

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
February 12, 2009
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:29 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Robert Curtis	Susanne Fitzgerald	Russell Martin
Robert Kosowicz	Scott Miller	
James Levin	Joanne Freeman	

EXCUSED:

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth John David Praught

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk
Ralph Acquaro, 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."

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

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:30 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

IV. MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Freeman, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald, to reconvene in public session at 7:55 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on January 22, 2009.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- Mrs. Sullivan offered congratulations to E.J. Maye and the buildings & grounds crew for a perfect annual fire report and thanked them for keeping the school safe.
- Mr. Acquaro distributed a handout to Board members regarding five items to review over the next several weeks and consider adding to the ballot as propositions in May. He provided a brief summary of these items: 2009-10 general fund budget/crafting zero sum budget/no change in tax levy; acquisition of school buses by purchase or lease/repair of out of service buses/bus capital reserve; ten year re-authorization for capital reserve; and extension of lease for Crescendoe Road premises.
- Mrs. Sullivan announced that GJSD Board members will travel to Wheelerville on Monday, June 15, for the annual joint Board of Education meeting.

Federal (F): #11, 12,
Capital Bonds (H): #6,
Trust & Agency (TA): #19, 20, 21,
Expendable Trust (TE): #5,

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

C. TREASURER'S REPORT – December 2008

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

1. *Unrestricted Cash Balance*
2. *Handwritten Checks*
3. *Budget Transfer Schedule #6*
4. *Appropriation Status Report*
5. *Vendor Listing by Number (Vendor Additions)*

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

D. Emergency Contract for Pupil Transportation

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Kosowicz, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an emergency contract with Blueline Commuter on a per diem basis for transportation of one special education pupil while a competitive bidding process occurs.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

IX. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

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

a. Term Appointments of Coaching Staff

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following coaches for the 2008-2009 school year:

Jennifer O'Neil, Track Head Coach \$3,257

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

b. Fulton County Music Educators Association (FCMEA) Festival 1 Stipends

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a stipend of \$104 for the following individuals as chaperones at the FCMEA Festival 1 on February 7, 2009:

*Cynthia Fiorenza Tamara Healy Daniel Jones Patricia Zullo
Andy LaCoppola James Morton Kim Tyler*

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

c. Term Appointments of Coaching Staff

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following coaches for the 2008-2009 school year:

<i>James Rodecker, baseball assistant #3</i>	<i>\$2,114</i>
<i>John Valovic, track assistant #1</i>	<i>\$2,399</i>
<i>Scott Jeffers, track assistant #2</i>	<i>\$2,228</i>

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

B. CSE/CPSE MINUTES

1. Committee for Special Education

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on January 20, 2009; January 22, 2009; January 26, 2009; January 30, 2009; February 2, 2009; February 3, 2009:

<i>000163913</i>	<i>000900286</i>	<i>000305618</i>	<i>000104388</i>	<i>000291202</i>
<i>000140352</i>	<i>000306113</i>	<i>000144710</i>	<i>000900160</i>	<i>000176015</i>
<i>000186062</i>				

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

2. Committee for Pre-School Special Education

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on January 20, 2009:

000900447

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

C. STUDENT MATTERS

1. JHS Student Council and JHS International Club Trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey

Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the JHS Student Council and JHS International Club trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey; leaving Johnstown High School on Friday, May 22, 2009 at 7:00 a.m. and returning Sunday, May 24, 2009 at approximately 9:30 p.m.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

2. Winter Guard Trip to Dayton, Ohio

Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Winter Guard trip to Dayton, Ohio to compete in the WGI World Championships; leaving Johnstown High School on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 5:45 a.m. and returning Saturday, April 4, 2009 at approximately 11:55 p.m.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

A. Calendar of Events for Annual Election on May 19, 2009

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the calendar of events for the Annual Election to be held on May 19, 2009 as seen in **addendum #3**.*

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

B. Appointment of Board of Registration

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Emily Kralovic (R) of 213 Pleasant Avenue and Jacqueline Swatt (D) of 102 Fon Clair Street, to the Board of Registration for a one-year term as of January 22, 2009; that the Board of Registration Meeting shall be held at the high school from the hours of 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on May 5, 2009 or as otherwise needed; and that the flat rate of pay for each member shall be \$7.15 hour for a total of \$28.60 for each meeting consisting of four hours.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

C. Authorization for District Clerk to Publish Election Notices

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to authorize the District Clerk to publish Notice of Voter Registration, to prepare Registers, and to provide for public notification of the Annual Meeting and Election of the Greater Johnstown School District to be held on May 19, 2009 for the election of three members to the Board of Education to serve three year terms to begin July 1, 2009 for the offices now held by:

Susanne Fitzgerald Robert Kosowicz James Levin

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

D. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL FIRE REPORT SUMMARY

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the Annual Fire Report Summary of inspections conducted December 22, 2008 through December 29, 2008, effective February 12, 2009.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO 1 Abstain (Mr. Martin)

E. TAXES – CORRECTION OF ERRORS

Motion made by Mrs. Freeman and seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald that:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon information provided by the tax collector and recommendation of the Superintendent, correct the following taxable assessments and reduce the levy and the tax amount due and/or refund overpayment of taxes, by the appropriate amounts as indicated below:

Lisa Berry, Town of Ephratah, 158.-1-49, property incorrectly listed on St. Johnsville School District's Rolls.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$-0-	\$47,500	\$47,500
Taxes	\$-0-	\$1100.61	\$1100.61

Michael J. and Ann S. Campos, City of Johnstown, 174.7-17-25, property should have been assessed as vacant land.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$20,000	\$8,700	\$-11,300
Taxes	\$434.35	\$188.94	\$-245.41

Loretta Moore, City of Johnstown, 174.8-11-29, Senior STAR Exemption omitted.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$-0-
Taxes	\$694.95	\$0	\$-694.95

Shirley Stock, City of Johnstown, 162.12-17-8, Senior STAR Exemption omitted.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$40,200	\$40,200	\$-0-
Taxes	\$873.03	\$0	\$-873.03

Thomas Tompkins and John Mastroianni, City of Johnstown, 174.7-12-2.5, Basic STAR Exemption omitted.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$82,000	\$82,000	\$-0-
Taxes	\$1780.81	\$1297.82	\$-482.99

Nuriye Akeren, City of Johnstown, 174.12-19-3, Basic Star Exemption omitted from 2008/2009 tax rolls.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$59,460	\$59,460	\$-0-
Taxes	\$1774.30	\$1291.31	\$-482.99

Mighael Estevanovich, City of Johnstown, 174.12-5-7, Basic Star Exemption omitted from 2007/2008 tax rolls.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$-0-
Taxes	\$894.49	\$380.47	\$-514.02

Harlan A. Heroth, Harlan C. Heroth and Mary L. Heroth, Town of Ephratah, 171.-1-66, Tax Certiorari Proceeding resulting in lowered assessment.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$106,000	\$82,100	\$-23,900
Taxes	\$1919.47	\$1365.69	\$-553.78

Joanne Passero and Marguriette Buboltz, City of Johnstown, 174.12-12-13, Senior STAR Exemption omitted.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$37,100	\$37,100	\$-0-
Taxes	\$805.71	\$-0-	\$-805.71

Arthur Popp and Mary Ann Popp, Town of Ephratah, 159.-1-17, Agricultural Exemption miscalculated.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$29,913	\$24,827	\$-5,086
Taxes	\$693.11	\$575.26	\$-117.85

Russell Martin, City of Johnstown, 174.12-4-1, Basic STAR Exemption omitted (2005/2006).

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$-0-
Taxes	\$932.60	\$379.88	\$-552.72

Russell Martin, City of Johnstown, 174.12-4-1, Basic STAR Exemption omitted (2006/2007).

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$-0-
Taxes	\$935.86	\$394.93	\$-540.93

Russell Martin, City of Johnstown, 174.12-4-1, Basic STAR Exemption omitted (2007/2008).

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$-0-
Taxes	\$936.09	\$422.07	\$-514.02

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO 1 Abstain (Mr. Martin)

F. Response to Findings of State Comptroller Medicaid Reimbursement Audit Report (P5-08-19) dated September 26, 2008

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 November 3, 2008 to the Chief Examiner of the State Comptroller's Office in response to the findings contained in the Medicaid reimbursement report from the Office of the State Comptroller in its audit report (P5-08-19) dated September 26, 2008.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO 1 Abstain (Mr. Martin)

G. Memorandum of Agreement for JTA Compensated Absences Retirement Benefit

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an Agreement between the Greater Johnstown School District and the Johnstown Teachers Association dated February 2, 2009 for a retirement benefit based upon compensated absences.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Dick Baker inquired about add-ons to agenda that weren't made available to the public; specifically, the compensated absences retirement benefit. Mr. Curtis indicated they were last minute additions and re-read the full motion.
- Dick Baker asked when budget meetings will be scheduled as he sees other schools having them. Mr. Curtis advised that we are currently in a holding pattern and it is premature to go to the public, but the budget will be explained. Mr. Kosowicz added that the restructuring decision, which isn't finalized yet, will play a large role. Mr. Levin noted there had in fact been a budget workshop three or four weeks ago at which time deficits and insurance costs were discussed.
- Dick Baker asked if Mr. Acquaro thinks NYS will be making drastic cuts another year. Mr. Acquaro stated he has no secret information, but, in his opinion, some things are gone forever and never coming back, this is not a one year thing.
- Mr. Curtis noted that meetings and talks with Gloversville regarding collaborative purchases are ongoing. Bus facility discussions also continue.
- Mr. Curtis referred to a recent article in the Leader Herald on the restructuring issue which reinforced that no decision has yet been made.
- Mr. Miller indicated there have been no heated arguments in the restructuring meetings, that members are putting in lots of time and effort and bringing a lot to the table.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

February 26, 2009	Restructuring Focus Forum	7 p.m. JHS Lecture Hall
March 2, 2009	Restructuring Committee Meeting	6 p.m., JHS Café
March 5, 2009	Restructuring Committee Meeting Discussion/Business Meeting	5:30-7:30 PM 7:30 PM Public Session Warren Street Elementary
March 19, 2009	Audit Committee Meeting Business Meeting	6:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School

XIII. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 8:28 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk