



Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central Schools
Board Highlights

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

Meeting of September 23, 2008

Board begins outline for next renovations referendum

Action items

Board of Education members approved two gifts from individuals: a tenor saxophone for the Music Department from resident MARY JANE CROWLEY and \$5,000 from a Class of '48 alumnus for computer equipment for special education pupils.

Also approved were recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and a contract with the Questar III BOCES to perform the 2008-09 internal audit as required by law.

Discussion Items

World Languages Department head SUZANNE RAYOME and teachers PATTY STERN and AMBER HAGGERTY introduced two visiting teachers from our new sister school in Spain. The teachers and 18 Spanish exchange students are staying with BH-BL families for two weeks. In return, a group of BH-BL pupils will visit Spain next spring.

Now that the schools have had a chance to verify their enrollment numbers, Assistant Superintendent RICK EVANS reported on class size numbers for 2008-09. Secondary enrollment appears to be what we expected, with a small decrease in the number of classes with 15 or fewer pupils, he noted. Overall Middle School enrollment went from 851 pupils last year to 843 this year. High School numbers went from 1,152 last year to 1,170 this year.

Every year we have one elementary grade or class at one school with higher class sizes than the other classes, Mr. Evans noted. This year that applies to the third grade at Stevens, which had an unexpected bump in youngsters moving in over the summer. Mr. Evans met with teachers there. The Board will hire an additional half-time teacher to help with the challenge of classes with 25-26 pupils including 10 "Skills" special education youngsters.

Based on previous discussions at the Board's summer retreat, Superintendent JIM SCHULTZ and Assistant Superintendent JACQUELINE St. ONGE walked the Board through a draft timeline and process for the next renovations

referendum, which is projected to go before the public in October 2009. Mr. Schultz reminded Board members they had already agreed that using a two-committee approach to create the list of recommended referendum projects this time around would be more effective and a better use of volunteer committee members' time than our one-committee method in 2003 and earlier.

First, a fairly small, staff-only committee would create a prioritized list of **critical infrastructure needs** by December. These could include areas where our current systems are old and in poor shape (such as the Stevens boilers & gym floor, some septic systems, the Charlton Heights kitchen, the high school track, the middle school tennis courts and much paving), areas where health and safety or ADA compliance issues have been identified (such as the elementary fire alarm systems, some gym partition doors, and traffic flow issues at the Middle School and Stevens), and areas where we could save money through greater energy efficiency (such as replacing some roofing, windows, exterior doors and HVAC controls).

A second much larger committee of both staff and community members would begin meeting in January to identify our most urgent **program-driven renovation needs**.

Several factors control how much state aid school renovation projects generate, Ms. St. Onge said, but in our case typically 77 - 78% of renovation costs are reimbursed to us through state aid. A detailed timeline and charge for both committees will be prepared for the next Board meeting.

Personnel Action

RETIREMENT

KAREN SANDERS

Stevens Reading Teacher
 effective 1/5/09

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MELISSA THOMAS

High School Science Teacher
 effective 11/11/08 - 6/30/09

(Continued over)

