

DATE: January 27, 2009  
WHERE HELD: Pashley

KIND OF MEETING: Regular  
PRESIDING OFFICER: Bob Speck

MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Blowers  
Elizabeth Herkenham  
Tim Kelliher  
Patre Kuziak  
Joe Pericone  
Robert Speck

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Michael Wolf

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, Rie Posillico, George Seymour, John Antoski, Maryellen Symer, Dan LeClaire, and 6 others.

President Robert Speck called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the January 13, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of textbooks, tradebooks and films.  
Motion carried 4-0 See attachments

**Elizabeth Herkenham & John Blowers arrived at 7:35 PM.**

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the Driver Education appointments of William Cassidy & David Ruetsch at a rate of \$34.95/hour; the approval of the leave of absence of Carrie Neary, Grade 1 teacher at Pashley, effective 4/27/09-6/30/09 and Amanda North, Math teacher at the High School, effective 3/16/09-6/30/09; and the approval of the rescinded resignations of Carrie Sunkes, Grade 6 – Middle School, effective 6/30/08; Carrie Neary, Special Education – Pashley, effective 8/31/08; Katherine Gurley, grade 4 – Stevens, effective 7/8/08.  
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 1

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the civil service personnel action as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.  
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 2

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the Property Assessment Tax Exemption for Low Income Senior Citizens & Disabled Citizens.  
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 3

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.  
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 4

**Program Review – Culture: Team: Data in K-12 Departments**

Rick Evans introduced the presentation with an overview of the Culture, Team, Data Action Plan for Success. He provided examples of questions being asked by team members and initiatives taking place within departments. The program review focused on three specific areas: Science, Social Studies and CTE. George Seymour, K-12 Science Coordinator, described the process used by teachers to move from working informally in small groups to working as collaborative teams. Secondary staff cited a book called *Learning by Doing* as key for helping with the process of working together. Teachers use an item analysis from BOCES to identify areas of poor student performance and once identified they focus on improving those areas. Karen Krushelnytsky described a specific target for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students on the Life Science Final Exam. After data was analyzed, a plan was developed to address science literacy by providing students with activities and information in the form of text, illustrations, graphs, and charts.

Next John Antoski, K-12 Social Studies Department Head, presented on Culture, Team, Data initiatives in the context of past, present, and future. He spoke about the climate of the department and how they will continue to develop their beliefs and set up parameters to improve communication with each other. Teams have always existed in the past, but they have evolved and are now examining data for the purpose of developing activities to address team goals. He described examples for 10<sup>th</sup> grade and for 7<sup>th</sup> grade developed by the Social Studies Department. He demonstrated a video streaming lesson geared for staff to share best practices with other teachers.

Rie Possilico, Director of Career & Technology began by citing differences with their department because there are no state assessments and they have 55 different courses being taught by teachers. Marta Roberts-Pekar spoke about the culture within the Career & Technical Education Department (CTE). The culture of the CTE Department has remained consistent – supportive, collaborative, with a sense of family – over many years and through different styles of leadership. Common threads within the department include striving to be great, leadership through servitude, and no time for complacency. For the future, CTE will continue to be cutting edge and dynamic. Laura Siracuse talked about the teams within the CTE Department and the idea that three very different disciplines are able to function as one team. Informally they have always worked in teams, however each course is unique. The primary team is CTE 6-12 focusing on student achievement and data. Secondary teams focus on literacy, especially financial literacy. Since the content area is so fluid, future needs will be to capitalize on their strengths and grow. Rie spoke on the use of data to measure the success of the CTE programs. She provided examples of the type of data being used such as enrollment, testimonials, and performance expectations. Nationwide CTE departments struggle on the type and use of data to assess the effectiveness of their programs. Rie talked about the learning opportunities being provided to all students. She cited numbers of students who take CTE courses, as well as the importance of the career development component. Questions for the future include how to measure effectiveness of programs and use data to advance student learning.

### **Preliminary Budget**

Jackie St. Onge briefly went through the budget development book describing the information presented in each section. She gave Board members a handout describing the general assumptions used in the budget development process. At the next Finance Committee meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup> the information will be discussed in greater detail.

### **Budget Forum Follow-up**

Joe Pericone followed up on the information received from attendees at the forum. He handed out a packet that consolidated all of the topics and explanations of cost savings ideas by category. Jim asked Board members to look at a draft of frequently asked questions about the BH-BL school budget and give reactions, suggestions, etc.

### **Reports & Communications**

- John Blowers attended the SGO meeting in January, encouraging students to become involved in the budget process and to participate on the Bond Referendum Committee. He described some student initiatives including Facebook, suggestion boxes, etc. John also attended a legislative conference at which he spoke with legislators about challenges facing local school districts.
- Elizabeth Herkenham attended the BH-BL Athletic Association planning meeting. They need some legal guidance regarding how to structure a 501c organization and would like to explore the BH-BL Education Foundation as a model.
- Patre Kuziak alerted Board members about a number of attempted burglaries recently in our local community. She has also been approached by staff regarding the budget and potential loss of jobs.
- Rick Evans gave a Pyramid of Intervention update. They are exploring how we as a district respond in a systematic way to students who are not learning. A district website is being devised to provide resources for our staff.
- Jackie St. Onge gave an update on some of the projects being considered by the Critical Infrastructure Needs Committee. Several sub-committee meetings are being scheduled for the Stevens traffic flow project and for Charlton Heights. Mosaic Associates have been preparing cost estimates and providing suggestions for a number of green initiatives to be considered as options.
- Bob Speck asked Board members to identify what they would like to accomplish before the end of the year. He encouraged Board members to attend the upcoming NYSSBA activity in February. There is no cost to attend.
- Jim Schultz attended the CSEA leadership committee meeting to present budget information. He stayed for a presentation on the CSEA lobbying position at the state level. CSEA members were asked to support these efforts by being vocal in Albany. Point sheets were available and will be included in the packet. CSEA supports a graduated income tax rather than tax cuts. Jim also mentioned cost savings ideas such as the Canada prescription drug plan. He told Board members that if school was cancelled due to snow, the scheduled Regents exam would also be cancelled.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board