

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Business Meeting**  
**November 28, 2007**  
**Johnstown High School**

I. Called to order by President Praught at 6 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

John David Praught	Scott Miller	James Levin
Joanne Freeman	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Russell Martin
Susanne Fitzgerald	Robert Kosowicz	Robert Curtis

OTHERS:

John S. Whelan	Katherine Sullivan	Peter Hopke
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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 Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Freeman to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on October 17, 2007; November 7, 2007 (special); and November 7, 2007 (discussion).*

VOTE:              9   YES                                      0   NO

IV. **SUPERINTENDENT'S/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

- Mr. Satterlee introduced Coach Robinson and members of the girls' volleyball team in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments. They were congratulated for earning a 24-4 record, being one of four teams to participate in the state semi-finals and earning the Section 2 Class B Regional Championship. He further commended them for representing their community with class.
- Mike Croneiser reported as follows with regard to the capital project: At Knox, the heat is on and the temperature control people are working with the IT department on lap top controls, with an expectation to be completed within two weeks; the insulators are still working in the hallway and boiler room. The field house roofs are on and work is done minus painting, doors and accessories inside, which are scheduled within next two weeks; landscaping will be done in the spring. The classroom addition roof is on, the heat is on and windows and ceilings will be in next week; the addition is on schedule to be completed by February or sooner. The auditorium steel is almost complete; the roof is in progress but was slowed by freezing rain and high winds (roofer will work Saturdays, weather permitting); block work is in progress and the masonry inspectors are on site daily; rough-ins for electrical and plumbing are going on and the power will be shut down during Christmas break to install a transformer. He noted it is a good quality project.
- Jodi Jaques and Fran Beyer of The Family Health Counseling Center, Inc. presented information regarding a new screening program for early identification of emotional health issues in children and adolescents. Mr. Whelan noted the screening costs will be covered by grant money; Ms. Beyer indicated where counseling is indicated, the cost is picked up by insurance. Parents will need to give written consent for their child(ren) to participate.





Capital Bonds (H): #3  
Trust & Agency (TA): #8, 9, 10 and 11

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

**C. TREASURER'S REPORT – September 2007**

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2007, as seen in addendum #2:*

1. *Appropriation Status Report*
2. *Revenue Budget Status Report*
3. *Unrestricted Cash Balance*
4. *Handwritten Checks*
5. *Budget Transfer Schedule #2*
6. *Vendor Listing by Number (Vendor Additions)*

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

**D. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT OF UNPAID TAXES**

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the tax collector's report of unpaid taxes as seen in addendum #3.*

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

**E. 403(b) Tax Deferred Annuity Program Resolution to Permit Contract Exchanges**

*(Board Member) Mr. Curtis presents the following resolution and moves its adoption, Seconded by (Board Member) Mrs. Freeman:*

*WHEREAS, the Greater Johnstown School District has established a retirement plan (the "Plan") under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code");*

*WHEREAS, participants and beneficiaries under the Plan have been able to exchange contracts among various investment providers pursuant to Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 90-24;*

*WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has issued final regulations under Section 403(b) of the Code, in relevant part, requiring the Greater Johnstown School District to share information with those investment providers recognized under the Plan to ensure compliance with Section 403(b) of the Code and the regulations thereunder for any contract exchanges made among these investment providers as permitted under the Plan on or after September 25, 2007;*

*WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service's final regulations under Section 403(b) of the Code require that, if the Plan permits exchanges among its recognized investment providers, Greater Johnstown School District must enter into a written agreement no later than January 1, 2009 with those investment providers receiving an exchange on or after September 25, 2007 and before January 1, 2009. In situations where the investment provider is first approved by the Plan on or after January 1, 2009, the written agreement must be entered no later than the date of the first exchange into a 403(b) contract issued by such investment provider.*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Effective September 24, 2007 the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District (the "Board") authorizes the District to share information with investment providers receiving contract exchanges under the Plan on or after September 25, 2007 and before January 1, 2009 to ensure compliance with Section 403(b) of the Code and the regulations thereunder;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the Board authorizes the District to enter into an information sharing agreement no later than January 1, 2009 with investment providers receiving contract exchanges under the Plan on or after September 25, 2007, in accordance with the requirements of Section 403(b) of the Code and the regulations thereunder;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the Board authorizes the District to enter into an information sharing agreement with any investment provider first receiving a contract exchange under the Plan after January 1, 2009 no later than at the time of the first such exchange.

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**VI.    EDUCATION ITEMS**

**A.    PERSONNEL**

**1.    Separations**

**a.    Resignation of Peter Hopke, School Business Administrator**

*Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of Peter Hopke, as school business administrator, effective end of day on December 21, 2007.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

*Note: Board members request that Mr. Hopke's resignation be accepted with regret.*

**2.    Leaves of Absence**

**a.    Maternity Leave of Absence for Karen Pedrick**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the maternity leave request of Karen Pedrick, elementary teacher, from approximately January 14, 2008 until March 10, 2008, in accordance with the Family Medical Leave Act.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**3.    Abolishments**

**4.    Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

**a.    Term Appointment of Anthony Eppolito, Knox Junior High School Interim Principal**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the term appointment*



**f. Payment of Music Festival Stipends**

*Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the payment of \$104.00 as music festival chaperone stipend for the following individuals for attendance at the Area All State Festival in Saratoga Springs, New York, on November 15, 2007 and November 16, 2007, per JTA agreement.*

*Daniel Jones  
James Morton*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CSE, CPSE**

**1. Committee for Pre-School Special Education**

*Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-school Special Education meeting held on 10/11/07 and 11/15/07:*

009140256                            009140183

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**2. Committee for Special Education**

*Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education and 504 Committee meeting(s) held on 9/26/07, 10/11/07, 10/16/07, 10/18/07, 10/22/07, 10/23/07, 10/29/07, 10/31/07, 11/1/07, 11/5/07, 11/6/07, 11/13/07, 11/15/07:*

000125819	000900126	000305999	000900130
000165075	000164856	000140281	009140273
000146853	009140261	000970047	009140260
000920074	000900129	000900123	000140282
000112013	000101212	000970047	000500078
000140055	000305935	000193043	000185229
000306117	000185189	000185204	000306269
000186148	000173910	000143752	000166898
009140276	002500080		

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**C. STUDENT MATTERS**

**1. JHS Senior Class Trip to Orlando, Florida**

*Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the JHS Senior Class trip to Orlando, Florida, leaving Johnstown High School on Friday, April 4, 2008 at approximately 3:30 a.m. and returning at approximately 2:10 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2008.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

*Note: Mr. Kosowicz inquired regarding the method of choosing destination, asked if cost prohibits larger group participation. Advisor Judy Kane indicated students were surveyed and it is the majority decision; 60 students will attend (over 1/3).*

**2. JHS Student Council and International Club Trip to Washington, D.C.**

*Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the JHS Student Council and International Club trip to Washington, D.C., leaving Johnstown High School on Friday, May 23, 2008 at approximately 7:00 a.m. and returning at approximately 10:00 p.m. on Monday, May 26, 2008.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

*Note: Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth inquired why there were less chaperones required for the student council trip than the senior trip if same number of students attend. Judy Kane indicated 51 students are attending.*

**VII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

**1. Appointment of Individual(s) to Initiate CSE Referrals**

*(Board Member) Mrs. Freeman presents the following resolution and moves its adoption, Seconded by (Board Member) Mr. Martin:*

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District designates the Director of Special Education, Pupil Services & Special Programs and the School Psychologist as the District representatives with the authority to initiate referrals to the Committee on Special Education pursuant to NYS Education Law 4401-a(1). All other professional staff shall be authorized to request a referral to the Director of Special Education, Pupil Services & Special Programs, which shall be made on a form approved by the Director of Special Education, Pupil Services & Special Programs.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- Mrs. Fitzgerald inquired whether we have looked into the cost for the district to pay for SAT's as was requested at a prior meeting. Mr. Whelan indicated information will be made available at an upcoming meeting.
- Brandi Maye again expressed her displeasure at not being allowed to eat lunch with her second grader at Warren Street on an ongoing basis; she continued to dispute whether there is any policy that prevents her from doing so. Mr. Whelan repeated that district policy gives the administration the discretion to adopt procedures to provide for the safety and welfare of the children and to minimize disruptions and that this procedure has been adopted for all buildings in the district and is being uniformly enforced. He reminded her that parents are given an opportunity to visit during National School Lunch Week. Mr. Praught indicated the matter can be referred to a board committee for further review.
- Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth indicated that she had obtained information relative to downsizing during the recent NYSSBA Conference and that she will be sharing same with board members in the future.

**IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

December 12, 2007	Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
January 9, 2009	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 Pleasant Ave. School Library

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

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 6:55 p.m.*

VOTE:              9   Yes              0   No

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mr. Kosowicz, seconded by Mr. Levin, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.*

VOTE:              9   YES              0   NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,  
District Clerk