

DATE: June 21, 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, and 23 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 June 7, 2011 regular meeting and the authorization of textbooks.

Motion carried 7-0

Privilege of the Floor – None

Honoring of State Champion Boys Varsity Baseball Team

John Blowers read the whereas statement honoring the Boys Varsity Baseball Team for winning the State Championship.

Anti-Bullying Task Force Presentation

Jim introduced the presentation and provided a brief overview of the work of the committee and the new regulations required by the Dignity for All legislation. Co-chair Ralph Rothacker spoke about the various activities undertaken by committee members including reading books and articles on bullying and attending conferences. The task force spent the first few meetings on understanding the definition and forms of bullying. And then they asked the question - what does it look like in Burnt Hills? Students were surveyed at various grade levels. They also heard from BH-BL students firsthand who had experienced bullying. One of their conclusions was that since there is no universal definition, there is no universal response. The committee created a definition in order to develop their six step response that they believe will be highly effective in dealing with bullying. They talked about how to train staff, students, and parents about bullying. Teachers Juliann DellaRocco and Raelene Noll showed a PowerPoint presentation and Assistant Principal Tim Brunson related experiences at the High School. Three BH-BL students gave their own testimonial about personal bullying experiences. Earlier in the school year students and staff attended The Rachel's Challenge assembly which had an immediate impact on the student body at the High School. Middle School Principal Colleen Kane felt that the student surveys brought attention to bullying and as a result more discussions took place with the students at the Middle School. Elementary Principal Ralph Rothacker said that his involvement on the committee had impacted his way of dealing with students and also brought an awareness level to staff and a sense of urgency. The next steps will be to implement the Administrative Regulation (AR) next year and it will involve lots of training. Our PTA's will play a role in communicating to families in the school community. Committee members responded to questions from Board members. Kate Snow (BH-BL graduate) will be the opening day speaker and she will highlight her research that she did with Dateline. It was mentioned that the elimination of our Student Resource Officer (SRO) Trooper Healy last year and now our DARE programs will have a huge impact on our students.

Update on 21st Century Instructional Committee

Handouts were provided to the Board members with work that was updated from a meeting of the 21st Century Instructional Committee last night (Monday). The Board was reminded of the purpose of the committee was to explore the instructional measures that will advance the framework devised last year. The two key pieces that were presented were about integrating 21st century skills and themes into instructional practices and a status report on the technology infrastructure. Parent member Dr. Kathryn Snyder talked about the first piece emphasizing depth vs. breadth and curriculum alignment. She shared an example of teaching math that provides students with more real world, authentic problems. She also discussed reverse engineering of curriculum using university and career requirements. She highlighted a bulleted list that was developed by the committee and stressed the need for embedded professional development. We need to have the technology embedded in the classroom and student schedules changed to allow for differentiated learning opportunities. We need to engage parents in two way versus one way

communication. We need to target soft skills and our students need to learn communication skills and critical problem solving skills. A plan to address improvements to the technology infrastructure and add wireless access over the next few years was discussed by John Capano and Jacqueline St.Onge.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Mertzluft seconded the acceptance of the Financial Reports.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Pericone seconded the approval of the probationary appointment of Lindsay Becraft, Guidance Counselor at the Middle School, effective 7/1/11; the approval of the temporary appointments of Lucy Slosek, Math teacher at the High School; Melissa Buyce, .8 Family & Consumer Science teacher at the High School; Juliann Port, .2 Library Media Specialist at the Middle School; Erin Serritella, .7 Psychologist - District; Susan Buniak, .7 Speech Therapist - District; Carol Drake, .4 Music teacher - District; Kelly Farnum, Physical Therapist - District; Janice Aronson-Hanson, Occupational Therapist – District; Andrea Muscato, Occupational Therapist – District; Jon Greenwalt, .6 Business teacher at the High School – all effective 9/1/11-6/30/12; the approval of the tenure appointment of Vanessa Lampo, effective 1/5/12; approval of the leave of absence of Theresa Ruth, Math teacher at the High School, effective 9/1/11-6/30/11; the approval of the position abolishment of Jennifer Sala, elementary teacher; approval of the substitute teacher/nurse appointments of Cortney Barnes, Frances Cappiello, Nicole Connely, Nicole Fambo, Jessica Marsello, Bryn Sheppard, JoAnn Tanzer, Jason Wright; the acceptance of the retirement of Beverly Pineau, effective 6/30/11; the approval of the Special Education Summer School appointments of Donna, Mayo, Special Education teacher; Jeannine Spade, Special Education Summer School Principal; Jayme Vizor, Speech Therapist; the approval of the extra-curricular appointments at the High School of:

Senior High Newspaper Advisor & Proofreader -	Brad Thomas
Ski Club Advisor -	Lisa Saccocio
SADD Advisors -	Melissa Buyce
	Kelly Leone

and approval of the High School Voluntary Club request of:

Study Circles Advisor -	Nancy Cousins
Study Circles Co-Advisor -	Raelene Noll

Motion carried 7-0

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

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Mertzluft seconded the approval of the Resolution for the Boys Varsity Baseball Team.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the approval of the Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2011-12.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Request for the Girls Volleyball Team.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the approval of Borrowing (BAN).

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Mertzluft seconded the approval of the School Lunch Price Increase.

Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Mr. Farmer seconded the Approval of the Contract with TL Metzger & Associates for the sale of Hostetter.

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

Electronic Board Packet

Board President John Blowers said that we are revisiting the idea to move to an electronic board packet and go paperless. Jim Schultz said we are looking into other software programs including Sharepoint offered through

BOCES. Christy Multer will contact her counterparts to see how well it works and get their input. Bethlehem has been using it for a couple of years and they like it. We currently access the packet via First Class software.

Administrative Regulations (AR's)

Jim shared two AR's in the Board packet which are his recommendations and have been prepared via shared decision making guidelines. The shared decision making process allowed for significant input.

Board Self-Evaluation

Joe Pericone is seeking input from one more Board member and results will be available for the retreat.

Reports & Communications

- Rick Evans spoke regarding a teacher requesting service credit for being an instructor in the military. There is no clear cut formula for this type of experience. Currently we give credit for prior public school teaching experience.
- Elizabeth Herkenham talked about some opportunities through RPI for district K-12 coordinators.
- Will Farmer attended the Middle School PTA meeting where they reported having some money leftover. He commented that the purchase of iPads was worthwhile given the information on how they are being used in the District.
- Jim Schultz shared that one of the best sources for the Anti-Bullying Task Force was the Barbara Coloroso book and he offered to provide copies to Board members.
- John Blowers attended the first Hall of Fame dinner which brought some people back to the area. He felt it was a great event and is looking forward to more in the future.

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Mertzluff seconded a move to executive session.

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Mertzluff seconded a return to regular session.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board