

DATE: January 13, 2009
WHERE HELD: Middle School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Bob Speck

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:
John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham
Patre Kuziak
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck
Michael Wolf

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Tim Kelliher

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, Dan LeClaire, Robin Gawrys, Rocco Montesano, and 3 others.

Executive Session began at 7:00 PM to discuss personnel matters.

President Robert Speck called the Board meeting to order at 7:35 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 December 16, 2008 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachments

Mr. Pericone moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 1

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the temporary appointment of Sally Adams, English teacher at the High School, effective 2/2/09-6/30/09 and Raymond Szczerba, .75 Science teacher at the High School, effective 1/9/09-6/30/09; the approval of the leave of absence of Susan Rask, music teacher at the Middle School, effective 3/9/09-6/30/09; the approval of the Spring Musical appointments, so noted on the attached list; the acceptance of the REVISED list of Tenure Recommendations, so noted on the attached list; the approval of payment of an additional \$600 to Josh Merlis for additional work & maintenance on the Technology Information Management System; and the approval of the substitute teacher appointments, so noted on the attached list.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 2

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the civil service personnel action as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 3

Mr. Blowers moved and Mr. Wolf seconded the acceptance of the Grant Awards from the BH-BL Education Foundation.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 4

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for the Varsity Softball Team.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 5

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of a gift of \$4,000 to the Music Department from the Friends of Music.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 6

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of a gift of a Briggs-Smith Engine to the Technology Education Program.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 7

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the gift of \$400 from the Class of 1948.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 8

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

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 9

Referendum Committee

Jim reminded the Board of the two committees charged to study renovation needs. The first committee will update the Board on critical infrastructure needs at the next January meeting. The second committee will meet beginning in February and a proposed list of membership was provided to Board members. Board members voted on the community residents, selecting seven members and one alternate for participation on the second committee.

Budget Update

Joe Pericone described the format and topics for the Community Forum on the school budget scheduled to be held on January 20, 2009 at the Ballston Town Hall. A draft of the meeting agenda was handed out. There was a suggestion to expand the key questions for community input on cost cutting to include revenue generating ideas. Questions on the proposed cost reductions received from staff led to a discussion on how we will respond to suggestions that we receive from community members at the forum. It was pointed out how important it will be to emphasize the Board's objectives for this year. Message needs to be clear that the Board supports a comprehensive education and is not willing to compromise or entertain agenda-driven suggestions. Some other ideas were to introduce a tool to be used to collect input from those not able to attend, generate a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) done by Christy, and seek ways to engage students in this process. The Board received some input from the audience such as show some of the cost savings that are already being put in place, stay positive, and emphasize the preservation of the quality educational experience at BH-BL. Jim agreed that our program will be impacted and we need to demonstrate how we will still come out of this process with the best possible solutions. Jim went through the proposed cost reductions line by line describing them in greater detail and answering questions from Board members.

Reports & Communications

- Joe Pericone attended the Pashley PTA meeting where questions were raised about the Founders Day Award Recipient and whether the results were confidential. The dinner will be held February 5th.
- Mike Wolf attended the Middle School PTA meeting at which they reminded everyone that this is the last year for Monopoly Madness. In addition, there were some concerns voiced about a change to the photography vendor and a reminder of the Middle School principal's upcoming tea.
- Elizabeth Herkenham attended a meeting at which the BOCES Special Education Director, Inge Jacobs complimented Robin Gawrys and Don Germain on their work with students. She asked Board members for input on staff recognition.
- Rick Evans reported that at the next program review on Culture Team Data three departments -Social Studies, Science and Career & Tech volunteered to present in more depth. Rick asked Board members for input and there was a request for information on elementary consistency.
- Jackie St.Onge updated the Board on increases to the cost and scope of the work at the Transportation facility on the bus wash bay project. Additional contaminated soil will need to be removed from the site and may cost an additional \$100,000 - \$120,000. She also reported that there was a classroom sink that overflowed on the second floor at Stevens and the flooding leaked through to the main office below. Jackie also reported that bids were received for replacing the floors in A-Quad at Pashley and is scheduled to begin this week. Bids were also opened for work at the Hostetter building to connect the temporary trailers to A-quad. The work should be complete this week and once computers are moved in, the staff will begin moving into the temporary office space.
- Bob Speck attended the PTA Council meeting at the High School and reported that there was lots of activity due to the High School concert. At the meeting, Bob focused his comments on the budget process and encouraged community members to participate in the process and in lobbying efforts. They also talked about the Founders day dinner. Bob presented a certificate of achievement to Joseph Pericone for participation in a NYSSBA leadership activity. He also prepared a list of board members and the activities in which they currently participate. Bob gathered historical information on the last budget deficit at the state level and its impact upon BH-BL for interested board members.
- Jim Schultz reminded board members that the senior exemption was included in the packet. Board members were in agreement to include it as an action item for the next meeting. Jim drew attention to the next newsletter and commended Christy on her work and the quality of its content and transparency. The number of people who signed up for the School News Notifer increased by approximately seventy-five after Jim sent out a letter to parents on school closings. Jim talked about the tragic fire in Charlton that destroyed the Charlton Tavern and the home of the Green family whose children attended our schools. He sent out a notice to staff regarding the fund set up for the Green family at Trustco Bank. Jim also reported that Jackie Martini will be out for at least three weeks for surgery and he will not be hiring a substitute.
- Bob reported that former Board member Nancy Della Pia and her family have moved and that her house has been sold.

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Pericone seconded a move to executive session.

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

Mr. Wolf moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board