



Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central Schools *Board Highlights*

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

Meeting of October 9, 2007

Board of Education greets German visitors, approves charge to Interscholastic Sports Committee

Prior to the start of their business meeting, Board of Education members received greetings from visiting students and staff from our sister school in Moers, Germany. Students DORIAN LOOGEN and NATHALIE BECK told how they were enjoying their stay with Burnt Hills families.

Moers teacher WOLFGANG FABRICIUS described first coming to Burnt Hills in 1991 when the German school was looking for a US high school to partner with in the PEACE (Partners in Education and Cultural Exchange) program. Actual exchanges between the two schools started in 1992, and have occurred every year since then, even in October 2001 when it took an extra measure of courage for German families to send their children to post-9-11 New York. He calculates that a combined total of roughly 750 teachers and students have crossed the Atlantic in the program since it began.

On this the 16th anniversary of the exchange program, Superintendent JIM SCHULTZ paid tribute to Mr. Fabricius as "the driving force behind the program for all 16 years of our partnership." BH-BL German teacher KAY KRAMER also noted how much both schools have gained from the relationship. "We do create experiences for the students that they will never forget," he said, as was demonstrated this week when one of the original 1992 students recognized Mr. Fabricius in a local restaurant.

Action items

Board of Education members approved the following two goals for themselves for 2007-08:

1. By August 2008, to clearly define the scope, nature and timing of the district's next major facilities referendum.
2. By August 2009, to develop a process for capturing and assessing the components of a 20-year strategic framework for the BH-BL school district that includes planning for:
 - critical maintenance,
 - enrollment,
 - instructional delivery and
 - finances.

Also, a formal charge was approved to create a new Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning for Interscholastic Sports. The committee will be co-chaired by one community and one staff member and will develop recommendations for the Board of Education by February. The committee's recommendations should address four specific charges from the Board, charges designed to strengthen and focus the sports program.

The committee is to include 12 voting plus four non-voting members as follows:

- 4 coaches and/or staff,
- 3 BH-BL non-staff residents who are also booster club members and/or parents,
- 3 BH-BL non-staff residents who do not presently have children in interscholastic sports,
- 2 district administrators,
- plus 4 ex-officio members to serve as liaisons and provide background information: the Athletic Director, Superintendent and 2 Board of Education members.

Residents and staff who are interested in serving on the committee should send a letter to Superintendent Jim Schultz describing their related experience and reasons for their interest by October 18. The committee charge and deadline will be posted on the district website and shared with the local news media.

Also approved were: special athletic competition for boys volleyball, a contract with teacher JOSH MERLIS to develop TIMS (Technology Information Management) software to help the district track its technology needs, recommendations from the Committee on Special Education, and a revised policy on student physicals and immunizations to conform to changes in state law.

Other Discussion Items

Board members discussed the process they use to review and update the district's extensive Policy Manual. In the current year they agreed to review the 8000 and 9000 sections of the manual, which cover policies related

