

DATE: June 22, 2010
WHERE HELD: Stevens

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham
Tim Kelliher
James Maughan
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Patre Kuziak

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and 50 others.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the revised minutes of the May 25, 2010 meeting, the minutes of the June 8, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of a textbook.

Motion carried 6-0

Board President Joe Pericone conducted the presentation of Whereas statements beginning with Otis Ubriaco, a member of the Boys Track Team. Otis was honored for his individual accomplishment setting a new record for the fastest Two Mile race in school and Section 2 history. His coach, Chip Button was also honored. Next Joe presented to the entire Girls Senior Eight Rowing Team acknowledging their team accomplishments and Coach Donica Nalbert. Whereas statements were also presented to Board members Timothy P Kelliher and Robert S. Speck for their service to the District. Mr. Speck has served on the BH-BL Board for 36 years making him one of the longest serving board members in the state of New York.

Privilege of the Floor –

Mr. Goldman, a parent who had spoken at a previous Board meeting about the first day of school conflicting with a major Jewish holiday addressed the Board. He expressed his appreciation to the Board and Administration for having taken his comments seriously and for their response. He has created a petition and facebook page to gather signatures and comments which speak to the importance of this change as a sign of respect for the Jewish holiday. He is asking once again to move the start of school for this year.

Kimberly Landry, a district resident with three students at Pashley began by reading a letter on behalf of Paula Van Buren who could not be present. The letter is available at the district office. Her concern is with the class size at Pashley. She cited various reasons for smaller class sizes. She conveyed concerns for children who receive support services and wonders if there will be additional teacher assistants due to larger class sizes. Kimberly expressed her own concerns about a consolidation from four classes of 2nd graders to 3 classes of 3rd graders at Pashley next year. Her notes are available at the District office.

Beth Mc Keown, another parent in the District is concerned because she has a child who will be entering 3rd grade at Pashley next year. She presented some research on the impact of class size.

Dave Mitchell expressed the same sentiment regarding class size impact on instruction. He put the financial impact in terms of teacher salary/per student/ per instructional day.

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the probationary appointment of Jacqueline Somerville, Psychologist at the Middle School & Michele Reilly, Elementary Special Education teacher, both effective 9/1/10; the approval of the permanent appointment of Mary Hoey, Speech Pathologist at Pashley, effective 9/1/10; the approval of the temporary appointments of Edward Carangelo, .4 Dean of Students at the Middle School, effective 7/1/10-6/30/11; Susan Johnson-Buniak, .7 Speech Pathologist at the High School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Courtney Erhardt, .7 Art teacher at Charlton Heights & Stevens, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Sabine Erickson, .4 Math teacher at the High School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Pauline White, .2 Computer Science teacher at the High School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Erin Serritella, .7 Psychologist at Pashley, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Anya Zaderej, 1.0 World Language teacher (.6 temporary & .4 leave of absence) at the High School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Dante

DiPrimio, English teacher at the High School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Melissa Buyce, .6 Family & Consumer Science teacher at the High School, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Jessica Lyons, Guidance at the High School, effective 6/23/10-2/1/11; Jeffrey Page, .2 Physical Education at Stevens, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; the acceptance of the resignation of Pamela Baker, Special Education teacher at Pashley, effective 6/30/10; the approval of the rescinded resignation of Jeannine Spade, .4 CSPE Chairperson; the approval of the leave of absence of Jennifer Bennice, Grade 1 teacher at Stevens, effective 9/1/10-12/30/10; Jeannine Spade, Special Education teacher, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; Jennifer Wolf, .4 World Language teacher, effective 9/1/10-6/30/11; the approval of the position abolishment of Lauren Mattison, 1.0 Grade 6 teacher; Amy Landauer-Ruder, 1.0 Grade 6; Anya Zaderej, 1.0 World Language; Dante DiPrimio, 1.0 English, Dianne Alois, English Secondary Department Representative; Joan Scannell, Special Education Secondary Department Representative; the approval of the summer school appointments of Rachel Fridholm, Special Education; Donna Mayo, Reading; MaryJo Salomon, Speech; Mary Hoey, Speech; John Parisella, Counseling; George Nevulis, Counseling; Jan Aronson-Hansen, OT; Andrea Muscato, OT; Val Miller, PT; the approval of the one time retirement incentive of \$10,000 for Richard Reynolds, William York, Carol Hobday, Charles Button, Alexandra Williams, Susan Schultz, George Seymour, Karen Wang (pro-rated at .6), Barbara Buckley, Barbara Reeves, George Nevulis; the approval of the following extra-curricular appointments at the High School:

Senior High Newspaper

Advisor Chris Reach
Proofreader Chris Reach

Class Advisors

Class of 2014 Lisa Saccocio
Kurt Semon

Senior High Drama Club

Advisor Stephanie Andrejczak & Mialisa Lindholm-Herron
Business Manager Stephanie Andrejczak
Producer Mialisa Lindholm-Herron
Stage Manager Chris Lombardi

National Honor Society Dante DiPrimio

SADD Advisors Cheryl Bach & Laura Sazada

Interact Club Advisors Cheryl Bach & Karen Clement

Staff Development Joanne Owens & Lia Mavridou

Pride Cheryl Bach

Motion carried 6-0

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

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the Approval of the Whereas for:

- a. Girls Crew Team
- b. Otis Ubriaco – member of the Track Team
- c. Board of Education Service (T. Kelliher & B. Speck)

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Board Meeting Dates for 2010-2011.

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the Contract for Health & Welfare Services with:

- a. East Greenbush CSD
- b. Niskayuna CSD

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the award of bid for Site/Septic Construction Project.

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Borrowing Rates.

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the approval of the Exemption from the Breakfast Program.

Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Blowers moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of the gifts of:

- a. \$5,000 from the Shellstrong Stroll for Life to the High School Giving Tree
- b. \$1,739.85 from the High School PTSA for a curtain for the auditorium

Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Blowers seconded the approval of the change of Opening Day of School from September 9th to September 10th for Grades 1 thru 12 and from September 10th to September 13th for Kindergarten.

Motion carried 6-0

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

Motion carried 6-0

Grant Proposal

Rick Evans discussed the research grant proposal that provides educational opportunities to young women. Dr. Sellati, an Associate Professor at Albany Medical College attended the Science Symposium and was so impressed with two of the exceptional sophomores that he approached science teacher Regina Reals about a partnership between BH-BL and Albany Medical College to provide mentoring activities for the next generation of academic researcher scientists. Regina feels this will lead to more initiatives for BH-BL students in the future.

Policy 9120 – Code of Ethics

James Maughan spoke about the changes made to the policy as discussed at the previous Board meeting. If acceptable, they will be acted upon at the next meeting.

Sale of Hostetter

Superintendent Jim Schultz spoke to school attorney Bob Van Vranken's about the sale of the Hostetter building. They discussed legal requirements and putting a public notice in the Gazette. Jackie St.Onge is exploring some options for sellers. The plan is for the Board to adopt a resolution for sale at an upcoming Board meeting.

Commissioner's Advisory Council

BH-BL has been offered a great opportunity for one of our Board members to participate in The Commissioner's Advisory Council along with other educational leaders. Elizabeth Herkenham is planning to attend and would like Board members to weigh in on topics that they would like discussed with the Commissioner of Education. One topic already on the agenda is the teacher evaluation process. Rick Evans discussed the Board of Regents' proposal to change the APPR process and use student growth as a measure to evaluate teacher performance. There will be a state level committee to begin the process and it will require a long lead time to implement the legislation.

Elizabeth would like administration to share details and concerns about this proposed legislation from a BH-BL perspective. Currently our APPR process is more fluid and one of our concerns is that a State legislated process will be too restrictive. Rick expressed some concern about a long timeline for the committee process, followed by a short implementation time that is not achievable.

John Blowers suggested shared services as a potential topic for the Commissioner's meeting. Since the state has suggested this as a way to save money, but still ties school districts' hands with regulations and lack of support, or state aid.

Jim Schultz mentioned a couple more ideas including restrictions on state assessments and elimination of the January Regents. This would have a very significant impact to BH-BL students and graduation rates. There has been a persistent move at the state/federal level to flow funding towards districts with higher poverty levels. This does not address districts that are commercial property poor. The Commissioner is also interested in moving waivers forward however he does not appear to be expanding waivers.

Superintendent Jim Schultz reported on the Governor's Retirement Incentive Plans under Chapter 45 and Chapter 105. Under the Chapter 45 proposal there is no cost per employee individually assessed to the school district as there is with the Chapter 105 proposal for ERS and TRS members. However, law suits are already being filed for the Chapter 45 retirement incentive available only to NYSUT affiliated bargaining unit members. Jim explained the Governor's Chapter 105 proposal citing the lack of specific information and inability for districts to get answers or clear idea of the costs.

Reports & Communications

- During the discussion regarding next year's school calendar James Maughan asked if the calendar committee takes into consideration other groups that may be impacted by their decisions. Elizabeth Herkenham asked if we can do more research on the impact prior to proposing the calendar. She supports the changes to the calendar for next year due to the improved staff development opportunities. Tim Kelliher suggests that the District use this experience to look at other processes that we can improve upon in the same manner.
- Bob Speck spoke briefly about two people who recently passed and their impact on the BH-BL educational community. He also talked about the growth that he has seen over the many years in which he has served the district and the various state organizations.
- John Blowers had a productive dialogue with Kirsten Gillibrand's staff last week regarding legislative activities. A similar session is scheduled for Friday with Assemblyman Murphy's team.
- Rick Evans gave a brief update on the hiring process.
- Jim Schultz reminded Board members about the graduation ceremony. Bob Speck was honored at the June 8th Awards ceremony at O'Rourke Middle School for his 36 years of service on the Board. Jim wanted to take time tonight to also honor Tim Kelliher. Jim expressed his appreciation to Tim for his service to the BH-BL school community. Tim was presented with a BH-BL star.
- Joe Pericone thanked both Board members, Tim and Bob for their service. Joe is ending his term as Board President.
- Jason Lasky expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Teachers' Association and read two whereas statements in recognition of Tim Kelliher and Bob Speck.

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board