

DATE: August 11, 2009
WHERE HELD: High School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:
John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham
James Maughan
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Patre Kuziak
Tim Kelliher

OTHERS PRESENT:
Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Christy Multer.

6:00 – 7:30 PM – Board members, Jim Schultz & Jackie St. Onge participated in a Board development activity utilizing a tool called the Predictive Index.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the July 7, 2009 reorganizational meeting and the July 7, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of tradebooks.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachments

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the acceptance of the leave of absences of Jessica Fedoroff, Special Education teacher at the High School, effective 9/1/09-6/30/10; Sarah Engelhard, Grade 3 teacher at Pashley, effective 9/1/09-11/20/0; Jill Gobel, Grade 2 teacher at Charlton Heights, effective 9/11/09-1/4/10; the acceptance of the resignation of Stephanie Holley, .8 Occupational Therapist at Pashley; the approval of the probationary appointments of Merry Mazzotti, Reading teacher, Alison Noakes, Special Education/PMI at Charlton Heights, & Kathleen Fernau, Kindergarten teacher at Pashley (from .5 to 1.0); the approval of the temporary appointments of Pauline White, .4 Computer Science at the High School, Katherine Maggs, .5 Special Education at Stevens, Jeffrey Page, .2 Physical Education at Stevens, Donna Mayo, .5 Special Education teacher at Stevens, Carol Drake, .4 Music teacher at Stevens, Michele Reilly, .5 Special Education at Pashley, Jacqueline Somerville, .7 School Psychologist at Pashley, Melissa Buyce, .6 Family & Consumer Science teacher at the High School, Sabine Erickson, .8 Math teacher at the High School/Middle School (from .6 to .8), Erin Rightmyer, .2 Social Studies teacher at the High School, Jaclyn Weber, Special Education teacher at the Middle School, all effective 9/1/09-6/30/10; the approval of the Contract Services appointments of Kelly Farnum, .8 Physical Therapist at Pashley, & Janice Aronson-Hanson, Occupational Therapist at Charlton Heights, both effective 9/1/09-6/30/10; the approval of the substitute teacher appointment, so noted on the attached list; the approval of the Per Diem appointment of Barbara Oberdieck, School Social Worker, effective 9/1/09-11/1/09; the approval of the Fall Coaching assignments and Volunteer Coaching assignments, so noted on the attached list.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 1

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the civil service personnel action as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 2

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the Professional Development Plan.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 3

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of Special Athletic Competition Request for the Boys Varsity Volleyball Team.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 4

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the following gifts:

- a. Banner from AJ Signs valued at \$288
- b. 15 bunches of peonies from School Bell Farm valued at \$374

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 5

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the 2008-09 Vandalism Report.
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 6

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the BOCES Classroom Rental & Ancillary Service Agreements.
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 7

Prior to the approval of the tax rates there was a discussion about the impact of final equalization rates, assessment changes, and growth in the district on the tax rates in each of the District's four towns. Variances in final equalization rates and less than projected growth in the district led to slightly high average tax increases. Jackie St. Onge showed various scenarios to further reduce the tax levy by applying additional fund balance. Board members agreed to apply an additional \$357,000 to the appropriated fund balance, thus reducing the average tax rate to 1.9 percent overall.

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of Tax Rates.
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 8

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 9

Privilege of the Floor - none

Bond Referendum

Superintendent Jim Schultz asked Board members if they were in agreement with going ahead with a bond referendum in early December 2009. Additionally, the scope of the bond projects and the amount would need to be decided upon by the October 13th Board meeting. Board members were okay with the December vote. Jim also went over some adjustments to the proposed projects including revised estimates for the septic systems, gym curtain walls, and the estimate for a new Tech wing at the High School. There was a lot of discussion about the proposed projects and Board members had several questions about the gym curtain walls. Jackie will seek more information from Dan Diggins and Bob McGuire about replacement of existing equipment and current code requirements.

Board Responsibilities

Joe Pericone facilitated the assignment of Board responsibilities for the coming year. Elizabeth Herkenham will be the student liaison and Patre Kuziak was suggested for staff liaison. The idea to hold meetings with representatives from the various bargaining units as has been done in the past was discussed as a priority for the staff liaison. Board members suggested having more efforts directed at legislation and lobbying activities. In the past Board members would meet with legislative representatives and it was suggested to continue that practice. More participation by Board members with emphasis on nanotech initiatives was also suggested. Bob Speck agreed to be the point person for legislative activities with multiple Board members being engaged to connect with key legislators. John Blowers volunteered for long range planning and it was suggested that absent Board member Tim Kelliher continue his role with the Education Foundation. The idea of another board member becoming familiar with this role was considered. James Maughan agreed to undertake the policy review since it is typically done by newly elected board members and serves as a great learning tool. The District Wellness Committee representative will be Patre Kuziak if she agrees and Joe Pericone will serve on the District Health and Safety Committee. There was some discussion about the need to make more external connections as part of the Board development activities. Joe Pericone was suggested for this role.

Strategic Plan

John Blowers gave an update on the direction of the Strategic Planning goal process. The committee has been meeting more frequently and has a sense that the primary focus of the Steering Committee should be directed toward construction of guiding principles that revolve around instruction. Jim Schultz spoke about the need for sub groups and the critical role of the Board in setting a direction that is not different from what's already going on at the district level. This process needs to tie to the Culture Team Data structure already in place and take into consideration the four questions that guide this initiative. There is a need for an external facilitator and John Blowers shared a proposal for a BH-BL graduate, Linda Dougherty, to serve in that role.

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded a move to executive session to discuss personnel.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board