

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
January 23, 2008
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by Vice President Miller at 6:06 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Joanne Freeman	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Susanne Fitzgerald
James Levin	Robert Kosowicz	Scott Miller
Robert Curtis (arrived 6:35 p.m.)		

EXCUSED:

John David Praught	Russell Martin
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OTHERS:

John S. Whelan	Katherine Sullivan	Robert Munn
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II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

"In accordance with its practice, the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District does not permit oral comments from the public relating to specific personnel decisions regarding individuals employed by the District during the portion of its meeting where the Board permits public comment. Members of the public are welcome to send questions, comments or concerns regarding these or other matters to the Board in writing."

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on December 12, 2007 and January 9, 2008.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- Mr. Whelan announced that Bob Munn, Mike Cronieser and E.J. Maye were present to report on, and answer questions about, the capital project.
- Mr. Munn advised that he is pleased with the welcome he has received from the district and the business office and then recognized E.J. and Mike for the work they've done. Mr. Munn further provided a summary report with regard to the capital project, indicating that it is on solid ground financially, moving along well according to schedule and a quality project. Also discussed were change orders versus allowances, the upcoming bond anticipation note on February 14 and use of contingency funds for enhancements.
- Mike Cronieser advised that board members had toured the renovations at Knox prior to the start of the meeting, looking at the computerized heating system and the boiler room. He noted that completion of the science labs is expected by the end of January and then provided a status report with regard to work being conducted on the new auditorium.
- Mrs. Sullivan reported the results of the current school year NYS Grade 5 social studies assessment shows 90% of our students scored in levels three and four, which is good news.
- Mrs. Sullivan announced that her application for a \$10,000 child abduction prevention grant has been approved for a second year, for a total of \$20,000. Materials have been ordered so that each student can be provided with information at assemblies.

V. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **PERSONNEL**

1. **Separations**

a. **Resignation of Kellisue Ackernecht, Teacher Aide (one to one)**

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Kellisue Ackernecht as a Teacher Aide (one to one) effective December 7, 2007.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

2. **Leaves of Absence**

3. **Abolishments**

4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Appointment of Purchasing Agent**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Freeman that the Board of Education appoint Robert Munn as Purchasing Agent for the 2007-08 school year, effective December 17, 2007, at no additional compensation.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

b. **Authorization to Certify Payrolls**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Freeman that the Board of Education authorize Robert Munn, School Business Manager, to certify payrolls for the 2007-08 school year, in accordance with Education Law 1720 and 2523 and Commissioner's Regulation 170.2, effective December 17, 2007

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

c. **Probationary Appointment of Debra Ammann, Teacher Aide (one to one)**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Debra Ammann as a Teacher Aide (one to one), \$7.76 per hour, 10 months per year, effective December 19, 2007.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

d. **Probationary Appointment of Donna Bargy, Registered Professional Nurse**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Donna Bargy a Registered Professional Nurse, \$15.10 per hour, 10 months per year plus summer school, effective January 17, 2008.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

D. Acceptance of Donation and Amendment of Budget

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the donation of \$10,000 from Wal-Mart to the Greater Johnstown School District, for the Teacher of the Year, awarded to Daniel Jones.

Further resolved, that the Board of Education increase the 2007-08 General Fund budget by \$10,000 as follows:

Increase Revenues: A2705 - Gifts & Donations \$10,000

Increase Expenditures: \$10,000

A2110.501- Supplies & Equipment

A2110.201-Supplies & Equipment

Budget Increase: From \$27,112,890

To: \$27,122,890

Be it further resolved, that the Treasurer of the Board of Education be authorized to appropriate funds as specified by this resolution.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

Note: Mr. Miller offered congratulations again to Mr. Jones for receipt of this prestigious award.

Mrs. Freeman inquired about where the funds would be used and was advised the music department is submitting requests.

E. Cooperative Canned Food Bid #08-08

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Canned Food Bid #08-08 to various vendors as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidders, as seen in addendum #3.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

F. Surplus Vehicle Bid #08-09

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Surplus Vehicle Bid #08-09 to Harry's Auto Sales as the highest bidder, as seen in addendum #4

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

VI. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Resignation of Patricia Smicinski, Teacher Assistant

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Curtis to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of Patricia Smicinski, Teacher Assistant, effective January 25, 2008.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

2. **Leaves of Absence**

3. **Abolishments**

4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Term Appointments of Coaching Staff**

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Curtis to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following coaches for the 2007-2008 school year:

<i>Dave Bartholomew, alpine ski unpaid volunteer</i>	<i>-0-</i>
<i>Aaron Mraz, baseball head coach</i>	<i>\$3,257</i>
<i>Jonathan Jennings, baseball assistant #1</i>	<i>\$2,399</i>
<i>Eric Laugen, boys' lacrosse head coach</i>	<i>\$3,257</i>
<i>Denise Benton, girls' lacrosse head coach</i>	<i>\$3,257</i>
<i>Tracy Ringer, girls' lacrosse assistant #1</i>	<i>\$2,399</i>
<i>Ronald Savoie, girls' softball head coach</i>	<i>\$3,177</i>
<i>Nicholas Colistra, girls' softball assistant #1</i>	<i>\$2,399</i>
<i>Charles Goebel, track head coach</i>	<i>\$3,257</i>
<i>Jeremy Weber, track assistant #1</i>	<i>\$2,399</i>
<i>Jennifer Hickok, track assistant #2</i>	<i>\$2,228</i>

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

b. **Term Appointment of Amanda Landsberg, Teacher Assistant**

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Curtis to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the term appointment of Amanda Landsberg, as a teacher assistant, at \$9.25 per hour (6½ hours per day), effective January 25, 2008 through June 26, 2008.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CSE, CPSE

1. **Committee for Preschool Special Education**

Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Freeman to approve the minutes of the Committee for Preschool Special Education meeting(s) held on 1/10/08 and 1/17/08:

000140238 000306226

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

2. **Committee for Special Education**

Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Freeman to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meeting(s) held on 10/11/07, 10/29/07, 12/10/07, 12/13/07, 12/20/07, 1/7/08, 1/10/08 and 1/17/08:

000295600	000400035	000940055	000144873
000116792	000284212	000134980	000140282
000140286	000295600	000910111	000900123

000133666 000122006 000155980 000306110
000900137 000166898 000305954 000145915
000306266 000200006

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

C. STUDENT MATTERS

1. JHS Senior Winter Guard Trip to Salem, Massachusetts

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the JHS Senior Winter Guard trip to Salem High School in Salem, Massachusetts, from Friday, February 8, 2008 (departing at approximately 3:00 p.m.) to Sunday, February 10, 2008 (returning at approximately 2:00 a.m.).

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

2. JHS Senior Winter Guard Trip to Trumbull, Connecticut

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the JHS Senior Winter Guard trip to Trumbull High School in Trumbull, Connecticut, from Friday, February 22, 2008 (departing at approximately 3:00 p.m.) to Sunday, February 24, 2008 (returning at approximately 2:00 a.m.).

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

3. JHS Senior Winter Guard Trip to Dayton, Ohio

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the JHS Senior Winter Guard trip to University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, from Wednesday, April 9, 2008 (departing at approximately 6:00 a.m.) to Sunday, April 13, 2008 (returning at approximately 8:00 p.m.).

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

Note: *Mrs. Fitzgerald asked where they would be staying; Mrs. Freeman asked for a list of chaperones; Mr. Curtis inquired about the protocol for chaperones (as in number of chaperones per number of students).*

VII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

1. Student Reimbursement for PSAT Exams

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to **TABLE** the recommendation of the Superintendent to offer reimbursement of PSAT fees to students enrolled in grade 11 in the District during the 2008-2009 school year, upon recorded attendance at said exam. Such reimbursement shall be subject to funding.*

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

Notes: *Concerns about the phrase “subject to funding”; discussion of reimbursement versus upfront payment to alleviate student hardships; suggestion that test be offered in the morning during the school year to ensure higher attendance; concerns that a one year trial period won’t be sufficient to determine if it helps attendance. Current statistics: 70 students took test of the 130 that were eligible.*

2. **First Reading of Revised Policy #7614**
#7614 – Pre-School Special Education Program
3. **Waiver of Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policy #7614**
Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to waive the second reading of the following revised policy and adopt the same effective January 23, 2008.

#7614 – Pre-School Special Education Program

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO
4. **First Reading of Revised Policy #7121**
#7121 – Diagnostic Screening of Students (formerly Screening of New School Entrants)
5. **Waiver of Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policy #7121**
Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to waive the second reading of the following revised policy and adopt the same effective January 23, 2008.

#7121 – Diagnostic Screening of Students

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO
6. **First Reading of Revised Policy #8280**
#8280 - Instruction for English Language Learners or Students with Limited English Proficiency
7. **Waiver of Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policy #8280**
Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to waive the second reading of the following revised policy and adopt the same effective January 23, 2008.

#8280 – Instruction for English Language Learners or Students with Limited English Proficiency

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO
8. **First Reading of Revised Policy #6550**
#6550 – Leaves of Absence
9. **Waiver of Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policy #6550**
Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to waive the second reading of the following revised policy and adopt the same effective January 23, 2008.

#6550 – Leaves of Absence

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Dick Baker voiced concerns about the cost of leasing space for a bus garage over the past several years and suggested funding to build a new facility should not have been removed from the capital project; expressed opinion that current facility presents health hazards.

- Mr. Whelan noted there were specific reasons a new garage/storage facility were removed from the capital project plans; also indicated the District is concerned about all of its employees in all buildings. Mr. Miller noted that while the facilities committee announced at the last meeting that it is looking at options due to the pending expiration of the lease, this is not something that was just recently decided, it has been an ongoing process.
- Mr. Curtis requested information regarding the cost to open the pool to the public one or two Sundays per month during January, February and March; questioned whether there might be money available through the Fulton County Youth Bureau for this.
- Mr. Kosowicz offered a thank you to Nick Kohler for his assistance with the recent Purple & Gold Club Video Night. Noted that he did majority of the work and the event wouldn't have happened without him.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

February 13, 2008	Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
March 5, 2008	Extra-Curricular & Audit Committees Academic & Facilities Committees Discussion/Business Meeting	6:00 PM –6:30 PM 6:30PM – 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Warren Street Library

X. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON

Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:06 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Levin, to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk