

**DATE:** September 7, 2010  
**WHERE HELD:** High School

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** John Blowers

**MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
**James Maughan**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Christy Multer, and 3 others.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the August 24, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of textbooks.

Motion carried 6-0

**Privilege of the Floor – none**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the temporary appointment of Julianne Port, .2 Library Media Specialist at the Middle School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; the approval of Stephen Roz, After-School Detention Tutor - \$5,000, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; the approval of the High School Fall Drama Production appointments of Eric Shovah, Director; Mialisa Lindholm-Herron, Producer; Stephanie Andrejcek, Business Manager; Chris Lombardi, Stage Manager; the approval of the Driver Education appointments of William Cassidy & David Ruetsch, both at a rate of \$34.95 per hour; the approval of the substitute teacher appointments of Amy Auger, Shana Brady, Timothy Brisley, Megan Cataldo, Rebecca Coleman, Julie Cupp, Karen Curtin, Jaelyn Davey, Amanda DelBrocco, Laura Dembroski, Lisa DiBella, Jennifer Dopp, Laura Francese, Rebecca Gregory, Thomas Hall, Kimberly Lencewicz, Tiffany Montgomery, KellyAnn Olsen, Kathryn Quoi, Alyssa Ruggiero, Becky Ryder, Ashley Smith, Stefania Tedesco, Stephanie Tommasone, Raymond Watson, Dianna Yuzynko.

Motion carried 6-0

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

Motion carried 6-0

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

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the acceptance of a gift of 30 Laptop Computers from the GE Elfun Society.

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the acceptance of a gift of \$1,000 from the Burnt Hills Theatre for Children towards the purchase of the main stage curtain.

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of revised Policy 6120 (Grade K-12 Curriculum Committees).

Motion carried 6-0

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

Motion carried 6-0

## **Policy 6111 (Title I Parent Involvement)**

Rick Evans explained the requirement to have this policy due to the fact that our district receives Title I funding. It has been revised since the last meeting and meets the required compliance for a Title I policy. It was suggested that there be a reference made to the State Education Department's website for this information. While this policy would currently only apply to specific eligible schools, it should be broad enough to cover all schools. After suggested changes are made, the revised policy will be on the agenda for action at the next Board meeting.

## **Role for Bob Speck**

John Blowers discussed a role for Bob Speck as the school historian. Jim has spoken to Bob and sees both a short term and long term role as a Board historian. Should there be a Board liaison who will meet with Bob periodically? Jim explained the way Bob has currently organized much of the school history. Do Board members have areas of interest that should be communicated to Bob and how should information be organized in such a way to make it more valuable or useful. Lee-Ann Mertzluft would be happy to work with Bob and sees the definite benefits to the information that Bob has collected. Some other areas of discussion included focusing on BH-BL history and taking a look at historical information as situations arise about a past process and then sharing it. Another critical question to be answered is whether his work ends with 2010 information or continues on. There is more discussion needed about whether this role becomes part of policy and if it continues as a Board role in the future. Jim Schultz gave an update on the Speck celebration which is set for October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Speck Media Center. An open house from 4pm to 6pm was suggested with presentations at 5:00 pm.

## **Board Program Reviews**

Rick Evans gave a draft of the 2010-11 program reviews in the Board packet. September will be used as a planning month. Program reviews will begin in October with five months devoted to 21<sup>st</sup> century framework topics. Board discussed ideas to expand some of the proposed reviews to include other disciplines and across grade levels.

## **Race to the Top**

Superintendent Jim Schultz reported that New York State was awarded approximately \$700 million in Race to the Top funds. The window is now open for schools to sign on. BH-BL originally signed on the first time around and did not sign on the second time. Since we will need to comply with all components regardless of whether we sign on or not, Jim is committed to signing on during this 90 day window. Approximately one third of our current Title I funding is the amount that we expect to receive. It is estimated to be \$24,000 which may be spread over 4 years. Jim would like Board commitment and he has spoken to Jason Lasky, President of the Teachers' Association asking for their commitment. It is worth it given the amount of funding that BH-BL would receive. Jason expressed some of the concerns raised by his membership including – charter schools, 3020a process changes, pay scale changes tied to performance, certifications, increased assessments, etc. Currently there is not enough information to make informed decisions. School districts will need to have written goals and plans within the same 90 day window. Jim will be looking for Board action at the next meeting. He will provide some more information so that Board members will have a better understanding of the Race to the Top requirements.

## **Reports & Communications**

- Lee-Ann Mertzluft reported that the Legislative Task Force meeting has been rescheduled for Sept 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Elizabeth provided information in the Board packet on an invitation to Dennis Brobston, President of Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) to meet with several Board members and Superintendent Jim Schultz. The intent of the meeting is to explore the impact of GlobalFoundries and the potential effect of growth within our region on our school district. Discussion centered around the next steps of deciding who will attend, what will be discussed, where and when. Should the Saratoga County Chamber be there since the two groups interface or are these separate meetings? Elizabeth envisions the first meeting as an informal sharing of who we are as a district and SEDC talking about things such as how do they bring in suppliers and how do they introduce them to surrounding communities. This meeting might serve as a springboard into another meeting with student and community involvement. The first step would be a meeting with board members, key administrators and Dennis Brobston of SEDC. Elizabeth will propose some dates to him and communicate with Board members and administration. Next she reported that SUNY sponsors a monthly Business and Education meeting and the next one is scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>. Ballston Spa CSD will be presenting a project that focuses on connected learning in a technologically immersed educational environment. Elizabeth will be attending and Rick Evans expressed interest in attending.
- Joe Pericone asked when can we expect to see a sign advertising the Hostetter property for sale. The location of the sign is currently being discussed. Joe is looking for a copy of former Board member Tim Kelliher's long range planning model. Joe commented on the wonderful opening day celebration.
- Patre Kuziak met with Dorie McArthur, Board chair of the BH-BL Education Foundation. Patre would like to know what type of information our Board is looking for from the Education Foundation. In the past, Board members would share the types of grant funding being made and criteria for grant awards. The Board is interested in finding out if the Education Foundation is receptive to funding opportunities outside of the

norm.

- Rick Evans talked about the process for hiring our new Middle School principal. We are looking for two Board members to serve on the interview committee. The interview dates are scheduled for mid October. Committee members would spend approximately four days including review of the applications and question development. Rick also discussed a request from Special Services Director Sharon McTygue for additional staffing. Superintendent Jim Schultz explained the amount of Federal Jobs Stimulus money for BH-BL and the expectation that it be used to restore positions. There was further discussion about the request.
- Jim Schultz reported that our facilities are now closed on specific holidays to reduce overtime costs and it has been working. He talked about the success of the Opening Day Celebration and the amazing job done by the committee. Their understanding of culture, tech savvy, and shared core beliefs made it successful. Christy Multer did a great job with the powerpoint and a copy will be shared in a Board packet. He touched on the global connections including a welcome message from BH-BL teacher Dennis Harrington who is in Brazil and a skyped connection to a teacher in Lithuania. Jim asked Board members to tune into the next presentation on Thursday. Information on how to access the webcast will be provided. Rick Evans will be presenting from 8:30am to 9:30am and he will include a video from his recent trip to India.
- John Blowers followed up a discussion from the last Board meeting regarding responding to the public. The first step will be to generate an auto response so that questions or comments from the public are acknowledged. He received a thank you email regarding the change of the calendar to accommodate the Jewish holiday.

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a move to executive session.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board