



# 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 9, 2008

## Board hears reviews opening week activities & enrollment

### Action items

Board of Education members approved a change in the district policy on the use of seat belts on school buses to make the policy more consistent with state regulations. The change was initially requested by BH-BL bus drivers.

Also approved was a resolution — as required by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) — to designate the Board of Education as the lead agency with respect to the upcoming environmental remediation project in the Transportation Center wash bay and to affirm that the district's architects have determined this is a Type II project and that no further studies are required.

Also approved were recommendations from the Committee on Special Education, attendance of a second Board member at an upcoming NYS School Boards Association training session in Latham, and bid awards for school lunch items.

### Discussion Items

Official enrollment numbers for the opening of school are still being prepared. Superintendent JIM SCHULTZ noted that school secretaries need several days to determine which apparent absences in their records are children who are ill or children who have actually moved away. It appears that overall enrollment will be approximately 40 more pupils than at this time last year. Official numbers will be available later this week.

Assistant Superintendent RICK EVANS reminded Board members that in last spring's budget process we cut one teacher assistant or monitor in each school to reduce costs. Most of these cuts were made in special education staffing. Now that school is actually open, a problem has arisen at Stevens School where a number of special ed pupils with similar needs have moved into the district. He, principal RALPH ROTHACKER, and special services director SHARON McTYGUE are working on the best solution to this situation. Dr. Evans expects an additional half-time teaching position will be needed at Stevens and an additional 0.2 occupational therapist time may be needed across the district.

Work to replace the Pashley boilers is not complete yet, said Assistant Superintendent JACQUELINE St. ONGE, though progress is being made on the last steps before testing the new heating system. Construction managers TOM QUINN and JIM MARTIN are putting in a tremendous amount of work, she said, to get this project done correctly and quickly.

She also updated Board members on the process of fixing the problem with the batch of finish that was applied to the high school and middle school gym floors. The finish, which normally cures in four to five days, is still not completely cured after a month. She, buildings and grounds supervisor DAN DIGGINS, custodial supervisor DAVE MARTIN, and several custodians have been devoting many hours to researching this issue and meeting with wood floor care specialists and representatives of the finish manufacturer (Essential Industries) and vendor (E.A. Morse). She has sent a letter to the Essential Industries CEO describing steps taken to date, that sanding off of the finish will start on September 10, and that we anticipate expenses of approximately \$60,000 as a result of the problem, which we expect to be reimbursed for.

Mr. Schultz said that in the two past weeks we have had closings that completed the two land transactions that have been in process for some months. We have sold the district's 26-acre parcel on Swaggertown Road and have purchased the 4.6-acre parcel at 3 Lakehill Road that extends behind the Transportation Center and Stevens School.

Ms. St. Onge informed the Board that we have entered into a mutually beneficial agreement with the state Department of Transportation to place clean construction fill from the Route 50 bridge repair project over the Indian Kill at our Transportation Center. The state will transport and place the fill (on Saturdays) at the back end of our bus yard. They will also grade the area and erect a silt fence. This will benefit the district by improving drainage and extending the usable parking area of the bus yard.

Board members discussed dates to meet with the new Capital Region BOCES Superintendent of Schools CHUCK  
*(Continued)*

DEDRICK and BOCES Board member JOHN YAGIELSKI as well as potential topics to discuss with them.

Board member ELIZABETH HERKENHAM discussed ideas for changing the Board's recent tradition of holding a 4:00 pm gathering to welcome new staff.

## Personnel Action

Board members approved recommendations to abolish three bus driver and two bus monitor/special ed teacher aide positions. WILLIAM CASSIDY and DAVID RUETSCH were appointed as Driver Education teachers.