

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
March 19, 2009
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

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

ABSENT:

Susanne Fitzgerald	Robert Kosowicz
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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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on March 4, 2009.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

➤ Mrs. Sullivan asked E.J. Maye, Director of Facilities and Operations and Mike Carney, HFM BOCES Health and Safety Officer, to provide a report on the condition of district buildings. Mr. Maye deferred to Mr. Carney. He indicated he has 19 years of service with BOCES and is very familiar with the district. Noted that SED developed RESCUE legislation after it determined in 1998-99 that some districts were not properly maintaining their buildings. One component includes a building condition survey, which is completed every five years (was done in 2000 & 2005; next scheduled for 2010) and includes an evaluation of each building, its systems (electrical, heating, plumbing) and structural component (roof, walls), which is completed by an independent architect paid for by the District. Architect provides rating and estimate of remaining useful years. In between the five year evaluations, a capital facility plan is developed, based on the condition survey, which addresses needs and where monies should be spent. Code enforcement inspections are also completed every year and provided to NYS in a written report. Building report cards are also developed every year. Mr. Carney indicated that all buildings in the district are in very good condition, none is better or worse than any other. Mr. Miller inquired as to how extensive the architects' inspection efforts are and what the life span is based on. Mr. Carney advised that they bring three to four engineers, who look behind tiles and piping; noted that life span is based on typical history, weathering, flaws to be corrected and remaining usefulness. Mr. Curtis inquired when the next inspection takes place (summer 2010). Mr. Miller asked if it could be done earlier. Mr. Carney indicated the state puts out a special aid package the year it is due; cost is somewhere between \$10-15 per square foot; this district has over 300,000 square feet to inspect; cost without state aid is prohibitive. Cost to district for 2005 was \$16,200 with state aid.

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

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:17 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

VI. MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Levin, to reconvene in public session at 7:45 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

- Mr. Acquaro reported that he and Mrs. Sullivan met with Peter Sciocchetti, Crossroads Incubator Corp. Vice President, to discuss an extension of the lease for the Crescendoe Road transportation facility. The Board will put a proposition before the voters in May seeking approval of a one year extension of the existing lease at the same cost. During the one year extension, the Board and the Administration will work to develop a permanent solution for bus maintenance and storage. Mrs. Sullivan advised that an appointment has been tentatively scheduled with SED for April 3 to discuss bus solutions and what the state will allow. Mr. Curtis indicated it is expected that a committee will be established to look at the options.
- Mrs. Sullivan announced that pursuant to the most recent accountability results, all of Johnstown's schools are still in good standing. Noted, however that there was an elementary participation error, with 11 special education test not being counted, as well as an omission of students off-site from JHS, so the 95% participation requirement was missed by 1%.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- Mr. Levin reported that audit committee met earlier in the evening; some excess state aid funds have been recovered; upcoming budget at this point looks as though it will result in no or low increase to taxpayers.

IX. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Termination of Robert Darling, Temporary Custodial Worker

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to terminate the employment of Robert Darling as a Temporary Custodial Worker, effective March 10, 2009.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Abolishments

4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Creation of a Teacher Aide, Special Education

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the creation of a Special Education Teacher Aide.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

- b. **Permanent Appointment of Anna Moudgil, Teacher Aide**
Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the permanent appointment of Anna Moudgil as a Teacher Aide, effective January 29, 2009.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

X. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

- a. **Resignation of Aaron Flynn, Knox Drama Club Advisor**
Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of Aaron Flynn as Knox Drama Club Advisor for the 2008-2009 school year.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

- b. **Rescind Appointment of Cynthia Fiorenza, Knox Drama Club Musical Director**
Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind the appointment of Cynthia Fiorenza as Knox Drama Club Musical Director for the 2008-2009 school year.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Abolishments

4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

B. 504/CSE/CPSE MINUTES

- 1. **504 Committee for Special Education**
Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the 504 Committee for Special Education meetings held on March 2, 2009

000900255

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

- 2. **Committee for Special Education**
Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on February 9, 10, 11, 12, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27, 2009 and March 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 2009

000153780	000192001	000144873	000900255	000175125
000116647	000305621	000296605	000124562	000286439
000122004	000295528	000286462	000305078	000122006
000296530	000296510	000285446	000104376	000113759
000126081	000283434	000900135	000116814	000305612
000283438	000285460	000115028	000291212	000296788
000285438	000293495	000293480	000102023	000296541
000295559	000296938	000113591	000900529	000306029

000274135	000306029	000293477	000900469	000900080
000116792	000115751	000900141	000306114	000305838
000305907	000106566	000126928	000126999	000113571
000103517	000115711	000126702	000115725	000101212
000116003	000126012	000294306	000124558	000900241
000112108	000920084	000305897	000125118	000900246
000125807	000294358	000306189	000306188	000900529
000900377	000101219	000305919	000900250	000305918
000113601	000122005	000106584	000296793	000113591
000285438	000140354	00135908	000175137	000140346
000140238	000116628			

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

C. STUDENT MATTERS

XI. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin that the Board of Education place the following proposition before the voters in connection with the annual budget vote for 2009-10 on May 19, 2009:

PROPOSITION - CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

SHALL the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District be authorized to (1) create a Construction Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of financing the construction of, and general improvements, reconstruction, renovations or additions to, the District's buildings, including site work and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings are to be used; (2) the ultimate amount of such fund shall be \$2,000,000; (3) transfer, effective July 1, 2009, the amount in the current Construction Capital Reserve Fund, in the amount of \$185,000; (4) annually deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund such portion of the General Fund, unallocated fund balance, Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve as determined by the Board of Education? The probable duration of the Capital Reserve Fund is ten (10) years.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin that the Board of Education place the following proposition before the voters in connection with the annual budget vote for 2009-10 on May 19, 2009:

PROPOSITION - BUS PURCHASE RESERVE FUND

SHALL the Board of Education be authorized and directed to: (1) establish a reserve fund to be known as the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund effective July 1, 2009, the purpose of which is to finance the cost of acquisition of school buses and vehicles, and (2) commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and in each of the next nine fiscal years, deposit into said Bus Purchase Reserve Fund such portion of the General Fund, unallocated fund balance and Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve as determined by the Board of Education? The ultimate amount of such Fund is \$2,000,000. The probable duration of such Fund is ten (10) years.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING**

Motion by Mrs. Buggen-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin that the Board of Education place the following proposition before the voters in connection with the annual budget vote for 2009-10 on May 19, 2009:

PROPOSITION - TRANSPORTATION FACILITY LEASE

SHALL the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District be authorized to renew its lease with respect to its transportation facilities located at Crescendoe Rd., Johnstown, New York, for a term of one (1) year commencing July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and at a rent not to exceed \$97,715.00 for such renewal term?

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING**

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Miller that the Board of Education place the following proposition before the voters in connection with the annual budget vote for 2009-10 on May 19, 2009:

PROPOSITION – EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY BUS LEASES

SHALL the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District be authorized to (1) enter into an agreement to extend the District’s current one-year emergency leases for three 66-passenger buses and one wheelchair bus for an additional four years, commencing July 1, 2009, at a maximum principal cost not to exceed \$12,000 per year for each 66-passenger bus and not to exceed \$13,000 per year for one wheelchair bus; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the tax necessary therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid received; and (4) levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

5. **Appointment of Election Inspectors**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the individuals listed to serve as election inspectors for the May 19, 2009 Board of Education Election and Budget Vote.

Johnstown High School

*Bonnie Dostal (D)
Emily Kralovic (R)
Patricia Bender (D)
Joanne Blair (R)
Jacqueline Swatt (D)
Georgianne Chatterton (R)*

Ephratah Fire House

*Hazel Prall (D)
Denise Duesler (D)
Darlene Terricola (R)*

VOTE: 7 YES 7 NO

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

- Dick Baker asked if money for the capital reserve for buses shows up in the fund balance. Mr. Acquaro indicated they are two separate things and the money can't be co-mingled.
- Mr. Curtis asked if the language for the voter propositions can be made clearer so taxpayers understand that the district is not borrowing funds, just reallocating them. Mr. Acquaro noted that wording was drafted by counsel; an 8-page explanatory budget flyer will be mailed to taxpayers. Noted that the transportation facility lease is aided by SED at 83%, so cost to district is 17%. Also, the first year of the emergency bus leases was the most expensive; will now be getting most value for money.
- Mr. Curtis thanked Mr. Maye and Mr. Carney for the building condition presentation.

- Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth requested the facilities committee meeting scheduled for April 2 and the academic/extra-curricular committee meeting scheduled for April 29 be swapped. Mr. Miller indicated that would be better for him also as he won't be present at the April 2 meeting.

XIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

March 26, 2009	Public Hearing on Educational Impact Statement & Elementary Building Closing	6:00-7:30 PM Johnstown High School
April 2, 2009	Extra-Curricular/Academic Committee Meeting Business Meeting	6:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
April 29, 2009	Facilities Committee Meeting Business Meeting	6:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School

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

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 8:00 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Freeman, to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk