

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting
April 2, 2009
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:03 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

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

EXCUSED:

Scott Miller

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. Martin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on March 19, 2009 and March 26, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mrs. Sullivan said that she had a productive meeting with the Jansen Ave. staff to review a system for teachers to be reassigned. She will be attending the Jansen Ave. PTA meeting next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. to answer questions. A letter has been sent to parents regarding the closing and the District Clerk posted an article on the school web site.
- Mrs. Sullivan advised that she and Mr. Acquaro will travel to SED tomorrow to meet with a member of their facilities planning staff to discuss the bus solution options currently under investigation by the District to see if any are possibilities.
- Mr. Acquaro announced that the Board would consider a resolution on tonight's agenda to present a 2009-10 budget of \$27,456,100 for public vote on May 19. This is \$1.6M less than the 2008-09 budget and maintains all programs and services, with some format changes. He thanked the business office staff for thoroughly researching and calculating a budget very closely tied to actual expenses, rather than an estimated budget. Noted it will still require some fund balance to finance it; referred to previous discussion regarding estimated revenues being less than estimated appropriations and the need to approach a more sustainable budget; noted there are unsustainable escalations in health insurance to be reigned in and a recurring deficit over \$200,000/year in the food service program that needs to be studied diligently. Board members thanked Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Acquaro and District Treasurer Alice Dillenbeck for their efforts; Mr. Acquaro extended thanks to District Director of Curriculum Trish Kilburn and Director of Special Ed Jenn Hall for their assistance.

- Mr. Acquaro noted that there have been some questions about the proposition for lease of buses and the proposition to establish a bus reserve appearing on the same ballot. In order not to create any misunderstandings, the suggestion is to rescind the resolution for the bus reserve and only proceed with the bus lease proposition this year. He indicated once a long-term bus solution is reached, the bus reserve proposition can be put before the voters another time. Mr. Martin disagrees with this suggestion; he feels the district is fiscally sound and the populace is smart enough to understand both propositions.

V. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- Mr. Kosowicz reported that the Extra-Curricular/Academic Committee met earlier in the evening. The JHS Winter Guard is currently competing at the World Championships in Dayton, Ohio; they are ranked 21st in the country and are wished well. Members of the baseball team traveled to Myrtle Beach recently for spring training and reportedly behaved very well. The Foothills basketball schedule is in flux for next year and under discussion. The committee reviewed the district's Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct and will be adding sanctions for bullying. The athletic department is in the process of setting up leadership and effectiveness sessions for students and coaches with John Underwood. Committee members also reviewed a preliminary draft of a cell phone policy and will make some changes before presenting it to the full Board.

VI. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Resignation of Jenna Wager, Teacher Aide (Special Education)

Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Jenna Wager as a Teacher Aide (Special Education), effective March 30, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Abolishments

4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Probationary Appointment of Tammi King, Teacher Aide (special education)

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Tammi King as a Teacher Aide (special education), 10 months/year, \$8.05/hour, effective April 3, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. Casual Employment Opportunities

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following rates for Casual Employment Opportunities effective March 27, 2009 through June 30, 2009:

<i>Ticket Takers/Sellers</i>	\$8.00/hr
<i>Game Supervisors</i>	\$8.00/hr
<i>P.E. Swim Assistant</i>	\$8.00/hr
<i>Activity Supervisors</i>	\$7.15/hr
<i>Cashiers</i>	\$10.00/hr
<i>Game/Activity Attendants</i>	\$7.15/hr
<i>Camera</i>	\$8.00/hr
<i>Public Address</i>	\$8.00/hr
<i>Scoreboard</i>	\$10.00/hr
<i>Accompanist</i>	\$25.00/event

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. WARRANTS – February 2009

Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrant for February 2009, as seen in addendum #1:

<i>General (A):</i>	#34, 36
<i>School Lunch (C):</i>	#15, 16
<i>Federal (F):</i>	#16,
<i>Expendable Trust (TE):</i>	#7,

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. TREASURER’S REPORT – February 2009

Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer’s Report for February 2009, as seen in addendum #2.

1. *Unrestricted Cash Balance*
2. *Handwritten Checks*
3. *Budget Transfer Schedule #8*
4. *Appropriation Status Report*
5. *School Lunch Program Profit & Loss Statement*
6. *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

a. Payment of Music Festival Stipends

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the payment of

\$104.00 to the following individuals as FMCEA Music Festival 2 chaperones on March 6 and March 7, 2009, per JTA Agreement:

Kim Tyler Cynthia Fiorenza Daniel Jones
Andrew LaCoppola James Morton

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. CSE/CPSE MINUTES

C. STUDENT MATTERS

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

A. Amended Employment Agreement for Todd Walker, Computer Services Specialist

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an amended employment agreement for Todd Walker, Computer Services Specialist, for the period March 9, 2009 to June 30, 2009, and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute said agreement.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. Budget Proposition

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the proposed budget of expenditures of the Greater Johnstown School District for the school year 2009/10 in the amount of \$27,456,100, and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditure, adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by law.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. Rescission of Proposition – Bus Purchase Reserve

*(Board Member) Mrs. Freeman moves that the following resolution, unanimously adopted on March 19, 2009, **be rescinded effective April 2, 2009**, Seconded by (Board Member) Mr. Levin:*

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 1 NO (Mr. Martin)

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Dick Baker said thank you to everybody for addressing the situation with closing a school and tackling the situation with the bus garage; these items have been floating around for 8-10 years. Said he didn't realize the food service deficit was so high; noted that enrollment has

gone down, but food service staffing has increased and employment is the biggest expense, especially for part-time positions 180 days per year that get insurance and ERS. Indicated same concerns with bus drivers. Said he doesn't want to seem uncaring, these may all be nice people, but times are tough and maybe it is time to contract out.

- Mrs. Sullivan advised that most of the food service staff is part-time, without benefits.
- Mike Beatty said he has spoken with other people in the area and there are issues when busing is contracted out. He commended Johnstown's drivers; said district employees care about district children and are familiar with district routes. He is opposed to contracting out busing.
- Mr. Acquaro noted the discussion was premature and people were getting ahead of themselves; items need to be brought up in negotiations with bargaining units. Mr. Curtis noted these were just some options out of many that need to be researched.
- Mrs. Freeman said she wanted to publicly register her displeasure with the Leader Herald as there was a lot more to what she said at the March 26 meeting during the vote to close Jansen other than "it is only a building" and that anyone present knew she was not unsympathetic.
- Mr. Levin offered a thank you to Mr. Beatty and the guidance counselors at JHS for providing an excellent introduction for eighth graders at the parent's night on March 30.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

April 29, 2009	Special Meeting (BOCES Budget Vote) Board Candidate Petition Filing Deadline	4:30 PM Conference Room 5:00 PM District Clerk's Office
April 30, 2009	Facilities Committee Meeting Business Meeting	6:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
May 7, 2009	BOE Members visit School Museum Extra-Curricular/Academic Committee Meeting Discussion/Business Meeting	5:00 PM 6:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Knox Library

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

Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Praught to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:34 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Praught, to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk