

**DATE:** March 8, 2011  
**WHERE HELD:** Stevens

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** John Blowers

**MARGINAL  
NOTATIONS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
**John Blowers**  
**William Farmer**  
**Elizabeth Herkenham**  
**Patre Kuziak**  
**James Maughan**  
**Lee-Ann Mertzlufft**  
**Joe Pericone**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and 8 others.

President John Blowers called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the February 15, 2011 regular meeting & the February 17, 2011 special meeting of the Board of Education, and the authorization of a Textbook.

Motion carried 6-0

**Privilege of the Floor –**

Carl Telban addressed members of the Board and central administration on the topic of healthcare. His talking points are available at the District Office. He believes that BH-BL and other school districts are spending too much for health benefits because of inefficiencies and waste in the industry.

Community resident Richard Evans provided a handout to the Board also available at the District Office. He would like to know more about the impact of staff cuts and how many people are actually losing their jobs. He also questions what the district is doing with regards to Triborough reform, teachers' union negotiations, and wage freezes. He provided data on the percentage of students meeting learning standards for BH-BL as compared to other top comparable schools and asked whether BH-BL has studied best practices being used by these districts.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Mr. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the following substitute teacher/nurse appointments: Karin Baldauf, Jacqueline Begnoche, Jared Cusma, Julie DeBrita, Donna Frederick, James Garvey, Kathryn Gedney, Kaitlyn Gerke, Grace Gleason, Christina Gonzales, Amanda Harris, Allen Hills, Sarah Hopkins, Martha Houghton, Haiba King-Samuel, Stacy Livingston, Stefanie Martino, Briana Nelder, Vincent O'Bremski, Rebecca Ott, Katie Pipino, Erin Poole, Megan Reising, Stephanie Spindler, Bridget Stackman, Ross Teats, Heather Marie Williams, Erin Woodfield, Shawna Youngs; the approval of the tenure appointments of Merry Mazzotti, Reading teacher at Charlton Heights/Pashley; Michele Reilly, Special Education teacher at Pashley/Stevens; Jennifer Sala, Elementary teacher at Pashley; Jacqueline Somerville, Psychologist at the Middle School; the acceptance of the retirements of Valois Berger, Judy Brinkman, Anthony Chirico, Juliann DellaRocco, Mary Anne Doyle, Kathleen Kochem, Elsbeth Larson, Deborah Mahoney, all effective June 30, 2011; the approval of the volunteer coaching assignments of Lou Baish, Assistant Crew; Mike Baish, Assistant Crew; Carly Urbanski, Assistant Crew; David Ball, Assistant JV Boys Lacrosse; the approval of the Spring coaching assignments of:

Paul DeLuca	Varsity Baseball
Robert Duell	Assistant Varsity Baseball
Joshua Hadcock	JV Baseball
Andrew Meyers	Modified Baseball
Michael Meier	Boys Crew
Donica Nalbert	Girls Crew
Thomas Schwan	Varsity Boys Lacrosse
Jason LaPietro	Assistant Varsity Boys Lacrosse (self-funded by boosters)
Shawn Kline	JV Boys Lacrosse
Jack McHerron	Varsity Girls Lacrosse
Kelly Vrooman	Assistant Varsity Girls Lacrosse (self funded by boosters)
Sallie Gilliland	Varsity Softball
Allison Bernardi	Varsity Softball
Megan Cross	JV Softball

Shawn Merchant	Modified Softball
Geoff Leggieri	Varsity Boys Tennis
Peter North	JV Boys Tennis
Chip Button	Boys Track
Todd Bucci	Assistant Boys Track
Jonathan George	Assistant Boys Track
Shaun Zepf	Girls Track
Megan Jones	Assistant Girls Track
Emily Lewek	Assistant Girls Track

Motion carried 5-0 (Will Farmer abstained)

Mr. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the civil service personnel action as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.  
Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the Contract for Health & Welfare Services with Ballston Spa Central School District.  
Motion carried 6-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the approval of the Resolution to participate in a County-wide Local Government Efficiency Grant.  
Motion carried 6-0

Joe Pericone arrived at 7:55 PM.

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Mertzlufft seconded the approval of the 2011-2012 School Calendar.  
Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Mertzlufft seconded the approval of the overnight trip for the Science Research class to the Upstate Junior Science & Humanities Symposium at the University of Albany.  
Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of BOCES Disposal of Obsolete/Damaged Books.  
Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.  
Motion carried 7-0

### **5000 Policy Series + Policy 4040**

Will Farmer has been reviewing Board policy series and he reviewed the changes outlined in the 4000 and 5000 series. He went through each policy and answered questions about the proposed changes. Some changes were discussed that will be incorporated and revisions will be brought back to the Board at a future meeting. Jim Schultz will seek more information on a couple of the policies that were presented.

### **Budget Forum**

James commented on the number of people attending both in person and online which totaled over 300. He felt that Jim Schultz did a good job explaining the complexities of the budget development process. The tone of the meeting was fairly positive. The next step is to examine Jim's budget recommendations which will be in the next Board packet. The next forum is scheduled for March 29 and he feels there is a need to have a finance meeting prior to the forum. They agreed to meet Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at the High School at 7:00pm.

### **BH-BL Facebook**

Christy handed out information on a District Facebook Page that she has been working on. She talked about how it would be accessed via the BH-BL website. Other schools in our area have not had problems with inappropriate use of Facebook. Christy was given the okay to go live and we will revisit the topic at a later time.

### **Board Goals**

John spoke about the Board goals and progress to date. He asked Board members for input. Goal #1 has been addressed to some extent with the offer on the Hostetter property. The 2<sup>nd</sup> goal is being addressed as we explore building more partnerships with academics. There are more areas that we need to look at and the community is willing to partner so we need to take advantage of these opportunities. Goal #3 requires the most immediate attention. Rick Evans talked about completion of the 21<sup>st</sup> century framework and gathering data by March 15<sup>th</sup> to answer the

question. Then the data will be compiled in a format that can be handed over to the next referendum committee to provide the instructional vision. Elizabeth Herkenham volunteered to be the Board representative.

### **Reports & Communications**

- Elizabeth Herkenham met with an RPI graduate student and K-12 Department Head Bill McQuay on a collaborative math model. Bill shared information on the old versus the new math common core standards which are much more complex.
- Jackie St.Onge briefly reported on the results of the recent construction bid opening. We received many bids and our architects are checking references and verifying cost data. Once they have completed this process, we will bring the recommendations to the next meeting. At this point the construction costs came in under the budgeted amounts. Jackie also discussed a recent energy savings project available through National Grid. Light fixtures in the Charlton Heights gymnasium were replaced by National Grid during the winter break and are expected to generate ongoing savings by reducing the kilowatt hours usage by 50%.
- Lee-Ann Mertzlufft attended the Pashley PTA meeting and they are going to have an internet safety night in April. She commented that they had a nice representation of Pashley PTA members at the budget forum. She was approached by a community member who asked if we ever have mock trials for our BH-BL students. They are interested in bringing it to our district. Another community member told her that National Grid has an apprentice program starting for 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Lee-Ann reminded Board members about the legislative meeting in Albany on Monday and asked who will be attending.
- John Blowers reported that Junior Achievement has been flooded with calls looking for volunteers and support. He reminded us that they are another partner that we can call upon for support. John reached out to the Town of Glenville Supervisor Chris Koetzle to talk about the budget on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Farmer moved and Ms. Mertzlufft seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge  
Clerk of the Board