

DATE: September 21, 2010
WHERE HELD: Pashley

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: John Blowers

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:
John Blowers
William Farmer
Elizabeth Herkenham
Patre Kuziak
Lee-Ann Mertzlufft

MEMBERS ABSENT:
James Maughan
Joe Pericone

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Christy Multer, and 7 others.

Board of Education President John Blowers presented retiring Middle School Principal Don Germain with a BH-BL star and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board for his leadership of the O'Rourke Middle School. Don will be retiring at the end of September. He was also honored by Superintendent Jim Schultz, Jackie St.Onge, and Rick Evans who thanked him for his service to students and passion for education. Rocco Montesano, former Teachers' Association President and teacher at O'Rourke Middle School paid tribute to Don for his guidance and leadership throughout the years.

President John Blowers called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the September 7, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of textbooks.

Motion carried 5-0

Privilege of the Floor – none

ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the appointment of Edward Carangelo, Interim Middle School Principal at a rate of \$480/day, effective 10/4/10; Donald Germain, 10 transition days – O'Rourke Middle School at a rate of \$493.19/day, effective 10/4/10; James Guiliano, Interim .4 Dean of Students – O'Rourke Middle School at a rate of \$400/day, effective 10/4/10; the approval of the extra-curricular appointment of Margaret Gilgallon, Curriculum Rep – Math, effective 9/1/10; the approval of the following substitute teacher/nurse appointments: Rachel Bellizzi, Christopher Brush, Patricia Doyle, Stacey Hill, Elena Kulikova-Weintraub, Andrew Lefebvre, Kristen Meister, Julianne Port, Salvatore Presti, Michelle Shapiro, Rebecca Skerker, Kayla Stockwell, Ellen Strauss, Mary Stump, Brian Zyskowski; and the approval of the volunteer coaching appointment of Dennis Hogan, Swimming.

Motion carried 5-0

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

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for:

- a. JV Girls Volleyball Team
- b. JV Boys Volleyball Team

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for RTTT.

Motion carried 5-0

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

- a. \$526.46 from Target, Take Charge of Education
- b. \$100 (2 - \$50 checks) from Pfizer United Way Campaign

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of Policy 6111 (Title I Parent Involvement).

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Architects for the 5-Year Building Condition Survey.

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Mertzluft moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the approval of the appointment of Bob Speck as Board Historian.

Motion carried 5-0

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

Motion carried 5-0

Strategic Planning Discussion

Elizabeth Herkenham sent a followup email to Dennis Brobston, President of Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) to confirm a meeting tentatively scheduled for October 5th. There was a discussion about the strategy and type of meeting. Elizabeth feels strongly that the meeting begins with an introduction of Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake as a district. Next she would like to hear about economic growth in the region from an SEDC perspective. She attended a Saratoga County Chamber meeting at which a superintendent spoke on areas of concern that education will be facing in the future. Our school district needs to make known our reputation as a high performing school district with revenue challenges from lack of a commercial property base. She would like to hear Mr. Brobston talk about partnerships and opportunities evolving in the region. Then follow up with an invitation to attend a forum in November at BH-BL. There was further discussion about the focus of the proposed forum in November. Who should be there – Global Foundries, SEDC, and other entities? Will it be about economic development, strategic partnerships or emerging partnerships yet to be explored? Elizabeth feels that we need to provide information and outreach to our families about the regional impact of Global Foundries and future economic growth in the area. Superintendent Jim Schultz would like to see this type of activity tied into spring career exploration for students and families. Some other ideas for the November forum included having a panel discussion with a moderator, audience feedback and questions, or identify existing partnerships in BH-BL and bring them in to highlight and expand upon them. We could have a forum that would focus more on BH-BL but not from our perspective, rather the partners' perspective with an eye to the future. We could build on the message from Opening Day – Globalization and 21st century skills. There was a suggestion to post a video clip on the BH-BL SNN to attract community members to attend. Jim Schultz suggested that we could talk about our current partnerships and invite those that we wish to partner with in the future in order to expand our opportunities. It's difficult to talk about forming strategic partnerships when we are not sure exactly what type of partnerships we are looking for, or if we would be able to accommodate them currently. Perhaps this should be more of an awareness stage, a learning phase, or building of our knowledge base. We must build the information base before we can make changes. A date of Nov 16th was proposed as a possible target date with a 7:00pm start time.

Reports & Communications

- Rick Evans reported that he meets with our grant writer tomorrow to explore new ways to seek grants. Jim and Rick met with the leadership team to discuss upcoming program reviews. They are looking for a common structure to include such things as what's working, the challenges, plans for the future, partnerships, etc. They would like to replace one of the proposed program reviews with a review of the Health Program and results of the student survey. Dan LeClaire and Rick will be meeting with a community resident to provide 2010-11 class size statistics. We have received sixty applications for the Middle School principal position. However, not all of them are complete and the committee will be reviewing them over the next week.
- Jackie St.Onge reported that our external auditors, The Bonadio Group, have prepared the draft of our financial audit and it will be presented at the next Board meeting. There were no adjusting entries and it is another clean audit.
- Elizabeth Herkenham attended two meetings. The first meeting was the Saratoga County Board of Ed meeting at which Jim Dexter, WSWHE BOCES District Superintendent outlined areas of focus and new initiatives. She also attended the Albany Colonie Chamber at which NYS Assembly Majority Leader Ronald Canestrari discussed the recently passed state budget and the current economic situation across upstate New York. Her written notes will be included in a Board packet. She asked if BH-BL would consider sharing the process for developing the Framework for 21st Century Schools and Rick Evans responded that Mary Ann Doyle would welcome the opportunity to share the model.
- Lee-Ann Mertzluft led the legislative task force meeting last night and five others attended. They discussed an idea for each team member to connect with a specific politician as well as possible assignments. They are exploring another approach to seek grant funds that would identify the need and amount of funding rather than just saying we need more money. Lee-Ann asked for information on the type of member items that we have received in the past. Jackie St.Onge will provide that information in the Board packet. She also met with High School Principal Maryellen Symer. They discussed differences between IB and AP courses, as well as how to obtain grant money for technology. The legislative task force is looking to provide legislators

with a bulleted list of BH-BL concerns. Teacher Association President Jason Lasky and Christy Multer were both present at the meeting. The task force also talked about tax caps. Lee-Ann attended the Pashley PTA meeting.

- Will Farmer attended a meeting to seek input from the community on the search for a new middle school principal. He commented that it was a great process although only five community members attended. He had a question about field trips and liability and asked administration to look into whether the form needs to be revised. He also attended Back to School night at the Middle School and the PTA meeting. Will and Lee-Ann will be attending the fiscal training for new board members which is a two day event. He asked the Superintendent a question about the process for mailers that come home with students. Jim Schultz explained that nothing is sent home by the District unless the Superintendent sees it and signs off on it. In the case that Will was referring to, a student was handing out flyers without District approval. Jim described the legal issues associated with expression of ideas and that once the forum is opened, you can not close it. The school district does have the authority to stop activities that are disruptive to the educational process. Students have the right to express their ideas, but the building has the right to determine how it happens.
- Patre Kuziak reported that she attended her first Education Foundation meeting. She listened to a discussion about the Middle School pond grant. She is working on a list of some of the grants and currently has the Foundation's cookbooks for sale.
- Jim Schultz spent some time responding to a Board member's questions about assessments. He explained the process for assessments, goal setting and results, and gave examples including the use of Fountas and Pinnell in the elementary buildings. He also gave some examples for Kindergartners and explained the language arts tests and how they are perfectly aligned with SED. Jim reported on the preparations for Bob Speck's celebration and briefly described the presentations. They have invited previous Board members, NYSSBA representatives, elected officials - including Tedisco and Farley, as well as BH-BL staff.
- Christy Multer spoke about the *ON Board* article on the opening of the movie "Waiting for Superman" which depicts the terrible state of education. She pointed the article out so that Board members are aware of the information and read the article.
- John Blowers reported that Tim's financial modeling tool is available to Board members. He attended the PTA Council meeting with the Superintendent last night. The highlights of the evening were growing class sizes, homecoming, and teacher parent nights. He shared the Board Goals with them. He shared a link to the MS PTA website which is exceptionally well done. He reminded Board members to send information to their respective PTA's for their publications. Vice President and Finance Chair James Maughan would like to have a preliminary finance meeting on Oct 19th at the Middle School.
- Jason Lasky, Teachers' Association President asked the Board about scheduling a meeting with Board members as we have done in the past. It is tentatively scheduled for Oct 26th at 6:30 prior to the Board meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board