

DATE: November 18, 2008
WHERE HELD: Charlton Heights

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Bob Speck

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers
Tim Kelliher
Patre Kuziak
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck
Michael Wolf

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Elizabeth Herkenham

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, Rocco Montesano, Liza McErlean, Dan LeClaire,

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

President Bob Speck 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 4, 2008 regular meeting & the November 12, 2008 special meeting of the Board of Education and the acceptance of the Claims Audit Report.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachments

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Wolf seconded the acceptance of the list of staff members eligible for tenure this year, so noted on the attached list, and the approval of the substitute teacher/nurse appointments, so noted on the attached list..

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 1

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

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 2

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of new Board Member Patre Kuziak.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 3

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Wolf seconded the acceptance of the donation of 13 computers from Clough Harbour & Associates.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 4

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the Interscholastic Sports Ad Hoc Committee Report.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 5

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the Report of the Saratoga & Schenectady County Tax Collector & the approval of the List of Uncollected Taxes.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 6

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

Motion carried 4-0

See attachment 7

Long Range Planning Process

Superintendent Jim Schultz reminded the Board that they agreed to come up with a process for Long Range Strategic Planning, emphasizing process. The process needs to be designed so as to allow constituents to have an opportunity for input. Tim would like the process to result in documents that are live versus those that are left on the shelf. There was a suggestion to look at what led up to the current process since most of the members of the Board and district are no longer here. Bob has assembled the records from the previous continuous improvement model and long range vision plan. At that time it was decided to bring in an outside consultant (Ken Broadhurst) into the process for logistical planning. Christy, Bob and Jim are the only current staff with knowledge of the previous process. Christy has a video about the Roaring Brook meeting that shows what took place. The process used was called 'Future Search' which brought together 62 people from all different stakeholder groups and at the end of three days there was agreement on a mission statement. Tim sees the new process as having two parts – a planning process and useful outcomes that will help the district. The process needs to be able to change over time and Tim mentioned a process

called system requirements gathering. Tim sees blogs or wiki tools as the best tools to use for gathering input from a wide constituency. One of the disadvantages is that you can get a huge amount of unstructured information, thus requiring a business analyst to structure the information into manageable chunks. The best analyst is without bias. Some questions were raised as to whether there will be other mechanisms for input such as telephone, mail, etc.? As this database is built, will concepts be prioritized? External prioritization is unbiased. The first task is to start by forming a smaller group of the key constituents to discuss what types of outcomes are being sought. Part of the process should be to consider how does the Culture: Team: Data initiative fit into this process. We already have things in place that can be used such as – Standards of Excellence, work of Ed Council and K-12's, Middle States Evaluation, Framework for Planning, etc. Next step is to assemble the small committee of key constituents for the next board meeting.

Update on Referendum

Jackie reported on the progress of the Critical Infrastructure Needs Committee. A list of critical infrastructure needs for each building was compiled using data from Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Dan Diggins, input from Construction Managers Tom Quinn & Jim Martin, the Five Year Building Condition Survey done by our school architects, and projects from previous bond issues that were not completed. Building principals added or expanded the list with projects that would address building specific needs. They were asked to specifically identify windows and doors for replacement, as well as roofing areas. Some additional items identified included PA systems, security systems, and Master Clock systems. Next steps will be to prepare cost estimates, prioritize building needs, and finally prioritize a district list of recommended projects. Christy has posted the request for volunteers to serve on the BH-BL Renovations Study Committee on the website and it will be advertised in the newspaper.

Budget

- Jim Schultz gave a brief state of the State from the Governor's perspective. He has communicated to staff that we will be using a multi year context to think about budgeting. He has been talking to staff at all buildings and has placed suggestion boxes at each location. He is asking staff to look at their own areas rather than others and to come up with any universal proposals for cost savings. He will be exploring areas such as energy conservation and we will be sharing these ideas as we get them. We are currently asking budget managers to freeze elective conferences and other non-essentials costs.
- Rick Evans spoke about budget development in the context of preserving the core areas of our programs. He discussed the negative impact of a proposed tax cap that would have required us to cut 40-70 staff if it had been enacted.
- Jackie St.Onge reported that today's special legislative session ended quickly and Governor Paterson commented that the failure to address the state budget deficit with mid-year cuts will drive the 2009-10 budget deficit to \$15 billion. Paterson also said that school aid cuts were eminent and the budget proposal that he will present on December 16th will be grim. We have been communicating the news to staff and budget development instructions will be to freeze budgets at the current level. The only alternate proposals that will be accepted will be those that result in cost savings or are mandated.
- Joe Pericone, Finance Chair for the Board, discussed the budget development & communications plan along with tentative dates for finance meetings and public forums. It was suggested to have an earlier public forum to gather cost savings ideas in January. He asked board members to send ideas for external factors and internal factors impacting the 2009-10 budget development process to Christy.

Reports & Communications

- Rick Evans announced that Special Services Director, Sharon Mc Tygue will be taking a two month leave beginning in January to have her baby. We will be hiring a temporary replacement through BOCES that will work three days per week during her leave.
- John Blowers reported on the SGO meeting attended by board members. He will be compiling the meeting notes so they can be discussed at a future board meeting. John also attended the Stevens PTA meeting where they talked about class size recognizing the inequities with the other elementary schools.
- Mike Wolf attended the Middle School PTA meeting at which they voted that this will be the last year for Monopoly Madness. They will be exploring other fund raising opportunities.
- Joe Pericone attended the SGO meeting and a big topic that he heard about was the pool at the High School. Students reported that the bleachers were in need of improvement. Other student comments include the need to fix the electronic timer, that the pool should be cleaned more often and starting blocks need to be replaced. Another SGO topic was to have a third lunch period.
- Bob Speck attended the PTA council meeting along with 15 others. Bob spoke to the council about our new board member, Patre Kuziak. He also discussed the board goals and the Ad Hoc Interscholastic Sports Committee recommendation at the PTA council meeting. Bob attended the Pashley PTA meeting in lieu of Elizabeth Herkenham and gave similar reports to them. He attended the Charlton Heights PTA and he will be introducing our new board member Patre Kuziak to them at a future meeting.
- Jim Schultz attended the school play, "Noises Off," commenting that the BH-BL students gave a great performance. Stevens building council invited Jim & Rick to talk about student placements. Jim included notes in the board packet about WSWHE BOCES. Their area of focus needs to be on high level math for the types of

opportunities that will be needed in this area in the future. Jim attended the PTA council meeting at which Stevens reported that their fundraising for stage curtains was very successful. Jim mentioned a good article in the Community News entitled It's a Great Day to Be a Spartan. We had a winner from the High School in the NCTE writing competition.

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Pericone seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board