

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting**  
**October 5, 2005**  
**Pleasant Avenue Library**

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

ATTENDEES:

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Richard McGuire	Russell Martin (arrived 6:02 PM)
Peter Cinelli	Scott Miller	Joanne Freeman (arrived 6:03 PM)
Kathleen Leo	John David Praught	Robert Curtis (arrived 6:18 PM)

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."*

- President McGuire offered a sincere thank you to the district residents for their decision to approve the Capital Project. He noted it involved three long years of work by the Board and Administration to put the proposed project together and he is very pleased to see the majority of the community agreed with the choices they made.
- Dan Jones offered to answer any questions the Board might have regarding the Marching Band field trip appearing on tonight's agenda for approval. President McGuire asked the Board to skip ahead to that part of the agenda and address the matter at this time.

**V.** EDUCATION ITEMS

**C.** STUDENT MATTERS

**1.** JHS Marching Band Trip to Harrisonburg, Virginia

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Leo to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Johnstown High School Marching Band trip to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to compete in the Parade of Champions, from Thursday, October 20, 2005 (2:00 p.m.) through Sunday, October 23, 2005 (9:00 p.m.)*

*VOTE:           8 YES                   0 NO*

**III.** SUPERINTENDENT/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

- Mr. Whelan advised that he had researched Mr. Martin's request from the last meeting to adopt the Picayune School District in Mississippi, which needs assistance following the Hurricane Katrina disaster. The Picayune Superintendent indicated to him that in addition to books, computers and educational materials, they need anything we can put together and send to them, including diapers and toiletries. Once the items are gathered, arrangements will be made for them to be sent by truck for free. Our students will also be communicating with the Picayune students as pen pals, via a program to be established by our Principals.
- Mrs. Sullivan reported on the results of the NYS Grades 4 and 8 math tests released by SED on September 22, 2005. She reviewed a chart indicating that 94% of students at Glebe, 93% of students at Jansen, 100% of students at Pleasant, 78% of students at Warren and 53% of students at Knox scored in Levels 3 & 4, which is where we want all of our students to be. Informational booklets regarding the tests and scoring were also provided for review.



**VII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

**1. Acceptance of the Special District Meeting vote results for the District Wide III Capital Project Bond Resolution Proposition**

*Motion by Mr. Cinelli seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the Greater Johnstown School District's October 4, 2005 Special District Meeting voting results for the District Wide III Capital Project Bond Resolution proposition as seen in Addendum #1.*

VOTE:              9   YES                      0   NO

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

- Lori Stearns expressed displeasure with the change of the secondary lunch choice from a peanut butter sandwich to a hot dog and wanted to know how this decision was reached. She was advised that the alternate lunch when children do not like the main lunch is a turkey dog, which is different from a hot dog, and that it was chosen by the school physician and a local pediatrician following meetings between the doctors and the Food Service Director, the Athletic Coordinator, the school nurses, and the parents of several students with peanut allergies. Mrs. Stearns said she thinks children's lives will be threatened by toxic levels of nitrates from turkey dogs on a daily basis. She was advised that Dr. Cannon could be contacted and the issue reviewed.
- Mrs. Freeman asked that the Board consider the Masonic Student Assistance Training Program (MSAT), which is a three day workshop for educators, to assist them in identifying and intervening with students with problems such as substance abuse and violence. She indicated there is no cost for the seminar, which includes housing, transportation and meals. Mr. Whelan cautioned that, as the Masons are a religious organization, separation issues might arise. The matter was referred to the Academic Committee for further investigation.
- Mr. Praught wished to commend former BOE members Chris Swatt and Bill Pollak for their efforts during the three years they were on the Board to make the Capital Project a success.
- Mr. Curtis inquired what type of bullying program we have at the elementary. Mrs. Sotero, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Dougherty, Mrs. Christiano and Mr. Carr each offered information on the character education programs in their buildings. It was also noted that the code of conduct is reviewed with students at each grade level.

**IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

October 19, 2005	Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
November 2, 2005	Discussion/Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Jansen Ave. Library

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Curtis to adjourn at 6:59 PM.*

VOTE:              9   Yes                      0   No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter  
District Clerk