

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
March 19, 2008
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Praught at 6:07 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

John David Praught
Scott Miller
Robert Curtis

Robert Kosowicz
Susanne Fitzgerald
Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth

Russell Martin
James Levin

EXCUSED:

Joanne Freeman

OTHERS:

John S. Whelan

Katherine Sullivan

Robert Munn

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. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on February 14 and March 5, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- Mike Croneiser provided an update regarding the capital project. Noted the third floor hot water unit at Knox caused damages on February 17. The unit was repaired by the manufacturer and all others have been inspected. Repairs have been made at the school; the insurance company is handling the investigation; no results yet. A punch list on the high school classroom addition has been provided to the contractor. The auditorium floor is complete and the stage rigging is done. The cat walk is being installed, then the accoustical ceiling will go in. The heat and air should be finished in another week. Exterior grounds work is dependent upon the weather. The field houses should be ready by the April 10 home game. Board discussion: status of work at Knox, carpeting for the auditorium; field house painting in contract; cost of refrigerators and equipment for field house - use loose furnishings budget or seek donations; interior completion date for auditorium; training for use of stage rigging. Also discussed, VCT tile versus quarry tile for auditorium lobby; will seek proposals and discuss further at April 2 meeting.
- Mrs. Sullivan indicated the agenda is being finalized for the March 24 staff development day, with much professional development planned; thank you to the principals and teachers for their input.

V. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **PERSONNEL**

1. **Separations**
2. **Leaves of Absence**
3. **Abolishments**
4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

- a. **Permanent Appointment of Marvin Zurschmiede, School Bus Driver**
Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the permanent appointment of Marvin Zurschmiede as a School Bus Driver, effective March 28, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- b. **Substitute Appointment of Harry Wiggins, Food Service Helper**
Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Harry Wiggins as a Food Service Helper, pay per the 2007/08 classified substitute pay schedule, effective January 23, 2008 through June 30, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- c. **Substitute Appointment of Mary Port, Food Service Helper**
Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Mary Port as a Food Service Helper, pay per the 2007/08 classified substitute pay schedule, effective February 25, 2008 through June 30, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- d. **Substitute Appointment of Daniel Slover, School Bus Driver**
Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Daniel Slover as a School Bus Driver, pay per the 2007/08 classified substitute pay schedule, effective February 25, 2008 through June 30, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- e. **Substitute Appointment of Kelly Morrison, School Bus Driver**
Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Kelly Morrison as a School Bus Driver, pay per the 2007/08 classified substitute pay schedule, effective February 22, 2008 through June 30, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- f. **Substitute Appointment of Rodney Chamberlain, School Bus Driver**
Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Rodney Chamberlain as a School Bus Driver, pay per the 2007/08 classified substitute pay schedule, effective March 3, 2008 through June 30, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. WARRANTS – January 2008

Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrant for January 2008, as seen in addendum #1:

General (A): #33, 35
School Lunch (C): #15, 16
Federal (F): #15, 16
Capital Bonds (H): #7
Trust & Agency (TA): #23, 24, 25, 26, 27
Expendable Trust (TE): #4

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. TREASURER’S REPORT – January 2008

Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer’s Report for January 2008, as seen in addendum #2.

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

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

VI. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. **Separations**
2. **Leaves of Absence**
3. **Abolishments**
4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. Correction of Stipend for Boys’ Swimming and Diving Assistant #1

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Curtis to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the correction of the stipend paid to Alicia Magruder as Boys’ Swimming Assistant #1. One-half of the \$1,371 coach’s stipend (\$685.50) will be paid by the Greater Johnstown School District and the other half (\$685.50) will be paid by the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. **Committee for Preschool Special Education**

Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mr. Levin_ to approve the minutes of the Committee for Preschool Special Education meeting(s) held on 3/10/08:

000306177 000306205

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. **STUDENT MATTERS**

1. **Formation of the JHS Green Club**

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the formation of the JHS Green Club for the purpose of increasing environmental awareness in the school and community. Activities of the Green Club will be supervised by an unpaid advisor and will include hiking, canoeing, recycling, fundraising and other activities related to environmental conservation.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Willing supervisor lined up? Yes. Unpaid position? Evaluate participation after three years to determine if stipend should be added.

VII. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

1. **BAST HATFIELD CHANGE ORDER – AUDITORIUM CARPETING**

Board Member Mr. Miller presents the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Board Member Mr. Curtis:

WHEREAS, the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education requires Board approval for capital construction change orders amounting to over ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) as part of the Board's oversight responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, the Greater Johnstown School District contracted with Bast Hatfield Construction to provide general contract work in the current \$12.5 million project, and

WHEREAS, carpeting for the aisles, nosing and entryway was not specified, nor budgeted, within the general contract, and

WHEREAS, officials of the Greater Johnstown School District requested pricing to complete the specified work in the change order from Bast Hatfield, and

WHEREAS, the estimate for the carpeting work in the auditorium amounts to \$21,651.63, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent, Interim Business Administrator, Director of Building and Grounds, Clerk of the Works, and Bonacci Architects all recommend approval of the subject change order,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education approves the change order stipulated above and directs the Superintendent to notify the appropriate parties to issue and execute the required SED paperwork for the subject change order.

VOTE: 7 YES 1 NO (Mr. Martin)

Discussion: Mr. Miller suggested looking at other options, such as solid vs running pattern, as pattern creates waste. Mr. Croneiser indicated carpet

installation is labor intensive and that is a large part of the cost. Mrs. Fitzgerald asked if there was an accoustical need for carpet. Mr. Curtis indicated this does not have to be acted upon tonight as carpet will be one of last items to go in; Mr. Whelan asked Mr. Croneiser if waiting until April 2 will cause completion delays. Mr. Miller considered withdrawing his motion, but indicated he is willing to go forward if it is agreed to battle this out with the architect. Mr. Munn noted that it will cost attorneys fees to go after the architect.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mrs. Sullivan noted that the new JHS Green Club would like to help with the nature trail. Mr. Praught asked that the Boy Scouts be allowed a big part as they came forward first.
- Dick Baker said there was a supplement in the Sunday paper with the honor roll for the Vo-Tech center and he saw 45 or 46 Johnstown names; more than Gloversville or Amsterdam. Said it speaks well of Johnstown kids and is commendable.
- Dick Baker said the Town of Johnstown is buying a \$22,000 air handler for 10 employees and asked if anyone has looked into doing same here (for Crescendoe Road). He claimed employees have called to thank him for speaking up on air situation because they were afraid to. Mr. Whelan noted no complaints were made to Mr. Maye or Mr. Barber, who are the supervisors there. Mr. Praught stated there is no retribution here and people can speak without fear. Mr. Curtis indicated people are free to call OSHA, who will verify that we are in compliance.
- Dick Baker questioned whether the Board sought input from skilled tradesman in the community regarding the capital project and thinks they should solicit help for future projects.
- Dick Baker suggested that, in seeking a new superintendent, the district should offer more money to get better people. Notes that Mayfield is doing this. Says you get what you pay for. Wants someone younger in the position - “don’t need geriatric administration.” Wants rule for superintendent to live in district.
- Michael Raylinsky said he and his wife are parents of a student at Warren Street School, noted it is a very positive community there, which comes from Mrs. Christiano’s leadership and the teachers; wanted to give long overdue compliment and recognize dedication. Mr. Praught agreed that Warren Street is wonderful.
- Paula Heroth, a teacher at Warren Street, welcomes everyone to visit and says they are proud of their principal and teachers.
- Mr. Miller requested a Board visitation day in the school buildings and said he enjoyed last year’s.
- Mr. Praught extended a welcome to Mr. Drescher, Knox’s new principal, who was attending his first board meeting here.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

April 2, 2008	Extra-Curricular & Audit Committees	6:00 PM –6:30 PM
	Academic & Facilities Committees	6:30PM – 7:00 PM
	Discussion/Business Meeting	7:00 PM Public Session
		Knox Junior High
April 23, 2008	Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session
		Johnstown High School

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

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Curtis to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:03 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Curtis, to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk