

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Special Meeting
March 26, 2009
Johnstown High School

- I. Called to order by President Curtis at 6:59 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Robert Kosowicz	Russell Martin	John David Praught
Scott Miller	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Susanne Fitzgerald
James Levin	Joanne Freeman	Robert Curtis (departed 7:26 pm)

OTHERS:

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

II. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

A. **Closure of a School District Building**

WHEREAS, in November 2008 the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District established the Citizens Advisory Restructuring Committee, comprised of teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents of pupils who attend public schools in the district, other residents of the district and representatives from business, labor and/or local government, to investigate school building utilization and the educational impact of closing a building; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Advisory Restructuring Committee met on December 11, 2008, January 8, February 12, March 2, and March 4, 2009, and in addition thereto conducted a Public Forum on March 26, 2009, to consider current and projected student enrollment, the prospective need for such buildings, the ramifications of such closing on the community, initial costs and savings resulting from such closing, the possible use of such school building for other purposes, the effect of such closing on personnel needs; the costs of instruction, administration, transportation and other support services; the type, age and physical condition of such building; maintenance and energy costs, recent improvements and any special building features; and the ability of other schools in the district to accommodate pupils if such school building closes; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Advisory Restructuring Committee submitted its Educational Impact Statement to the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District on March 6, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District published a notice of proposed closing in the "Leader Herald" newspaper and the "Daily Gazette" newspaper on March 12 and March 19, 2009 and posted such notice conspicuously in the school district and circulated it to elected and state and local public officials who represent the affected communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District held a Public Hearing on March 26, 2009 to evaluate the impact of the proposed

closing on the affected district and published a notice of said hearing in both the "Leader Herald" newspaper and the "Daily Gazette" newspaper on March 12 and March 19, 2009 and posted such notice conspicuously in the school district and circulated it to elected and state and local public officials who represent the affected communities; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Impact Statement filed by the Citizens Advisory Restructuring Committee recommended that: 1) the school board should close an elementary school effective with the 2009-10 school year; 2) that the school board should redistrict the three (3) remaining schools; and 3) that the school board should close either Jansen Avenue or Warren Street Elementary Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education consider closure of the Jansen Avenue Elementary School building,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, upon motion of Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth, seconded by Mr. Kosowicz, the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District approves the closure of the Jansen Avenue Elementary School building effective with the end of the 2008-09 school year.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

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

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:26 p.m.

VOTE: 9 Yes 0 No

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth, seconded by Mrs. Freeman, to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk