

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**Business Meeting**  
**September 15, 2004**  
**Johnstown High School Cafeteria**

- I. Called to order by Board President at 6:31 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Peter Cinelli	Russell Martin	John David Praught
Joanne Freeman	Richard McGuire	Christopher Swatt
Kathleen Leo	Brian Miller	

ABSENT:

William Pollak

OTHERS:

John S. Whelan	Katherine Sullivan	Diana Horton
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II. **SUPERINTENDENT'S/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

- A. August Graduates Presentation of Diplomas  
JHS Principal Michael Beatty advised that diplomas had been ordered, but unfortunately not yet received, for the four August 2004 graduates. Graduates Christian Hosler and Amanda Miller were in attendance and were congratulated and invited to return for a formal presentation once the diplomas are available. Mr. Beatty also noted that the school year had opened smoothly, technology was up and running, with the largest enrollment in ten years.
- B. Grades 4 and 8 NYS Science Test Results (Katherine Sullivan)  
Katherine Sullivan reported that no school in the District was identified by NY SED as failing to make Adequate Yearly Progress and therefore GJSD was not included on the list of schools in need of improvement released to the media on September 9, 2004. Congratulations were extended to students, staff and administration for meeting the standard in all schools for Math 4, ELA 4, Math 8 and ELA 8. Their dedication and effort is recognized.
- C. High School Summer School Report  
Michael Satterlee thanked Mr. Whelan, Ms. Sullivan and the Board of Education for allowing him the opportunity of performing his internship as summer school principal. He thanked Mr. Harris for hiring staff and doing scheduling and Mr. Beatty for his tremendous assistance and support. He stated that summer school ran for a six week period, from July 6<sup>th</sup> to August 18<sup>th</sup>, and met on twenty-four days for 113 minutes each day, exceeding the State's minimum for seat time. Mr. Satterlee reported that this year summer school provided eighteen classes for seven districts, with a total enrollment of 168 pupils, that there were seventy-two walk-in regents exams given, and that \$4,608.00 was generated by fees. He stated there were only four dismissals for lack of attendance, compared to twenty in the prior year; and no dismissals this year for disciplinary action, compared to six in the prior year. He indicated the lower incidence of dismissals was believed to be due, at least in part, to the change from a five day week to a four day week. He suggested that in the future, a review class might be in order for students taking walk-in regents. He also commented that driver's ed was not offered this year, due to an inability to locate an instructor, and that it was becoming difficult to lure teachers for summer school.

- D. **Capital Project District Wide III Presentation**  
David Bonacci of Fuligni-Fragola Architects outlined the various needs assessed at each of the District's buildings, together with several alternate projects to be considered in connection with a district-wide capital project. He speculated that the District might anticipate getting 88.1% in State-aid project dollars (\$88.10 for every \$100.00 spent on aidable items), but that this is just a rough estimate as the pupil capacity for aid must be justified. He mentioned that in addition to the estimated cost of any proposed projects, the District should plan for contingency costs (changes in the scope of the project in progress) and also soft costs consisting of such things as architect & engineer's fees, construction manager fees, legal and fiscal advice, furniture and equipment, and district administration. With regard to some of the assessed needs and possible alternate projects, he specified that if the District was to choose to construct a new high school auditorium, stage, lobby and corridor, the existing high school auditorium/stage must also be renovated and reconfigured. He indicated that such things as a new storage facility or concession stand improvements would not be aidable, but that a bus maintenance facility would be. He mentioned that other schools have raised money through fund-raisers for concession stands. He also recommended that if the District chose to have the Knox track renovated and the Knox tennis courts resurfaced, the same contractor should be used for both projects.

### III. **PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

#### IV. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Martin indicated the academic committee would be setting up a meeting this week.
- Ms. Freeman indicated she believe Mr. Pollak was in the process of setting up a meeting of the buildings & grounds committee.

#### V. **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."*

- Marcia Coso introduced herself as the parent of a Jansen Avenue student. She indicated her child attends class with a student having a peanut allergy and that the teachers and administration are doing a phenomenal job of monitoring snacks to protect that child. She stated that her own children are predisposed to diabetes and that the list of allowable snacks does not contain foods of benefit in this regard. Ms. Coso related that her child had brought in a food which was not on the "allowable" list and was not permitted the same, even though it did not contain peanut products. She asked that more nutritional recommendations be made so the snack list works for everybody. She provided handouts of Principal Tucci's September 2004 letter to Fourth Grade Parents with its attached list of acceptable foods for a peanut allergy room, together with information from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit's Nutrition Program, Community Health Services Department, and a list of other healthy snack options. Mr. Whelan indicated that the District is working on this issue and, as it involves parents and doctors and needs the review of appropriate authorities, it is not something that can be fixed overnight. Mr. Tucci was present and commented that he was in favor of good nutrition and that, besides the letter to which Ms. Coso referred, an additional blue sheet had been provided to parents that contained other snack alternatives. He also noted that there are currently three elementary students with peanut allergies and that provisions will need to be made in the junior and senior high areas as they progress through school.
- Mr. Cinelli indicated several people had approached him to indicate that padlocks weren't available at Knox for the first few days of school and that students had to carry all of their

belongings around all day. Ms. Horton indicated that about 50% of the locks were broken by students and a purchase order was put in for overnight replacement of any that couldn't be repaired. Mr. Martin asked if the students were made to pay for breaking the locks and Ms. Horton indicated students were billed when it was known who broke them. Mr. Whelan indicated the padlocks had been on backorder and the situation was taken care of as soon as they were available.

- Ms. Sullivan expressed thanks to everyone who assisted with the book bag project spearheaded by Pleasant Avenue teacher Vanessa Shepard and Jansen Avenue teacher Jennifer Hickok and apologized if anyone was inadvertently unacknowledged in a recent newspaper article. She indicated the project received grant money provided through GJSD, as well as contributions from the Walmart Distribution Center, Exel (Walmart return center), Johnstown Senior Center, Jim Valovic of Harley Davidson, Walmart Manager Todd Simmons, Clayt Sitterly of Coldwell Banker, and Larry Peck of City National Bank.
- Mr. McGuire indicated the book bag project was a job well done by everyone involved.
- Mr. Cinelli asked why there was a stipend on the agenda for secretarial duties performed by Valerie Danise. Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Horton indicated that this was for additional duties performed over and above her normal job, which she comes in earlier to accomplish.
- Ms. Freeman asked why the resignations of Ms. Ostrowski and Mr. Smalling were on the agenda so late. Mr. Whelan indicated the paperwork had just come through.
- Ms. Sullivan mentioned that the term appointments of a reading teacher and English teacher appearing on tonight's agenda were grant funded.
- Ms. Freeman asked why there is a difference in pay for the freshman and sophomore co-curricular advisors and why there are two sophomore advisors and only one freshman advisor. Mr. Whelan indicated it is contractual.
- Mr. McGuire asked if the new physics class was qualitative or quantitative. Ms. Sullivan indicated it is qualitative.
- Mr. Cinelli asked if there is another level of the new conceptual physics book and if we have it. Ms. Sullivan indicated there is, but we do not.

## VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Ms. Freeman to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on July 7, August 11 and September 1, 2004.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

## VII. BUSINESS ITEMS

### A. PERSONNEL

#### 1. Separations

#### 2. Leave of Absences

##### a. Child Care Unpaid Leave of Absence for Christy Jablonski, Teacher Aide (Special Education)

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the child care unpaid leave of absence for Christy Jablonski as a Teacher Aide (Special Education) from September 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

b. **Leave of Absence for Tamie Martin, School Monitor (Cafeteria)**

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the leave of absence for Tamie Martin as a School Monitor (Cafeteria) to accept a position as a temporary Teacher Aide at Warren Street School, effective September 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.*

VOTE:             8   YES                             0   NO

3. **Abolishments**

4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Emergency Conditional Probationary Appointment of Kelly Gray, Teacher Aide (one to one)**

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District hereby conditionally appoints Kelly Gray, to the position of Teacher Aide (one to one), \$6.74 per hour, 10 months per year, effective September 8, 2004, subject to the rules of the Fulton County Personnel Department. In accordance with the Civil Service Rules, such appointment is a probationary appointment.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this appointment is made on a conditional basis and subject to the receipt of a statement from Kelly Gray regarding criminal conviction(s) or pending criminal charges and the receipt of criminal background clearance from the Commissioner of Education. Ms. Gray's continued employment is specifically contingent upon the District's receipt of notice, from the Commission of Education that she is fully cleared for employment:*

VOTE:             8   YES                             0   NO

b. **Temporary Appointment of Tamie Martin, Teacher Aide (Special Education)**

*Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the temporary appointment of Tamie Martin as a Teacher Aide (Special Education), effective September 8, 2004 through June 30, 2005, at a pay rate of \$6.74 per hour.*

VOTE:             8   YES                             0   NO

c. **Temporary Appointment of Kari Morrison, School Monitor (Cafeteria)**

*Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the temporary appointment of Kari Morrison as a School Monitor (Cafeteria), effective September 8, 2004 through June 30, 2005, at a pay rate of \$6.25 per hour.*

VOTE:             8   YES                             0   NO

d. **Stipend for Valerie Danise, Administrative Aide**

*Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a \$1,000 stipend for secretarial duties for the district treasurer to Valerie Danise, administrative aide, for the 2004-2005 school year.*

VOTE:            8 YES                            0 NO

B. **WARRANTS**

C. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

D. **VENDOR LIST**

E. **TRANSFERS**

VIII. **EDUCATION ITEMS**

A. **PERSONNEL**

1. **Separations**

a. **Resignation of Cheryl Ostrowski, Special Education Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Cheryl Ostrowski, with regret, as special education teacher effective August 31, 2004.*

VOTE:            8 YES                            0 NO

b. **Resignation of Edwin Smalling, Physical Education Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Edwin Smalling, with regret, as physical education teacher effective June 30, 2004.*

VOTE:            8 YES                            0 NO

c. **Resignation of John McKeon, Girls Soccer Coach (Asst #2)**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of John McKeon, with regret, as girls soccer coach (assistant #2) effective September 9, 2004.*

VOTE:            8 YES                            0 NO

2. **Leave of Absences**

3. **Abolishments**

4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Stipend for Allan Hamm, Teacher Assistant**

*Motion by Ms. Leo seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a \$1,750 stipend for patrolling services during 7:00 AM – 7:30 AM and 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM to Allan Hamm, teacher assistant, for the 2004-2005 school year.*

VOTE:           8 YES                           0 NO

b. **Term Appointment of Co-Curricular Advisors for 2004-2005**

*Motion by Ms. Leo seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointments of the following individuals as co-curricular advisors for the 2004-2005 school year:*

<i>Mark Ralbovsky,</i>	<i>Sophomore Class</i>	<i>\$1,061</i>
<i>Rebecca Bacon</i>	<i>Sophomore Class</i>	<i>\$1,061</i>
<i>Astrid Duross</i>	<i>Freshman Class</i>	<i>\$796</i>

VOTE:           8 YES                           0 NO

c. **Term Appointment of Fall Coaches for 2004-2005**

*Motion by Ms. Leo seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointments of the following individuals as Fall coaches for the 2004-2005 school year:*

<i>Ed Smalling, Football Head</i>	<i>\$3,819</i>
<i>Bob Kraemer, Football #1</i>	<i>\$2,758</i>
<i>Scott Hale, Football #2</i>	<i>\$2,546</i>
<i>Adam Barnhart, Football #3</i>	<i>\$2,387</i>
<i>Hanz Litz, Football #4</i>	<i>\$2,281</i>
<i>John Swarthout, Football #5</i>	<i>\$2,016</i>
<i>Ron Savoie, Football #6</i>	<i>\$1,857</i>
<i>John McKeon, Girls Soccer #1</i>	<i>\$2,228</i>
<i>Erica Hock, Girls Soccer #2</i>	<i>\$1,963</i>

VOTE:           8 YES                           0 NO

d. **Probationary Appointment of Lynne Kortz as Teacher Assistant**

*Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the two-year probationary appointment of Lynne Kortz as teacher assistant in the teacher assistant tenure area at \$8.22 per hour (6.5 hours per day) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2004 and expiring August 31, 2006.*

VOTE:           8 YES                           0 NO

e. **Probationary Appointment of Jeffrey Kincheloe as Special Education Teacher**

*Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three- year probationary appointment of Jeffrey Kincheloe as special education teacher in the special education tenure area at Step A1 + 24 salary credits (\$34,257 + \$768 = \$35,025 prorated) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 8, 2004 and expiring September 7, 2007.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

f. **Term Appointment of Brandi Slezak as Reading Teacher**

*Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointment of Brandi Slezak as reading teacher at Step C1 (\$36,212 prorated) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 22, 2004 through June 30, 2005.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

g. **Term Appointment of Sarah Barnhart as Extended Leave Substitute Elementary Teacher**

*Motion by Ms. Leo seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointment of Sarah Barnhart as extended leave substitute elementary teacher at Step A1 (\$34,257 prorated) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 8, 2004 through June 30, 2005.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

h. **Term Appointment of Lisa Maloney as English Teacher**

*Motion by Ms. Leo seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointment of Lisa Maloney as English teacher at Step A1 (\$34,257 prorated) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 16, 2004 through June 30, 2005.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

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

**C. STUDENT MATTERS**

1. **Adoption of Textbook**

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt the textbook Conceptual Physics for use in the High School effective immediately.*

VOTE:              7   YES                              1   NO (Mr. Martin)

2. **August Graduates**

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following individuals as August, 2004, Johnstown High School graduates:*

*Christian Hosler  
Amanda Miller  
Philip Nichols  
Donald VanNatten*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

**D. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS**

1. **Memorandum of Agreement for Central Office Association**

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Greater Johnstown School District and the Central Office Association effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

2. **Stipulation of Settlement for CSEA**

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Stipulation of Settlement between the Greater Johnstown School District and the Civil Service Employees Association dated August 27, 2004.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

3. **Greater Johnstown School District District-Wide Facilities III Project**

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Ms. Freeman to move forward with the whole project immediately, subject to additions or deletions and input from the populace.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

**IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- Richard Baker asked what debt limit the District can be at. Ms. Horton indicated our limit is \$17M and we are currently at about \$9M. He asked if Johnstown has a half-day Kindergarten and Ms. Sullivan advised that there are three sections of half-day Pre-K at Warren Street. He asked if there are any home schooled students in the District, if they have to file any reports and if they are allowed to participate in GJSD extra-curricular activities, to which Mr. Whelan replied that there are home schooled students in the area, there are forms and requirements to be completed and that District policy is that only students who attend GJSD may participate in the District's extra-curricular activities.
- Mr. Cinelli asked if the eleven new back to school notices are policies. Mr. Whelan indicated that most are procedures, not policies.
- Mr. Martin indicated there were numerous vehicles parked in the circle tonight and that this is not allowed as it is a fire hazard.

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

*Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Ms. Leo to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment of a particular person at 8:19 PM.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

**XI. MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

*Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to return to public session at 8:47 PM.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to adjourn at 8:47 PM.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter  
District Clerk