

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
Business Meeting
August 11, 2004
Johnstown High School Cafeteria

I. Called to order by Board President at 5:30 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Peter Cinelli	Richard McGuire	Russell Martin (arrived 6:00 PM)
Joanne Freeman	John David Praught	Brian Miller (arrived 5:45 PM)
Kathleen Leo	William Pollak	Christopher Swatt (arrived 5:35 PM)

OTHERS:

John S. Whelan	Katherine Sullivan	Diana Horton
----------------	--------------------	--------------

II. **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES**

Motion by Mr. Cinelli seconded by Ms. Leo to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel negotiations at 5:32 PM.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

III. **MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Cinelli seconded by Ms. Leo to return to public session at 6:30 PM.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

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

A. Mr. Whelan read a letter of resignation from Thomas Clark, Director of Facilities and indicated that he had been a valuable employee.

B. District Goals – Katherine Sullivan

1. To improve student achievement by providing integration, instruction and assessment and by providing academic intervention services.
2. To support higher expectations of staff by providing professionals the training required to perform duties as defined in the Professional Development Plan.
3. To continue open communication with staff and community, including extending parent involvement in the schools.
4. To provide for coordination of technology and academic problem solving skills through integrating technology into curriculum and instruction.
5. To promote the development of respectful and well rounded young adults by encouraging the participation of all students in extra-curricular activities, co-curricular activities, and through the incorporation of character education programming.
6. To develop a fiscally responsible budget that is reflective of proven educational practices that serve the needs of the students and staff.

C. Title I Consolidated Grant Application – Katherine Sullivan

This document is available for review by contacting Katherine Sullivan. If anyone is interested in commenting after reviewing same, they should contact Ms. Sullivan by August 20, 2004.

- D. Professional Development Plan – Katherine Sullivan
The Professional Development Plan is reviewed yearly and is being updated now, to include the NYS mandated mentoring component, which requires that anyone holding an initial certificate needs mentoring experience in their first year. There is currently one English teacher requiring mentoring. The staff was surveyed in connection with the update and the elementary expressed a desire for more direction with autistic and developmentally disabled education, while the high school level indicated they would like assistance with the Win School Grading System.
- E. J.H.S. Summer School Hours – Katherine Sullivan
NYS requires 45 hours (2,700 minutes) of instruction. For summer 2004, JHS summer school is taking place over a six week period, with four days of attendance in each week, and each of those days being 113 minutes long. Based on same, JHS will be in compliance with 2,712 minutes of instruction.
- F. NYS 8th Grade Math Test Results – Katherine Sullivan
Preliminary indications are that the NYS 8th grade math test results are very good. The exact results are not available yet as they are embargoed by NYS, but it is anticipated they will be released within a month.
- G. E-Rate Funds – Katherine Sullivan
This is a Federal program providing free funds to school districts from monies collected under the FCC Universal Access Charge appearing on everyone’s phone bills. Funds are applied as a refund or pre-discount for cell phone and internet service costs and to update internet hardware/infrastructure. The District’s technology consultants advised working with E-Rate Central and, with Tom Clark’s assistance, the District has qualified to receive several hundred thousands of dollars, which must be spent by a deadline in 2005. Mr. Swatt elaborated that our vision is to make Warren Street a central hub with spokes and create a central server room in order to make remote repairs.
- H. Elementary Restructuring – Katherine Sullivan
At the request of parents, the District is studying restructuring the four elementary schools. A survey is being prepared to obtain community input. Restructuring was last considered in 1995, at which time it was decided to not make any changes.
- I. GJSD Summer Celebration – Katherine Sullivan
Parents and community members are welcomed to attend the learning that has occurred during the GJSD Summer Program for grades Pre-K-6 on Thursday, August 12, 2004 from 10:30 –11:30 AM at the Warren Street Elementary School.

V. **PRESIDENT’S REPORTS**

Board Members were asked to sign up for 2004-05 Board Committees. Members were reminded there could be no more than four people on each committee and that Mr. McGuire and Ms. Leo are ex-officio members of all; that the Chairperson sets the meeting date; and that anyone who can not make a meeting must call the Chairperson. The following individuals will comprise the committees as set forth:

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Chairperson, Christopher Swatt; 1. William Pollak; 2. Peter Cinelli

FINANCE

Chairperson, Richard McGuire; 1. Brian Miller; 2. N/A

ACADEMIC

Chairperson, Russell Martin; 1. Kathy Leo; 2. Joanne Freeman

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Chairperson, William Pollak; 1. Peter Cinelli; 2. N/A

RESTRUCTURING

Chairperson, Christopher Swatt; 1. John David Praught; 2. Brian Miller

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Capital Projects

Mr. Swatt indicated that he had recently spoken with Tom Clark and that there were various capital projects that need to be addressed as soon as possible or there could be problems. Mr. McGuire asked that Mr. Swatt, Mr. Pollak and Mr. Cinelli follow up on this.

VII. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR FOR COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-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 business meeting where the Board permits public comment on agenda and non-agenda items. The Board will accept written comments from the public on this subject matter and all other agenda and non-agenda items.”

- * Mr. Whelan commented regarding certain articles which keep reappearing in local newspapers and indicated that, while some things can't be responded to due to pending litigation, the public should know that the Snyder Avenue situation is being reviewed and looked into by District personnel and, if it can not be resolved, will be addressed by the school attorney. Also, with regard to the playgrounds, the custodians do monitor for safety issues and keep building principals apprised of the state of their playground's equipment.
- * Mr. McGuire asked what happens if the District does not reach its "District Goals".
- * Mr. Swatt asked who decides if the "District Goals" are attainable.
- * Mr. McGuire asked why the District went to a four day week for summer school, if a four day week has an educational benefit, and if the change to a four day week was made without Mr. Whelan's knowledge. Mr. Whelan indicated that there is better attendance with a four day week and that the forms requesting a change to a four day week schedule were provided to him, but that he did not make note of the change before signing off.
- * Bob Galinski would like computer hardware to be improved/upgraded and the District website updated. Ms. Sullivan responded that a new website is currently under development and may be running by October 1st.
- * Mr. Praught commented that he likes Shenendehowa's website (www.shenet.org)
- * Mr. Galinski noted that the Board has made improvement with regard to complying with the Open Meetings Law when entering executive session, but he thinks that, based on information he obtained from the NYS Department of State website for the Committee on Open Government (www.dos.state.ny.us), it is inadequate for the Board to describe the subject to be discussed as just "personnel" and that they must be more specific regarding the personnel issue. Mr. McGuire indicated that based on information from the School Board Association, it is not permissible to identify the person(s) who is/are to be the subject of discussion. Mr. Martin indicated he believed it was an issue of semantics. Mr. Whelan advised that all efforts would be made to comply appropriately.
- * Mr. McGuire noted that he had been in the Johnstown Public Library and the heat was oppressive. He indicated that the Library needs air conditioning to preserve its many valuable holdings. He asked that the public use its influence to get help.
- * Mr. Praught asked if healthy snack alternatives could be provided in place of vending machines with soda and sugar drinks. Mr. Whelan indicated that new guidelines are coming out and Linda Ellis is looking at alternatives.

4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Permanent Appointments**

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following permanent appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Letitia VanHusen	Cook	September 1, 2004
Peter Ellsworth	Computer Lab Assistant	August 3, 2004
Lisa Klim	Registered Prof. Nurse	August 20, 2004
Claudia Hayner	Food Service Helper	September 2, 2004
Timothy Linart	Bus Driver	August 25, 2004
Christopher Olson	Bus Driver	August 25, 2004

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

b. **Probationary Appointment of Darlene Ripple, Clerk**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Darlene Ripple as a Clerk, 12 months per year, effective August 2, 2004, at a pay rate of \$7.50 per hour.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO 1 ABSTAIN (J. Freeman)

c. **Substitute Appointments of Bus Drivers**

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointments of the following as Bus Drivers, effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 at a pay rate per the 2004/05 classified substitute pay schedule:

Alan Spawn	Robert Gould	Robert Henry
David Cook	Edward Lynaugh	Kimberly Smith
James Terrell	Robert Stegel	Thomas Ellithorpe

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

d. **Substitute Appointment of Elliot Houser, Bus Driver**

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Elliot Houser as a Bus Drivers, effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 at a pay rate of \$16.57 per hour.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

e. **Temporary Appointment of Beth Smith, Clerk**

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the temporary appointment of Beth Smith as a Clerk from June 29, 2004 through August 20, 2004, at a pay rate of \$6.75 per hour

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

f. Term Appointment of Larraina Carpenter as District Clerk

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the term appointment of Larraina Carpenter as District Clerk per the employment agreement dated August 11, 2004, effective July 27, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

B. BIDS

1. APPROVAL OF THE COOPERATIVE CANNED FOOD BID #05-00

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Canned Food Bid #05-00 to various vendors, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidders, as seen in addendum #1.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

2. APPROVAL OF THE COOPERATIVE SNACK FOOD & FRUIT DRINK BID #05-01

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Snack Food & Fruit Drink Bid #05-01 to various vendors, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidders, as seen in addendum #2.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

3. APPROVAL OF THE COOPERATIVE BREAD BID #05-03

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Bread Bid #05-03 to Freihofers (AKA Weston Bakeries), as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidder, as seen in addendum #3.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

4. APPROVAL OF THE GLOVERSVILLE COOPERATIVE MEAT BID #05-04

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freenan to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Gloversville Cooperative Meat Bid #05-04 to Quandt's Food Service and Ginsberg Food Service, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidders, as seen in addendum #4.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

5. APPROVAL OF THE COOPERATIVE ICE CREAM BID #05-05

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Ice Cream Bid #05-05 to Sycaway Creamery, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidder, as seen in addendum #5.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

6. APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL BUS BID #05-06

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the School Bus Bid #05-06 to Leonard Bus Sales, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidder, as seen in addendum #6.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

7. APPROVAL OF THE COOPERATIVE COPY PAPER BID #05-07

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to award the Cooperative Copy Paper Bid #05-07 to Savin Corporation as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidder, as seen in addendum #7.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

B. TREASURER'S REPORT

C. WARRANTS

E. TRANSFERS

F. UNCOLLECTED TAX REPORT

G. BUSINESS MATTERS

a. Tax Rates

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the levy of taxes for the 2004/05 school year in the amount of \$6,388,474 and approve the individual tax rates as follows:

<i>City of Johnstown</i>	<i>\$20.591197</i>
<i>Town of Johnstown</i>	<i>\$18.307228</i>
<i>Town of Ephratah</i>	<i>\$19.424115</i>
<i>Town of Palatine</i>	<i>\$20.803669</i>
<i>City of Gloversville</i>	<i>\$18.307228</i>

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

b. Budgetary Reviews

Motion by Mr. Cinelli seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to amend estimated 2004/05 budgetary revenues by increasing the use of fund balance and decreasing the use of reserves by \$553,000.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

H. VENDOR LIST

X. **EDUCATION ITEMS**

A. **PERSONNEL**

1. **Separations**

a. **Resignation of Barbara Cotton, Teaching Assistant**

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Barbara Cotton, with regret, as teaching assistant effective July 14, 2004.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

b. **Resignation of Karen J. Tingué, Reading Teacher**

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation Karen J. Tingué, with regret, as reading teacher effective August 6, 2004.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

c. **Resignation of Debra Schienberg, as Guidance Counselor**

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Debra Schienberg, with regret, as guidance counselor effective August 30, 2004.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

2. **Leave of Absences**

3. **Abolishments**

4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Term Appointment of Jennifer Horskins as Extended Leave Elementary Teacher Substitute**

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointment of Jennifer Horskins as extended leave elementary teacher substitute at Step A1 (\$34,257) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

b. **Probationary Appointment of Caroline Wagner as Elementary Teacher**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the two-year probationary appointment of Caroline Wagner as elementary teacher in the elementary tenure area at Step C2 (\$36,330) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2004 and expiring August 31, 2006.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO 1 ABSTAIN (J. Freeman)

c. **Probationary Appointment of Helen Reed as Elementary Teacher**

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment of as Helen Reed in the elementary tenure area at Step C1 (\$36,212) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2004 and expiring August 31, 2007.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

d. **Probationary Appointment of Katherine Klejsmyt as Special Education Teacher**

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment of Katherine Klejsmyt as special education teacher in the special education tenure area at Step C2 (\$36,330) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2004 and expiring August 31, 2007.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

e. **Probationary Appointment of Sarah Diefendorf as School Guidance Counselor**

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment of Sarah Diefendorf as guidance counselor in the school guidance counselor tenure area at Step C1+ 12 credits (\$36,212 + \$384 = \$36,596) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2004 and expiring August 31, 2007.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

f. **Appointment of Fall Coaches**

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of the following individuals as Fall coaches for the 2004-2005 school year:

Quinn Sitterly, Field Hockey Head \$3,024
Mike Bruce, Girls Tennis Head \$1,857

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

g. **Probationary Appointment of Andrew Jablonski, as School Guidance Counselor**

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment of Andrew Jablonski as guidance counselor in the school guidance counselor tenure area at Step C1+ 12 credits (\$36,212 + \$384 = \$36,596) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2004 and expiring August 31, 2007.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

h. Probationary Appointment of Carol Miller, as Health Teacher

Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment of Carol Miller as health teacher in the health tenure area at Step C1 (\$36,212) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2004 and expiring August 31, 2007.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - CSE, CPSE

1. Committee for Special Education

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Cinelli to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on June 18, 2004 and June 22, 2004.

000890108	000960056	000970034
000970033	000960016	000960051
000960022	00970035	000980021
000980032	000970041	000970047
000980029		

000880923	002400035	000200012
000200006	000200001	000200002
000990005	000990022	000200017
000240004	000240027	000210002

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

C. STUDENT MATTERS

1. Interscholastic Athletics Merger

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the interscholastic athletics merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Fonda-Fultonville Central School District for boys swim for the Winter 2004-2005 season effective August 11, 2004.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

D. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS

1. Third Reading of Policy 6000

Mentoring Programs for First-Year Teachers

2. Adoption of Policy 6000

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to adopt Policy 6000, Mentoring Programs for First-Year Teachers, effective August 11, 2004.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

3. Approval of Annual Fire Report Summary

Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Pollak to approve the Annual Fire Report Summary of inspections conducted June 14, 2004 through June 17, 2004, effective August 11, 2004.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

September 1, 2004	Discussion Meeting	6:30 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
September 15, 2004	Business Meeting	6:30 PM Public Session Johnstown High School

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- * Dick Baker noted that with regard to cafeteria alternatives, last year a milk vending machine was added and it does get used. Indicated that he thinks the swimming merger with FFCS is great. Is concerned that the merger with Wheelerville for modified baseball resulted in Johnstown students being cut from the team to give the Wheelerville kids spots, even though this wasn't supposed to happen. Doesn't think this is fair in a successful program. Wanted to know why the District doesn't participate in a milk bid with the other cooperative food bids. Diana Horton advised that if quality is considered inferior, milk does not have to be bid out and that, after receiving spoiled milk several times, a vendor was chosen by the District.
- * Mr. Pollak was concerned that Wheelerville students not be referred to as intruders and that they be encouraged to come here as they don't have to. He asked Mr. Whelan to elaborate on the benefits of having Wheelerville students participate with Johnstown. Mr. Whelan indicated that there is a benefit to both districts, including increased state aid.
- * Kathy Dougherty noted that ground was broken fifty years ago on August 11 for the Pleasant Avenue School and that the site, building and equipment had been constructed at a cost of \$665,000 to accommodate 450 students. A cake commemorating the anniversary was presented. Ms. Freeman commended the staff at Pleasant Avenue on doing a wonderful job.
- * Mr. Cinelli indicated that he had been approached regarding a pre-season sports practice lasting 4 hours and asked if this was excessive. Mr. Whelan indicated there is no time limit. Mr. Swatt stated he felt the coach should decide regarding practice and if a parent has a concern they should discuss same with the coach, and if there was still a problem, to then approach the Extra Curricular Coordinator and then the Superintendent.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Martin to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

Respectfully Submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk