

DATE: September 22, 2009
WHERE HELD: Pashley Elementary

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: Joe Pericone

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth Herkenham
Tim Kelliher
Patre Kuziak
James Maughan
Joe Pericone
Robert Speck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Blowers

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Rick Evans, Maryellen Symer, Dan LeClaire, Dan Diggins, Christy Multer, Jason Lasky, Rie Posillico and strategic planning consultant Linda Doherty.

Executive Session:

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Speck seconded the move to executive session to discuss negotiations.

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded a return to regular session.

President Joe Pericone called the Board meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Speck moved and Mr. Maughan seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included minutes of the September 3, 2009 special meeting and the September 8, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Education.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachments

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Maughan seconded the approval of the substitute teacher appointment of Amanda Cotrupi.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 1

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Maughan seconded the approval of the civil service personnel action as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 2

Ms. Herkenham moved and Mr. Maughan seconded the approval of a Special Athletic Competition Request for the Junior Varsity Boys Volleyball Team.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 3

Mr. Speck moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the authorization of two Board members to attend the CAPSBA Dinner Meeting on September 30, 2009.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 4

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of a Music Department trip in April 2010 to attend the North American Music Festival in Norfolk, Virginia.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 5

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the authorization of the Strategic Framework Ad Hoc Committee, including the following members: Central administration & chair Rick Evans, CSEA member Nora Cerniglia, School Board member John Blowers (with Tim Kelliher as alternate), Teacher Mary Anne Doyle, Post-secondary educator Dr. Robert Hull from RPI, Administrator Rie Posillico, Community/parent member Eileen Stone, Business/workforce member Tony Heinz, plus facilitator Linda Doherty.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 6

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the acceptance of donated office supplies and equipment from the closing of the Internal Revenue Service office in Latham.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 7

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of bid awards for the school lunch program for September 2009 through June 2010.
Motion carried 6-0 See attachment 8

Mr. Kelliher moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the authorization for one Board member to complete the NYSSBA Fiscal Oversight Training online.

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 9

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

Motion carried 6-0

See attachment 10

Privilege of the Floor - none

E-Rate Notification

Jim Schultz explained that the district uses software called Dan's Guardian to control and filter internet access in its buildings in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, which also requires that such compliance be announced at a public meeting.

Referendum Update

Board members and administration addressed questions about the four renovations propositions being considered for a December referendum. Ms. Herkenham asked if the district has received a response from NYSERDA about our grant proposal. Mr. Schultz said no. He reviewed the questions still outstanding regarding the four draft renovations referenda. Questions about the potential purchase of property adjacent to Stevens will take an unknown amount of time to resolve, so this cannot realistically be part of the upcoming referendum. He reminded board members they need to approve the propositions at their next meeting on October 13 in order to hold a public vote on December 8.

Mr. Schultz reviewed the information that Ms. St. Onge had prepared to answer the Board's questions about the annual tax impact of each of the four draft referendum propositions. Her calculations indicate that the total local share cost (i.e. property tax impact) of all four draft propositions would be \$507,163 per year for 15 years, if the Board and public voted to approve the current total of \$30,082,000 in projects. The tax impact of building a new "stand alone" District Office (without adding instructional space) would be \$462,100 per year because such construction does not generate state aid. This figure is too high Mr. Schultz said. In comparison, building a wing of new classrooms at the high school and then renovating and moving the district offices into old vacated classrooms there would have an annual tax impact of only \$201,813, because this would generate state aid. The latter option is currently envisioned in draft proposition #4.

Mr. Maughan said that he is in favor of propositions 1, 2 and 3, but is concerned that proposition 4 seems rushed. The best location for additional classroom space analyzed through a thorough, district-wide programmatic discussion, which has not happened yet. Several people noted that the Hostetter Building is already in bad shape, especially after last November's flood. Mr. Diggins said he fears we could incur major costs in the next six years just to maintain the building's heating, plumbing, electrical and septic systems. "It's a money pit as far as maintenance," he said.

Mr. Maughan said he has no problem with the idea of moving the district offices out of the Hostetter Building and selling the building as soon as another location for the district offices can be found. His concern is only that the construction of new classroom space needs to be studied first from a programmatic point of view.

Board members agreed they are ready to approve propositions 1, 2 and 3, but need to think more about proposition 4. There was also agreement to add \$385,050 for replacing the Stevens fire alarm system to proposition 1 since both the fire alarm replacement and boiler/heating system replacement would necessitate disrupting/replacing ceiling panels, and no one wants to do that twice.

Board Goals for 2009-10

Using suggestions from the Board's self-evaluation, Joe Pericone suggested that the Board have two goals for 2009-10. The first of these could be an adaptation of the Board's goal in 2008-09, namely completion of the Strategic Framework Planning process. Ms. Herkenham suggested that successful passage of the renovations referendum would be a suitable second goal, since this topic will involve much of the Board's energies and also relates to planning for critical maintenance needs as called for in the Strategic Framework.

Mr. Kelliher left at 9:30.

Reports & Communications

- Rick Evans said the district has had to place an additional child in the PMI class, and this will require hiring another special ed teacher assistant. He also drew the Board's attention to the secondary school class size reports. Overall class sizes did increase slightly at both schools due to the budget & staffing cuts we made this year. The high school also saw an increase in the number of parents requesting a learning lab for their child.
- Bob Speck attended the Stevens PTA meeting, which was very well attended. He was also excited to see so

- many students going out for freshman football, which is a tribute to the success of our program.
- Patre Kuziak said she has completed her required fiscal oversight training at the Desmond. It was quite valuable, and the trainer was Rick Longhurst.
 - James Maughan was very impressed by President Obama's remarks at HVCC yesterday, and thinks there are opportunities for schools in them.
 - Elizabeth Herkenham expressed her appreciation for the film approval form her son brought home. An excellent staff development day for STEM is coming up and presenters are being solicited.. She wondered how our teachers will find out about this and be encouraged to attend. The Greater Capital Region Career Pathways Consortium is working on a report that shows money is available to teachers and schools who want to expand their use of emerging technology in the classroom. Personal relationships with colleges and getting teachers engaging are two keys. She also went to a meeting at Albany Nanotech about their upcoming undergraduate program, which was recently approved by State Ed. The first class will start with 20 kids in fall of 2010. An example of one interesting class to be offered is Nano-Economics.
 - Jim Schultz told the Board that the exchange group from Moers, Germany, will be arriving this weekend and plans to attend the Board's next meeting on October 13. He also had a meeting recently with the president of Lakehill Soccer, who described their need for more field time. They would like to use school fields on Sundays, but Jim explained that is contrary to our practice. Also since we just cut back our custodian staff significantly in the current budget, adding responsibilities to the remaining custodians would not be appropriate. Jim said he also sent a letter home this week to parents in a district neighborhood where some students had concerns about a disabled adult.
 - Joe Pericone said he attended the PTA Council meeting this week, where he talked about the upcoming renovations referendum. He was surprised to learn we have no foreign exchange students at the high school this year. Maryellen Symer agreed this is surprising and is the first time to her knowledge it has ever happened.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Multer
(in the absence of the Clerk of the Board)