



# Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central Schools *Board Highlights*

A summary of  
Board of Education  
meetings published  
by Superintendent  
of Schools Jim Schultz

Meeting of November 13, 2007

## Board members celebrate "clean" audit from State Comptroller & take part in demonstration of new interactive sports boards

Prior to the start of their business meeting, members of the Board of Education gathered in the Middle School's back gym for a demonstration and explanation of the physical education department's new interactive "Sportswall" boards. Three electronic wall panels were installed there in October and have already been very successful at getting students excited about moving and being more physically active. Physical education teachers KAREN LAYTON and GEOFF LEGGIERI are big fans of the new equipment, which was purchased with funds from the \$98,700 federal Carol White grant.

### Action items

Board of Education members accepted two gifts from the Charlton Heights PTA: \$2,700 for a new gymnasium sound system and \$900 for an electric screen for the stage area. Also accepted was a gift of \$575 from an anonymous donor for classroom needs for teacher KRISTEN BURDETT. Superintendent JIM SCHULTZ noted that the \$575 is the district's first donation through *Donorschoose.org*. This website originally was limited to requests for gifts to the New York City schools, but is now a place where any teacher can post requests for his or her classroom.

Board members accepted reports from the tax collector CAROL PUGLISI and lists of uncollected taxes for both Saratoga and Schenectady Counties. 4.3% of the Schenectady County tax warrant and 5.1% of the Saratoga County tax warrant had not been paid as of November 1, amounts that are similar to previous years. Under the law, these unpaid tax bills are now to be turned over to the counties for collection.

Also approved were recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.

### Discussion Items

Board members took time to celebrate the formal announcement and press release by the NY State Comptroller's office that BH-BL had received a completely "clean" state audit. This puts BH-BL in the top 5% of school

districts in the state in terms of financial accountability. Mr. Schultz noted that "This is huge. We want people to know the kind of integrity this demonstrates in terms of the use of the public's money." After three auditors from the state comptroller's office spent weeks pouring over the district's 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial transactions of all types, they could find NO reportable errors. A copy of their report has been linked to the district website.

Board member JOE PERICONE led a discussion of comments Board members received at a recent meeting they held with high school Student Government Organization and other club members. A number of pupils are interested in recycling at the high school, and board members talked about finding a club that can research the costs and ways of doing this. The board agreed that this would be very desirable, but our past experience has been that the sorting and the cost of recycling can be more complex than people realize. Other topics raised by the pupils included use of the Fitness Center after classes and lunch items.

Assistant Superintendent RICK EVANS gave the Board a follow-up on the new Comprehensive Developmental Skills class of special education pupils at the high school this year. Special Education Director SHARON McTYGUE has been consolidating a number of positions to make this program operate as efficiently as possible. Serving this group of students right in our high school rather than sending them to a BOCES program is still saving the district more than \$100,000 this year, but an additional one day a week of social worker time has become necessary.

Board member JOHN BLOWERS led a discussion reviewing the policies in the 8000 series of the District Policy Manual. There are 12 policies in this series, which deals with Facilities Development.

The Board also reviewed dates of this year's first budget development activities. In the coming month the Board expects to create a new detailed Budget Development & Communications plan.)

