

DATE: April 21, 2009
WHERE HELD: High School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Bob Speck

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers
Elizabeth Herkenham (arrived 8:30 pm - during Program Review)
Tim Kelliher
Patre Kuziak
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck
Michael Wolf

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Rick Evans, Christy Multer, and 20 others.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kelliher moved and Pericone seconded the approval of the consent agenda which included minutes of the April 7, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education and the authorization of Films.

Motion carried 6-0 See attachments

Mr. Kelliher moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the temporary appointments of Carol Drake, .2 Music teacher at Charlton Heights (replacing Mrs. Rask during her leave of absence), effective 4/28/09-6/30/09; John Gill, Math teacher at the High School, effective 5/1/09-6/30/09; and the approval of the substitute teacher appointment, so noted on the attached list.

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

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

Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 3

Privilege of the Floor

Rich Barton expressed his sincere thanks to the District & Board of Education for their support during his illness. He chose to speak during privilege of the floor so that he could personally express his gratitude to all with a special thanks to the students & staff at O'Rourke Middle School. All of the care and concern shown by others has had a tremendous impact on his life and his family. Jim Schultz acknowledged Rich as a role model to all with his tremendous amount of positive energy and his extremely positive attitude.

Program Review

Jim Schultz introduced the program review in the context of Culture: Team: Data. Rick Evans reminded us that this initiative began five years ago when Jim became Superintendent. The process resulted in a core set of goals and asked the question, do our practices align with our belief that all kids can learn at all levels and how do we deal with students who are struggling. The process continued with the formation of teams that grappled with issues such as multi-disciplinary teams, collaboration time, pyramids of intervention and eventually the formation of a response to intervention committee. Building principals provided information in the board packets on how data is currently being used, what type of results are being monitored and examples of some key areas that have been addressed, as well as noteworthy accomplishments.

Elementary principal Ralph Rothacker began by discussing how the creation of team time has allowed teachers more collaborative use of time. The result is that now smart goals start from the bottom up rather than building principals pushing smart goals. In addition, the administrative team has become stronger with each elementary examining their own mission statement. Elementary building teams have identified and targeted areas for improvement. They are looking at data midyear for current students rather than waiting until the end of the year. Another initiative called WIN, or Whatever I Need, is a period of time once or twice a week when teachers examine the needs of certain students and provide the necessary instruction, rather than starting something new. Principal Jill Bonacio presented next on the shift in culture at Pashley Elementary and their focus on literacy. Teams have been expanded this year to include Special Services, specifically reading specialists and AIS resources. They are excited about reaching

measurable goals and Jill agreed that the elementary administrative team has become stronger. Elementary Principal Tim Sinnenberg said that Charlton Heights is experiencing the same successes, looking at data, and ways to monitor progress mid year rather than at the end of the year. In their building they are creating opportunities for sharing information with the language arts committee. The Pupil Assistance Team (PAT) has been successful in developing crucial assessments that can be shared with parents to show student performance and building council has been working on common writing language across schools. A question was asked about the effectiveness and consistency of PAT at all elementary buildings. Elementary buildings are moving towards consistency. Collaboration is occurring between teachers via email to share effective strategies and through the PACE program. One of BH-BL's strengths is its culture and teacher autonomy of the past is being replaced by professionalism that encourages teachers to work as teams. There were some questions about the extended day kindergarten (EDK) program and measuring the results of these students as compared to non-EDK students.

Middle School Principal Don Germain talked about maintaining a standards-based Middle School program and achieving at high levels. At the middle school level, a lot of time is spent addressing disconnected students, as well as affective and cognitive student behaviors. 75-80% of students are performing at high levels and require a rigorous program. Teachers are looking at data in a more timely manner to make course corrections and adjust instruction to meet student needs. Some of the impediments to student learning include student work ethic, motivation, and organizational study skills. Social, emotional, & medical needs impact instruction and teachers try to keep a systematic approach to intervention. They look at student data longitudinally to ensure sustained growth. Don gave an overview of some programs making an impact on students. The success of the AIS program is due to being a skills based program rather than a homework program. Other initiatives at the Middle School include restructuring the special education program, character initiatives such as 7th grade spirit day, enrichment activities, study circles diversity unit and breakfast celebration for students who raise their grade point average. A document on 21st century skills for students was included in the packet. Middle school teachers are struggling with a way to assess these skills which are largely part of the CTE program. At the High School level, Principal Maryellen Symer discussed the academic diploma goal and the affective domain goal. Special education teachers are members of all the teams. Teams look at students performing at low levels, AIS and at risk students, in order to provide targeted resources. Maryellen explained how the PAT team functions to provide support. She described student engagement activities including the student leadership training program (LTP) which helps engage freshman and provide smoother student transitions through interaction with a peer. LTP's are running many activities designed to help disengaged students and the results are evidenced by student comments. Suzanne Rayome gave an example of a formative assessment developed by their department to take a closer look at students' speaking skills. Students use visual prompts and voice recorders. Results are assessed and then strategies are implemented to address identified problems.

Budget Communication Plan

Jim Schultz discussed the final draft of the budget newsletter. He referred to dual roles & balancing student needs with those of the community. Jim distributed a copy of the NYS report card and pointed out the favorable results achieved by BHBL as compared to all schools in NY State, as well as similar groups. Jim also pointed out the special education data that shows a higher percentage of minority students identified in BH-BL as compared to the state average. NYS requires that a committee evaluate schools above the state average. Jim reminded the board that budget presentations started at Pashley.

Meet the Candidates Night

Meet the Candidates Night is May 5, 2009. It is jointly sponsored by the Teachers' Association & the PTA. There was an email from PTA soliciting questions for the candidates.

Board Goal Update

Board Goal Update – Tim Kelliher reported that the long range planning committee made substantial progress at putting together a process for developing a long range plan that aligns with school goals. Committee members discussed the reason for a long range process and how to maintain top performance in a period of declining resources. Members discussed guiding directions versus specific targets, and whether the focus of the framework should be on instruction, infrastructure & operations or on instruction.

Reports & Communications - none

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Pericone seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board