

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
December 11, 2008
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:32 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Robert Curtis	Susanne Fitzgerald
Joanne Freeman	Robert Kosowicz	Scott Miller
James Levin	Russell Martin	John David Praught

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent 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 Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on November 20, 2008.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

IV. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Mrs. Sullivan requested a discussion on the request put forth by James Morton at the last Board meeting to officially name the JHS Auditorium the "Johnstown High School Performing Arts Center." Mr. Levin indicated that naming of the circle had been put out for a student vote and asked if the same should be done here. Mr. Kosowicz noted it isn't a run of the mill auditorium. Mr. Martin suggested getting a sponsor to pay to name it. By general consensus, it was decided to put a resolution on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Mrs. Sullivan reported that January regents at JHS will take place Tuesday through Friday, Jan. 27 – Jan. 30, rather than Monday through Thursday, Jan. 26 0 Jan. 29 due to a change made in the State calendar after our calendar was adopted.

V. **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

- Mr. Praught reported that the newly formed Citizens Advisory restructuring committee had met from 6 – 7:30 p.m. this evening. He reported the committee contains a good mix of people with strong minds and lots of different opinions. He also indicated past restructuring options had been reviewed, additional information has been requested and they hope to make good progress at the next meeting on January 8 from 5:30- 7:30 p.m. at Glebe Street.

VI. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **PERSONNEL**

1. **Separations**

a. **Resignation of Hope Smith, School Bus Attendant**

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of Hope Smith, School Bus Attendant, effective November 25, 2008.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

b. Resignation of Ruth Brown, Cook

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of Ruth Brown, Cook, effective January 28, 2009.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Abolishments

4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Permanent Appointment of Debra Ammann, Teacher Aide

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the permanent appointment of Debra Ammann as a Teacher Aide, effective December 18, 2008.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

b. Probationary Appointment of Toni Horning, School Bus Attendant

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Toni Horning as a School Bus Attendant, 10 months per year, \$7.75/hr, effective November 24, 2008.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

B. WARRANTS – October 2008

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrant for October 2008, as seen in addendum #1:

General (A): #15, 17
School Lunch (C): #7, 8
Federal (F): #7, 8
Capital Bonds (H): #4
Trust & Agency (TA): #12, 13, 14, 15
Expendable Trust (TE): #3

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

C. TREASURER’S REPORT – October 2008

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer’s Report for October 2008, as seen in addendum #2.

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

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby adopt the 403(b) Plan Document for Public Education Organizations (the "Plan"), which will, at all times, conform to the requirements of Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Code and applicable regulations.

FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the intention of the Board that the 403(b) program will conform with all federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to 403(b) plans, except that the program set forth above shall not be subject to the requirements of Title I of ERISA because the employer is exempted from such requirements.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or the District Treasurer to act on the Board's behalf with respect to this plan, and to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to implement, maintain and administer the plan set forth above in accordance with the Board's intentions, and all applicable state and federal laws.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

F. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT OF UNPAID TAXES

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the tax collector's report of unpaid taxes as seen in addendum #4.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

VII. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Resignation of Shari Braemer, Teaching Assistant

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Shari Braemer, teaching assistant, effective December 1, 2008.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Abolishments

4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Appointment of Coaching Staff

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Kayla Miller, as unpaid assistant for the Alpine Ski Program for the 2008-2009 school year:

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

b. Payment of Music Festival Stipends

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the payment of \$104.00 as music festival chaperone stipend for the following individuals for attendance at the Area All State Music Festival in Saratoga Springs,

New York on November 21, 2008 and November 22, 2008, per JTA Agreement:

Daniel Jones James Morton

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CSE, CPSE

1. Committee for Special Education

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on November 14, 2008, November 19, 2008, November 20, 2008, November 21, 2008, November 24, 2008, December 2, 2008, and December 4, 2008:

000183082 000155990 000154755 000305898 000104388
000125819 000136071 000133688 000145275 000126684
000176954 000175132 000145915 000156924 000173910
000166889

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

2. Committee for Pre-Special Education

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on November 21, 2008 and December 2, 2008:

000140336 000140347 000140342 000140341

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

C. STUDENT MATTERS

1. Senior Class Trip to Orlando, Florida

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the senior class trip to Orlando, Florida; leaving Johnstown High School on Friday, March 27, 2009 at 4:00 a.m. and returning on Monday, March 30, 2009 at approximately 4:30 p.m.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Mr. Praught questioned the small number of students participating. Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth advised that the students were surveyed, many said they wouldn't participate no matter where the trip was; most are paying less than \$500 to attend.

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

- Mr. Levin commented that John Underwood had recently provided an excellent presentation to student athletes and their families.
- Mr. Curtis noted that Mr. Underwood had provided valuable information regarding the number of students unprepared to play sports at the Division 2 or 3 level, including pointing out that, realistically, only about 2 out of 100 move on.
- Mrs. Sullivan complimented the holiday concert events going on in each of the buildings during the month of December. Noted that the JHS Winter concert scheduled for this evening was postponed to December 18 due to the weather. Also, the Warren Street concert scheduled for December 18 has been moved to the JHS auditorium and will immediately precede the JHS concert.

- Mrs. Fitzgerald indicated the restructuring committee meeting had been encouraging, that people had open minds and things are moving in a positive manner.
- Mr. Martin thanked all who had come out for the restructuring meeting and the Board meeting despite the inclement weather.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Art Batty said he called the District on Monday to request enrollment numbers for his own use and was asked to file a Freedom of Information Law request. He feels he shouldn't have to because he is almost 80 years old and a former employee. Said he had to drag himself to the office to pick up a form. Indicated he did not file a request because he feels the copy fee of .25 per page is too much. (*FOIL form is available on district web site and can be submitted in person, by mail or by email; records can be inspected at no charge; fee only applies if photocopies are requested.*)

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

January 8, 2009	Citizens Advisory Restructuring Committee Audit Committee Meeting Board Discussion/Business Meeting	5:30-7:30 p.m. 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM 7:30 PM Public Session Glebe Street Library
January 22, 2009	Facilities Committee Meeting Board Business Meeting	6:00 – 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Johnstown High School
February 12, 2009	Citizens Advisory Restructuring Committee Academic/Extra-Curricular Committee Board Business Meeting	<i>Time TBD</i> 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School

IX. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:56 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 1 No (Mr. Praught)

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Freeman, seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

VOTE: 9 Yes 0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk