

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
May 20, 2010
JHS

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Joanne Freeman	Scott Miller
Ronald Beck	Robert Curtis	Russell Martin (arrived 7:25 pm)
Evamarie Mraz	John David Praught	James Levin (arrived 7:25 pm)

OTHERS:

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

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. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on April 28, 2010 and May 6, 2010.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- Mrs. Sullivan reported that an exit survey was conducted with voters leaving the polls on May 18, in order to gauge public opinion on three proposed bus garage solutions (credits Mr. Miller with idea). Approximately 1/3 of the voters chose to participate; 38 selected the option to build new; 130 were in favor of purchasing Cresendoe; 121 chose a long term lease. Mr. Curtis noted that on some of the exit surveys, people indicated the district should get out of the transportation business. Advised that it is not that simple; contractual obligations have to be taken into account.
- Mrs. Sullivan indicated that before the Board moves ahead with the purchase or long term lease of the Cresendoe Road site, the district should conduct a review of previously completed environmental studies pertaining to the site. The firm of O'Brien & Gere has been highly recommended for that purpose. Cost not to exceed \$6,000. Mr. Curtis thinks it should be the responsibility of the seller to provide documentation of a clean bill of health. Mr. Miller says what may be okay for the seller may not be okay with SED. Mr. Curtis asks to seek cost split with the seller. Mrs. Mraz noted it wouldn't be an issue at all if not for the history surrounding the site. Mrs. Dillenbeck noted there is a difference between the aid for leasing and the aid for purchasing; right now district is receiving transportation aid.
- Mrs. Sullivan advised the Board that the City of Johnstown plans to mow the grounds at Johnson Hall if NYS discontinues maintenance due to budget cuts. The City has asked E.J. Maye for permission to use the school's large mower. Noted that for years the city has plowed school district property – there is a lot of sharing between the entities. Inquired whether the Board is okay with allowing the City to use the mower for this purpose. There were no objections

V. **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

- Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth reported that the academic/extra-curricular committee met briefly earlier in the evening. Discussed request made by JHS students to Assistant Principal Duilio Viscusi to establish a Gay Straight Alliance Club for next school year. Reviewed information obtained regarding similar clubs in Niskayuna, Schenectady and Mayfield school districts. The committee recommends the Board consider approval of the club, with a volunteer adviser and appropriate training. Mr. Curtis asked if Board members would support the idea; no objections were raised.
- Mrs. Mraz reported that the Long Range Restructuring Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed a survey under development regarding the future possibility of grade level groupings (no longer use term "Princeton Plan"). The principals will meet tomorrow to make revisions and the committee will meet again on June 10 to finalize. Distribution is still up in the air; interested in targeting parents of students in K-8; doesn't affect JHS students or households with no children. Mrs. Sullivan indicated the principals will distribute it to students with an incentive to return it. Mr. Praught inquired whether taxpayers will get a say in the matter. Mrs. Mraz said the survey could be added to the web site for those who want to print it out and mail it in. Noted this is just one of many steps, taxpayers will have opportunity to weigh in at a later date.

VI. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **PERSONNEL**

1. **Separations**

a. **Retirement of Linda Mittler, Cook**

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the retirement of Linda Mittler as a Cook, effective June 25, 2010.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

b. **Retirement of Alan Spawn, Bus Driver**

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the retirement of Alan Spawn as a Bus Drive, effective June 30, 2010.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Mr. Miller said it is sad to see Al leave, he's been here a long time. Mr. Beck noted that Mr. Spawn will be moving to Florida with his family.

2. **Leaves of Absence**

a. **Unpaid Leave of Absence, Debra Ammann, Teacher Aide (special education)**

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the unpaid leave of absence for Debra Ammann, Teacher Aide (special education) from September 2010 to December 2010.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

C. **STUDENT MATTERS**

VIII. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

A. **Acceptance of the May 18, 2010 School District Vote for Board of Education Members; 2010/2011 School Budget vote results; lease of Crescendoe Road vote results; and vote results for lease of two school buses**

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the May 18, 2010 voting results as seen in Addendum #3.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

B. **Second Reading of New Policy #5571, Medicaid Compliance**

#5571 – Medicaid Compliance

C. **Adoption of Policy #5571, Medicaid Compliance**

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to adopt Policy 5571, Medicaid Compliance, effective May 20, 2010.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

D. **Authorization to Execute Contract with O'Brien & Gere**

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Levin to authorize the Superintendent of Schools, or the President of the Board of Education, to execute a contract for services with O'Brien & Gere, with an office at Syracuse, New York, for the purpose of studying environmental reports related to Karg Tannery and the effect of same on premises situate at Crescendoe Road in the City of Johnstown, County of Fulton and State of New York..

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

E. **Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Modified Football**

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the interscholastic athletic merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Wheelerville Union Free School District for modified football effective for the 2010-2011 school year.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

F. **Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Modified Boys' Soccer**

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the interscholastic athletic merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Wheelerville Union Free School District for modified boys' soccer effective for the 2010-2011 school year.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

G. **Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Girls' Swimming & Diving**

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the interscholastic athletic merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Fonda-Fultonville Central School District for girls' swimming and diving effective for the 2010-2011 school year.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

H. Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Boys' Swimming & Diving

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the interscholastic athletic merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Fonda-Fultonville Central School District for boys' swimming effective for the 2010-2011 school year.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

X. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

May 25, 2010	Parent/Community Bullying Prevention Workshop	7 p.m., Knox
June 10, 2010 (Thurs.)	Bullying Prevention Committee Meeting	5:30 PM
	Academic/Extra-Curricular Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
	Business Meeting	7:00 PM JHS
	Long Range Restructuring Committee Meeting	after BOE meeting

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Mraz to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk