

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
December 15, 2011
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President VanDenburgh at 6:03 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Ronald Beck	James Levin	Douglas Dougherty	Evamarie Mraz
Jennifer Sponnoble	Paul VanDenburgh	Brian Miller	Angela Clizbe

EXCUSED:

Anne Cassidy

OTHERS:

Robert DeLilli, Superintendent Alice Sise, Business Manager Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA & NON-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."

- Student Elizabeth VanDenburgh thanked the administration and Board of Education for allowing her to attend the NYSSMA Conference in Rochester December 1-4. She said she was able to work with Dr. David Holsinger of Lee University in Tennessee; that she enjoyed meeting other musicians; and that she is very thankful for those opportunities. Elizabeth played a recording of the instrumental "The Gallup" performed by the Symphonic Band as an encore during the concert. She was one of the 153 student musicians selected statewide to comprise the Symphonic Band.
- Music teacher Andy Lacoppola said attending the NYSSMA Conference was an overwhelming experience and he ate up every second. Reported that he learned much from Dr. Holsinger and received a bunch of free stuff from vendor exhibits. Expressed thanks that he was allowed to go and said he hopes to go again.
- Dick Baker said he disagrees with the Board's recent decision to have just one public comment session on the agenda. Thinks people should still be allowed to talk at the end as things come up during the meeting that people might want to question. Mr. Beck asked if there is any reason it can't be at both times. Mr. DeLilli indicated it will be added back in.
- Dick Baker referred to a comment by a board member at last month's meeting regarding evaluating programs/the football program based on winning or not. Says it is not about trophies and scores, it is about kids learning and young boys becoming men. Suggests the Johnstown/Gloversville game was a learning experience; boys held their heads high.
- Jim Morton, co-president of the JTA, said he would like to thank the Board of Ed for recognizing teachers during American Education Week. Indicated this Board's efforts to reach out to faculty has not gone unnoticed and is appreciated.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Clizbe seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on November 17, 2011.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- Knox Principal Michael Satterlee, together with teachers Scott Chamberlain, Jennifer VonderHeide, Andy Dagostino and Jim Morton, provided a presentation and answered questions regarding the Knox School Climate Committee, formed during 2009-10 in response to bullying problems. Provided an overview of the procedures they've implemented and their success to date, including the implementation of the Positive Rewards Program. They also presented a short video prepared by the Knox Tech Yes/Gen Yes students and displayed posters made by Knox students showcasing the "All 9 All the time" slogan, which is in reference to the nine expectations for Knox students.
- Transportation Coordinator Corey Barber reported that the district continually works on being fiscally responsible. Noted that bus runs have been consolidated from 13 to 10 ½ by combining existing runs and working with other schools. Said pre-k students are entitled to transportation and since there are two half-day programs (morning & afternoon), people might notice buses out during the middle of the day. Indicated that we do not bus them to locations outside of the district, but do bus to locations inside the district that provide daycare.
- Mr. DeLilli noted that Board members had been provided with the proposed goals in draft form. Mr. VanDenburgh inquired whether there was any feedback. Reported that Ms. Cassidy had contacted him to express concern that the word "safety" doesn't appear in the goals. Mr. VanDenburgh expressed thanks to the two ladies from BOCES for their assistance with the goals workshops.
- Mr. DeLilli advised that he has been investigating an "all call" communications system and that, for the amount of funds it costs, he thinks it is worth exploring. Mrs. Mraz inquired if after the initial cost, which is 80% state aid-able, there is a monthly fee. Mr. DeLilli indicated there is not. Mr. VanDenburgh inquired if there is an annual servicing cost and Mr. DeLilli indicated there would be if the district chose Blackboard as the provider. Mrs. Clizbe inquired how long it would take to get started and Mr. DeLilli thinks about two weeks. Mr. Levin inquired what kind of maintenance is required and who is responsible. Mr. DeLilli indicated that there would be an element of training for selected staff, but it would not add to their work. Mr. DeLilli indicated there are also some bells and whistles available, including parent portal. Mr. Beck suggested making a motion to proceed (see Section IV, item E below).
- Mr. DeLilli reported that HFM BOCES is in the planning stages of an apprenticeship program to capture the student population that is on the bubble and at risk of dropping out. It will involve ninth grade students and a course or two at BOCES in conjunction with an apprenticeship program. May roll out the year after next – there is still lots of research and planning. There will be a CEO roundtable to discuss with Dr. Michel.
- Mr. DeLilli advised that Greg Truckenmiller of FMCC will attend the January board meeting to discuss College in the High School.
- Mr. DeLilli reported that he has been looking into concerns from Johnstown students that they are not allowed to participate in JHS sports programs when they attend FMCC as early admissions students. Appears that most other area schools do not seem to have this rule. Mr. Satterlee indicated that NYSPHSAA requires three classes plus physical education in order to be deemed a bona fide student.
- Mr. DeLilli reminded board members that there will be a community forum at 6 p.m. on January 12. He anticipates HFM BOCES Superintendent Dr. Michel will be in attendance; also is extending invitations to senate and assembly representatives.
- Mr. DeLilli advised that the baseball team would like to travel south for a fieldtrip in March; the documentation is in the works and will be provided to the Board in the near future for review. There will be no cost to the school district; the team is fundraising. Mr. Dougherty questioned whether they will be missing school days and how they will make-up school work. Mrs. Mraz indicated that books and lesson plans will be taken with them and that mandatory study time will be built into the daily schedule.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None at this time

VI. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Termination of Elaine Santiago, Teacher Aide

Motion by Mrs. Sponnoble seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to terminate Elaine Santiago's employment as a Teacher Aide effective December 2, 2011.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Leaves of Absence

b. Child Care Leave of Absence, Christina Jaquish, Teacher Aide

Motion by Mrs. Sponnoble seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a child care leave for Christina Jaquish, Teacher Aide from approximately January 16, 2012 through March 12, 2012.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

3. Abolishments

4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Probationary Appointment of Michael Divak, School Monitor (cafeteria)

Motion by Mrs. Sponnoble seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Michael Divak as a School Monitor (cafeteria), 10 months per year, 2 hours per day, \$8.43 per hour, effective December 6, 2011.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. Casual Employment Opportunities

Motion by Mrs. Sponnoble seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following for Casual Employment Opportunities for the 2011/12 school year:

<i>Beth Brower</i>	<i>Bobbi Jo Coons</i>	<i>Andrew Jablonski</i>
<i>William (Greg) Roth</i>	<i>James Schleiser</i>	<i>Kathleen (Kitty) Smith</i>
<i>Patricia Zullo (accompanist)</i>		

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. MEDICAID COMPLIANCE QUARTELRY REPORT – 7/1/11 – 9/30/11

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Beck to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the Medicaid Compliance Officer's quarterly report for July 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011, as seen in **addendum #1**.*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. WARRANTS – October 2011

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Beck to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrants for October 2011, as seen in **addendum #2**:*

General (A): # 14, 16,
School Lunch (C): # 7, 8,
Federal (F): # 7, 8,
Trust & Agency (TA): # 11, 12, 13,

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

D. TREASURER’S REPORT – October 2011

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Beck to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer’s Report for October 2011, as seen in **addendum #3**.*

1. Unrestricted Cash Balance
2. Budget Transfer Fund A, Schedule #3
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

E. APPROVAL FOR MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM WITH BLACKBOARD CONNECT

Motion by Mr. Beck, seconded by Mr. Miller, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to contract for a mass notification system through Blackboard Connect, in an amount not to exceed the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) per year, with eighty percent (80%) of such cost anticipated to be reimbursed of New York State aid.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

VII. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. STUDENT MATTERS

1. Winter Guard Trip to WGI Regional Competition in Rochester, New York

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Winter Guard trip to Gates Chili High School in Rochester, New York; leaving Johnstown High School on Friday, February 24, 2012 at 12:00 noon and returning on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at approximately 11:00 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Winter Guard Trip to WGI Regional Competition in Salem, Massachusetts

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Winter Guard trip to Salem High School in Salem, Massachusetts; leaving Johnstown High School on Friday, March 9, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. and returning on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at approximately 11:59 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

3. **Winter Guard Trip to WGI Regional Competition in South Brunswick, New Jersey**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Winter Guard trip to South Brunswick High School in South Brunswick, New Jersey; leaving Johnstown High School on Friday, March 23, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. and returning on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at approximately 4:00 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

4. **Winter Guard Trip to WGI Regional Competition in Dayton, Ohio**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Winter Guard trip to U.D. Arena in Dayton, Ohio; leaving Johnstown High School on Tuesday, April 10, 2012, at 11:00 p.m. and returning on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at approximately 6:00 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Mr. Beck said he wished the Winter Guard would have done some flag twirling or something in the Holiday Parade. He noticed that other schools participated. Mr. VanDenburgh indicated that the music department tried to get the Jazz Band involved, but were unable to obtain use of a flatbed. Mrs. Spinnoble said she wished to echo Mr. Beck; that it was great to see Amsterdam, but what about Johnstown. Mrs. Sise advised that she had spoken with Mr. LaCoppola and it appeared Johnstown's students are more interested in participating in spring activities for Marching Band.

B. PERSONNEL

1. **Separations**

2. **Leaves of Absence**

3. **Abolishments**

4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Tenure Appointment of Lynne Kortz, Teaching Assistant**

Motion by Mr. Dougherty seconded by Mrs. Clizbe to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, pursuant to Education Law and the provision of Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, that Lynne Kortz,, probationary Teaching Assistant, in the Teaching Assistant tenure area, having been appointed to such position on February 17, 2010, be appointed to tenure to the position of Teaching Assistant in the Greater Johnstown School District. Be it shown that Lynne Kortz holds a valid NYS Teaching Assistant Continuing Certificate to serve in the aforesaid tenure area. Be it further shown that the probationary period of Lynne Kortz will expire on February 19, 2012.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. Payment of Music Festival Stipends

Motion by Mr. Dougherty seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the payment of music festival chaperone stipends for the following individuals for attendance at the Area All-State Festival in Saratoga Springs, New York on November 18, 2011 and November 19, 2011:

Cynthia Fiorenza \$104
Andrew LaCoppola \$104

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

c. Appointment of Lauren Rose, Extended Leave Substitute English Teacher

Motion by Mr. Dougherty seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Lauren Rose, as extended leave substitute English teacher, at Step A1 (\$40,277 prorated) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective approximately December 19, 2011 through March 9, 2012.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

d. Appointment of Timothy Brisley, Long Term Substitute Earth Science Teacher

Motion by Mr. Dougherty seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Timothy Brisley, as a long term substitute Earth Science teacher, at \$106.80 per day, effective approximately December 19, 2011 through February 10, 2012.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

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

1. 504 Committee

Motion by Mrs. Clizbe seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the 504 Committee meetings held on December 2, 2011

000901045

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Committee for Pre-School Special Education

Motion by Mrs. Clizbe seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on December 8, 2011

000140435 000140483 000140443

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

3. **Committee for Special Education**

Motion by Mrs. Clizbe seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on November 14, 15, 16, 17, 30 and December 2, 6, 7, 9, 2011

000185192	000901430	000306235	000306229	000901426
000901428	000901123	000140482	000113600	000140118
000144710	000140444	000165075	000900120	000140316
000900631	000901030	000901422	000140394	000140351
000901423	000900617	000185203	000140450	

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

VIII. **BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION**

- Mrs. Mraz reported 95 elementary children consisting of sixth graders and their younger buddies from Pleasant Avenue visited her store to have hot cocoa when they mailed letters to Santa. She said they were well behaved and very well mannered. She noted that the Glebe Street students were unable to walk over today due to rain and that Warren is scheduled to stop by tomorrow. Said she enjoys having them come in.
- Mr. Levin said the Glebe Street winter concert was very well attended and students and staff did a great job.
- Mr. Levin recognized Knox and the Climate Committee for the changes they have made.
- Mr. Beck said he attended Glebe’s concert as well and that he had forgotten what it is like to be around so many little kids, but it was amazing.
- Mr. VanDenburgh said he attended the Pleasant Avenue and JHS concerts. Reported that it was standing room only at Pleasant Ave.
- Mr. VanDenburgh offered thanks to Knox Climate Committee; appreciates the positive energy and support of local businesses.
- Mr. VanDenburgh reminded board members that when they want information relative to the district, they need to contact either him or Mr. DeLilli, at which point it will be obtained and distributed to the full board.
- Mr. Beck suggested that if anyone would like to make donations to support the Climate Committee projects/Positive Rewards Program at Knox, it would be most welcome.

IX. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

A. **Second Reading of New Policy #7515, Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

First Reading appeared on November 17, 2011 agenda

B. **Adoption of New Policy #7515, Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Spinnoble to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to adopt new policy #7515, Pediculosis (Head Lice) effective December 15, 2011.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

C. **Board of Education Goals**

Board Member Mrs. Spinnoble presents the following resolution and moves it adoption, seconded by Board Member Mr. Dougherty

WHEREAS, a statement of the vision and priorities of the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education is beneficial as guidance for students, staff and community members, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education adopts the following goals effective December 15, 2011 to June 30, 2013:

- *Empower all students, faculty and staff to reach or exceed their potential in all aspects of their development.*
- *Nurture a culture of encouragement, collaboration, appreciation, creativity, communication, tolerance and respect among school district stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, parents, administrators, board members and non-parent residents, as well as others outside our community in order to help our students become better global citizens.*
- *Provide a well-rounded curriculum that preserves visual and performing arts, foreign language, business, technology, enrichment, extracurricular and athletic programs within the fiscal constraints of the district.*
 - *Research and implement non-traditional avenues to expand or enhance academic opportunities for students that are cost-effective and academically valuable.*
- *Establish a climate of transparency and openness that encourages communication among all district stakeholders.*
 - *Inform district stakeholders about significant changes in public education, e.g., the state tax levy cap, new Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) requirements, and implementation of the Common Core State Standards.*
 - *Inform district stakeholders of student, faculty and staff accomplishments.*
 - *Encourage community involvement and interest in the success of students and the business of the school district.*
 - *Increase the number of district stakeholders who attend Board of Education and ad hoc committee meetings on a regular basis.*
 - *Hold regular public forums to encourage district stakeholders to voice their concerns and to offer solutions.*
 - *Establish convenient and comfortable opportunities for parents to interact with district faculty and staff so as to create partnerships that will be beneficial for student achievement.*
- *Explore possible ways to increase overall district stability, instructional effectiveness and operational efficiency.*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

D. NYSSBA Area 8 Director Nomination Endorsement

~~Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by _____, that the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education endorse the nomination of Joanne Freeman of Johnstown, New York, as Area 8 Director (Counties of Delaware, Fulton, Montgomery, Otsego and Schoharie) of the New York State School Boards Association for a two year period.~~

~~and, directs the Superintendent to submit the nomination accordingly.~~

No second on the motion, no vote taken

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

- Christopher Clizbe said that as a teacher, he believes academics come first, but he agrees with Dick Baker that deciding whether to keep (sports) programs can't be based on scores. Thinks a lot of times sports are the impetus for kids to participate in school.
- Christopher Clizbe thinks the apprenticeship program mentioned earlier works hand in hand with the goals that have been discussed – need to provide opportunities to student of all levels and

abilities.

- Christopher Clizbe would like to see the school board members get together and march in local parades while shaking hands and passing out cards with meeting dates on them. Believes it will help people put names to faces.
- Mr. Beck wants it understood that he doesn't want to get rid of football. Thinks there will always be a football program, unless the kids don't come out for it.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

January 5, 2012	Budget Workshop	6 PM, JHS
January 12, 2012	Community Forum	6 PM, JHS
January 19, 2012	Business Meeting	6 PM, Pleasant Ave.

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

Motion by Mr. Beck seconded by Mrs. Sponnoble to enter executive session to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law, at 7:31 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

XIII. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mr. Beck, seconded by Mrs. Sponnoble, to reconvene in public session at 9:30 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

XIV. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Amend Classified Substitute Pay Schedule for 2011/12

Motion by Mr. Beck seconded by Mrs. Mraz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to amend the Classified Substitute Pay Schedule adopted on June 9, 2011 for the 2011/12 school year as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Bus Drivers	\$15.50/hour

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Beck seconded by Mrs. Sponnoble to adjourn at 9:31 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk