

DATE: May 12, 2009
WHERE HELD: High School

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, and 2 others.

There was an Executive Session at 6:45 PM to discuss negotiations.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Wolf seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the April 20, 2009 special meeting and the April 21, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of textbooks.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachments

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

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 1

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the resignation of Joshua Merlis, Math teacher at the High School, effective 6/30/09 and Brad Thomas, JV Boys Lacrosse Coach, effective 5/4/09; the approval of the appointment of Kevin DeBonis, JV Boys Lacrosse Coach, effective 5/5/09; the approval of the substitute teacher appointments, so noted on the attached list.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 2

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham 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 agreement with Bonadio & Co. for external auditing services.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 4

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Cooperative Duplicating Paper Bid Awards.

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 5

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

Motion carried 7-0

See attachment 6

Privilege of the Floor - none

Budget Hearing

Finance Chair Joe Pericone presented the 2009-10 proposed budget in the amount of \$53,368,860 along with the percent of budget increase and tax levy. Joe read the names of the five candidates running for three seats on the Board. He presented the proposition to purchase four new buses for a total not to exceed \$350,000. Christy Multer explained some of the new changes this year to the required budget documentation including making all of the information available on the website. Jim Schultz discussed the exit poll included in the packet. Ours is very similar to other suburban schools. He highlighted two items added since last year.

Hostetter Building

Jackie St. Onge provided a brief update of the insurance claim process for the Hostetter Building. Options for the future of Hostetter were discussed including sale of the property, renovations, demolition of the building, and other possibilities. Jim Schultz asked Board members about approaching Crossroads regarding their interest in the building as a future site. Damages to areas previously occupied by the Business Office, Special Services & Human Resources

were less extensive than in other parts of the building. There was discussion about doing minor renovations that would allow staff to return to their offices as compared to continuing to rent the temporary trailers. The Board also considered the accommodations being made at the High School for Special Services and Human Resources. Board members agreed to allow minor renovations to begin.

End of Year

Jim Schultz summarized & went through a chronology of District program priorities for May through July 2009 as provided in the Board packet. He reviewed what has already been done & what remains to be accomplished prior to July. Some of the major topics that need further discussion included Hostetter Building, contract negotiations during executive session, and Board goals. The next Board retreat is scheduled for June 16th from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Board & Superintendent's Evaluations

Bob Speck, Joe Pericone and Jim Schultz have been reviewing Board activities over the last twelve months. They have been identifying and summarizing major efforts and responsibilities. Jim Schultz posed the question of whether it might be better to focus on these areas as we move towards evaluation of goals.

Reports & Communications

- Rick Evans reported very good news with the results of the ELA grades 3 through 8 scores showing improvement at all grade levels! He also gave statistics showing consecutive years of improvement.
- Elizabeth Herkenham reported on regional activities that she attended with guidance counselors and administrators to learn more about student opportunities for emerging technologies. A graduate of BHBL will be presenting at an upcoming Tech event. Elizabeth was invited to help support career pathways via a Perkins Grant coordinated through BOCES and they will be looking for component school district participation. An area of weakness in career pathways for emerging technologies is math and Elizabeth was wondering if some of our teachers (McQuay, Lasky) would be interested in participating and sharing their expertise. She provided Board members with a handout about an upcoming event scheduled for May 29th, 2009 offered cooperatively by the Greater Capital Region Pathways Consortium and the Workforce Consortium for Emerging Technologies.
- Mike Wolf reported that the Boys Tennis Team won their sectional meet at LaSalle and next will play Albany Academy. This is another BHBL student success to celebrate.
- Jackie St. Onge reported on several recent cost savings including the results of the cooperative paper bid with eight school districts that saved \$52,848 over the state contract price. Other initiatives included saving \$40,000 for movers to bring the contents of the Hostetter building back from Albany, competitive quotes from HVAC vendors to obtain better pricing, exploring other bond counsel for potential savings, and savings at the Transportation department from reducing subs and limiting bus washing activities. We are also applying for storm disaster relief from FEMA.
- John Blowers participated in an event at Empire State College. Topics included social networking and workforce development. John emceed the 25th and final Monopoly Madness Program. The event has historically been a very successful fund raiser for Community Human Services. John also reported on area Junior Achievement activities aimed at leveraging partnerships between businesses and schools.
- Joe Pericone attended the Walkabouts at Stevens and Pashley. He also attended the Breakfast Celebration at the O'Rourke Middle School to honor 90 students for improvement in their GPA's and PDA.
- Bob Speck attended all three of the elementary Walkabouts nights. He addressed questions about the proposed budget from attendees. The NYSSBA publication "On Board" had several very good articles about the impact of budget caps. Bob also attended the recent Suicide Crisis session.
- Jim Schultz reminded Board members that Prom time is just around the corner. He expressed appreciation to John Blowers and Elizabeth Herkenham for sharing their perspectives with the Tech Valley Superintendents regarding a region wide vision moving districts forward with technology. Shenendehowa Superintendent Oliver Robinson and Jim Schultz will present their white paper to the Superintendents on the WSWHE Study of Tech Valley. Jim expressed his appreciation to the Insurance Committee for their tremendous efforts to find cost savings. He is recommending these strategies for implementation. The bargaining units worked together to achieve savings estimated at more than \$100,000. There will be one final press release prior to the budget vote with an opportunity to present district initiatives resulting in cost savings. An example of community and school cooperation to defray costs and provide recreational opportunities for students is the addition of three new fields at Charlton Heights provided by volunteers with donated labor and materials.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board