

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
October 2, 2008
Jansen Avenue Elementary School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:03 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Robert Curtis	Susanne Fitzgerald	Scott Miller
John David Praught	Robert Kosowicz	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth
Joanne Freeman	James Levin	Russell Martin (arrived 7:04 p.m.)

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent
Robert Munn, Interim Business Official
Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk

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 Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Praught to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on September 18, 2008.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

IV. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Mrs. Sullivan noted the evening's meeting was changed from Glebe Street to Jansen Avenue to provide an opportunity to recognize Jansen Avenue's accomplishment in being selected as one of only 320 Blue Ribbon Schools in the nation. Principal Colleen Lester thanked the board, staff and community for working so hard for the achievement. She noted there are a huge variety of student backgrounds at Jansen, but that everyone has the same high expectations and that each student is greeted every day with a smile. Former Principal Patricia Sotero was invited to attend the meeting and noted that she was proud of the staff and the kids and had known in her heart that the honor would happen. She added that many people were part of the process, that it took a team and that no one person was responsible, that the bar had been set high and the students rose up to meet it. Ms. Lester, Ms. Sotero and fourth grade teacher James Westman will travel to Washington, D.C. later in the month for the presentation of a plaque and a Blue Ribbon flag.
- Mrs. Sullivan noted that during the JHS Marching Band Home Show on September 20, our band received second place in Small School Division II and offered congratulations on the accomplishment.

V. **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

- Mr. Praught reported that the Restructuring Committee met prior to the evening's meeting. Noted that current student enrollment is at 1963, which is 37 less than last year. The district has asked interim business official Robert Munn to consider acting as a consultant to help facilitate a restructuring plan. The committee discussed planning for community involvement and open forums as they look at various options. Mr. Curtis stated that the district has not chosen an avenue to pursue and that is why input will be sought as the district gets its ducks in a row.

VI. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

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

a. Temporary Appointment of Robert Darling, Custodial Worker

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the temporary appointment of Robert Darling, \$12.34 per hour, 12 months per year, effective October 3, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO (Mr. Praught)

b. Probationary Appointment of Gregory Forgette, Custodial Worker

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Gregory Forgette, \$12.34 per hour, 12 months per year, effective October 14, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO (Mr. Praught)

c. Substitute Appointment of Michael Morley, Buildings & Grounds Worker

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Michael Morley as a Building & Grounds Worker, \$21.55 per hour, to work up to 20 days from 9/30/08 to 12/31/08.

VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO (Mr. Praught)

B. WARRANTS – August 2008

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrant for August 2008, as seen in addendum #1:

- General (A):* #6, 8
- School Lunch (C):* #3, 4
- Federal (F):* #3, 4
- Capital Bonds (H):* #2
- Trust & Agency (TA):* #5, 6, 7, 8
- Expendable Trust (TE):* #2

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

C. TREASURER'S REPORT – August 2008

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer's Report for August 2008, as seen in addendum #2.

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

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

D. Approval of Agreement for 403(b) Plan Professional Review, Administration & IRS Tax Compliant Services

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mrs. Freeman to **TABLE** the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Agreement for 403(b) Plan professional review, administration and IRS tax compliant services with The Omni Group for 2008/09, pursuant to the agreement dated _____, 2008.*

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Mr. Munn noted a plan needs to be in place by January 1, 2008 to meet state and federal requirements and that the third party administrator should be a neutral party. Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth asked if a workshop could be set up to explain the plans. Mr. Curtis noted this is not a mandate, but it lessens liability.

E. Appointment of External Auditors

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mrs. Freeman that the Board of Education appoint Dorfman-Robbie CPA's as External Auditors for the 2008-2009 school year.

VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO (Mr. Martin)

VII. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

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

a. Probationary Appointment of Duilio Viscusi, Assistant Principal

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Duilio Viscusi, as Assistant Principal, in the Assistant Principal tenure area, at a salary of \$60,917.50, per Johnstown Administrators' Association Agreement, effective November 3, 2008 through November 2, 2011.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

Discussion: A welcome was issued to Mr. Viscusi, who was in attendance.

b. Term Appointments of Extra-Curricular Staff

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve term appointments of the following individuals as Extra-Curricular Advisors for the 2008-09 school year:

*Heather Buskirk, Sophomore Class Advisor \$1,143
Cynthia Cromer, Intramural Supervisor at Glebe Street \$19 per hour
Robert Frenyea, Intramural Supervisor at Glebe Street \$19 per hour*

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CSE, CPSE

C. STUDENT MATTERS

1. Tutor Remuneration

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent that, individuals appointed to serve as home tutors for students who are homebound and require tutorial opportunity as per Education Law, receive remuneration of \$15 per hour.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

2. JHS International Club Camping Trip to Woodworth Lake, New York

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the JHS International Club camping trip to Woodworth Lake, New York; leaving Johnstown High School on Friday, February 27, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. and returning at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 1, 2009, with parents providing transportation.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

1. First Reading of Revised Policy #5730

#5730 – Transportation of Students

2. Waiver of Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policy #5730

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to waive the second reading of the following revised policy and adopt the same effective October 2, 2008.

#5730 – Transportation of Students

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

3. First Reading of New Policy 7362

#7362 – Bullying: Peer Abuse in the Schools

4. Board Discussion: Possible reconfiguration of Foothills Council Basketball Schedule

Broadalbin-Perth is refusing to open their building for home games on Saturdays due to their austerity budget. Gloversville may follow suit due to their contingency budget. If only one school closes their gym, the schedule can remain as is, but if two schools opt out of Saturday games, reconfiguration will be necessary. Reconfiguration Options that were discussed included: 1) Girls play on Monday, boys play on Tuesday, both play on Friday at opposite sites and switch Monday & Tuesday nights mid-season. Three board members indicated they will support this option if Johnstown's gym is open on Sundays for practice, while six board members opposed opening the gym on Sundays. 2) Both

boys and girls play on Tuesdays and Fridays at both sites. No board members were willing to support this option. 3) Mrs. Fitzgerald proposed that boys play on Tuesdays, girls play on Wednesdays and both play on Fridays. Six board members indicated they would support this option.

Mr. Curtis indicated that if girls and boys basketball games take place on the same night, student athletes can't support each other and any parent who has a son & a daughter playing has to choose which child to watch that night. Mr. Praught noted he is not in favor of Monday games if the athletes can't get in the gym to practice on Sundays. Mr. Kosowicz indicated opening on Sundays offers more opportunities as we are currently shoehorning all teams and activities into six days. Mr. Miller inquired as to the costs of opening the building for Sunday practices. Mr. Martin and Mrs. Freeman indicated they can not support opening the gym on Sundays as kids need a day for rest and family.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mrs. Koehler proffered that it would not be fair to have the girls play on Wednesdays and Fridays as they would only have one day between games. She indicated that, at one time girls had played on Mondays and Thursdays with no pressure practices late on Sundays and asked that the Board consider this. She feels that the kids would rather be at school doing something on Sunday than be at home.
- Mr. Levin noted that the district had been fortunate to go out to bond when it did on the Capital Project, given the current financial picture.
- Mr. Miller thanked Jansen Avenue for hosting the evening's meeting. Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Fitzgerald inquired as to who had made the artful pumpkins adorning the tables and Ms. Lester replied that they had been crafted by first and fifth graders.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

October 14, 2008	Audit Committee Meeting Business Meeting	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
November 6, 2008	Facilities Committee Meeting Discussion/Business Meeting	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session TBD

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

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 8:04 p.m.

VOTE: 9 Yes 0 No

XII. MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mrs. Freeman to reconvene in public session at 9:12 p.m.

VOTE: 9 Yes 0 No

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth, seconded by Mrs. Freeman, to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk