

DATE: August 10, 2010
WHERE HELD: High School

KIND OF MEETING: Regular
PRESIDING OFFICER: John Blowers

**MARGINAL
NOTATIONS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Blowers
William Farmer
Elizabeth Herkenham
Patre Kuziak
James Maughan

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lee-Ann Mertzluft
Joe Pericone

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Schultz, Jacqueline St.Onge, Christy Multer, and 7 others.

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

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Maughan moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the July 13, 2010 reorganizational & regular meeting of the Board of Education, the acceptance of the Internal Claims Auditor's Report and the authorization of tradebooks & textbooks.

Motion carried 5-0

Privilege of the Floor – none

ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the probationary appointment of Todd Bucci, Social Studies teacher at the Middle School & Kimberly Johnson, Science teacher at the High School, both effective 9/1/10; the temporary appointment of Stephanie Manuel, Music teacher at Stevens, effective 9/1/10-4/14/11; Jon Greenwalt, .6 Business teacher at the High School, effective 9/20/10-6/30/11; Amanda Cotrupi, Grade 5 teacher at Pashley, effective 9/1/10-11/14/10; Lauren Sweeney, .4 PACE/AIS teacher, effective 8/10/10-6/30/11; the acceptance of the leave of absence of Julie Benson, Grade 5 teacher at Pashley, effective 9/1/10-11/14/10; the acceptance of the retirement of Donald Germain, Middle School Principal, effective 10/1/10; the approval of the summer school appointment of Kristin Trapini; the approval of the Fall coaching assignments:

Kelly Vrooman	Varsity Field Hockey
Amy Lasky	JV Field Hockey
Kim Ferrie	Modified Field Hockey
Matt Shell	Varsity Football
Shawn Kline	Assistant Varsity Football
Jason LaPietro	Assistant Varsity Football
Pete Parisi	Assistant Varsity Football
Kevin DeBonis	JV Football
Jeff Tope	JV Assistant Football
Jeff Page	Freshman Football
Tom Schwan	Freshman Assistant Football
Colleen Westphal	Varsity Football cheerleading
Katie Kosalowski	JV Football Cheerleading
Chip Button	Boys Cross Country
Shaun Zepf	Girls Cross Country
David Wellington	Golf
Roy Pfeil	Varsity Boys Soccer
Kay Kramer	JV Boys Soccer
Richard Battenhausen	Modified Boys Soccer
Brian Bold	Varsity Girls Soccer
Penny McDonnell	JV Girls Soccer
Geoff Leggieri	Freshman Girls Soccer
Matt Turner	Girls Swimming
Karen Layton	Varsity Girls Tennis
Julie Schumacher	JV Girls Tennis
Paul Sander	Varsity Boys Volleyball
Brad Thomas	JV Boys Volleyball
Gary Bynon	Varsity Girls Volleyball

Melissa Armstrong JV Girls Volleyball
Sue Gestwick Freshman Girls Volleyball

The approval of the Fall volunteer coaching assignments:

Lisa Ball Varsity Field Hockey
David Ball JV Football
Gretchen Belanger Girls Varsity Volleyball
Ed Guthrie Girls Varsity Soccer
Michael Martini Freshman Football
Nicholas Schultz JV Football
Paul McDonnell Varsity Football
Michael Sardella Boys Varsity Volleyball
Caitlin Ross Girls Volleyball

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. 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 acceptance of the gift of Lyme Disease Bracelets & flyers valued at \$681 from Michele Moynihan

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the Special Athletic Competition Requests for:

- a. Boys Cross Country Team
- b. Boys Varsity Volleyball Team
- c. Girls Cross Country Team

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Kuziak moved and Ms. Herkenham seconded the approval of the merger of the Alpine Ski Team with Ballston Spa.

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Herkenham moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the Award of Vehicle Purchase.

Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Farmer moved and Ms. Kuziak seconded the approval of the 2010-11 Tax Rates

Motion carried 5-0

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

Motion carried 5-0

There was a lengthy discussion by Board members prior to voting on agenda item #8 approving the 2010-11 tax rates. Assistant Superintendent Jackie St.Onge updated the Board with preliminary numbers for the 2009-10 end of year fund balance. Multi year planning to address the potential loss of school aid from ARRA sources has resulted in current year savings. Expenditures were less than budgeted for several reasons including staff reductions and not filling some positions. Energy savings were realized from boiler replacement at Pashley and favorable consortium pricing for electric and natural gas. Employer contributions for Teachers' Retirement System were less than anticipated. Board discussion focused on the use of fund balance – reduce tax levy, restore program, or maintain for future needs. After much discussion, it was decided to use \$100,000 to reduce the tax levy. Weighted average tax increase for all four towns will be just below the amount advertised in the budget brochure of 2.2%.

Board Goals

Board members received a draft of their Board goals in the packets. Superintendent Schultz led a discussion on the ideas behind moving these goals forward and how they support and integrate with district initiatives. There was discussion about each goal, how to measure results and some suggested revisions.

Hostetter Sale

John Blowers recapped the process for the sale of the Hostetter building. Four real estate agents presented to Board member Lee-Ann Mertzlufft and Superintendent Schultz. Two of the agents had more experience selling residential properties and the other two dealt primarily with commercial properties. Comparisons were made of their marketing strategies, experience, commission, and their overall presentations. The Board was in favor of moving forward with one of the agents but not until there was some further discussion with the agent.

State Budget

Jackie St. Onge and Jim Schultz gave Board members an update on the State budget, adoption of the FMAP Contingency plan by the State, and the potential for additional school revenues from the Federal Education Jobs fund. John Blowers talked about an idea to leverage this year's dysfunctional State budget process to provide opportunities to endorse candidates that will offer improvement. Also discussed were political activities and lobbying efforts, what's best for education, how is the state deficit being addressed, and special interests.

Middle School Principal Search Process

Jim Schultz gave an overview of the timeline for hiring a Middle School Principal now that Don Germain has announced his intention to retire Oct 1st. Don has agreed to provide some transition time for his successor. Ed Carangelo has agreed to become the interim Middle School principal until a new one is named. Interview committees will include representatives from community and staff. The position of Principal is a direct report to the Superintendent. Since there are typically a large number of applications for this position, they will be screened for specific criteria prior to bringing them to the interview committee. The position will be posted tomorrow morning and advertising will begin this weekend and be available online through OLAS. The deadline is Sept 10th and applicants will be asked to perform a task as part of their application. Tentative dates in September were given for meetings to gather parent input and student input. Several ideas for gathering input were discussed including survey monkey and conducting an online meeting (webcast). By September 21st they expect to have constructed a rubric for candidates, reach out to each of the bargaining units for representatives, and carve out potential applicants to be presented to the interview committee. By the end of September the interview committee would do a final review and selection of candidates. Finalists would be interviewed by the Board around the 19th of October. There is a tentative start over date if the need arises.

Reports & Communications

- New Board member Will Farmer is starting to meet with building principals.
- Elizabeth Herkenham heard from Ted Hennessey re: Tech Valley Career Pathways Consortium and grant funding. Membership includes three area BOCES and community colleges. Some areas for spending this year include a focus on math and college readiness at the high school level, expansion of science and technology resource center including science kits available from BOCES and professional development. They will continue to fund summer camps and free scholarships for children. Elizabeth will forward the information to Board members.
- Jackie St. Onge asked if the External Audit Report and Audit Committee meeting could be tentatively scheduled for the first Board meeting in October.
- Jim Schultz received an email from BOCES asking for information from BH-BL Board members. He reminded them that they are scheduled to meet briefly on Thursday at 5 pm in the Middle School library for a special BOCES election meeting. After polling Board members, it appears that there will not be a quorum and the meeting was cancelled.
- John Blowers and Christy Multer are scheduled to present early Friday morning in NYC at the NYSSBA conference. John reminded Board members that the Capital District School Board Association annual dues need to be paid. John Blowers talked to Jim Tedisco about legislative issues. The legislative task force is scheduled to meet prior to the first September Board meeting and Lee-Ann Mertzluft will be organizing that effort. John thanked James Maughan for hosting the recent Board picnic.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline St. Onge
Clerk of the Board