

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting**  
**November 6, 2008**  
**Pleasant Avenue Elementary School**

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:02 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Scott Miller	Susanne Fitzgerald	Robert Kosowicz	Robert Curtis
James Levin	John David Praught	Joanne Freeman	Russell Martin (7:03 pm arrival)

ABSENT:

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth

OTHERS:

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

**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."*

- Principal David Blanchard welcomed the Board to Pleasant Avenue and asked that any Board members who hadn't yet done so, please see him after the meeting to add their handprints to the "Everyone Has a Hand in Education" wall.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Praught to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on October 14 and October 28, 2008.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              0   NO

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Mr. Munn advised that he had met with representatives of 403(b) plan provider Lincoln Financial following the last Board meeting and believes they can provide a better product than those previously presented to the Board, at no cost to the district. He noted that the JTA president and vice president were on board with it and a resolution would be presented later in the agenda.
- Mrs. Sullivan advised that she met with Johnstown School District Museum Curator Bill Pollak and museum board member Barbara Skoda, who are interested in developing by-laws for the museum and would like a school board member to sit on the museum board. Mrs. Freeman volunteered to take on this task. Additionally, the April 2, 2009 Board meeting currently scheduled at Knox will be moved to May 7, 2009 so that Board members may tour the museum prior to that evening's ad hoc committee meeting.
- Mr. Munn provided a PowerPoint presentation titled "Strategic Plan for Restructuring Schools." Mr. Munn suggested that, as a next step, the business office put together a press release seeking individuals to sit on a committee representing a cross-section of the public (parents, retirees, business people, staff from each school) to further study the issue. It was decided to hold a community forum during the November 20 meeting, to further delve into the issue.



**3. Abolishments**

**a. Abolishment of a Teacher Aide Position**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the abolishment of a Teacher Aide position, effective October 24, 2008.*

VOTE:            8 YES                            0 NO

**4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

**a. Creation of a School Bus Attendant Position**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the creation of a School Bus Attendant position effective November 7, 2008.*

VOTE:            8 YES                            0 NO

**b. Substitute Appointment of Melody Sweetman, Food Service Helper**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the substitute appointment of Melody Sweetman as a Food Service Helper, pay per the 2008/09 substitute classified pay schedule, effective November 7, 2008 to June 30, 2009.*

VOTE:            8 YES                            0 NO

**B. Treasurer's Report – September 2008**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2008, as seen in addendum #1.*

1.    *Appropriation Status Report*
2.    *Revenue Budget Status Report*
3.    *Unrestricted Cash Balance*
4.    *Handwritten Checks*
5.    *Budget Transfer Schedule #3*

VOTE:            8 YES                            0 NO

**C. Declaration of Buses as Surplus Property**

*Board Member Mr. Levin presents the following resolution and moves its adoption, seconded by Board Member Mrs. Fitzgerald:*

*Whereas, the Greater Johnstown School District has in place a systematic plan for bus replacement and,*

*Whereas, a major component of the plan is the sale of surplus buses through sealed bids and,*

*Whereas, the buses listed in the attachment are scheduled for replacement by the plan document,*

***Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that***

- *Bus #11, 1998 Rear Engine Thomas 39 passenger/2 wheel chair, approximately 155,000 miles*
- *Bus #12, 1999 Rear Engine Thomas 66 passenger, approximately 170,000 miles*
- *Bus #13, a 1999 Rear Engine Thomas 66 passenger, approximately, 146,000 miles*
- *Bus #14, a 2000 Rear Engine Thomas 66 passenger bus with 148,000 miles*

Be declared surplus material, and sold to the highest bidder.

VOTE:           8 YES                   0 NO

**D.    Adoption of State of New York 457 Deferred Compensation Plan**

Board Member Mr. Levin presents the following resolution and moves its adoption, seconded by Board Member Mrs. Fitzgerald:

*Whereas, the Greater Johnstown School District wishes to adopt the Deferred Compensation Plan for the Employees of the State of New York for voluntary participation of all eligible employees, and*

*Whereas, the Greater Johnstown School District is a local public employer eligible to adopt the Plan according to Section 5 of State Finance Law, and*

*Whereas, the Superintendent, Interim Business Administrator, and District Treasurer met with representatives of the plan, and reviewed the "Plan" established in accordance of Section 457 of the **Internal Revenue Service Code** and Section 5 of the State Finance Law of the State of New York, and*

*Whereas, the purpose of the "Plan" is encourage employees to establish and continue careers with the Greater Johnstown School District by providing eligible employees with a convenient and tax-favored method of saving, on a regular and long term basis, thereby providing the opportunity to accumulate additional assets for use during their retirement,*

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Greater Johnstown School District adopts the "Plan" for the voluntary participation of all eligible employees, and*

*Be It Further Resolved, that the Superintendent of the Greater Johnstown School District is authorized to take such actions and sign such agreements, following advice of counsel if necessary, as are required or necessary for the adoption, implementation, and maintenance of the "Plan", and*

*Be It Further Resolved, that the Administrative Services Agency is hereby authorize to file copies of these resolutions and other required documents with the President of the New York Civil Service Commission.*

VOTE:           8 YES                   0 NO

**E.    Adoption of 403(b) Deferred Compensation Compliance Service Provider**

Board Member Mr. Levin presents the following resolution and moves its adoption, seconded by Board Member Mrs. Fitzgerald:

*Whereas, the Greater Johnstown School District reviewed proposals from various vendors detailing plans to facilitate the district moving into compliance with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations regarding 403(b) tax sheltered annuity plan compliance, and*

*Whereas, proposals were received from three vendors and evaluated, and*

*Whereas, the District's Central Administration reviewed the submissions, consulted with employee representatives, and subsequently recommends Lincoln Investment Planning as the exclusive representative for the Greater Johnstown School District based upon the firm's proposal to bring the district into compliance with IRS regulations,*

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that Lincoln Investment Planning, with a local office located in Cobleskill, New York, be appointed as the exclusive product provider for 403(b) investments, and*

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to finalize and sign the subject agreement with Lincoln Investment Planning.

VOTE:            8 YES                      0 NO

**F.      Response to Management Letter from Dorfman-Robbie, CPA, PC**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the District's corrective action plan as set forth in the letter dated October 31, 2008 to Bonadio & Co., LLP f/k/a Dorman-Robbie, CPA, PC in response to the findings contained in the management letter from Dorman-Robbie, CPA, PC dated September 26, 2008.*

VOTE:            8 YES                      0 NO

Discussion:      Mr. Praught suggested reviewing the school lunch program at the ½ year mark in January. He noted costs are skyrocketing and it already runs at a deficit. Mr. Levin indicated that retirements need to be reallocated from that account.

**VII.    EDUCATION ITEMS**

**A.      PERSONNEL**

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

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

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

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on October 17 and October 23, 2008*

000140184                      000140316

VOTE:            8 YES                      0 NO

**C.      STUDENT MATTERS**

**VIII.   BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

1.      **BUDGET CALENDAR RESOLUTION**

*Board Member Mrs. Freeman presents the following resolution and moves its adoption, seconded by Board Member Mr. Miller:*

*Whereas, the Board of Education (BOE) is responsible for the development and subsequent adoption of the annual budget prior to submission to district voters, and*

*Whereas, it is responsibility of the Board of Education and administration to prepare the budget in a planned fashion, and*

*Whereas, the Interim Business Administrator, after consultation with the Superintendent and District Treasurer, crafted the budget development plan in **Addendum #2**, submitted for BOE endorsement,*

*Now Therefore **Be It Resolved**, that the Budget Development Calendar for the 2009-10 school year and schedule of events recommended is hereby adopted.*

VOTE:              8   YES                      0   NO

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

- Six members of the boys varsity baseball team, together with Coach Aaron Mraz, presented a proposal requesting that 17 potential players, two coaches and one parent chaperone be allowed to participate in “The Ripkin Experience – Myrtle Beach, S.C.” from March 20 through March 24, 2009, if they are able to raise sufficient funds. Board members noted it was a well thought out proposal. The team will now need to submit a formal field trip request for consideration.
- Mr. Curtis noted that the Grand Opening Celebration on October 28 had been a wonderful evening with a fantastic show and offered thanks to all who were involved.

**X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

November 20, 2008	Academic/Extra-Curricular Committee Business Meeting	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
December 11, 2008	Restructuring Committee Meeting Discussion/Business Meeting	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School

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

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Freeman to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:53 p.m.*

VOTE:              8   Yes                      0   No

**XII. MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Miller to reconvene in public session at 9:06 p.m.*

VOTE:              8   Yes                      0   No

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn at 9:06 p.m.*

VOTE:              8   Yes                      0   No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter  
District Clerk