

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Business Meeting**  
**August 13, 2009**  
**Johnstown High School**

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 6:05 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Ronald Beck	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Joanne Freeman
Evamarie Mraz	James Levin	Robert Curtis
Russell Martin (arrived 7:12 p.m.)		

ABSENT:

John David Praught      Scott Miller

OTHERS:

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

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

*Motion by Mrs. Mraz seconded by Mr. Beck to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 6:06 p.m.*

VOTE:              7   YES                        0   NO

III. **RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION**

*Motion by Mrs. Mraz, seconded by Mr. Beck, to reconvene in public session at 7:12 p.m.*

VOTE:              7   Yes                        0   No

IV. **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."*

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on July 23, 2009.*

VOTE:              7   YES                        0   NO

VI. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

- Mrs. Sullivan advised that Mrs. Kilburn will present report card results at the next meeting, at which time she will also discuss some exciting initiatives and new programs.
- Mrs. Sullivan offered a thank you to the custodial staff for performing flawlessly during the regional summer school. She noted that, even with four times the normal number of students on hand for the summer, the school was well kept.
- Mrs. Sullivan reported she was approached by west coast businessman Carl Shultz, a former local resident, regarding the possibility of working with state agencies to set the ground work for the generation of solar power for 20 – 30% of the needs at JHS, and possibly some of the other buildings, except for Knox due to tree cover. More details will follow.

**VII. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. PERSONNEL**

**1. Separations**

**a. Resignation of Alice Dilleneck, School District Treasurer & Chief Accounting Officer**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the resignation of Alice Dilleneck as School District Treasurer & Chief Accounting Officer, for purposes of accepting the School Business Manager position, effective December 31, 2009.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Abolishments**

**4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

**a. Creation of Summer School Bus Driver**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to approve the creation of Summer School Bus Driver, effective July 21, 2009 to August 11, 2009.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**b. Probationary Appointment of Kathleen Salls, Licensed Practical Nurse**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to approve the probationary appointment of Kathleen Salls as a Licensed Practical Nurse, \$13.26 per hour, 10 months per year, effective September 3, 2009.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**c. Term Appointment of Melissa Baker, School District Treasurer & Chief Accounting Officer**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the term appointment of Melissa Baker as the School District Treasurer of the Greater Johnstown School District at a salary of \$40,000 (pro-rated) effective January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010, and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute an employment agreement with such terms as agreed upon by the Board of Education.*

*AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby directs that Melissa Baker, shall, upon under taking the duties of School District Treasurer and Chief Accounting Officer, and within 10 days after notice in writing of her appointment is duly served upon her, execute and deliver to the Board of Education, by filing with the School District Clerk, an insurance bond known in the law as an official undertaking conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of her office in the amount of at least \$3,000,000. This shall be at the district's expense.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**Administration of Oath of Office**

*Administration of Oath of Faithful Performance in Office in accordance with Public Officer's Laws 10 and 30 and NYS Constitution Act XIII-1.*

**d.    Temporary Appointment of M. Roberta Healy, School Bus Driver**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to approve the temporary appointment of M. Roberta Healy as a School Bus Driver, effective July 21, 2009 to August 11, 2009, \$14.77 per hour.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**e.    Probationary Appointment of Lynne Kortz, Teacher Aide (Special Education)**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to approve the probationary appointment of Lynne Kortz as a Teacher Aide (Special Education), 10 months/year, \$8.05 per hour, effective September 9, 2009.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**f.    Substitute Classified Appointments**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to approve the following substitute appointments, pay per the 2009/10 classified substitute pay schedule, effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010:*

School Bus Drivers

Andrew Walters	Kimberly Smith	Kelly Morrison
Shirley Lang	Allan MacVean	Gary Green
Brian Crankshaw	Rodney Chamberlain	

Food Service Helpers

Carol Russo	Ellen Freeny	Barbara Dutcher
Mary Barter	Michael Sagan	Audrey Rulison
Pruthenzia Neri	Charlotte Hayes	

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**B.    COOPERATIVE CANNED FOOD BID #10-01**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Canned Food Bid #10-01 to various vendors, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidders, as seen in addendum #1.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**C.    COOPERATIVE SNACK FOOD & FRUIT DRINK BID #10-02**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Snack Food & Fruit Drink Bid #10-02 to various vendors, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidders, as seen in addendum #2.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**D.    MILK BID #10-04**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Milk Bid #10-04 to Skiff's Dairy, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidder, as seen in addendum #3.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**E.    COOPERATIVE MEAT BID #10-07**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Meat Bid #10-07 to various vendors, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidders, as seen in addendum #4.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**F.    Approval of Inter-Municipal Agreement for Internal Audit Services**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement for Internal Audit Services with Questar III BOCES for the 2009/10 school year, pursuant to the agreement dated July 1, 2009.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**G.    Edgewater Consulting, LLC Contract**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to enter into a contract with Edgewater Consulting LLC for special education training and staff support for the 2009/10 school year.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**H.    SCHOOL BUS LEASE 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR**

*Board Member Mr. Levin presents the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Board Member Mrs. Mraz:*

*WHEREAS, the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education is responsible for providing bus transportation for students during each school year, and*

*WHEREAS, the voters of the Greater Johnstown School District approved by a vote of 176 to 53 on July 16, 2009, the lease of three (3) sixty six passenger buses and one (1) bus equipped with wheel chair equipment, and*

*WHEREAS, the Greater Johnstown School District advertised for a four year lease agreement for the subject buses, and*

*WHEREAS, lease proposals were opened on Thursday, August 6, 2009 and read aloud, and*

*WHEREAS, the Superintendent, and Interim Business Administrator reviewed, and recommend, the terms and conditions of the subject lease agreement,*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education hereby authorizes contracting the lease agreement, according to the terms and conditions with Leonard Bus Sales, 4 Leonard Way, Deposit, NY 13754, as seen in addendum #5, and further authorizes the Superintendent, or designee, to sign the required documents, and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Johnstown School District authorizes the Superintendent to accept the financial arrangement with Sovereign Leasing, LLC, 3 Huntington Quadrangle, Suite 101N, Melville, NY 11747.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the required state aid forms be filed with the State Education Department.

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**I. Bus Lease Bid #10-08**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Bus Lease Bid #10-08 to Leonard Bus Sales, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidder, at a cost of \$46,875 per year for four years.

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**J. TAX RATES**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the levy of taxes for the 2009/10 school year in the amount of \$6,990,887 and approve the individual tax rates as follows:

City of Johnstown	\$21.11095	Town of Johnstown	\$20.24338
Town of Ephratah	\$20.15228	Town of Palatine	\$26.66968
City of Gloversville	\$14.77767		

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**K. Proposal for Reconstruction of Telephone System at Knox Junior High**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the contract for reconstruction of the Knox Junior High School telephone system to Communications Solutions, Inc. 101 Progress Road, Gloversville, New York 12078, in an amount not to exceed \$13,028.

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**VIII. EDUCATION ITEMS**

**A. PERSONNEL**

**1. Separations**

**a. Resignation of Tracy Ringer, Teacher Assistant**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of Tracy Ringer, Teacher Assistant, effective July 24, 2009.

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Abolishments**

**4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

**a. Creation of Transition Coordinator Position**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the creation of a transition coordinator position, contingent upon receipt of funding through IDEA American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**b. Term Appointment of Jeffrey Blacha, Transition Coordinator**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointment of Jeffrey Blacha, as transition coordinator, at \$37,434, effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2011, contingent upon receipt of two-year funding through IDEA American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**c. Probationary Appointment of Jeffrey Vivenzio, Elementary Principal**

*Motion by Mr. Beck seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Jeffrey Vivenzio, as elementary principal, in the elementary principal tenure area, at \$68,000 (prorated) pursuant to the Johnstown Administrators' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective August 12, 2009 through August 11, 2012.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**d. Probationary Appointment of R. Scott Ziomek, Elementary Principal**

*Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of R. Scott Ziomek, as elementary principal, in the elementary principal tenure area, at \$60,918 (prorated) pursuant to the Johnstown Administrators' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective August 11, 2009 through August 10, 2012.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**e. Probationary Appointment of Jessica Elliott, School Counselor**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Jessica Elliott, as school counselor, in the school counselor tenure area, at Step C1 (\$39,570) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**f. Probationary Appointment of Christina Palmiotto, School Counselor**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Christina Palmiotto, as school counselor, in the school counselor tenure area, at Step C1 (\$39,570) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, plus \$288 for graduate credits (9 credits @ \$32.00 per credit) effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**g. Term Appointment of Heidi Bolebruch, Biology Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointment of Heidi Bolebruch, as biology teacher (part time), in the biology tenure area, at Step C7 (\$42,140 prorated) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, pending fingerprint clearance.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**h. Appointment of Debra Schienberg, Extended Leave Substitute School Counselor**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointment of Debra Schienberg, as extended leave substitute school counselor, at Step A1 (\$37,434 prorated) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective approx. September 28, 2009 through June 30, 2010.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**i. Term Appointments of Co-Curricular Staff**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following individuals as co-curricular advisors for the 2009-2010 school year:*

<i>Senior Class Advisor, Louise Carville</i>	<i>\$1,713</i>
<i>Junior Class Advisor, Joan Capobianco</i>	<i>\$1,428</i>
<i>JHS Newspaper Director, Katie Catucci</i>	<i>\$1,713</i>
<i>JHS Student Council Assistant, Jeffrey Kolakowski</i>	<i>\$1,713</i>
<i>JHS Yearbook Advisor, Kathleen Smith</i>	<i>\$3,428</i>
<i>Post Prom Coordinator, Tracy Diviyak</i>	<i>\$1,143</i>
<i>JHS Key Club Advisor, Ruthie Cook</i>	<i>\$1,143</i>

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**j. Correction to Probationary Appointment of James Robare, as Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health & Recreation**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the corrected probationary appointment of James Robare, as*

Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health & Recreation,  
in the Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health &  
Recreation tenure area, at \$68,000 (prorated) pursuant to the  
Johnstown Administrators' Association Collective Bargaining  
Agreement, effective August 3, 2009 through August 2, 2012.

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**k.    Probationary Appointment of Jennifer VonderHeide, Social  
Studies Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Beck to accept the  
recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the  
probationary appointment of Jennifer VonderHeide, as a social  
studies teacher, in the social studies tenure area, at Step C2  
(\$39,699) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective  
Bargaining Agreement, effective September 1, 2009 through  
August 31, 2012.*

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**B.    APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CSE, CPSE**

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

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of  
the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on July  
14 and 29, 2009.*

000900363      000900382      000140351      000140344      000140364  
000140356      000140341

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**2.    Committee for Special Education**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of  
the Committee for Special Education meetings held on July 1, 10, 17, 30,  
31, 2009.*

000173128      000400054      000116647      000900403      000140334  
000930048      000900559      000900569      000140011      000900631  
000140370      000140105      000195285      000900363      000165070  
000306110      000166898

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

**C.    STUDENT MATTERS**

**IX.   BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

**1.    First Reading of Revised Policy #7412 – Academic Eligibility**

**2.    Waiver of Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policy #7412**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of  
the Superintendent, to waive the second reading of the following revised policy  
and adopt the same effective August 13, 2009.*

#7412 – Academic Eligibility

VOTE:            7 YES            0 NO

3. **Memorandum of Agreement for Johnstown Administrators Association**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Greater Johnstown School District and the Johnstown Administrators Association effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011.*

VOTE:            6 YES                            1 NO (Mr. Beck)

Discussion:     Mr. Beck feels the principal's salaries are too low, especially on the elementary level, and that it creates a revolving door.

4. **Adoption of Textbook**

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt the textbook Physical Science – Concepts in Action, published by Prentice Hall for use at Knox Jr. High School, beginning in September, 2009.*

VOTE:            7 YES                            0 NO

5. **Acceptance of Internal Audit and Recommendations of Independent Auditing Firm regarding Extra-Classroom Activity Fund**

*(Board Member) Mr. Levin presented the following resolution and moved its adoption, Seconded by (Board Member) Mr. Martin:*

*WHEREAS, the report of the District's Internal Auditor which reviewed the Extra-classroom Activity Fund cited areas of weakness; and*

*WHEREAS, further inquiry was suggested at a level of expertise beyond that of the Internal Auditor; and*

*WHEREAS, the Greater Johnstown School District's independent auditing firm possesses the level of expertise required; and*

*WHEREAS, the District's independent auditing firm has conducted an inquiry, reported on its findings in writing to the Superintendent of Schools and has made recommendations based upon their inquiry,*

*NOW, THEREFORE IT IS*

*RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the report of the Internal Auditor; and it is further*

*RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education directs implementation of the recommendations suggested by the independent auditing firm in its written report to the Superintendent of Schools.*

VOTE:            7 YES                            0 NO

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

- Mr. Curtis reiterated that public comment on specific personnel is not permitted and that anyone doing so would be cut off. Noted he and the superintendent met today with some of the individuals involved and hope to have a resolution Monday or Tuesday to put all fall activities in place.
- Christine VanValkenburgh presented a petition with what she stated were nearly 1,000 signatures collected by the marching band, winter guard and jazz band. Said they are passionate about their programs and want to keep the same person as director; they would love a happy ending for the students and community.

- Christopher Clizbe made allegations of an ethical dilemma involving Leader Herald blogs and the child of a board member. President Curtis ruled him out of order, noting anyone could pretend to be anyone on a blog.
- Peter Cutler inquired how information should be provided to the Board if it won't accept public comments. He was advised to submit a letter.
- Rodney Oathout said that if the Board has the students' interests at heart, he thinks the students spoke loud and clear about what their interests are on Main Street the other night.
- Doug Dougherty said while he is glad the Board is working on a solution, he thinks it should have been done beforehand so the students weren't hurt. Inquired about the bus garage and the status of the Irving Street building; hopes the district will think about the residents on any street where it will be located and protect them from fumes, put up a sound barrier. Was advised that the Facilities Committee will meet on September 17 to further discuss the bus garage and the Irving Street premises must be held onto until a plan is in place.
- Penny Brink wants to show that there isn't an adversarial relationship between one team and another; calls the kids impressive and says they are carrying on the ideals of an instructor they love.

**XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

September 3, 2009	Academic/Extra Curricular Meeting	6:00 PM
	Discussion/Business Meeting	7:00 PM JHS
September 17, 2009	Facilities Meeting	6:00 PM
	Business Meeting	7:00 PM JHS

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

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:44 p.m.*

VOTE:              7   YES                      0   NO

**XIII. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION**

*Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth, to reconvene in public session at 8:12 p.m.*

VOTE:              7   Yes                      0   No

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.*

VOTE:              7   YES                      0   NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk