

DATE: April 22, 2008
WHERE HELD: High 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
Michael Wolf

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Rick Evans, Jacqueline St.Onge, Christy Multer, Rocco Montesano, and 12 others.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the April 8, 2008 regular meeting of the Board of Education, and the authorization of Tradebooks.

Motion carried 7-0 See attachments

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 1

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of revised policies:

- a) P5114 (School Assignment & Attendance Areas)
- b) P5116 (Admission of Non-resident Students)
- c) P9120 (Code of Ethics)

Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 2

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Della Pia seconded the approval of the contract with Josh Merlis (elementary Report Card System) pending the source code added to the agreement.

Motion carried 7-0 See attachment 3

Ms. Della Pia moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the special athletic competition requests for:

- a) Outdoor Track Team
- b) Boys & Girls Crew Team

Motion carried 7-0 See attachment 4

Ms. Della Pia moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the contract for health & welfare services with:

- a) Scotia-Glenville CSD
- b) South Colonie CSD

Motion carried 7-0 See attachment 5

Privilege of the Floor

Michael Koester reported to the Board on behalf of SGO. Current SGO activities include a charity basketball game and student elections.

Program Review - Middle School

Lori Maloney provided an overview of efforts occurring at the Middle School. State assessments, common assessments, classroom assessments, and teacher observations are all examples of data being analyzed at the MS level. Reading comprehension has been the common goal for teams and common reading strategies are being used at all grade levels.

Bill McQuay highlighted successes with Math state assessments at various grade levels. Both ELA and Math are looking at the core program and students. Accelerated students participating in the recent math contest were very successful achieving outstanding results.

John Antoski explained how the 8th grade scores are analyzed for Social Studies and how the results are being used to help students prepare for the tests. He identified problem areas for Social Studies, as well as Science and how changes are made to address these areas.

Carrie Sunkes described the process for accelerated science program placements. For ELA, the PACE program targets individual students and challenges them to move to the next higher level.

Sharon McTygue reported improvements across grades 6, 7, & 8 for students with disabilities in both Math (more significantly) and also in ELA.

Don Germain observed that the structure used in BHBL is extremely effective in achieving these results and that these collaborative initiatives are in the best interest of kids. He described the two SMART Goals; the cognitive goal was to decrease a targeted group of students failing two or more subjects and the affective goal encompassed character education as described by Nancy Pearce and Robin Gawrys. Discipline referrals have dropped and there are less suspensions and demerits. Collaborative efforts by Nancy, Don, & Robin to develop relationships with the students have resulted in more student activity participation and celebration of student successes. For example, students who improve their averages are recognized at a breakfast celebration. Initiatives such as Mismatch day are aimed at pulling kids in for extra activities and for becoming part of the MS family. The Parsons day trip for 6th graders is a teambuilding activity that occurs at the beginning of the school year. Student participation in Spirit Days is earned by having no missing assignments. More examples of student activities and how the funds are spent are included in the packet.

Following the Middle School Program Review, board members asked questions of the presenters.

Budget Update

Jim Schultz introduced the final draft of the 2008-09 proposed budget brochure and expressed his appreciation for the excellent work done by Christy to present such complex information in an understandable format.

Meet the Candidates Night

Jim Schultz reminded the Board that Meet the Candidates Night is coming up on May 6th.

Reports & Communications

- Elizabeth Herkenham discovered a grant for developing and implementing a teacher-mentor internship program. She suggested that the district might be successful in securing this type of funding. She received a message from parents who wish to express their concerns about the baseball varsity team and dissatisfaction with coaches. The proper protocol is to refer them to the Superintendent for a response.
- Tim Kelliher met with Dr. Evans on the elementary report card system.
- John Blowers indicated that May 13th will be final report for the Hostetter Alternate Use sub committee. They have met three times already and have one more scheduled meeting. He attended the Middle School PTA meeting at which they reported on the success of the Monopoly Madness fundraiser. He visited the Kids Korner program at the high school and observed a very well organized effort to provide students with educated career choices in this field.
- Nancy Della Pia pointed out a full page article about tax caps in the NYSUT publication as well as an article from Assemblyman Jim Tedisco for Board members to review.
- Bob Speck attended the Middle School PTA meeting where they discussed year end activities, Monopoly Madness and that they are looking for a new president. They are also starting up a newsletter. Bob attended the district BOCES meeting. Bob reminded Board members about mid year state aid cuts that occurred in the 1990's in light of the Governor's recent budget news.
- Jackie St. Onge reported that renovation work for the second phase of EXCEL projects began during the April break. National Grid completed moving the gas line at Pashley. We are meeting with our fiscal advisors this week to discuss next year's borrowing needs which include a tax anticipation note, bus debt borrowing, and the final EXCEL funds. Central Administration and representatives from each bargaining unit are also meeting with an independent consultant group to discuss the new 403b regulations for school districts. We are still in the process of preparing the response to the internal audit report to be presented at the upcoming audit committee meeting.
- Rick Evans noted that the High School Program Review will be taking place next month and he asked Board members for input. We had 32 people attend the Dufour Conference on Professional Learning Communities and it was a very positive experience.
- Mike Wolf asked Board members if there was any interest in recognizing presenters with mouse pads. Board of Ed self evaluation is coming up and Mike asked if feedback from central administrators should be solicited as part of the process. Consensus was that it should be.
- Jim Schultz commented on how important it is to have Board members see how technology is being integrated into the classroom, but the challenge is to actually schedule the activities. He offered times for Board members to participate and tentatively scheduled activities. Pledges by Board members and central administration were presented to the Pride group as a show of support for taking a stand against bullying and harassment. Jim submitted information to the State certifying that our school attorney is not reported to the state retirement system. As part of the Hostetter Use Task Force study, Carl Thurnau from the State Education Department of Facilities

Planning will be available to answer questions at the May 13th board meeting. Viable options and cost implications for the Hostetter building will be discussed.

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

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Della Pia seconded a return to executive session

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board