

**DATE:** October 21, 2008  
**WHERE HELD:** Stevens

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Nancy Della Pia

**MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
**Nancy Della Pia**  
**Elizabeth Herkenham**  
**Tim Kelliher**  
**Joe Pericone**  
**Robert Speck**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
**John Blowers**  
**Michael Wolf**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**  
**Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and 60 others.**

President Nancy Della Pia called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Board president Nancy Della Pia extended a welcome on behalf of the board to the German exchange students from Moers. Some travel highlights for the exchange students included trips to NYC, Boston, and Niagara Falls. Nancy thanked Wolfgang Fabricius for being an integral part of the success of this program for both schools. Next Wolfgang spoke and presented Jim Schultz with a welcome card from the new principal from Moers. He also gave Jim a Latin book which will be put in the High School library. He thanked everyone for a wonderful program that he has been a part of since 1991 and said that we should look forward to some new faces that will take over for him. Jim presented Wolfgang and the students with gifts. Two of the German students presented their observations, experiences, and their thanks to the Board and audience members.

Board member Joe Pericone interrupted the meeting to read the Whereas statement for Board member Nancy Della Pia in recognition of her service and dedication as a Board member to the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake CSD. Everyone joined in to show their appreciation.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the October 7, 2008 regular meeting of the Board of Education.  
Motion carried 4-0 See attachments

Mr. Kelliher arrived.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the leave of absence of Jacqueline Grassman, English teacher at the High School, effective 12/8/08-6/30/09, and Sharon McTygue, Special Services Director, effective 1/6/09-3/2/09; the approval of the Fall Drama Production appointments, so noted on the attached list; and the approval of the substitute teacher appointments, so noted on the attached list.  
Motion carried 5-0 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 5-0 See attachment 2

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded the motion to table the approval of the Special Athletic Competition request for the Varsity Wrestling Team until the next meeting to get more information on total cost of each competition.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 3

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Bond Referendum Charge.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 4

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Kelliher seconded the nomination of Robert Speck as the New Board President to replace Nancy Della Pia.  
Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Whereas for Board Member Nancy Della Pia.  
Motion carried 5-0 See attachment 5

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Contract with Bonadio (formerly DR Pension) for 403B Services.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 6

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

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 7

### **Privilege of the Floor**

For Board Appreciation – Marty Pangburn spoke on behalf of the CSEA membership and thanked Board members for their support throughout the year. Rocco Montesano, President of the Teachers Association expressed their appreciation citing the Board's support of the culture that exists and their acceptance & advocacy for the culture of shared decision making. Ralph Rothacker presented on behalf of the Administrators. He expressed appreciation stating that the tone & tenor of the district begins with the Board and our Board should be used as a model for all Board members. He thanked them for giving their time to serve the students of the district. Paula Van Buren, PTA Council president, presented thank you cards from the schools along with sharing the PTA's appreciation for the work done by Board members. Rich Hewlett spoke on behalf of the Operations Management Organization expressing appreciation for Board members from all of the support services.

### **Program Review - Nanotechnology Initiatives**

Rick Evans introduced the idea that we have many initiatives to integrate technology into our class. This program will overview the efforts to integrate nanotechnology in various courses in Middle and High School.

George Seymour and Rie Posillico presented the significant initiatives to build nanotechnology awareness into the high school through a multi-year partnership with RPI. They introduced Paul Fedoroff and Tom Pitman who have been collaborating with RPI for a number of years to bring nanotechnology into K-12 education. Most recently they worked with teachers from five different districts to instruct them into ways to integrate nanotechnology while being guided by state standards. Paul and Tom demonstrated their innovative lego electron microscope simulations.

George explained his efforts to work with RPI and Albany Nano College to bring an electron microscope into the high school.

He then introduced Marie DiCristofaro and Katie Zyskowski who attended a summer program sponsored by NYSUT and Semitech to integrate nanotechnology into their Middle School classes.

Finally George introduced three students Nick Rossi, Kelsey Ward and Kristoffer VanNostrand who had attended a summer program overseen by Albany Nano that exposed these students to nanotechnology.

When asked where we are headed both Rie Posillico and George Seymour explained our vision of integrating nanotechnology into CTE and Science courses so that all students would benefit from this effort. They ended by celebrating the pioneer efforts of Tom and Paul in bringing nanotechnology to K-12 education and by acknowledging the profound influence that Board of Ed member Elizabeth Herkenham has had on supporting and expanding many of these initiatives.

### **Board Goals**

Nancy Della Pia asked Board members for input on the 2008-09 Board Goals included in the packet. After some discussion a wording change was suggested (2<sup>nd</sup> goal - change *implement* to *initiate*). The change was made and Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the acceptance of the Board Goals for 2008-09.

Motion carried 5-0

See attachment 8

### **Audit Committee Meeting**

Jim explained the process and proposed that new Board member candidates be interviewed from 5:30 to 6:30 PM, followed by the Audit Committee meeting from 6:30 to 7:00 PM (to review the draft audit for 2007-08). Then from 7:00- 7:30 PM the Board will meet with John Yagielski and Chuck Dedrick from BOCES to answer questions. The auditors will make a formal presentation of the audit during the regular board meeting.

### **New Board Member Candidates**

Jim discussed the questions that will be asked of the new Board member candidates and Board members agreed.

### **Reports & Communications**

- Joe Pericone attended the new staff breakfast and he enjoyed his opportunity to speak with some of the elementary teachers from Charlton Heights.
- Elizabeth Herkenham has been active in the Southern Saratoga Chamber and we should consider becoming a member. She mentioned the Click '08 program that she attended represented 50/50 by business and education attendees. She said that we should consider joining the Saratoga Chamber again citing good connections with AMD and WSWHE BOCES. As part of staff relations she suggested that the Board consider meeting with bargaining unit members at some point this year.

- Jackie St. Onge and Jim Schultz met with Crossroads and discussed the reasons for the increase in their rent. Crossroads asked if BH-BL would consider renovations if there was funding available through the State. We will be exploring the possibilities. Jackie also updated the Board on some parental requests being made to the Transportation department and gave the rationale for the responses.
- Bob Speck talked about an article regarding the donation of 46 acres of land on Onderdonk Rd in the Town of Glenville. The town is looking for the right away between the land donation and Indian Meadows. He also attended the Town of Ballston Community Day at which Christy Multer represented our district. Bob talked with Senator Hugh Farley about retirement system costs for the State and potential impact for schools. He attended the Superintendent's Conference Day and heard guest speaker Lynn Macan. Bob suggested all Board members read Jim's presentation from the Conference Day.
- Rick Evans commented on the successes of the Superintendent's Conference Day. He said that Superintendent Jim Schultz set deadlines for departments to have formed their teams resulting in real progress being made at the building levels. The K-12 's responded by taking many measures to make the day a success. There is ongoing work that will be built upon and many great connections with literacy were made throughout departments. Overall Kate Gurley did a great job coordinating the day.
- Jim commented about how Rick addressed the Teacher Assistants on the Superintendent's Conference Day. He said that Rick really validated their jobs with our students and the importance of the connections made with these students. On Nov 12<sup>th</sup> board members are invited to attend the SGO meeting. Jim expressed his appreciation for the heroic efforts from Christy Multer representing BH-BL at the Community Day. It was an outreach opportunity to the community at which she spent many hours at the district's booth. Jim will be out of the district on Friday. Next Tuesday night at the High School the community is invited to hear the response to the Ad Hoc Interscholastic Sports Committee in the library at 7:30pm. The response will be presented in a larger context that will include comments about the economy and state and local budgets. Jim expressed his sincere appreciation to board member Nancy Della Pia for her incredible service to the district and the board.
- Nancy asked Board members to review the NYSSBA news for an article on Employee Liability Reserves from the State Comptroller's Office.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board