

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting
January 8, 2009
Glebe Street Elementary

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	John David Praught	

ABSENT:

Russell Martin

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent	Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk
Ralph Acquaro, Interim Business Manager	

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. Miller seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on December 10, 2008 and December 11, 2008.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mrs. Sullivan welcomed new interim business manager Ralph Acquaro.
- Mrs. Sullivan noted that the internal audit report scheduled to be presented to the full Board by Joseph Heroux of Questar has been postponed to the next Board meeting.
- Glebe Street Principal Bill Crankshaw welcomed the Board to his building. He introduced five Glebe Street students, who each provided a short recitation on National Board of Education Appreciation Month and thanked the Board members for their service to the community. Mr. Crankshaw recognized the Glebe Street staff for the fine job they do. Mrs. Sullivan thanked Mr. Crankshaw for providing treats. Copies of the Glebe Street Community Cookbook were also presented to the Board.

V. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- Mr. Levin reported that the Audit Committee met earlier in the evening to review the internal audit. As a result, some internal procedures are being looked at with the goal of making them better. Further information will be forthcoming at a later date.
- Mr. Praught said that the Community Advisory Restructuring Committee also met earlier in the evening and continues to review options. He noted the community involvement is appreciated and things appear headed in the right direction.

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

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

VII. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

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

B. CSE/CPSE MINUTES

C. STUDENT MATTERS

1. Wrestling Team Trip to Loch Sheldrake, New York

Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the wrestling team trip to Lach Sheldrake, New York to compete in the Eastern States Wrestling Classic 2009 tournament; leaving Johnstown High School on Friday, January 9, 2009 at 5:15 a.m. and returning Saturday, January 10, 2009 at approximately 10 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Board members noted it was nice that the district was able to pair up with Amsterdam for this event to share costs; good luck was wished to the wrestlers.

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

A. Official Naming of the Johnstown High School Auditorium

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Kosowicz that, the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, name the Johnstown High School Auditorium the "Johnstown High School Performing Arts Center".

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. Appointment of Restructuring Consultant

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the appointment of Robert Munn as Restructuring Consultant to oversee the District's restructuring action plan during the 2008-09 school year, at the rate of \$50 per hour, not to exceed the sum of \$3,000.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Mr. Miller noted that Mr. Munn is doing a great job and his assistance is worth the money.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Dick Baker asked whether the district pays per child for kids who go to BOCES for VoTec and whether the rate is the same for all of the programs (yes). He pointed out that 63

Johnstown students had appeared on the latest VoTec Honor Roll, that they must really buckle down and do what they are supposed to and that they represent Johnstown well.

- Mr. Curtis advised that the Board had approached BOCES Superintendent Dr. Davis at the recent Mohawk-Sacandaga School Boards meeting and asked him to pursue a preliminary conversation with the Wheelerville School District about the possibility of consolidation.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

January 22, 2009	Facilities Committee Meeting	6:00 PM –7:000 PM
	Business Meeting	7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
February 12, 2009	Citizens Advisory Restructuring Mtg.	5:30-7:30 PM
	Extra-Curricular/Academic Committee	6:00-7:00 PM
	Business Meeting	7:30 PM Public Session Johnstown High School

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

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:51 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth, seconded by Mrs. Freeman, to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk