

DATE: May 26, 2009
WHERE HELD: Charlton Heights

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Bob Speck

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers (arrived 7:55 pm)
Elizabeth Herkenham (arrived 7:32 pm)
Patre Kuziak
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck
Michael Wolf

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Kelliher

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, Marge Rizzo and 7 others.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the May 12, 2009 regular meeting and the May 19, 2009 special meeting of the Board of Education.
Motion carried 4-0 See attachments

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the resignation of Daniel Shepard, Math teacher at the High School, effective 8/31/09; the approval of the tenure appointment of Jill Gobel, 2nd grade teacher at Charlton Heights, effective 9/1/09; the approval of the substitute teacher appointments, so noted on the attached list.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 1

Mr. Wolf 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 2

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for the Girls Crew Team.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 3

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the gift of a Holton Trombone valued at \$150 to the Music Department.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 4

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the gift of various items (so noted on list) to the Middle School valued at approximately \$200 as part of the Tools for Schools Program.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 5

Mr. Wolf moved and Mrs. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the gift of \$500 to the Middle School from the University of Vermont.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 6

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the gift of risers to the Pashley Music Program from the Pashley PTA valued at \$4,889.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 7

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the gift of \$500 to the Gifted Programs from Mr. & Mrs. Archibald Douglas.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 8

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the Cooperative Swimming Pool Chemical Bid Awards.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 9

Mr. Pericone moved and Mr. Wolf seconded the approval of the Cooperative Bid Awards for:

- a. HVAC Filters
- b. Miscellaneous Auto/Bus Parts

Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 10

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the Authorization to Borrow:

- a. Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) in the amount of \$3,500,000
- b. Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) in the amount of \$4,760,000
- c. Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) in the amount of \$1,324,214

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 11

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

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 12

Privilege of the Floor - none

Program Review – 21st Century Library Media Centers

Rick Evans introduced the presentation and librarians. Library Department Head Marge Rizzo provided written material on the BH-BL School Library Media Centers in the Board packets. The circulation of library materials for all five media centers along with budget data, student activities, databases and technology components for the Library Programs were described. Marge conducted an interactive lesson plan using technology in which Board members and Administration participated using wireless devices to answer questions. Results are tabulated immediately and scored. Next Marge Rizzo described typical activities of a Library Media Specialist including teaching, curriculum development, collaboration with classroom teachers, assisting students with use of the library, and finding information for assignments. Library Media Specialists aid students with problem solving and help them to appreciate literature. Librarian Sue Schultz gave an example of students who are learning how to edit and make movies using flip cameras. They have received positive feedback from the community and specifically kindergarten parents on the advances being made in the current media centers as compared to the school libraries of the past. They have observed a progression from books to online searches to the use of databases, with the amount of online searches increasing dramatically. Database use is encouraged because the material provided is already targeted at the appropriate student reading level by the librarians who designate the material as easy, medium, or hard. Access for school website has dramatically increased. A question was asked about the schedule when a library can be accessed by students within each school. Grades K-3 have a schedule assigned and the program from 4th grade and up is open and flexible. Another question was asked about how much sharing occurs between school libraries and public libraries. Since our libraries are primarily to support curriculum, subjects outside of the curriculum area may look to the public library for materials. Will books be replaced by technology? The answer was a resounding *No*, not anytime soon. When asked about their wish list, librarians responded with staffing, bandwidth, electrical outlets, more power, more budgetary funds, and *a return of their space at the High School (from HR)* ! Marge explained the book selection process which is quite extensive and includes searching, price shopping, curriculum, necessity, available sources, binding, etc. How do our students react to new technology? Kids like books in MP3 format however, librarians find that they use a lot more battery and is more of an issue than anticipated. Book circulation is still the most popular and an area of focus has been to improve literacy and reading comprehension for students.

Budget – What have we learned?

Jim Schultz began the discussion with a look back over the process, the voting results, and exit survey statistics. While the actual comments are not available for review, there appears to be some common themes from residents. Board members were pleased with the input from the forums and the addition of an earlier forum. All of the information will help guide and improve the process for next year. The process of breaking into small groups to listen to residents' concerns seemed to work very well and provide an opportunity to listen and educate the public. In some instances, it helped to dispel information that was either incorrect or misunderstood. The process allowed Board members and Administration to hear legitimate concerns and negative comments, and then decide how to address them.

Many of the exit poll comments shared by Christy indicated that only a zero increase budget would be acceptable to them. There were also numerous comments about teachers reopening their contracts. Board members and Administration recognize that next year will be another difficult budget year. We already know that this is a multi-year problem and that State Aid will be frozen. Board members would like to have data from exit polls available for the Board retreat. This year the budget passed by one of the smallest margins in many years and it was also one of the highest voter turnouts. There is a need to encourage long range strategies for real change and include the next bond referendum in the discussion.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Jim Schultz put Board Regulation 9720 (Procedures for Evaluation of the Superintendent) in the packet and the link to complete the survey monkey. This needs to be completed by Wednesday. Mike Wolf will compile the data and at the next Board meeting completed forms will be brought to executive session for discussion by Board members.

Policy 6120 – Grade K-12 Curriculum Committees

The policy on Grade K-12 Curriculum Committees requires minor revisions to accurately reflect changes made to eliminate Teacher Leaders as part of this year's budget process. Policy 6120 will return as an action item at the next meeting..

Reports & Communications

- Rick Evans mentioned that information on the PACE program was included in the packet and there has been a great progression since Carrie Sunkes was appointed to head this program.
- Elizabeth Herkenham reported on a grant opportunity to support new strategies for technology in the classroom with a due date for application by March 2010. It provides funding for hardware and professional staff development. Elizabeth is also working with our three BOCES – Capital Region, WSWHE and Questar, on a Perkins Title II grant. She attended honors night and was pleased with the cross section of students receiving awards. There was over \$3 million in scholarship money awarded.
- Bob Speck attended honors night at the High School. He also attended the Veterans Memorial celebration at the High School along with Superintendent Schultz. The music was wonderful. He is planning to attend the Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast next week.
- Jim Schultz reminded Board members that the two main areas of focus for the upcoming Board retreat include the results of the Board self evaluation and the bond referendum. He updated the Board on recent news of the Shell family. There has been a significant outpouring from staff and community with many fundraisers. At the Capital Region Superintendents meeting last week they discussed implications for component districts of the Tech Valley Study.
- Jackie St. Onge gave a report on the status of the bond renovation committee. Members completed building tours of all district facilities and have seen most of the proposed projects with the exception of roofing. The committee members visited the Hostetter building to see the recent flood damage.

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Wolf seconded a move to executive session.

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Wolf seconded a return to regular session.

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