

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
January 21, 2010
Johnstown High School

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

ATTENDEES:

Ronald Beck	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Evamarie Mraz
John David Praught	Scott Miller	Russell Martin
James Levin	Joanne Freeman	

ABSENT:

Robert Curtis

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent	Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk
Alice Dillenbeck, Business Manager	

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

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mrs. Mraz to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:05 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

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

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth, seconded by Mrs. Mraz, to reconvene in public session at 7:29 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."

- Dick Baker questioned the agenda item for the temporary appointment of Ralph Acquaro as a consultant for the business office. Doesn't think was ever done before and is a waste of money; says hired Mrs. Dillenbeck, let her do the job, call SED if answers are needed.

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on January 5 and 7, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

VI. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

- Mrs. Sullivan announced that Mrs. Freeman had been elected to fulfill a vacancy on the HFM BOCES Board of Education.

VII. **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

- Mr. Miller, reporting on the facilities committee meeting held at 5 p.m., indicated light sensors on fuel tanks at Warren and JHS were being checked to meet DEC regulations. Reported that Bearsch Compeau Knudson provided a proposal as to what they could build for a bus maintenance facility for \$2M; would basically be 68'

x 68' pole barn with a 40 year life span. Committee recommends obtaining a second opinion from Greenman Pedersen Inc. at a cost of \$4,500 and to also look into remaining at the Crescendoe Road site. Reported there had not been much response to the RFP for leases for the former Jansen Avenue school building; the committee recommends looking into the process to acquire public approval for its sale and then to market it nationally. Mr. Martin inquired if it would cause money problems if it was sold. Mrs. Dillenbeck indicated state aid would be lost and sale proceeds of \$1.2M would be needed to offset that. Mr. Miller advised that Mrs. Mraz had brought up an important issue about fire safety in the gym and asked her to elaborate. Mrs. Mraz indicated the gym had appeared to be filled to maximum capacity during the JHS vs. GHS boys basketball game; people were sitting in stairwells to bleachers, which didn't seem safe. During the JHS vs. BP game, which wasn't as crowded, the fire alarms went off and there were people sitting in the stairwells again, hindering access to exits. Suggest announcing before start of JV and varsity games that it is a violation to sit in stairwells and point out fire exits. Ticket sellers to keep head count; 720 is capacity for bleachers, may need to turn people away. Training to be provided to staff working the games through athletic director's office.

A. Approval to seek second opinion for building design from GPI

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Praught that the Greater Johnstown School District contract with Greenman Pedersen Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$4,500, to develop a pre-referendum design alternative, with cost estimates, for a bus maintenance facility to be located at the Johnstown High School premises.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. Determine Procedure to Sell Jansen Avenue

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin that the Superintendent of the Greater Johnstown School District determine what processes and steps are necessary to sell the former Jansen Avenue elementary school building and a portion of the associated grounds.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- Mrs. Mraz reported the Long Range Restructuring Committee met at 6 p.m. Need to look at what is coming down the road in five years if enrollment continues to decline; plan whether to go back to singletons or adopt Princeton Plan. Asked the K-8 principals to provide research on pros and cons of the Princeton Plan. Noted for every pro there is a con. Will be setting up meetings and drafting questionnaires; important to get parental opinions. Emphasized this is long range planning, not something happening next year. Committee to meet again on March 18 at 6 p.m.

VIII. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

B. COOPERATIVE CANNED FOOD BID #10-10

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

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. WARRANTS – November 2009

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrants for November 2009, as seen in **addendum #2**:*

General (A): #20
School Lunch (C): #9, 10
Federal (F): #8,
Capital Bonds (H): #3
Trust & Agency (TA): #14, 15, 16, 17

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

D. TREASURER’S REPORT – November 2009

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer’s Report for November 2009, as seen in **addendum #3**.*

1. *Unrestricted Cash Balance*
2. *Budget Transfer Schedule #6*
3. *Handwritten Checks*
4. *Revenue Budget Status*
5. *School Lunch Program Profit & Loss Statement*
6. *Appropriation Status Report*
7. *Vendor Listing by Number (Vendor Additions)*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IX. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Probationary Appointment of Heather McGuire, Social Studies Teacher

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Heather McGuire, as social studies teacher, in the social studies tenure area, at Step C1 (\$39,570) prorated for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year, effective January 25, 2010 through January 24, 2013, pursuant to the Johnstown Teachers’ Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. Term Appointments of Co-Curricular Staff

Motion by Mr. Praught 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:

Tiffany Page, JHS Musical Director \$2,571
Daniel Smith, Winterguard Volunteer Unpaid

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

c. Term Appointments of Coaching Staff

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

<i>Aaron Mraz, Baseball Head Coach</i>	<i>\$3,257</i>
<i>Jon Jennings, Baseball Assistant #1</i>	<i>\$2,399</i>
<i>Mark Ralbovsky, Baseball Assistant #2</i>	<i>\$2,228</i>
<i>James Rodecker, Baseball Assistant #3</i>	<i>\$2,114</i>
<i>Ronald Savoie, Softball Head Coach</i>	<i>\$3,257</i>
<i>Theresa Brandt, Softball Assistant #1</i>	<i>\$2,399</i>
<i>Melissa Mylott, Softball Assistant #2</i>	<i>\$2,228</i>
<i>Melissa Livingstone, Softball Assistant #3</i>	<i>\$2,114</i>
<i>Denise Benton, Girls' Lacrosse Head Coach</i>	<i>\$3,257</i>
<i>Tracy Ringer, Girls' Lacrosse Assistant #1</i>	<i>\$2,399</i>
<i>Jennifer O'Neil, Track Head Coach</i>	<i>\$3,257</i>
<i>Jonathan Valovic, Track Assistant #1</i>	<i>\$2,399</i>
<i>Scott Jeffers, Track Assistant #2</i>	<i>\$2,228</i>
<i>Michael McHenry, Track Assistant #3</i>	<i>\$2,114</i>
<i>George Werle, Boys' Tennis Head Coach</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

d. Appointment of Teacher Mentors

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the term appointment of the following teachers as mentors of initially certified teachers and beginning teachers the 2009-2010 school year at a rate of \$25 per hour, not to exceed 25 hours per mentee:

<i>Loretta Smith</i>	<i>Robin Farrell</i>	<i>Corinne Cotter</i>
----------------------	----------------------	-----------------------

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –CSE

1. Committee for Special Education

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on January 5, 11 & 14, 2010:

000113591 000136066 000124570 000900721 000195302

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

A. Second Reading of New Policy #5693

#5693 – Respirators for School Nurses

B. Adoption of Policy #5693

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to adopt Policy #5693, Respirators for School Nurses, the effective January 21, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- Ruthie Cook advises that JHS science teachers Hans Litz and Heather Buskirk have developed a new concept on their own time and have been invited to present at national science teachers conference. Quite an honor.
- Dick Baker said after hearing a presentation about peanut allergies, he revised his opinion about who should be responsible. Says when a cupcake could kill a child, onus shouldn't be on principal or administrators. Says it is common sense to spend time in classroom on education and have birthday parties at home. For safety of everybody, keep stuff out. Mr. Levin suggests letting the school nurses and doctor and athletic director discuss it and see if it can be made acceptable for everybody.
- Mr. Levin suggests looking into reducing paper going home with kids; feels if it is made available online, can reduce costs. Asks whether can develop a way to opt-in if hard copies are wanted. Mrs. Freeman indicates there will still be a need to get information to people/families that don't have internet access. Mrs. Sullivan advises it has been discussed in cabinet and can be pursued further. Warren Principal Scott Ziomek suggests small steps – first send home with only one sibling; some families comfortable with technology, some aren't. Glebe Principal Bill Crankshaw says some districts provide automated phone calls to each house; inquires about expense involved.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Feb. 11, 2010 (Thurs)	Audit Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
	Budget Workshop	6:00 PM
	Business Meeting	7:00 PM JHS
March 4, 2010 (Thurs)	Facilities Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
	Discussion/Business Meeting	7:00 PM Warren St.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Praught to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk