

**DATE:** August 25, 2009  
**WHERE HELD:** High School

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**John Blowers**  
**Patre Kuziak**  
**James Maughan**  
**Joe Pericone**  
**Robert Speck**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Elizabeth Herkenham**  
**Tim Kelliher**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans.**

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the August 11, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education, the Claims Auditor Report and the authorization of textbooks & tradebooks.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachments

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the temporary appointment of Nicholas Amiccuci, Special Education teacher at the High School effective 9/1/09-6/30/10 & Stephanie Geller, Grade 3 teacher at Pashley, effective 9/1/09-11/20/09; the approval of the contract services appointments of Andrea Muscato, Occupational Therapist at Charlton Heights (from .7 to 1.0) & Kelly Farnum, 1.0 Physical Therapist at Pashley (from .8 to 1.0), both effective 9/1/09 – 6/30/10; and the approval of the substitute teacher appointments, so noted on the attached list.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 1

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

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 2

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the Warrant to the Saratoga & Schenectady County School Tax Collector.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 3

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the Award of Bid for Stage Curtains & Rigging at Stevens Elementary to Reynolds Drapery Service, Inc.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 4

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the acceptance of the donation of \$1,000 for a Student Response System from the rose & Kiernan Charitable Foundation.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 5

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for the Boys Cross Country Team.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 6

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of Amy Baluch as the BH-BL Trustee on the board of CASHIC & Theresa Barclay as the Backup Trustee.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 7

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the recommendation for Reserves.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 8

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 9

## **Privilege of the Floor - none**

### **Strategic Plan**

John Blowers updated Board members on the activities of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. The group is charged with developing a process that will guide the direction of instructional planning and budgeting for the next 10 to 15 years. The committee plans to use constituency groups to move this process forward. They have discussed whether to have three sub groups as originally planned, or just feed the Infrastructure and Operations groups through Instructional since it is our primary focus. They are ready to move forward with the process and would like to report back to the Board prior to the next budget cycle. Board member Bob Speck commented on a continuous improvement plan process that was developed under the previous administration. He would like the committee members to look at this model which focused on four areas. In addition, the Framework for Planning and the Culture Team Data (CTD) initiatives need to be used. Superintendent Jim Schultz feels it is critical that this committee not come in with a new set of goals but rather continue the Culture Team Data work that has been happening in the District. The proposal to have the Instructional group at the forefront stresses the importance of asking the same guiding questions for long range decision making that are being used with the Culture Team Data process. The three basic questions of curriculum should be used as the guiding principles. Several other comments by Board members included being proud of where we are, don't fix it if it works, no need to recreate a process or overburden people, rather build upon and strengthen the process. The committee is looking to extend the outcomes that we are currently seeking to respond to future needs out 10 to 15 years. How do the Infrastructure and Operations sub groups support those guiding principles? There is a need for input prior to the proposed bond referendum and the budget cycle which is approximately two months away. They will bring recommendations to move forward with a facilitator and a proposed timeline.

### **Bond Referendum**

The list of bond propositions to be considered for the next referendum was discussed. The first proposition includes critical infrastructure projects that will result in energy savings. It was agreed that these projects are necessary and should be included as recommended. Further discussion is needed on the projects grouped as 'Student Safety' including cost revisions on gym curtain walls and modifications to the Stevens traffic/site improvement with regard to the purchase of the adjoining property. An estimate of the purchase price needs to be determined. Board members asked for information from our District Technology Coordinator as to how the Educational Infrastructure proposition will impact instruction. A breakdown of costs to renovate existing space at the High School for administration and provide additional instructional space was requested by the Board. Jackie will seek that information from our architects.

### **Board Responsibilities**

Board members reviewed and approved the proposed responsibilities for the upcoming year. Bob Speck stressed the importance of legislation and lobbying activities for next school year based upon the news from Albany. They discussed ideas to connect with legislative leaders by bringing them to us, similar to the town meeting format used a few years ago. Also discussed was having board members connect with individual legislators.

### **Reports & Communications**

- Bob Speck is working on reviewing the Board Evaluation. He recommended that new Board members try to attend NYSSBA activities to gain experience and perspective. He is planning to attend the next Town of Ballston planning meeting to find out about proposed building in the community.
- John Blowers met with Intellimedia, an educational software group with student applications for planning and homework that BHBL might wish to consider for our juniors and seniors.
- Jackie St.Onge gave the Board an update on the recent settlement of a general insurance claim for a student injured on the Pashley playground. The internal audit report from our BOCES auditor is scheduled for the September 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
- Rick is looking for suggestions for program reviews for 2009-10 and he will include a draft in the next board packet. The Board would like to hear from the Special Education program on how we are managing our student needs and achieving results. Other ideas included a Culture Team Data program review and a technology review to discuss future needs and 21<sup>st</sup> skills in content areas.
- Jim Schultz reminded Board members of the building tour next Thursday starting at Pashley at 4:00pm. and that there would be a board meeting first for personnel. September 2<sup>nd</sup> is the opening day breakfast beginning at 7:30am followed by the program at 8:30 am. Joe Pericone, Board president will address BH-BL staff. Training on the new sub calling service through BOCES will be provided. A brief update of the NYSERDA grant application submitted by Jackie St.Onge was discussed along with the overall guidelines for seeking stimulus funds.
- Joe Pericone asked if any Board members were interested in attending a Utica National seminar. The topic is the impact of emerging technology on safety, security and potential liability risks for schools.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board