

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
Business Meeting
October 20, 2004
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by Board President at 6:00 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Joanne Freeman	Brian Miller	Peter Cinelli (arrived 6:13 PM)
Kathleen Leo	William Pollak	Russell Martin (arrived 6:13 PM)
Richard McGuire	Christopher Swatt	

ABSENT:

John David Praught

OTHERS:

John S. Whelan Katherine Sullivan

II. **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF PARTICULAR PERSONNEL**

Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Mr. Miller to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular personnel, and negotiations, at 6:12 PM.

6 Yes 0 No

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

Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Mr. Miller to return to public session at 7:27 PM.

8 Yes 0 No

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

- Mr. Whelan reported that he met with MaryAnn Clune, Financial Aide Advisor for the State Education Department, to review the District-Wide Facilities III capital project, and she has agreed that all items in the project are acceptable, although not all items will be eligible for aid. There will be a special meeting of the Board in the JHS cafeteria at 6:00 PM on October 27th for a project presentation and discussion with David Bonacci. The public is welcome to attend.
- Ms. Sullivan indicated that the restructuring survey is at the printers and should be returned within five days, after which it will be mailed to all those on the District tax roll. There will be copies available in all buildings for anyone who is not on the tax roll but who wishes to participate. Completed surveys will need to be returned by November 21st for compilation. She noted the cover of the survey features the school museum and was put together by the person designing the District's new web site.
- Ms. Sullivan stated that the optional study hall for student athletes held during the gap between the end of the school day and the time sports practice begins is now mandated at Knox and is being monitored by David Carr.
- Ms. Sullivan acknowledged that an official accountability report has been received, confirming the positive test results for ELA and Math and indicating all areas in the District were in good standing, which is the highest rating given. Congratulations and thank you again to principals, staff and students. Keep up the hard work!
- Ms. Sullivan announced that a Parent Edition newsletter will be sent out quarterly in the elementary. As the cost to mail the same is prohibitive, students in grades 1-4 will receive copies in their report cards. Parents of kindergartners should check book bags for the newsletter. There will be a similar newsletter three or four times a year at the junior and high school levels.

- Mr. Whelan advised that an advertisement for a Business Administrator with accounting skills will appear this weekend in the Leader Herald, Schenectady Gazette, Times Union, Amsterdam Recorder and in papers in Syracuse and Buffalo. A posting has also been made in-house, and the Superintendent of Schools website has been asked to post it and place it in their newsletter. This is an administrative, not a civil service position. In the interim, Alice Dillenbeck will be coming in a couple of days a week from another school district to render assistance to the business office.
- Mr. Whelan stated that Mr. Smalling has been doing a fine job in the position of Coordinator, it is a difficult task and he has worked very hard. However, as discussed and requested by the Board, the position of Director of Health, Physical Education and Recreation is also now being advertised, as well as posted in-house.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

- Mr. McGuire announced that PTSA membership forms for the high school PTSA are available and that annual dues are \$5.00.
- Mr. McGuire reported that the diplomas for the August graduates were received and had already been distributed as the youngsters declined to come to tonight's meeting to be honored by the Board.
- Mr. McGuire stated that he sees three coaches at the varsity level in football and he believes one should work with the younger kids as that is where they really need help. He recalled that Mr. Pollak used to arrange for games between the north and south ends and thinks this could be a useful tool as seventh and eighth graders like to play, not just spend time on blocking and tackling techniques.
- Mr. McGuire suggests that Principals place more emphasis on honoring students of the month. He has noted big photographs of smiling kids being honored when visiting other schools and would like to see that done here as well.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Swatt indicated that the restructuring committee and capital projects committee items had already been addressed by Mr. Whelan and Ms. Sullivan this evening.
- Mr. Martin indicated that the academic committee meeting originally scheduled for tonight has been moved to next Wednesday.
- Mr. Miller indicated that the finance committee meeting has to be rescheduled.
- Mr. Pollak indicated that the buildings & grounds committee is waiting for Mr. Bonacci's report and that there are a couple of changes in the buildings and grounds department going on personnel wise, after which they will schedule a meeting as there are many things to deal with.

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 the 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."

- International Club Advisor Ron Beck, together with club officers Kate Reynolds (President), Patrick (Vice President), Nathan VanSlyke (Secretary), Kayla (Secretary), Jackie (Secretary), and Jon Galinsky (Treasurer), provided free passes to Board members and invited them to attend the upcoming sixth annual Haunted House, to be held at the Johnstown Community Center. Last year's attendance exceeded 2,000 people and they expect another large turn out this year to walk-thru and view the thirty scenes they are setting up. Mr. Beck commented that the Club consists of 218 student members with an average meeting attendance of 170 people. It was reported they have given back \$10,000 from proceeds to the community in the past five years, including \$2,000 to the library, \$1,000 to the city, \$1,000 to the Johnstown Police Department, and \$6,000 to the community center where the event is held. A copy of Matt Battisti's first place poster, chosen from twelve entries, was shown.

- c. **Probationary Appointment of Rudy Pavlick, Custodian**
Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Rudy Pavlick as a Custodian, effective November 1, 2004, at a pay rate of \$10.70 per hour.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- d. **Emergency Conditional Probationary Appointment of Lena Neet-Marsh, Teacher Aide (one to one)**
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District hereby conditionally appoints Lena Neet-Marsh, 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 Lena Neet-Marsh regarding criminal conviction(s) or pending criminal charges and the receipt of criminal background clearance from the Commissioner of Education. Ms. Neet-Marsh'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

- e. **Provisional Appointment of Ernest Maye, Director of School Facilities & Operations**
Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the provisional appointment of Ernest Maye as a Director of School Facilities & Operations, effective August 23, 2004, 12 months per year, at a pay rate of \$51,508 per year.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- f. **Substitute Appointment of Annie Dominiak, Clerk**
Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Annie Dominiak as a Clerk, effective September 22, 2004 through June 30, 2005, at a pay rate of \$12.33 per hour.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- g. **Substitute Appointment of Darla Abraham, Clerk**
Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Darla Abraham as a Clerk, effective September 8, 2004 through June 30, 2005, at a pay rate of \$8.09 per hour.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- h. **Substitute Appointment of Darla Abraham, Teacher Aide**
Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Darla Abraham as a Teacher Aide, effective September 8, 2004 through June 30, 2005, at a pay rate of \$8.09 per hour.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

i. **Substitute Appointment of Susan Hansen, Clerk**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Susan Hansen as a Clerk, effective October 7, 2004 through June 30, 2005, at a pay rate of \$8.59 per hour.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

j. **Substitute Appointment of Richard F. Baker, Bus Driver**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Richard F. Baker as a Bus Driver, effective October 4, 2004 through June 30, 2005, at a pay rate of \$10.50 per hour.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

k. **Emergency Conditional Substitute Appointment of Rebecca Smith, Food Service Helper**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District hereby conditionally appoints Rebecca Smith, to the position of Food Service Helper, \$6.50 per hour, effective September 22, 2004 through June 30, 2005, subject to the rules of the Fulton County Personnel Department. In accordance with the Civil Service Rules, such appointment is a substitute appointment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this appointment is made on a conditional basis and subject to the receipt of a statement from Rebecca Smith regarding criminal conviction(s) or pending criminal charges and the receipt of criminal background clearance from the Commissioner of Education. Ms. Smith'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

l. **Emergency Conditional Substitute Appointment of Florence Hyney, Food Service Helper**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District hereby conditionally appoints Florence Hyney, to the position of Food Service Helper, \$6.50 per hour, effective September 27, 2004 through June 30, 2005, subject to the rules of the Fulton County Personnel Department. In accordance with the Civil Service Rules, such appointment is a substitute appointment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this appointment is made on a conditional basis and subject to the receipt of a statement from Florence Hyney regarding criminal conviction(s) or pending criminal charges and the receipt of criminal background clearance from the Commissioner of Education. Ms. Hyney'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

IX. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

2. Leave of Absences

a. Child Care Leave of Absence for Karen LaPorta, Elementary Teacher

Motion by Ms. Freeman seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to allow a child care leave of absence for Karen LaPorta as elementary teacher, effective approximately December, 2004 through March, 2005.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

3. Abolishments

4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Temporary Appointment of AIS/Homework/Sports Study Hall and Detention Supervisors

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the temporary appointments of the following as After-school Supervisors at Knox Junior High School from September 8, 2004 through June 24, 2005 at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour:

<i>Michelle Abel</i>	<i>Carolyn Beck</i>
<i>Marcia Bentley</i>	<i>Heidi Bolebruch</i>
<i>Beth Brower</i>	<i>Gloria Bruno</i>
<i>Ron Capeci</i>	<i>Judy Danelorich</i>
<i>Sarah Diefendorf</i>	<i>Charlene Dybas</i>
<i>Cynthia Fiorenza</i>	<i>Rich Fitzgerald</i>
<i>Jeff Green</i>	<i>Mary Hallgren</i>
<i>Becky Hart</i>	<i>Elaine Hitchcock</i>
<i>Cherie Hockey</i>	<i>Jon Jennings</i>
<i>Jen Jurica</i>	<i>Jen Keller</i>
<i>Connie Lais</i>	<i>Andy LaCoppola</i>
<i>Lisa Maloney</i>	<i>Lauren Orlando</i>
<i>Tom Orlando</i>	<i>Barb Prumo</i>
<i>Pete Raneri</i>	<i>Sue Ringanese</i>
<i>Ron Savoie</i>	<i>Brandi Slezak</i>
<i>Sarah Slingerland</i>	<i>Becky Wilder</i>
<i>Sue Williamsen</i>	

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. Appointment of Co-Curricular Advisors

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of the following individuals as co-curricular advisors for the 2004-2005 school year:

<i>Meredith Fagan, JHS Honor Society</i>	<i>\$796</i>
<i>Deborah Miller, International Club Asst</i>	<i>\$1,591</i>
<i>Stacie Luczynski, Marching Band #2</i>	<i>\$1,591</i>
<i>Dan Jones, SADD</i>	<i>\$1,061</i>
<i>Christina Fink, Key Club</i>	<i>\$1,061</i>
<i>Sarah Corrigan, JHS Play</i>	<i>\$2,387</i>
<i>Connie Lais, French Exchange</i>	<i>\$530</i>
<i>Andrew LaCoppola, Knox Jazz Band</i>	<i>\$796</i>
<i>Cynthia Fiorenza, Knox Chorus</i>	<i>\$1,326</i>
<i>James Morton, JHS Play Asst</i>	<i>\$1,857</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

c. Appointment of Fall and Winter Coaches

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of the following individuals as Fall and Winter coaches for the 2004-2005 school year:

<i>Sean Mahon, Strength Coach (Sept, Oct)</i>	<i>\$335/month</i>
<i>Corrine Cotter, Alpine Head</i>	<i>\$3,024</i>
<i>James Mraz, Girls BB Head</i>	<i>\$3,607</i>
<i>Aaron Mraz, Girls BB Asst #1</i>	<i>\$2,546</i>
<i>Timothy Derwin, Girls BB Asst #2</i>	<i>\$2,387</i>
<i>Scott Hale, Boys BB Head</i>	<i>\$3,607</i>
<i>Hanz Litz, Boys BB Asst #1</i>	<i>\$2,548</i>
<i>John St. Peter, Boys BB Asst #2</i>	<i>\$2,387</i>
<i>Sean Russo, Boys Swim Head</i>	<i>paid by F-F</i>
<i>Erik Betz, Boys Swim Asst #1</i>	<i>\$1,273 (1/2 paid by F-F)</i>
<i>Jessica Wager, Field Hockey Asst #3</i>	<i>\$1,553</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

d. Sixth Period Course Stipends for High School Teachers

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the payment of sixth period course stipends to the following individuals for the 2004-2005 school year:

<i>David Rockwell, Chemistry Lab</i>	<i>\$1,750 (one semester)</i>
<i>Sean Mahon, DDPI-2</i>	<i>\$3,500 (two semesters)</i>
<i>Tara Bruce, AIS Lab</i>	<i>\$1,750 (one semester)</i>
<i>Jim Donovan, Earth Science</i>	<i>\$3,500 (two semesters)</i>
<i>Sharon Humphrey, I/O Choices</i>	<i>\$3,500 (two semesters)</i>
<i>Judith Finley Kane, US History</i>	<i>\$3,500 (two semesters)</i>
<i>Victor Malagisi, Career/Financial</i>	<i>\$1,750 (one semester)</i>
<i>Connie Lais, French 5</i>	<i>\$3,500 (two semesters)</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

e. **Appointment of JHS Detention Supervisors**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of the following individuals as JHS detention supervisors at \$15.00 per hour (by timesheet) during the hours of 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM (M, T, W, Th) during the 2004-2005 school year:

*Mike Reilly
Nicholas Colistra*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

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

1. **Committee for Special Education**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on September 21, 2004, September 24, 2004 and September 28, 2004.

002400054	002400055	002400056
000240006	002400065	000960035
002400053	002400051	002400058
002400059	000860193	000240046
002400060		
000970024	000950057	002400062
002400064	002400063	000900097

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

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

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Ms. Leo to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on September 21, 2004 and October 4, 2004.

000240041
000200015

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. **STUDENT MATTERS**

1. **Girls' Basketball Field Trip to Adirondack Center**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the girls' basketball field trip to the Adirondack Center on Saturday 11/13/04 (1:00 PM) through Sunday 11/14/04 (1:00 PM) .

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. **International Club Field Trip to Woodworth Lake**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the International Club field trip to Woodworth Lake on Friday 3/4/05 (4:30 PM) through Sunday 3/6/05 (10:30 AM).

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

3. **Class of 2005 Field Trip to Florida**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Class of 2005 field trip to Florida on Thursday 4/28/05 (3:30 PM) through Sunday 5/1/05 (9:00 PM) .

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

4. **Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Modified Wrestling**

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the interscholastic athletic merger for modified wrestling between the Greater Johnstown School District and Wheelerville Union Free School District for the 2004-2005 school year.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

X. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

- Mr. McGuire mentioned that Diana Horton served the District very well during her seven years here and he certainly wishes her all the success in the world in her new position.
- Mr. Pollak stated he was happy to hear that Diana had left us in a good position as far as finishing up reports before leaving and that we are ahead of other Districts in terms of the paperwork done and the accounting practices used. He would like to see the Business Administrator position filled before the first of the year if we find a good candidate.
- Mr. Cinelli asked if we have a replacement for the resigning nurse. Mr. Whelan indicated not yet.
- Mr. Miller asked why one clerk sub would get \$12.33 per hour and another only \$8.59 per hour. Mr. Whelan indicated one had been an employee here and was being paid at the rate she had left at and the other was new and starting at a lower rate.
- Mr. Pollak asked that AIS homework be explained. Ms. Sullivan indicated it refers to Academic Intervention Service, which is a State term, and is for students needing extra help. Mr. Carr referred to it as a voluntary “homework club” four nights per week, with between twelve and twenty students in attendance.
- Mr. McGuire asked why it is voluntary and why we can’t make our kids stay after, as the paper says Roger Rooney makes his students stay. Ms. Sullivan indicated we can legally try to mandate an extension of the student day, but not the teacher day.
- Mr. Martin remarked that we can force the kids to stay but we will have to pay the teachers and this something for the education committee to look into.
- Mr. Swatt asked if the winter coaching positions are all filled. Mr. Whelan indicated they were all advertised and are all set.
- Mr. Cinelli stated he is glad we have three field hockey coaches as this is a strong program and he wouldn’t want to see it diminished. He asked if the modified wrestling merger with Wheelerville is the first and was told yes.
- Mr. Martin asked if the field trips are subject to disapproval by Mr. Whelan if circumstances or events change and was told yes.
- Mr. Pollak indicated that Saratoga has a terrific cross country team and asked that we do more to reach out to other schools regarding merging athletic programs when needed.
- Mr. Swatt commended the fourth through sixth grade girls basketball program run by Mr. Mraz, which had at least 80 kids participate last year and leads to success in the junior and varsity programs. He said he is involved in soccer and was approached by a Wheelerville parent who asked if her daughter can come here to participate. He thinks we should do all we can to encourage Wheelerville students to come here as they can choose between Johnstown and Gloversville. Mr. Whelan indicated that whether or not Wheelerville students can be allowed to participate depends on whether it is a school sponsored program or a volunteer program through an outside organization.

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

➤ Meg Brown asked if all of the fall and winter coaches were on tonight's agenda as she only saw one for modified basketball and thinks there should be two (one for seventh grade and one for eighth grade). Mr. Whelan indicated there were probably some names that were not submitted before tonight's agenda was prepared last week, but there will be as many coaching positions as provided by contract.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

October 27, 2004	Special Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
November 3, 2004	Discussion Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Jansen Ave. Elementary
November 17, 2004	Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn at 8:23 PM.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk