

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting
November 5, 2009
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:02 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Ronald Beck	Robert Curtis
Joanne Freeman	Evamarie Mraz	James Levin
Scott Miller	Russell Martin	

ABSENT:

John David Praught

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent
Ralph Aquaro, Interim Business Official

Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk

II. **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON, POSSIBLE LITIGATION AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person, possible litigation and collective negotiations at 7:05 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

III. **MOTION TO RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Levin, seconded by Mr. Miller, to reconvene in public session at 8:05 p.m.

VOTE: 8 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. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on October 13, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

VI. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

- President Curtis noted two tragedies had occurred in the past few days and that the District's thoughts were with the families. He asked for a moment of silence in recognition of 2009 graduate Joseph W. Page III and 2006 graduate Ryan M. Goes.
- Mrs. Sullivan offered congratulations to the following students, who will perform in the Area All State Music Festival at Saratoga Springs High School on November 20 & 21: Chorus – Katie VanDenburgh, soprano; Josh Muzzi, tenor; and Alex Kuban, tenor. Band – Alex Simon, baritone saxophone; Travis Miller, bassoon; Sakura Isei, trombone; and Chris Bell, contrabass clarinet. Orchestra – Ran Isei, French horn.

VII. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth gave a report on the Academic/Extra-Curricular meeting which took place prior to the Board of Ed meeting. She said the committee discussed weighted grades for AP courses and reviewed information compiled by Mr. Beck. Principal Beatty will discuss the idea with the department heads and JHS faculty and report back on whether they wish to pursue the idea. She indicated the committee also heard a report from Athletic Director Jim Robare, who advised that girl's field hockey, boy's soccer, the swim team and girl's volleyball are all competing in sectionals. Noted a total of 345 students participated in fall sports and that approximately 288 are signed up for winter. Reported that Mr. Robare asked the committee to approach the Board with a request to re-examine the moratorium on Sunday practices. Mrs. Bosworth relayed a request to allow varsity teams to practice up to one hour and twenty minutes on a Sunday for muscle memory purposes when they have a Monday game. Such practices would be non-mandatory and there would be no drills. It was also requested that the Board consider allowing the boys soccer team to practice on Sunday, November 8, for their sectionals game on Monday, November 9. Regarding a one-time waiver for boys soccer, the following motion was presented:

A. One-Time Waiver Regarding Prohibition of Sunday Practice

Motion by President Curtis seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a one-time waiver of any policy, rule or regulation previously adopted by the Greater Johnstown School District prohibiting athletic or extra-curricular practice on a Sunday, for the specific purpose of permitting the boys' varsity soccer team to practice for no more than one hour and twenty minutes on Sunday, November 8, 2009, in preparation for a sectionals game on Monday, November 9, 2009.

VOTE: 7 YES 1 NO (Martin)

- Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth advised that the academic/extra-curricular committee will be overseeing the formation of an ad hoc committee to study long range goals, driven by budget and enrollment, and to establish benchmarks. President Curtis asked that Board members interested in participating e-mail Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth.

VIII. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Resignation of Marion Duesler, Food Service Helper

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the resignation of Marion Duesler, Food Service Helper, effective October 21, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Creation of Cook Manager Position

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the creation of a Cook Manager position, effective November 6, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IX. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Resignation of Peter Cutler, Marching Band Assistant Director

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Peter Cutler, as Marching Band Assistant Director, effective October 19, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Term Appointments of Co-Curricular Staff

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin 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>Jonathan Valovic, Freshman Class Advisor</i>	<i>\$ 857</i>
<i>Heather Buskirk, JHS Green Club Advisor</i>	<i>Unpaid</i>
<i>David Ayers, Jr., Winter Guard Assistant Director, Pending fingerprint clearance</i>	<i>\$1,713</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. Appointment of Jenna Poling, Extended Leave Substitute Music Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Mraz seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Jenna Poling, as a part-time (.5FTE) extended leave substitute music teacher, at StepA1 (\$37,434), prorated, effective November 2, 2009 through June 30, 2010, pursuant to the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO 1 ABSTAIN (Freeman)

c. Term Appointments of Co-Curricular Staff

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mrs. Freeman 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>Christina Palmiotto, Freshman Class Advisor</i>	<i>\$ 857, pro-rated</i>
<i>Cynthia Fiorenza, Knox Select Choir Director</i>	<i>\$1,428, pro-rated</i>
<i>Amanda Landsberg, Knox Yearbook Advisor</i>	<i>\$1,428, pro-rated</i>
<i>Andrew LaCoppola, Knox Jazz Band Director</i>	<i>\$ 857, pro-rated</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

d. Term Appointments of Coaching Staff

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following coaches for the 2009--2010 school year:

Scott Chamberlain, boys' basketball assistant #4 \$2,285

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

e. Creation of Alpine Ski Advisor

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Beck to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the creation of a casual employment opportunities supervisor position to assist at alpine ski races for the 2009-10 school year, at \$8/hour.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Motion Tabled

f. Appointments of Winter Guard Volunteers

*Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Miller to **TABLE** the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointments of the following individuals as winter guard unpaid volunteers for the 2009-2010 school year:*

<i>Cindy Burness</i>	<i>Taylor LaCasse</i>	<i>Desiree Kane</i>
<i>Sara Randolph</i>	<i>Calia Heroth</i>	<i>Robin Kane</i>
<i>Mike VanValkenburgh</i>	<i>Joe Fariello</i>	<i>Penny Brink</i>
<i>Patty O'Brien</i>	<i>Michelle Ponte</i>	<i>Rich O'Brien</i>
<i>Michelle Bogusz</i>	<i>Dennis Randolph</i>	<i>Rebel Glover</i>
<i>Francine Hemstreet</i>	<i>Colleen Miller</i>	<i>Mike Miller</i>
<i>Denise Hulsaver</i>	<i>Cynthia Jackson</i>	<i>Crystal Frye</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

g. Appointments of Edward Hennessey and Rick Subel as Winter Guard Consultants

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to authorize Edward Hennessey and Rick Subel as winter guard consultants (pending fingerprint clearance), to work under the direct supervision of the winter guard director and assistant director during the 2009-2010 school year.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –CPSE, CSE

1. Committee for Pre-school Special Education

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on October 15 and 27, 2009:

000900690 000140385 000900515 000140386

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Committee for Special Education

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on October 14, 16, 21, 26, 27, 2009:

000305999	000193001	000305967	000183935	000136764
000126702	000136777	000126999	000274135	000305838
000990007	000140209	000195284	000900171	000900459
000146861	000143911	000134662	000140377	000195286
00900580				

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

- Mrs. Mraz stated she had been a member of the GJSD museum board since 2002. Provided a hand-out with museum information. Noted the museum is looking for assistance to help catalog the large inventory of memorabilia and would appreciate help from students.
- Mr. Levin asked what is happening with the Jansen Avenue building. Mr. Acquaro reported Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been out for about a week.

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Allan Kretser spoke regarding punishment meted out by the athletic department regarding an incident at a football game. Doesn't believe students are punished equally and feels some students receive preferential treatment. Asked that when students do something wrong, the punishment be fair to all.
- Dick Baker said when the Heiger Memorial Pool was added to JHS about 35 years ago, it was with the provision that it be made available to the public. Asked when it is available. President Curtis noted it is open all summer and during family fun nights. Mr. Baker recalled that years ago it used to be open a couple of nights during the week. Mrs. Sullivan noted there is a problem getting appropriate supervision; there used to be state funds available to pay for lifeguards.
- Jeff Krempe advised that he is the Johnstown ski coach. Inquired about the status of a potential merger with Gloversville's ski program and how many kids would be involved. Mrs. Sullivan advised two Gloversville students are interested in participating, but there is no solid answer yet and Section II must approve it. Mr. Krempe indicated practice will start on Monday.
- Dick Baker asked Mr. Aquaro what is known about proposed mid-year state aid cuts. Mr. Acquaro advised \$407,000 is proposed for Johnstown; the legislature will be back in session on Monday and we are waiting to hear. Noted such a cut would wipe out any savings from changing health insurance plans that was earmarked for future programs.
- Angela Clizbe asked if the Jansen Avenue gym will be available for basketball. Mrs. Sullivan replied that it will be open from 4 – 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays for biddy basketball.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Nov. 19, 2009 (Thurs)	Facilities Meeting	6:00 PM
	Board of Education Yearbook Photo	
	Business Meeting	7:00 PM JHS
Dec. 17 2009 (Thurs)	Audit Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
	Business Meeting	7:00 PM JHS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk