

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
June 9, 2011
Johnstown High School Performing Arts Center

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

ATTENDEES:

Douglas Dougherty	Ronald Beck	Jennifer Spoppable
Paul VanDenburgh	James Levin	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth
Evamarie Mraz	Scott Miller	Robert Curtis

OTHERS:

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

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 Mr. VanDenburgh to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on May 18, May 19 and May 24, 2011.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

IV. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

- Mrs. Sullivan noted there is a resolution on tonight's agenda for the Transportation Pilot discussed by Dr. Michel at a recent meeting. The pilot will be a paper study, lasting approximately one year, to see if it is viable to pursue regional transportation centers.
- Mrs. Sullivan advised that a resolution appears on tonight's agenda to revise the 2011-12 school calendar, due to the elimination of January Regents exams.
- Mrs. Sullivan recognized the following retiring district personnel for their service and presented a token of appreciation to those present:

Certified Staff

Suzanne Canfield, Special Education, JHS
R. Elaine Hitchcock, Family and Consumer Science, Knox
Sharon Humphrey, Family and Consumer Science, JHS & Knox
Charlotte Leo, English, JHS
Sue Ringanese, Special Education, Knox
Vanessa Sheppard, Elementary Teacher, Pleasant Ave.
Lawrence Simek, Teaching Assistant, Pleasant Ave.
Deborah Peck-Spraker, Elementary Teacher, Pleasant Ave.

Classified Staff

Ernest Maye, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Marvin Zurschmiede, Bus Driver

Board of Education

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth, 2005-2011
Robert Curtis, 2005-2011
Scott Miller, 2005-2011

- Mr. Curtis recognized Mrs. Sullivan for her 41 years of service to the district and wished her well in her upcoming retirement. A New York State Senate proclamation in Mrs. Sullivan's honor, sponsored by Senator Hugh Farley, was read by the District Clerk. Mrs. Sullivan received a standing ovation from the Board and audience.
- Athletic Director James Robare announced that twelve JHS varsity sports teams were recognized as Scholar/Athlete Teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for having a team grade average of 90% or above during the season. The following team members whose grade point averages were used to compute the team average were presented with a pin and patch and congratulated for their endeavors:

FALL ATHLETICS:

Girls Swimming & Diving – Combined Average 94.78 – Coach Julianna Popp
*Johnstown: Elizabeth Havlicek, Hannah Palsgraph, Emmilee Phillips, Priya Winston, Meghan Bartlett, Ashley Paton, Cheryl Walsh. *Fonda: Meghan Foy, Susan Freeman, Shannon Gross, Nicolette Angioli, Collen White, Caitlyn Russel and Casey Morgan.*
**To be recognized at Fonda*

Field Hockey – Combined Average 92.16 - Coach Quinn Swarhout
Kayla Satterlee, Abigail Heroth, Lindsay Brandt, Mackenzie English, Ashley Nichlos, Alyssa Brand, Carly Brunco, Emma Heroth Beth Auld, Alexis Swatt, Eva Akers, Allicyn Stoutner.

Boys Cross Country – Combined Average 92.386 – Coach John Valovic
Kyle Pollak, Brett Schlesier, Pierre Mevel, Matthew Miller, Jared Brower, Alex Kuban, Josh Palsgraph.

Boys Soccer – Combined Average 90.092 – Coach Jonathan Jennings
Dominique Nguyen-Cote, Dylan Quinn, Steven Brown, Alex Simon, Kieran McCoy, Kurtis Sprung, Dylan Dalmata, Mertcan Dogan, Troy Palmer, Brandon Smith, Matthew Sagan, Steven Gagliardo.

Girls Soccer – Combined Average 90.75 – Coach Sarah Jones
Courtney Cirillo, Katie Conery, Kayla Groesbeck, Mallory Hansen, Aubrey Stegel, Brittany Wager, Alexis Cannizzo, Megan Anagnostopulos, Sara Kosowicz, Carly Ovitt, Kendra McCoy, Amanda Cline.

Girls Tennis – Combined Average 91.71 – Coach Michael Bruce
Elizabeth VanDenburgh, Helaina Stergas, Tetyana Orlyk, Evelina Bien-Aime, Jackie Hart, Divya Mohan, Marytis Pedrick, Abby Cretser, Aurbrionna Kranbuhl.

WINTER ATHLETICS:

Girls Basketball – Combined Average 94.07 – Coach Tim Derwin
Kayla Satterlee, Courtney Cirillo, Lindsay Achzet, Katie Conery, Brynn Hlozansky, Mallory Hansen, Hillary Kollar, Emma Heroth, Allicyn Stoutner.

Boys Nordic Skiing – Combined Average 92.72 – Coach Michael McHenry
Brett Schlesier, Kyle Pollak, Pierre Mevel, Matthew Miller, Jared Brower, Alex Kuban, Josh Muzzi.

Girls Nordic Skiing – Combined Average 95.57 – Coach Michael McHenry
Abigail Heroth, Serena Smith, Helaina Stergas, Marketa Lapackova, Lauren Mosher, Carly Bloomquist, Taylor Simek, Hannah Keener, Kayla Groesbeck, Courtney Javarone.

G. Surplus Bid #11-14 Irving Street Items

*Motion by Mrs. Sponnoble seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Surplus Bid #11-14 Irving Street Items as seen in **addendum #3**.*

VOTE: 8 YES 9 NO 1 ABSTAIN (Mr. VanDenburgh)

Discussion: Mrs. Sise reported there were a number of items for which no bids were received. After researching matter and speaking to school counsel, she would like to advertise them on the school web site. General consensus from Board members was for her to proceed.

VI. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. STUDENT MATTERS

B. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Retirement of R. Elaine Hitchcock, Family and Consumer Science Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Mraz seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of R. Elaine Hitchcock as Family and Consumer Science teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective July 1, 2011.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

3. Abolishments

a. Abolishment of Teaching Positions

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to abolish the following teaching positions, effective July 1, 2011:

French teacher position

Family and consumer sciences teacher position

VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO (Mr. Beck; Mrs. Sponnoble)

Discussion: Mr. Beck expressed disappointment with the decision to get rid of these positions. Indicated that we want people to move here, but they won't if we don't offer things. Mrs. Sponnoble indicated she values choice and wants children to have options. Mr. Miller said he wished the district had the money to keep everything, but it does not, and these cuts made the most sense to the Board following lengthy discussions and a review of all options.

b. Abolishment of Teaching Positions

Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to abolish the following teaching positions, effective July 1, 2011:

*Two (2) elementary teacher positions
Part-time (.5FTE) art teacher position
GED Coordinator*

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Teaching Position Reductions to Part-Time

Motion by Mr. Dougherty seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reduce the following teaching positions to part-time, effective July 1, 2011:

*Physical Education Teacher (.5FTE)
Technology Teacher (.5FTE)*

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

b. NYSSMA Solo Festival Stipends

Motion by Mr. Dougherty seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a stipend of \$104 for the following individuals, as chaperones at the NYSSMA Solo Festival on May 7, 2011:

*Cynthia Fiorenza
Andrew LaCoppola
James Morton*

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

c. JTA Longevity Payments

Motion by Mr. Dougherty seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve longevity payments of \$1000 each to the following individuals for 30 years of credited service on the salary schedule, per JTA contract, as of June 30, 2011:

<i>Kathleen Bintz</i>	<i>LouiseCarville</i>	<i>Andrew Dagostino</i>
<i>Astrid Duross</i>	<i>Nancy Edwards</i>	<i>Caroline Olszowy</i>
<i>DeborahPeck-Spraker</i>	<i>Linda Restive</i>	<i>Sue Ringanese</i>
<i>Sandra Vosburgh</i>		

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

d. Appointments of Department Coordinators

Motion by Mr. Dougherty seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointments of the following individuals as Department Coordinators for the 2011-2012 school year:

<i>Mark Ralbovsky, English 7-12</i>	<i>\$2500 (Category 1) plus \$100 longevity</i>
<i>Ruthie Cook, Science 7-12</i>	<i>\$2500 (Category 1) plus \$100 longevity</i>
<i>Sean Russo, Social Studies 7-12</i>	<i>\$2500 (Category 1) plus \$50 longevity</i>
<i>Linda Restive, Mathematics 7-12</i>	<i>\$2500 (Category 1) plus \$400 longevity</i>
<i>Joann Smith, Foreign Language 7-12</i>	<i>\$1500 (Category 2) plus \$50 longevity</i>
<i>Andy LaCoppola, Music</i>	<i>\$2500 (Category 1) plus \$50 longevity</i>

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Mr. Curtis suggested looking at the department chairs category as a way to save money in the future; not sure expense is justified. Mr. Beck objected, saying he was a former department chair and he thinks the district needs to have them.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CSE, CPSE, 504 Committee

1. 504 Committee

Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the 504 Committee for Special Education meetings held on May 19, 2011:

000305995 000305975

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

2. Committee for Pre-School Special Education

Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on May 16, 17 and, 31, 2011:

000140412	000140356	000140450	000140421	000140351
000140428	000900583	000140316	000900795	000140431
000140427	000140435	000140407	000900718	000140405
000900941	000140445	000140437	000901138	000901261
00140452	000140429			

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

3. Committee for Special Education

Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on May 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 31, 2011 and June 1 and 2, 2011

000305995	000305975	000140319	000173113	000193001
000900301	000901011	000140406	000103522	000125775
000115711	000901114	000134629	000134645	000122005
000901067	000305907	000901066	000900573	000133666
000900180	000146826	000135082	000126721	000140354
000140209	000990007	000140434	000125819	000165099
000140441	000900559	000125769	000133688	000133671
000136764	000900569	000125780	000306114	000900250
000123641	000135905	000126719	000901063	000122006

000126724	000136071	000140110	000901144	000113840
000125118	000125807	000305918	000145958	000126928
000102023	000305919	000115028	000920015	000901012
000115725	000113571	000145914	000900255	000140401
000140351	000140316	000140431	000900902	000140356
000900583	000140450			

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

VII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

A. Adoption of Revised 2011-2012 District Calendar

*Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to adopt the Revised District Calendar for the 2011-2012 school year effective April 7, 2011, as seen in **addendum #4**, whereby January 2012 Regents days are eliminated.*

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

B. Transportation Pilot Study

Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh seconded by Mr. Levin to approve participation by the Greater Johnstown School District in the proposed transportation pilot study as presented to the Board of Education on May 24, 2011 by Dr. Patrick Michel, District Superintendent, HFM BOCES, for the purpose of combining transportation services of districts/component schools within the HFM BOCES area, at a cost of approximately \$1,200.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

C. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education be held on Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the Johnstown High School. (Per Education Law Section 2504, organizational meeting in a small city school district must occur during the first week of July)

VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO (Mr. Miller)

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

- Mr. Miller said that it was a privilege to sit on the Board for six years and that a lot of people had brought a lot to the table – including Russ Martin, Bob Kosowitz, Dick McGuire and Pete Cinelli. Said that it was not an easy job, but very rewarding and he hoped new people would bring new ideas. Thanked the public for giving him the opportunity.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

June 25, 2011	Commencement	10 AM, Knox Field
July 7, 2011	Annual Organizational Meeting	6 PM, JHS

XI. FIFTEEN MINUTE BREAK FOR RETIREMENT RECEPTION – 7:02 p.m.

XII. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 14 OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law at 7:17 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO (Mr. Miller)

XIII. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth, seconded by Mr. Levin, to reconvene in public session at 9:20 p.m.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk