

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Business Meeting**  
**June 10, 2009**  
**Johnstown High School**

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Robert Kosowicz	Scott Miller	Joanne Freeman
Robert Curtis	Susanne Fitzgerald	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth
James Levin (arrived 5:19 pm)	Russell Martin (arrived 6:35 pm)	John David Praught (arrived 6:36 pm)

OTHERS:

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

II. **SUPERINTENDENT'S/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

➤ **Recognition of Retiring Personnel (K. Sullivan)**

Teachers

Ronald Beck, Social Studies, JHS (2009)  
Lisa Buggeln, Kindergarten, Warren St. (2009)  
Stephen DiMarco, Third Grade, Jansen Ave. (2008)  
James Donovan, Science, JHS (2009)  
Maria Greco, Spanish, JHS (2009)  
Kathryn Hesslink, Elementary School Counselor (2008)  
Peter Raneri, Mathematics, Knox (2008)  
Roger Rhodes, Sixth Grade, Jansen (2009)  
David Rockwell, Science, JHS (2009)  
Mary Ann Simek, Fourth Grade, Pleasant Ave. (2009)  
Jane Sitterly, Special Education, Pleasant Ave. (2009)  
Thomas Skoda, English, JHS (2009)  
Lynn Smero, Fifth Grade, Glebe St. (2009)  
Amy Sponenberg, Second Grade, Glebe St. (2009)  
Kathryn Zajicek, Art, JHS, (2009)  
Patricia Zullo, Music, Jansen & Pleasant (2009)

Classified Staff

Lewis Lombardoni, Groundskeeper (2009)  
Michael Morley, Building Maintenance Mechanic (2008)  
Peggy Pitcher, Teacher Aide, Warren St. (2009)  
Michele Smith, Head Cook (2009)  
Helen Tagliatela, Food Service Helper (2009)

Board of Education

Susanne Fitzgerald, 2006-2009  
Robert Kosowicz, 2006-2009

➤ **Scholar Athlete Awards (M. Satterlee)**

FALL 2008-2009

FIELD HOCKEY, Coach: Quinn Swartwout

Alyssa Brand

Gretchen Derwin

Adele Friello

Awarded Pin:

Abigail Heroth



students. Notes he has the ability to maintain the same high standards set by Mr. Crankshaw and that the music numbers have grown significantly in the last two years. Reports 15 lessons taught each week; can't be done during large group instruction. Believes reducing position by 50% will result in cutting programming. Enumerated additional tasks he performs: student recommendation letters, student achievement meetings, helping students prepare for outside endeavors (summer music programs, piano recitals, composing/lyricizing Spanish oral exam). Indicated that, with no teacher in the room, these things can't happen. Asks that the Board keep someone in the position full time, even if it isn't him.

- Dick Baker inquired as to the pay rate for the summer classified positions being created on the agenda; does not think they are contractual positions.

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

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mrs. Freeman to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 8:08 p.m.*

VOTE:            8 Yes            1 No (Mr. Praught)

**IX. MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

*Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Freeman, to reconvene in public session at 8:40 p.m.*

VOTE:            9 Yes            0 No

**X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- President Curtis asked each board member to provide their opinion on redistricting:
  - Mr. Kosowicz – favors redrawing the lines rather than moving Jansen en-mass
  - Mr. Praught – agrees with Mr. Kosowicz's suggestion
  - Mr. Miller – favors redrawing the lines, but looking at the Princeton Plan long term
  - Mrs. Freeman – favors redrawing the lines, but looking at the Princeton Plan long term
  - Mr. Levin - favors redrawing the lines, but looking at the Princeton Plan long term
  - Mr. Curtis – prefers moving Jansen to Warren, but will choose redrawing lines
  - Mrs. Fitzgerald – favors redrawing lines, with kids in city attending school closest to them
  - Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth – favors redrawing lines with study of Princeton Plan
  - Mr. Martin- favors redrawing lines
- President Curtis referred to ongoing problems at the Knox Field complex; suggests a procedure similar to Morris Sports Complex in Glens Falls where lady on a golf car rides around and advises visitors to abide by rules or police are called. Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Curtis will look into this and report back to the full Board.
- Mr. Miller indicated that, while he knows charging lunch toward the end of the year is a problem, nobody should go hungry and asks that students without funds be offered a sandwich or something.

**XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on May 21, 2009.*

VOTE:            9 YES            0 NO

**XII. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

- Mr. Miller noted the Facilities Committee meeting had been conducted in a workshop format earlier in the evening, with the full Board in attendance, therefore no report was given.

**XIII. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. PERSONNEL**

**1. Separations**

**a. Termination of Clarence Foss, Computer Lab Assistant**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the termination of Clarence Foss, Computer Lab Assistant, effective July 10, 2009.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**b. Termination of Ellen Freeny, Food Service Helper**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the termination of Ellen Freeny, effective June 30, 2009.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Abolishments**

**a. Abolishment of Computer Lab Assistant Position**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the abolishment of a Computer Lab Assistant position effective July 10, 2009.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**b. Abolishment of Food Service Helper Position**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the abolishment of a Food Service Helper position effective June 30, 2009.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

**a. Creation of Classified Summer Positions**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the creation of the following positions:*

*2 Automotive Mechanic Helpers 6/29/09 to 9/4/09*

*3 School Bus Drivers 7/1/09 to 9/4/09*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**b. Temporary Appointment of Tammy VanAvery, Cook**

*Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the temporary appointment of Tammy VanAvery as Cook, \$11.14/hour, effective July 13, 2009 to August 7, 2009.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO





Three (3) Elementary Teachers  
One (1) English Teacher  
One (1) Music Teacher  
Four (4) Teacher Assistants

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**4.    Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

**a.    Teaching Position Reductions to Part-Time**

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reduce the following teaching positions to part-time, effective July 1, 2009.*

*One (1) Family and Consumer Science Teacher (.5 FTE)  
One (1) Health Teacher (.5 FTE)  
One (1) Music Teacher (.5 FTE)  
One (1) Science Teacher (.5 FTE)*

VOTE:              8   YES                              1   NO (Mr. Levin)

Discussion:    Mrs. Freeman noted the reductions are to be made based on seniority and are not a personal reflection on anyone. Mr. Levin feels there will be a lot of turnover in the positions at half-time.

**b.    Appointment of James Westman, Teacher on Special Assignment for Instructional Technology**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of James Westman, as teacher on special assignment for instructional technology, beginning July 1, 2009. Mr. Westman will remain in the elementary education tenure area and will continue to accrue seniority in that area.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**c.    Probationary Appointment of Anne Bagot, Social Studies Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Anne Bagot, as social studies teacher, in the social studies tenure area, effective September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010, at Step C2 (\$39,699) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association collective bargaining agreement.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**d.    Probationary Appointment of Ellen Roehl, Elementary Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Ellen Roehl, as elementary teacher, in the elementary tenure area, effective September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010, at Step A4 (\$38,581) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association collective bargaining agreement.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO



**i. Summer Temporary Recreation Appointments**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the summer appointments of the following individuals as temporary recreation supervisors at \$8.00 per hour and lifeguards at \$9.00 per hour, for the 2009-2010 school year:*

<i>Scott Hale</i>	<i>Denise Benton</i>	<i>Fred Guzielek</i>
<i>Brittnee Dick</i>	<i>Matthew Guzielek</i>	<i>Andrew Jablonski</i>
<i>Sarah Hafter</i>	<i>Britney Schleiser</i>	<i>John St. Peter</i>
<i>Eric Laugen</i>	<i>Michael Bruce</i>	<i>Kevin Hunt</i>
<i>George Werle</i>	<i>Steven Gifford</i>	<i>Jennifer O'Neil</i>
<i>Jon Jennings</i>	<i>Sarah Jones</i>	<i>Michael Hill</i>
<i>Christine Krempa</i>	<i>Robert Kraemer</i>	<i>Jon Swartwout</i>
<i>Tim Derwin</i>	<i>Rebecca Kosowicz</i>	

*Lifeguards: Michael Gifford John Roth Phil Satterlee*

*VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO*

**j. Tenure Appointment of Anne Christiano, Principal**

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, pursuant to Education Law and the provision of Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, that Anne Christiano, probationary principal in the principal tenure area, having been appointed to such position on July 1, 2005, be appointed to tenure to the position of principal in the Greater Johnstown School District. Be it shown that Anne Christiano holds a valid NYS permanent certificate to serve in the aforesaid tenure area. Be it further shown that the probationary period of Anne Christiano will expire on June 30, 2009.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

<i>Mr. Curtis</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Levin</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Kosowicz</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Martin</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Praught</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mrs. Fitzgerald</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Freeman</i>	<i>No</i>		

**Motion Fails**

*VOTE: 4 YES 5 NO*

**B. CSE/CPSE MINUTES**

**1. 504 Committee for Special Education**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the 504 Committee for Special Education meetings held on June 2, 2009*

*000133701*

*VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO*

**2. Committee for Pre-School Special Education**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on May 18, 20 & 22, 2009:*

000140184	000140249	000140338	000140319	000140229
000140316	000140340	000140336	000140183	000900384
000140325	000140208	000140321	000900446	000900393
000900447	000140320	000900387	000140358	000140355

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**3.     Committee for Special Education**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on May 14, 18, 20, 22, 27, 28 & 29, 2009 and June 2, 3, 4,*

000306163	000173128	000140336	000900384	000140208
000900446	000900393	000900447	000900387	000125819
000140135	000274135	000990007	000140209	000900135
000165099	000140348	000140346	000133701	000140184
000140249	000900575	000900274	000140238	000185189
000185214	000140215	000305952	000140105	000900182
000140121	000305935	000900280	000306070	000900275
000306149	000900320	000186050	000173910	000900459
000186148	000900324	000156924	000196105	000140024
000143911	000155978			

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**C.     STUDENT MATTERS**

**XV.   BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

**1.     Organizational Meeting**

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education be held on Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Johnstown High School.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**2.     Appointment of Election Inspectors**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the individuals listed to serve as election inspectors for the July 16, 2009 Special Meeting Vote.*

**Johnstown High School**

*Suzanne Whitcavitch (D)  
Emily Kralovic (R)  
TBD (D)  
Joanne Blair (R)  
Jacqueline Swatt (D)  
Georgianne Chatterton (R)*

**Ephratah Fire House**

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

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**3. Adoption of Textbook**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt the textbook Earth Science: Geology, The Environment and The Universe, published by Glencoe (McGraw-Hill) Publishers, for use at Johnstown High School, beginning in September 2009.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

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

- Robin Kane asked what the board is planning to do after losing three elementary principals tonight and previously losing David Carr at Knox; what is the plan to fill the positions? Mr. Curtis noted the same committee/stake holder structure as followed in the past will be used again.
- Angie Clizbe asked what will be done to keep good administration, says there is no stability or consistency with the principals. Mr. Curtis indicated the principal's major role is with the teachers, as the leader of the building; said it is a mobile society and people move on.
- Dick Baker thinks a majority of the principals leave for more money someplace else and that they would stay here but for the monetary issue. Said while everyone wants to keep taxes down, money has to be spent to keep people. Mr. Curtis replied we can't give out \$20,000 raises to keep people; have to work within the means that we have and not spend money lavishly. Mr. Kosowicz added that we get strong candidates and that when they excel and are ambitious we can't constrain that; can't predict the future.

**XVII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

June 15, 2009	Joint Meeting with Wheelerville Board of Ed	6:30 PM. @ Wheelerville
July 2, 2009	Annual Organizational Meeting	6:00 PM, JHS

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

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mrs. Freeman to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 9:09 p.m.*

VOTE:              8   YES                              1   NO (Mr. Praught)

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Levin to adjourn at 9:53 p.m.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,  
District Clerk