

DATE: July 13, 2010
WHERE HELD: High School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: John Blowers

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:
John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham
Patre Kuziak
James Maughan
Lee-Ann Mertzlufft
Joe Pericone

MEMBERS ABSENT:
William Farmer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and Kate Gurley.

President John Blowers called the Board meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the June 22, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of a tradebook.

Motion carried 6-0

Privilege of the Floor – none

ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the probationary appointments of Jaclyn Weber, Special Education teacher at the Middle School & Katelin Donegan, Math teacher at the Middle School, both effective 9/1/10; the approval of the temporary appointments of Nicholas Amicucci, Special Education teacher at the High School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Brian Banks, Special Education teacher at the Middle School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Lauren Mattison, Grade 1 teacher at Stevens, effective 9/1/10-12/30/10; Donna Mayo, .3 Special Education teacher – District, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Carol Drake, .6 Music teacher – District, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; the approval of the salary authorizations for 2010-2011 for Richard Evans, Jacqueline St. Onge, Nicola Boehm, David Martin, Daniel Diggins, Richard Hewlett, Theresa Barclay, Amy Baluch; the approval of the leave of absence of Catherine Mele, Music teacher at Stevens, effective 9/1/10-4/14/11 & Carrie Sunkes, .4 PACE/AIS – District, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; the acceptance of the retirement of Dennis Bouchard, Science teacher at the High School, effective 7/1/10; the approval of the 2010-11 Curriculum Committee appointments of Michele Dalbec, Secondary Special Education & Tracey Dooley, Secondary Science; the approval of the appointment of David Somoza – Technology Integration Specialist at Stevens Elementary; the acceptance of the resignation of Lisa Flynn, .6 Business teacher at the High School, effective 7/14/10.

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone 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. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the 2009-10 Vandalism Report.

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Resolution Authorizing Sale of Hostetter.

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Contract with the Assistant Superintendents.

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Mertzlufft seconded the approval of the 2010-2014 Contract with Operations Managers

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Maughan moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the revision of Policy 9120 – Code of Ethics.

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the Spring Grant Awards from the BH-BL Education Foundation.

Motion carried 6-0

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

Motion carried 6-0

2010-11 Board/Building Liaison Assignments

Board President John Blowers explained the process used by the BH-BL Board for annual assignment of responsibilities. Tentative PTA assignments are as follows: Elizabeth Herkenham - Charlton Heights PTA, Lee-Ann Mertzlufft – Pashley PTA, Patre Kuziak – Stevens PTA, Joe Pericone High School PTA, Will Farmer – Middle School PTA. John Blowers discussed ways to encourage PTA attendance at board meetings as well as communication strategies for the PTA newsletters. An idea to have key topics from the board included in the PTA newsletters. Additional board liaison assignments include: Patre Kuziak as liaison for students and Education Foundation, Elizabeth Herkenham for educational partnerships, Lee-Ann Mertzlufft as legislative liaison, Joe Pericone as staff liaison and long range planning, and Will Farmer as Board Policy liaison.

NYSSBA Conference

Current plans are for all Board members and the Superintendent to attend the NYSSBA conference in October. It will be held in New York City this year. Travel plans and accommodations were discussed.

Hostetter Sale

Superintendent Jim Schultz discussed the legal requirements for a school district to sell its property. A school district may only sell real property that is no longer in use as a school. In central school districts that have been centralized for at least seven years, voter approval is not necessary. There is a legal requirement to put a resolution authorizing the sale in the school's designated paper. Sufficient time must be allowed for petitioner's to require a vote. Such a petition must be signed by at least 10 percent of the qualified voters and filed with the clerk of the board of education within 30 days of the adoption of the resolution. Jim also discussed that several real estate organizations will be making presentations during the first week of August to himself and at least one Board member. They will ask realtors to address listing price, marketing strategy, and their fee structure. Board member Lee-Ann Mertzlufft said that she would be the Board designee.

Board Picnic

Board members decided upon August 3rd as the date for an informal picnic to get to know each other. James Maughan offered to host the picnic at his home from 5pm to 8pm. Spouses and children were invited.

Board Goals

John Blowers briefly discussed the historical background and the process for developing and measuring Board goals. The Board self-evaluation tool is utilized to inform and begin the process. Board members talked about goals that include strategic objectives tied to vision and the idea to have a goal that is more specific and yet overarching. Goals should be broad enough to incorporate specific objectives and support district initiatives. Suggestion for board goals to reinforce that BH-BL is a great destination for students and families for reasons such as academic and financial performance. Board goals should be achievable. There was some discussion about charging a committee to look at adding an instructional piece, incorporating a timeline to the goals, and looking at tech infrastructure needs. A draft will be prepared for the August meeting. The plan is to have goals in place at the start of school.

Reports & Communications

- Lee-Ann Mertzlufft met with a representative from Scott Murphy's office along with Superintendent Jim Schultz. Both Lee-Ann and Jim felt the representative was not well prepared with regard to educational issues facing local school districts. They did not offer solutions, but did feel that they could serve as political resources for schools. They suggested that the school district do more grassroots efforts to impact legislation.
- Patre asked the Board to consider ways to tap into resources within our community and reach out for volunteers given the current fiscal environment.
- Elizabeth Herkenham met two tech teachers from another district who were exploring new technology ideas while visiting RPI's campus. She suggested that BH-BL consider doing similar activities. Elizabeth participated in the conversation with Kirsten Gillibrand's office along with Jim Schultz and John Blowers. While Gillibrand is not on the Education Committee, she does have expertise with grants and would provide support resources for schools. Also discussed were Medicaid, job stimulus, unfunded mandates and potential for her to attend one of our public forums.
- Joe Pericone reported that the Board met to prepare the Superintendent's evaluation.

- Rick Evans gave an update on hiring activities. He attended a meeting with Commissioner Steiner that was also attended by Board member James Maughan. He felt notes prepared by James did a great job of capturing the session.
- Jackie St.Onge provided a brief update on construction activities at all five buildings that include roofing, window and door replacement, and replacement of the gym floor at Stevens. She reported that the district's external auditors will be arriving soon and year end activities are in full swing. She received notification that pupil accident insurance rates were scheduled to increase by more than 17%. After receiving several quotes, she negotiated with the current provider to keep rates at the same level as last year.
- James Maughan met with Commissioner Steiner along with approximately 40 other BOE members from around the state, excluding NYC. The session lasted about 90 minutes and was primarily listening to the Commissioner and his staff talk about their agenda which included gaining public support for changing the cut scores. Also discussed were changes to the regents, teacher evaluation and SED's role in writing the regulations that support this law. RTTT funding strategy and mandate relief were also mentioned.
- Superintendent Jim Schultz discussed the impact of the teacher evaluation piece upon negotiations. Contracts after July 1st must include teacher evaluation language although it has not been defined. Jim reminded Board members about the required BOCES special election meeting on August 12th which will take about 5 minutes. There is only one candidate. He also mentioned a student survey on interscholastic programs which is being evaluated and collated. They will have results in a future board packet. Comments are positive in general. He reported that there will be at least 10 area superintendents who will attend the suburban council data consortium on August 10th.
- John Blowers thanked Joe Pericone for his leadership as Board President during the past year and for his guidance through a very challenging budget year. John attended the graduation ceremony along with all of the Board members and expressed appreciation for the great comments from Board President Joe Pericone at graduation.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board