

DATE: June 10, 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
Michael Wolf

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Robert Speck

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Rick Evans, Jacqueline St.Onge, Gail Venezia and Dan LeClaire.

President Michael Wolf called the Board meeting to order at 8:00 PM following the Board recognition of retirees and students in the High School Auditorium.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the May 27, 2008 regular meeting, and the authorization of textbook and films.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachments

Privilege of the Floor

None

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

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 1

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the retirement of Sally Planko, FACS teacher at the Middle School/High School, effective 6/30/08; the acceptance of the resignation of Carrie Neary, Special Education teacher at Pashley, effective 8/31/08 and Chelsa Santoro, English teacher at the Middle School, effective 6/30/08; the approval of the leave of absence of Carrie Sunkes, .4 PACE teacher, effective 9/1/08-6/30/09; the approval of the temporary appointments of Carol Drake, .6 Music teacher at Stevens, Rachel Fridholm, Special Education teacher at Charlton Heights, Kathleen Furman, .2 Librarian at the Middle School, Susan Johnson-Buniak, .6 Speech Therapist at the Middle School, Donna Mayo, .5 Special Education teacher at Stevens, Patricia Munsey, .2 Social Studies teacher at the Middle School, Marian Ross, .4 Art teacher at Charlton Heights, Jacqueline Somerville, .7 Psychologist at Pashley, Jeannine Spade, .4 CSE Chairperson, Karen Wang, .6 Social Studies teacher at the High School, Mary Wawrzyniak, .7 Speech teacher at Pashley, all effective 9/1/08-6/30/08; the approval of the contract services appointments of Janice Aronson-Hanson, Occupational Therapist, and Kelly Ann Farnum, Physical Therapist, both effective 9/1/08-6/30/09; the approval of the extra-curricular appointments, so noted on the attached list; and substitute teacher appointment, so noted on the attached list.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 2

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

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 3

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Exempt Employees Salaries for 2008-09.

Motioned carried 5-0

See attachment 4

John Blowers arrived at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Professional Development Plan for 2008-09.

Motioned carried 6-0

See attachment 5

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Contract for Health & Welfare Services with Niskayuna CSD.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 6

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the exemption from the Breakfast Program.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 7

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

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 8

Hostetter Options

Board members and Central Administration each expressed their position on the use of the Hostetter building over the next five to ten years.

- Tim would like to keep the use of the building status quo at the present time. He does not feel that the District should get rid of the property at this time. It would not be a good long term option and it may be more cost effective to stay where we are for the present. He would entertain alternate use of the building for BOCES.
- Mike is in the same camp, and using Dan's estimates for maintenance, agrees with keeping the Hostetter building. He would consider an arrangement with BOCES. He feels there is no need to sell, or destroy the building at this time. Mike supports a decision is to keep the building for the next decade and would like the board members to commit to their positions in order to move the next referendum forward.
- John Blowers is also in agreement with keeping the present use of the Hostetter building, however, he would like a strategy that provides a time table for moving forward. He is still not sure about the ability to build out at other buildings over the long term, but he could go with status quo.
- Joe Pericone would recommend demolishing the building, but keeping the land. In that case, we would not have to worry about building out at other schools. He feels building a new building would be too costly.
- Mike had questions about whether bond referendum amount would be under the proposed tax cap. The District will need to explore the impact of a tax cap.
- Elizabeth reminded the board about the challenges associated with adding on to Stevens elementary and that future development will most likely occur at the north end of the district. She is okay with status quo for right now at Hostetter. She would advise holding onto the building and putting some money into improvements in the next bond referendum. She supports building onto our elementary schools, however we should consider looking at availability of land in the northeast portion of the District.
- Nancy was leaning toward demolishing the building, however she is interested in pursuing the BOCES option as a possibility. She would support keeping the building and maintaining it. She does not want to sell it at this time.
- Jim would focus on options 2 & 3 which are status quo or sale of the building. He feels that eventually the Glenville area will turn over (the empty nesters) and there may be a future need for a school facility in this area of the district.
- Rick is interested in option 3 or 2 and he expressed more interest in selling the building. The potential maintenance costs are a concern to him, as well as the location at the south end of the district. He likes the concept of option 4, redeveloping Hostetter for a new purpose.
- Jackie would maintain status quo with the current use of the building and focus on gradual improvements to the facility. She is concerned with safety and compliance issues that will need to be addressed as part of a maintenance plan over the next five years. She reminded board members of the limited storage space in the District and how the Hostetter building is used as a central storage area for other school building and program needs. The loss of the storage space would be a challenge.

The decision was made to keep the Hostetter building and maintain the current use of the facility at this time. It was decided not to sell it since the realty market is down. Keeping the building allows for other options to still remain open, such as exploring an arrangement with BOCES. Jim asked the board to start thinking about the impact of this decision for the next board meeting and the ramifications for charging the referendum committee.

Retreat Dates

Retreat dates were discussed and it was decided to meet on Monday August 11th at 3pm at the Hostetter building. Topics will include the next bond referendum, board self evaluation & the proposed property tax cap.

Board Self-Evaluation Update

Mike reported that he received 10 of 12 responses to the Board Self Evaluation survey. A quick summary of the surveys indicate that more work needs to be done on use of board meeting time and the next pressing issue for the board will be the proposed property tax cap legislation.

Tax Cap Proposals

Jim spoke about the information included in the board packet re: property tax caps, and he asked board members how they would like to approach the topic. Would they like to devote part of the board meeting to going through the preliminary report by Suozzi? Interest was expressed in having this topic be part of the retreat in August in order to understand the impact for our district. There was a brief discussion on the information on p.49.

Reports & Communications

- Tim Kelliher met with the Education Foundation Committee to discuss the downward trend in grant applications resulting in leftover grant money. He asked if the DARE program will be evaluated over the next year as suggested at the time when funding for our DARE officer was in jeopardy.
- Jackie provided an update on the wash bay situation at the transportation facility. A proposed project is being developed by our architects and district staff to bring the district into compliance with DEC regulations. Once the cost estimates are available, the Board will be asked to approve a construction project as a necessary contingent expense under these circumstances.
- Rick reported on the progress of the APPR plan that was instituted this year. He has been receiving the year end reports and they are far superior to those in the past. They demonstrate more thoughtful reflective practices. The APPR committee will be meeting in early July.
- Mike attended the District Communication Council and he reported that there is evidence that the Culture: Team: Data initiative is really starting to take place. The meeting minutes were included in the packet. Discussions were positive, reflecting processes focused on results.
- Jim asked Board members to let him know who would be in attendance for the graduation ceremony. He reminded the Board of the need for another 2 hour session to finish their Ad-Hoc Interscholastic Sports Committee recommendations. The results of the parent survey for the Class of 2002-03 are being tabulated and will be very useful after graduation. Jim talked to a BOCES statistician and based upon our response rate we will be able to make generalizations and report out on this data. We had a 30% response rate and anything over 15% is considered good. Survey indicates that 86% of our graduates completed a two, four, or six year degree with 12% completing some type of college work. The vast majority are getting bachelors degrees, and complete results will be distributed to board members once compiled. Jim updated the board on the early student dismissal due to excessive heat. Building temperatures were being monitored and were climbing during the morning. The combination of the heat index and rising temperatures warranted some action due to buildings with limited air conditioned spaces to bring students with health problems such as asthma. Pashley has very limited cool spaces. Lack of power at the Middle School and Charlton Heights may create additional problems for tomorrow. Jim informed the Board about the impact of another unfunded mandate from the Attorney General. We received a request for information on retired school district employees who have returned to work for the district. We were asked to provide their pension data since January 2002 which required preparing a FOIL request to both state retirement systems. In addition, we were asked to copy the entire contents of their personnel files, provide six years of payroll data, and calculate the district cost for health insurance. The requested information was due back in less than two weeks. Since we had to foil the retirement systems for data that we did not have, they granted a week's extension.

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

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a return to executive session

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board