regarding Charge 4 and emphasized that all decisions considered the interest of the kids in light of the tough questions being asked. He also addressed four considerations in the report that went beyond the charge for #4. Tim Brunson summed up the five month process and the importance of the work of the committee. Bob Speck found the "comments from the Booster Clubs" very informative. Some clubs did not respond and he would like those to provide feedback. Tim Brunson will try again to get their feedback. Elizabeth Herkenhan found a common thread suggesting communication is key to the process. One area of concern was activities supported with Booster Club funds. She asked the question - If a family can't afford to send their student to an outside camp or activity, how is this addressed to prevent a student from missing the opportunity? The response was that hardships are usually addressed by Booster Clubs. They will defray costs for these students. Joe Pericone asked about outside sports vs. inside sports and if one is on is the other off? He also asked if club sports were indicating they don't have enough participation? The answer was no, they're not hurting for membership. Also, there are restrictions on athletes competing on school sports teams not being allowed to compete on outside teams at the same time. Bob Speck asked if the committee looked at Board policy or Administrative Regulations and if not he suggested they take a look at them. Joe Pericone raised the question - Is the community overtaxed with fundraisers? It was suggested that this might be addressed by an umbrella group to coordinate fundraising activities, make transitions, and understand Board policy and regulations. Tim Kelliher thanked the committee for all of their work tackling the tough questions and gave credit to the people who volunteered to make the district better. The Board will follow-up with how this report will be used. John Blowers shared the Board appreciation with mouse pads and read the inscription to all.

## **Fire Inspection Reports**

Dan Diggins, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, along with East Glenville Fire Chief Arnold Briscoe presented the results of the district's annual fire inspection reports. As a district, there has been considerable improvement evidenced this year. Chief Briscoe commended the district staff for addressing past violations, implementing new State regulations and in general for overall compliance. He reminded us that as school buildings are being expanded, the new spaces need to have adequate storage. As technology is being added, upgrades to electrical systems and other safety issues need to be considered. Fire inspections are required for any locked buildings and must be done at eleven month intervals. The actual process takes several days to visually inspect every room or area of our buildings. The report is available at the District Office or by contacting Dan Diggins.

## **Grant Proposal - Safe Routes to School**

Jim Schultz talked about the Safe Routes to School Grant and the original proposal costing \$1.3 million; however the sub-committee has prepared a less costly version for approximately \$170,000. The submission deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup> and will improve traffic safety at O'Rourke that will include sidewalks and a new entrance. One of our community members has volunteered an incredible amount of time to work on this grant and the district is very appreciative.

## **Budget Update**

Another Finance Committee meeting is needed next week and dates were discussed. It is tentatively set for Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the High School. The draft legislative position paper was distributed to Board members for discussion. The first two paragraphs have been changed. Letters were approved for distribution.

## **Policy Series 9000 Direction**

Bob Speck worked with Jim on the 9000 series of Board policies. They were divided into two groups. One group has been reviewed and does not require changes. Jim explained policy changes to six specific policies or the need for action in order to comply with the policy. Bob asked Board members to look at the Board regulations if they have not done so.

## **Reports & Communications**

- John Blowers attended a NYSSBA Webinar event on District Performance Scan on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He also attended the High School PTSA meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and reported there was good discussion regarding the budget. They were willing to support any lobbying efforts. He reported that the Follies raised \$1,500 more than last year. On March 6<sup>th</sup> he filed his petition to be on this year's ballot for the School Board. He attended the final Ad Hoc Sports Committee meeting.
- Bob Speck attended the O'Rourke PTA meeting. Monopoly Madness is coming in April. He also reported on the status of the 2008-09 budget to the PTA and encouraged them to attend the next Public Forum. Bob also had a

- question in regards to the Claims Audit Report. There was a \$9,000 purchase - What was it for?
- Nancy Della Pia attended the Kindergarten registration on March 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Joe Pericone attended the 1<sup>st</sup> ½ hour of the Charlton Heights PTA meeting prior to coming to the budget meeting. They have expressed concerns with class sizes for next year.
  - Elizabeth Herkenhan announced we have 2 State Champs - Erica Swits (Alpine Skiing) and Meghan Gregory (Girls Indoor Track). She also reported that the Middle School is having a spring fundraiser. Life Touch is coming in to take pictures and money is raised simply by having pictures taken regardless of whether packages are purchased. She has concerns with several aspects of this fundraiser- timing, how it's being used and oversight. Nano Ed Summit Day directed towards Board members and teachers is coming up on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Rick Evans reported that the Elementary Program review is coming up and he asked Board members for specific areas of interest. John had a question about class size and strategy for grade levels. Tim wants to know what are the obstacles for the next steps and key areas for improvements. Rick gave a brief update on opportunities for PACE 3 students. Parents expressed interest in linear algebra - we are exploring an online course through BYU, along with other options.
  - Jackie St. Onge attended a Schenectady County Emergency Planning meeting for school districts. Grant opportunities are available for schools that partner with Schenectady County to provide emergency sites. She attended the State Aid Planning session in Albany to review aid calculations for Capital Area Schools and proposed formula changes. Jackie also reported that on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> members of our staff met for pretrial briefing with attorneys representing the district in the Daconti case. Reserve has been raised and attempts to settle are ongoing. The trial is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Jim Schulz asked Board members for input on Superintendent's Recommendations and specificity on staffing cuts. At the Superintendent's meeting Jim will share budget to budget and tax increase for area schools. Many of the proposed areas will be discussed further at the upcoming Finance meeting

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Della Pia seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board