

DATE: September 8, 2009  
WHERE HELD: High School

KIND OF MEETING:  
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

Regular MARGI  
NOTATIONS

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
**John Blowers**  
**Elizabeth Herkenham**  
**Patre Kuziak**  
**James Maughan** (arrived at 8:30 PM)  
**Joe Pericone**  
**Robert Speck**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
**Tim Kelliher**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**  
**Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, & Jason Lasky.**

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the August 25, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education, and the authorization of tradebooks.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachments

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the acceptance of the extra-curricular Middle School resignation of Tracy McCarthy, Science Club Advisor; the approval of the extracurricular Middle School appointment of Katherine Zyskowski, Science Club Advisor.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 1

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the civil service personnel action as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 2

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for the Girls Cross Country Team.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 3

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the designation of the Board of Education Lead Agency as State required by the Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for the Bond Referendum.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 4

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the motion to amend the action item to only authorization of one Board member to attend the NYSSBA training on September 12, 2009.  
Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the authorization of one Board member to attend the NYSSBA Fiscal Oversight Fundamentals Workshop on September 12, 2009.  
Motions carried 5-0 See attachment 5

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the gift of a football scoreboard in memory of Dan Ward.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 6

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 7

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

#### **Strategic Plan**

- John Blowers led the discussion on the strategic planning process and explained how they used the feedback from the last board meeting to develop a revised proposal. He pointed out the three major changes including the revised charge to the committee which was included in the Board packet. The recommendation of the group is to focus their efforts on the long range aspects of instruction. Jim Schultz had a question about the membership with regards to a representative from Operations Management vs Higher Education. Elizabeth Herkenham suggested including our

District Technology Coordinator, John Capano. The Board sees him as a resource in this process and his role as highly integrated with the group. The membership of the committee was discussed and it was decided that a representative from Higher Education should be included in the group. A representative from Operations Management will be asked to attend meetings upon request. Bob Speck asked for a designation of either ad hoc or advisory for this sub committee as best fits the Board policy descriptions. He would like periodic reports at Board meetings. The steering group will not be setting policy, rather they will act as an ad hoc committee charged with recommending a process for long term planning. John summarized the revised charge, the facilitator options and the sense of urgency for the timeline. There was a discussion about the external facilitator. Three options were explored. In the past BOCES offered this service, but they do not do it any longer. They referred us to CASDA whose cost for a facilitator would be in the range of \$30,000-\$40,000. Another candidate, Frank Tedesco was suggested because he has acted as a facilitator for Niskayuna's Board of Education in their long range planning process. He has an educational background and his cost would be approximately \$3,000. Another option was to have a facilitator from General Electric, Linda Doherty, serve as the external facilitator. Linda's resume was included in the Board packet and several board members were familiar with her work at GE. The question was raised whether there was an advantage or disadvantage to the facilitator having an educational background. Since the current membership is heavily laden with educational backgrounds, Board members and administration agreed to ask Linda Doherty to serve as the facilitator for the Steering Committee. We are seeking a time commitment of two meetings per month with duration of approximately two hours per meeting. The Steering Committee leadership must be very good at networking. Jim asked for ideas for a representative from higher education and for board members to reach out for participation

### **Bond Referendum**

Board members and administration addressed questions about the bond propositions being considered for a December referendum. Revisions to the proposition for student safety will include an update for the cost of the gym curtain walls and possible changes to the Stevens traffic & site improvements if property adjacent to Stevens is purchased by the school district. John Capano will address questions about the educational infrastructure proposition at a future board meeting. Board members had questions about accommodating 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in the proposed Tech wing addition. Will it meet instructional needs of the future and will it allow for expansion? Board members commented on the different interpretations of what we are defining as technology. Is it auto shop, wood shop, metal shop, etc? Or are we providing for curriculum changes for newer technologies? The Board is looking for a breakdown of the tax impact on the bond propositions and information on the cost to build an addition for Administration without adding instructional space. They would also like to get an estimate of the selling price for the property adjacent to Stevens.

### **Program Reviews**

Rick went over the draft of program reviews being suggested for the upcoming year. Since the month of January is open, the Board would like to hear from Special Services including an update on the primary autism program. Last year Board members visited Stevens and they expressed interest in visiting again. A question was raised as to if there might be a template developed for program reviews so that the same components become part of each review. There will be a program review for Technology in October and it will include the instructional impact of the educational infrastructure bond proposition. The program reviews will include a month for Culture, a month for Team, and a month for Data as part of the CTD initiative and long range planning.

### **Board Goals/Board Self-Evaluation**

Joe Pericone gave out a handout of the Board's self evaluation for 2008-09 and asked Board members to focus on the areas in need of improvement. This needs to be done as soon as possible in order to develop board goals.

### **Reports & Communications**

- Bob Speck has been reviewing last year's legislative work and trying to develop a plan for this year based upon the news from Albany. He is also looking at the board regulations to ensure that activities are compliant.
- John Blowers is serving on the NYSSBA cultural diversity committee. Board members from across the State, come together to talk about diversity challenges from a governance point of view. Next year they will introduce an essay contest for secondary students for scholarship opportunities. He will put more information in the next Board packet.
- Joe Pericone commented on the quality of the Opening Day presentation and expressed appreciation to Jim and Christy for their efforts. During the Board tour of the facilities he observed that the buildings were in excellent condition for opening day and expressed appreciation to the Custodial and Maintenance departments.
- Jim Schultz asked the Board for ideas for the new staff reception. Since Patre Kuziak is the staff liaison, she will need to start thinking about it. In the past we have had a staff breakfast or an afternoon reception with

refreshments. It is held in October. Jim included an invitation to the first CAPSBA meeting on preparing your district for the H1N1 influenza in the packet. He asked Board members if they want to attend to let him know. He attended the Schenectady County Health Meeting with Christy Multer on the H1N1 influenza. They are planning significant communication to the district. His Superintendent's Council hosted a webinar on the topic and Jim invited building principals, nurses, and Dan Diggins to attend. Jim and Christy met with our nurses to develop a consistent response for the school district. The flu.gov website is a tremendous resource for response and preventive measures. The information that is being provided leads us to believe that there may be a higher incidence of the flu. We will be implementing guidelines such as a 24 hr minimum time out of school and being fever free before returning to school. We are planning stronger communication to parents as well as talking about contingency plans, closing buildings, etc. As a vaccine is rolling out from production, it is our understanding that high needs populations will receive priority as well as children ages 5-24. It is a two part shot and will require a tremendous amount of recordkeeping. It is unlikely that we will get vaccines for our staff, however we will offer the regular flu vaccines. Due to budget concerns, we will likely charge \$10 per shot to offset costs. Hand sanitizers will be available in all cafeterias this year.

- James Maughan has begun connecting with the Charlton Heights PTA. He has looked at the board policy manuals given to him by Bob Speck and he will prepare a draft for revisions.
- Elizabeth Herkenham was approached by the Section 2 Girls Varsity Swim team about having their annual celebration at the Town of Ballston. They will need a certificate of insurance and she will let them know to call Helen Martin in the Business Office. She received a phone call from the Supervisor of the Town of Charlton, Alan Grattidge regarding a regional meeting at Global Foundries that he attended. He informed Elizabeth that they are looking for a BHBL board member to meet with a group from Global Foundries. They are discussing their employment needs for the next two years and information was provided to Maryellen Symer.
- Patre Kuziak asked if anyone can attend the Middle School PTA meeting next Monday at 7:00 pm in her absence. John Blowers will try to make it. A question was raised by a parent who asked Patre if a student plays a High School sport and doesn't have good grades, why are they allowed to continue playing? Jim Schultz said that there was a committee response and a process that involves a group of BHBL staff who evaluate each case. Grades are not the sole deciding factor and coaches are not required to bench them. It was suggested that the parent approach the coach and the teacher for a solution.
- Rick Evans reported that there will be a celebration for National Board Certified teachers at the next NYSSBA meeting in case anyone is interested in attending.
- Jackie St.Onge provided an update of expenditures for athletic memberships and entry fees per the request of a Board member. She informed them that the Business Office will be moving out of the temporary trailers next Monday. She reported that a district resident has offered a donation of filing cabinets and other office supplies.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board