

DATE: June 8, 2010
WHERE HELD: Middle School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham
Patre Kuziak
James Maughan
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Kelliher

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and 8 others.

There was a Board of Education Recognition Ceremony at 7:00 pm to recognize and celebrate retiring staff members and student achievements. Jim Schultz spoke about each of the retirees as they were presented with a small token of appreciation for their years of service. Building principals read the names of students who were recognized for their achievements. A small reception with refreshments followed the ceremony.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the May 25, 2010 regular meeting with the revision to Race to the Top reflecting that Elizabeth Herkenham supported the Race to the Top.

Motion carried 6-0

Privilege of the Floor –

Tom Letendre objected to a flyer advertising day care that was handed out in the schools on the back of the Summer Recreation Registration Form. He and his wife run a day care facility in the community and spend a great deal of money on advertising. They were very upset and said this should not have happened. They asked for action that would ensure that the school district does not allow private entities to use the public school communications for advertising.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the tenure appointment of Christopher Reach, English teacher at the High School, effective 12/10/10; the acceptance of the resignation of Alison Cuyler, Technology Integration Specialist at Stevens & Kristina Neddo, Technology Integration Specialist at Pashley, both effective 6/30/10; the approval of the following Summer School appointments at the High School:

Dante DiPrimio	English
Dianne Alois	English
Santina Florio	Librarian
James Sheeran	Math
Allan Barkley	Math
Renee Tolan	Social Studies
Brad Thomas	Social Studies
Karen Krushelnytsky	Science
Raymond Szczerba	Science (1 AM class)
Matthew Shell	Physical Education (1 AM class)
Anthony DiCocco	Driver Education
David Ruetsch	Driver Education
William Cassidy	Driver Education
Kevin Ahern	Substitute
Matt Turner	Substitute
Kurt Semon	Substitute
Jeff Page	Substitute
Pete Mody	Substitute
Peter Giroux	Music – Woodwinds
Brian Tetlak	Music – Brass & Percussion
Karen Russell	Music – Strings & Orchestra

Summer School for Special Education:

Nicholas Amicucci
Donna Mayo
Aimee Miller
Gail Astro
Kim Brunson
Alison Noakes
Sara Wilkinson
Diane Clary
Marilyn Light Speech Therapist
Audrey King Speech Therapist
Susan Karandy Assistive Tech

The approval of the 2010-11 Curriculum Committee appointments:

High School –

Foreign Language Raelene Noll
Guidance Russell Weinlein
English Language Arts Christine Gangemi
Math Mary Anne Doyle
Science Dennis Bouchard
Staff Development Evangelia Mavridou
 Joanne Owens

Middle School –

Staff Development Dianne Alois
 Shauna Bryk
 Kim Sprenger

Charlton Heights -

Student Council Brian Bold
 Alison Donofrio

Pashley –

Student Council Kristina Neddo

Stevens –

Student Council Diane Clary
 Elizabeth Hanson

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Blowers 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. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded for New Board Members to attend the 2010 New School Board Member Academy on September 24th & 25th in Albany.

Motion carried 6-0

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

Motion carried 6-0

Opening of School Schedule

Jim handed out a tentative calendar with a Supt conf day on the 9th and school starting on Sept 10th. This would avoid the conflict with the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah and the first day of school. James Maughan provided some clarification from school law. James Maughan asked if this will result in one less day of instruction. Jim Schultz agreed that yes it would. Since staff would be coming in that day, it would be used as a day of training. Distinction made between conflict of 1st day and significant religious holiday vs. changing the calendar to reflect another holiday. Elizabeth concerned about precedent being set for religious holidays. She is against changing the calendar. Patre does not see the negative impact of changing the calendar for this school year and she supports a change to a later start date. John is in favor of changing the calendar. He doesn't feel the loss of instruction from a delay to the start of school for one day is significant. Rick Evans commented about the instruction time – first day of school is symbolic in importance, will be valuable use of teacher time for growth without students. James asked why don't we start school earlier in the week rather than have another conference day. James thinks if we are going to give up an instructional day then we should take it from another place such as October or spring break. James, Elizabeth, and Bob support the original calendar as developed. John, Patre, and Joe support the revised calendar.

Retreat

It will be held June 15th at the Hostetter building. Activities will include team building, Board of Education self-evaluation, Hostetter goals, and a discussion on negotiations. Bob Speck would like to discuss how many of the Board goals were accomplished. Jim Schultz asked Board members if they would like to focus a longer period of time on a specific topic, or prioritize the issues. It was suggested that they spend approximately 45 minutes on the Board self evaluation and devote more time to Hostetter and negotiations. John Blowers will develop a team builder activity for the retreat. We will need to revisit previous information from Hostetter studies to use as reference material. It would be helpful to understand Ballston's plans for additional space. Jackie St.Onge will bring building aid information for discussion purposes. Board members were reminded to bring their calendars for the month of August.

Policy 9120 – Code of Ethics

James Maughan started the discussion on Policy 9120 stating that there is nothing that needs to be addressed here, but rather a review provides an opportunity to improve on our own policy. A copy of the Code of Ethics was included in the Board packet and James read Section 4 which was highlighted. The Superintendent commented on the supervisor-subordinate relationship and offered some ideas for changing it to address direct supervision. Other suggestions included distinguishing between permanent vs temporary assignments and providing an alternate chain of command.

Reports & Communications

- Bob Speck drew attention to a recent article in the NYSSBA publication *On Board* regarding the lack of commitment from state legislators in coming up with a budget. He expressed concern that the Race to the Top will create a real challenge for the next administration at the State level.
- John Blowers attended the CAP region School Board meeting at which one of our BHBL students was recognized. It was held at the culinary school and the highlight of the night was speaker Jay Rifenburg. John, Bob Speck and Lee-Ann Mertzluft met with Assemblyman Jim Tedisco last Friday to discuss legislation impacting education. John also had a productive telephone conversation with Senator Farley about our needs as a school district. John heard from Kirsten Gillibrand to schedule a future meeting. John shared a prototype of a template developed by the legislative task force that provides a summary of proposed legislation, implications, recommendation, updates and also gives links to the legislation. This template could be used for any proposed legislation as a communication tool.
- Elizabeth Herkenham attended several BH-BL student achievement activities including the Science Research Symposium.
- Superintendent Jim Schultz attended his monthly meeting with the Suburban Council Superintendents. They are looking at a 21st century coalition involving WSHWHE BOCES with an initial meeting in July. Jim asked Board members to let him know who is planning to attend graduation on June 23rd at 12:00pm. The Superintendent evaluation form will be in the next packet.
- Rick Evans reported that we are currently in the midst of hiring and we are seeing a large volume of candidates. We are committed to hiring the best. The Interim Dean of Students at our Middle School commented to Rick that he has worked in many districts around the area and he is highly impressed with our district.
- Jackie St.Onge discussed the recent ERS/TRS Chapter 105 Local Retirement Incentive legislation with both State Aid Planning and our auditors. There are still a lot of unknowns and we will continue to seek clarification on the costs to school districts that elect to offer the incentive. We are exploring an energy initiative that would provide payments for participating in a peak energy management program at no cost to the District. There are some other local school districts who are participating currently. Standard and Poor's reviewed our financial reports and fiscal management in order to provide ratings for our debt issues. They also conducted an in depth interview with Jackie last week which resulted in the issuance of our best rating ever for our upcoming borrowing. We anticipate that it will translate into savings on our interest rates for bonds and bond anticipation notes (BANS).
- Christy Multer discussed that BH-BL is one of six of the closest districts to Global Foundries who will welcome transitioning families from other Global Foundries sites. Christy Multer will be the point person. We expect a handful of families in 2010 followed by a bigger wave in following years. A number of the families will be coming from Germany and Singapore. This adds a level of complexity for these students who will be earning HS credits here and then returning to their own country. Christy reminded everyone that Thursday is the BH-BL Flag Day Parade.

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Blowers seconded a move to executive session.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board