

DATE: December 16, 2008  
WHERE HELD: High School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular  
PRESIDING OFFICER: Bob Speck

MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Elizabeth Herkenham  
Tim Kelliher  
Patre Kuziak  
Joe Pericone  
Robert Speck  
Michael Wolf

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

John Blowers

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, Rocco Montesano, and 30 others.

**Executive Session began at 7:00 PM to discuss personnel matters. Attorney Bob Van Vranken was present.**

Vice President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the November 18, 2008 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of Textbooks & Films.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachments

**Patre stepped out of the meeting.**

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.  
Motion carried 4-0 See attachment 1

**Patre returned to the meeting.**

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the tenure appointments of Erin Hogan, Guidance Counselor at the High School and Daniel LeClaire, Assistant Principal at the High School; the acceptance of the Tenure Recommendations, so noted on the attached list; the approval of the probationary appointment of Vanessa Lampo, Reading teacher at Stevens, effective 1/5/09; the approval of the temporary appointment of Jaclyn Ippolito, English teacher at the High School, effective 1/5/09-6/30/09; the approval of the per diem appointment of Kathy Burns, Director of Special Services at \$375 per day; and the approval of the substitute teacher appointments, so noted on the attached list.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 2

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the civil service personnel action as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 3

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of Amy Baluch as the BH-BL Trustee on the Board of CASHIC and Dina Edgar as the Backup Trustee.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 4

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Wolf seconded the acceptance of an Adjustment to the List of Uncollected Taxes.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 5

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the Adoption of the 403B Plan.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 6

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Contract for Health & Welfare Services with North Greenbush Common School District.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 7

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Wolf seconded the approval of all TEAM Special Athletic Competition Requests for the Indoor Track Team. (The Nat'l Scholastic Indoor Track Championships & Nike Indoor Nationals were confirmed to be Club competitions and removed from the approval process.)  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 8

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

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 9

## **Bob Speck arrived.**

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Wendy Kuehner read a statement requesting that the Board consider allowing their son to remain in the BH-BL District although the school district boundary for their property is in question. The property is considered to be located in the Scotia-Glenville School District.

### **Program Review - Special Education**

Sharon McTygue, Director of Special Services began the presentation by asking staff from her department that worked on the presentation to introduce themselves to the audience & Board members. Joan Scannell provided an overview of the types of student learning environments ranging from the least restrictive to the most restrictive. Joan described resource rooms that supplement regular instruction as well as highly individualized programs such as the CDS program. Students also receive additional services including speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology, social work, etc. Sharon provided the NYS assessment results for students with disabilities for science, social studies, math and English language arts. She indicated that BH-BL has met & exceeded most of the targets for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), however these targets have not been met for ELA and is an area of concern for the department. In addition to these targets, they use many other indicators of student progress including homework, parental feedback, participation in school & community activities, etc to name a few. Staff described initiatives that they are currently working on to improve their department. As members of building level teams in core subjects, they are working on aligning curriculum between general and special classes as well as using item analysis for targeted instruction. Special education teachers are also working towards teaching classes in which they have content area certification in that subject area. Staff members shared several success stories about their students at both elementary and secondary levels. Continuous improvement will focus on providing services to students in the least restrictive environment, best practices in literacy curriculum, performance and progress monitoring of IEP goals. Board members asked questions. In what way can the board support them? Take a look at the continuum of services that are offered and focus on literacy initiatives.

### **Budget Development Update**

Jackie St.Onge reported on the Governor's budget proposal which was released earlier in the day. She provided handouts detailing the loss in state aid to BH-BL under the executive proposal. She also highlighted proposed changes to laws that may impact schools in general. Joe Pericone & Jim Schultz began the discussion on the Budget Development & Communications Plan. Jim went through the highlights of the calendar, budget activities, and the budget context. External factors are to remain the same with the addition of the Governor's aid reduction. Some modifications were made to the internal factors and the budget objectives. The Board discussed adding a legislative bullet to the budget objectives.

### **Long Range Goal Process**

Tim reported that the long range goal subcommittee will begin to meet in January. Membership will include Superintendent Jim Schultz, Assistant Superintendent Rick Evans, Board members Tim Kelliher and John Blowers, and a representative from the Teachers Association. They will attempt to put together the process, meeting every couple weeks. Bob reminded Board members of the process developed in past years. The subcommittee will take into consideration the past work done by school district members & others on continuous improvement. Their first consideration will be the type of outcomes that will be useful in guiding the district.

### **Referendum Committee**

Jim Schultz told the Board that the Critical Information Needs Committee (CINC) will present their report at the second meeting in January.

### **Reports & Communications**

- Jackie St.Onge gave a brief update on the progress of the bus wash bay project at the Transportation facility. The recent power outage caused problems with heating systems at three of the school buildings; the High School, Middle School and Pashley. Frozen pipes that burst caused the most damage at Pashley elementary, displacing four classrooms in A-quad. Jackie updated Board members on the flood situation at the Hostetter building. Jim Schultz described the damage at Pashley after taking a first hand look at the four A-Quad classrooms.
- Tim Kelliher reported that the BH-BL Ed Foundation met and approved \$4-5,000 in grant funding. They are looking for more interesting grant opportunities and would prefer not to fund the same project a second time. Grant proposals included a lego robot demo as well as other interesting grants.
- Bob Speck is working with new Board member Patre Kuziak in a mentor capacity and providing her with relevant information.

- Elizabeth reported John Stoothoff is retiring from WSWHE BOCES. Letters from baseball parents have been received expressing their disappointment at the loss of a level of sport's participation and Elizabeth asked what kind of evaluation process will be in place for future years for monitoring negative student experiences? Bob McGuire will be invited to address the Board to discuss the evaluation process for coaches and expectations for the program. Elizabeth recalled from previous discussions about the orientation process that negative experiences are what kids remember most.
- Patre Kuziak commented that if expectations and criteria are set for coaches, then it's the monitoring that is lacking and needs to be done more frequently,
- Rick Evans discussed the contracted work done by Josh Merlis on the tech system. Mr. Merlis went beyond his contract by maintaining the system and Rick is requesting that he be paid for this service. A payment request will be presented as a future action item.
- Jim Schultz mentioned that Bob McGuire attended the National Physical Education Conference & learned of some potential funding opportunities. Bob McGuire is trying to set up some deals with local stores to sell Spartan products and he is exploring other ideas to address budget shortfalls. He reminded new board member Patre Kuziak of the need to set up meetings with Rick Evans, Jackie St.Onge and himself.
- Joe Pericone mentioned that he received the obesity report from the State Education Department and that a response is required within 90 days.

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a move to executive session.

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a return to regular session.

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board