

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education**  
**Discussion/Business Meeting**  
**June 1, 2005**  
**Johnstown High School**

I. Called to order by Board President at 5:32 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Richard McGuire	John David Praught	Christopher Swatt
Brian Miller	William Pollak	Joanne Freeman (arrived 5:40 PM)

ABSENT

Peter Cinelli	Kathleen Leo	Russell Martin
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OTHERS:

John S. Whelan	Katherine Sullivan	Peter Hopke
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II. **SUPERINTENDENT'S/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

- In order to reach a wider audience, Mrs. Sullivan opted to delay her report on the 4 & 8 ELA Scores, In-District Comparative Results, until the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Mr. Whelan introduced Foreign Language Teacher Connie Lais, who provided details regarding the proposed JHS French Exchange trip to Montreal & Quebec City for June 28, 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>. The trip will take place after graduation because it is felt the students have earned it, and uncontrollable circumstances prevented it from being planned earlier. It was noted the club members had raised \$3,300, which will be used to cover the \$2,400 cost of the bus and to defray the cost of touring, meals and hotel accommodations. It is anticipated underclassmen will be responsible for a cost of approximately \$195 each, while seniors have earned a free trip.

**Field Trip for JHS French Exchange to Montreal & Quebec City**

*Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Pollak to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the JHS French Exchange field trip to Montreal & Quebec City effective 06/28/05 (7:30 AM) through 06/30/05 (5:30 PM) for the purpose of culmination of cultural studies of Franco-phone country of Canada.*

VOTE:              5   YES                      0   NO

- Mr. Whelan invited Principal Kathy Dougherty to discuss the new Pleasant Avenue School Banking Club. She explained that it is a school-based savings program sponsored by First Niagara Bank, but run by volunteers from the PTA, to instill savings habits in the students. It has been set up in the Book Room and banking hours are on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 – 9:00. Students making a deposit receive a sticker and for every seven deposits, students receive prizes such as pens and calculators. Over the summer students can make deposits at the local bank branch and be entered in contests for drawings for gift certificates and Great Escape tickets. Volunteers Mrs. Salisbury & Mrs. Ernst, and student depositors Chloe, Jenna and Miranda, were introduced. The volunteers reported that one volunteer accepts deposits, while the other volunteer enters the student's deposit into a computer. Each student receives a receipt for their deposit and, at the end of the day, they verify the total amount received and bring the deposits to a First Niagara Bank branch. The volunteers said they enjoyed a thank you luncheon at the Desmond and the girls indicated that they like saving money and seeing it get bigger and bigger, and getting stickers!

### **III. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

None

### **IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Pollak reminded everyone that the Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet at 3:30 PM tomorrow in the Board conference room.
- The remaining committees reported that there are no further meetings scheduled for the 2004-2005 school year.

### **V. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR FOR COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND 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 business meeting where the Board permits the public comment on agenda and non-agenda items. The Board will accept written comments from the public on this subject matter and all other agenda and non-agenda items."*

- Dick Baker asked whether the classroom space lease with BOCES on tonight's agenda includes any rooms in the high school. It was indicated it does not.
- Bob Kosowicz stated that upon arriving at the modified softball game the prior evening, his daughter was advised that she was ineligible to play because she had been unprepared for gym that day. He indicated that it appeared a second girl received the same punishment, while a third student in the same situation was allowed to play. He would like to know if this is an actual policy, and, if so, where it is spelled out, why the gym teacher didn't explain it, and why it appears to be only selectively enforced. He was advised that it is a school procedure, not a policy, which has been in effect for many years and only affects physical education and sports. It is set forth in the high school handbook and, in order to avoid future misunderstandings, steps will be taken to see that it is clarified for Knox next year.
- Dottie Guzielek didn't think the varsity softball coach was aware of this procedure and suggests it be spelled out in the athletic code.
- Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth advised that her sons had both gone through the high school here and that this procedure is known and understood there.
- Meg Brown said caffeine tablets had been passed around by students at Knox, which made some kids sick on sports buses. She indicated her understanding is that while a girl had been suspended and the parents notified, the students were still allowed to participate. She feels the issue was dropped without being addressed and needs more emphasis. Several Board members indicated they were unaware of the incident. Mr. Whelan & Mrs. Sullivan indicated the issue has been addressed.
- Mike Satterlee advised that Yale University Head Football Coach Jack Siedlecki will be coming to the high school auditorium on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM for motivational speaking. Mr. Pollak thanked Mr. Satterlee for making this opportunity happen.

### **VI. BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **A. PERSONNEL**

##### **1. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Employment Agreement for Suzanne Hall, Secretary to the Superintendent**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Swatt to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointment of Suzanne Hall as Secretary to the Superintendent at a salary of \$30,000.00 per year, prorated for the period June 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, and in accordance with the employment agreement dated May \_\_, 2005, effective July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.*

VOTE:              5   YES                              1   NO (Miller)

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Warrants
- Vendor Additions
- Treasurer's Reports
- Transfers

**VII. EDUCATION ITEMS**

**A. PERSONNEL**

**1. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Probationary Appointment of Mari Jo Quinn, Elementary Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the two-year probationary appointment of Mari Jo Quinn as Elementary teacher in the Elementary tenure area at Step C7 (\$38,564) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2005 and expiring August 31, 2007. This appointment provides Ms. Quinn with credit for her tenured service in the Gloversville Enlarged School District.*

VOTE:              6   YES                              0   NO

b. **Probationary Appointment of Rebecca Wilder, Math Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment of Rebecca Wilder as Math teacher in the Math tenure area at Step A2 (\$34,597.00) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2004 and expiring August 31, 2007. This appointment provides Ms. Wilder with credit for her service to the District as a long term substitute from September 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.*

VOTE:              6   YES                              0   NO

c. **Probationary Appointment of Mark C. Jones, Science Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment of Mark C. Jones as Science teacher in the Science tenure area at Step A7 (\$37,171.00) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2005 and expiring August 31, 2008.*

VOTE:              6   YES                              0   NO

- d. **Appointment of David P. Halloran as Assistant Principal**  
*Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment (pending certification and fingerprinting) of David P. Halloran as assistant principal in the principal tenure area at a salary of \$58,000.00 (pro-rated) in conjunction with collective bargaining agreement of the Johnstown Administrators' Association effective August 1, 2005 and expiring July 31, 2008.*

VOTE:              6   YES                              0   NO

- e. **Probationary Appointment of Laura L. Swider, English Teacher**  
*Motion by Mr. Pollak seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment of Laura L. Swider as English teacher in the English tenure area at Step A1 (\$34,257.00) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2005 and expiring August 31, 2008.*

VOTE:              6   YES                              0   NO

**VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

1. **Classroom Space Lease Agreement with HFM BOCES**  
*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Swatt to approve the five-year Lease Agreement, effective July 1, 2005, with the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES for the rental of ten District classroom spaces, at a base annual rent of \$8,000.00 for a standard classroom, to be used for Special Education Classes.*

VOTE:              6   YES                              0   NO

**IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- Kathy Dougherty asked everyone to come enjoy the many activities taking place at the Fifty Year Anniversary celebration at Pleasant Avenue on June 3 at 2:00 PM.
- Kathy Dougherty related that Pleasant Avenue sixth-grader Abigail Heroth had called her from Washington D.C., where she was competing in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. She was eliminated in the second round for misspelling the word "variscite", but she and her family are having a wonderful time touring the sites. The finals are on Friday and she will return on Saturday. Mrs. Sullivan indicated that Channel 6 would like to do a story on Abigail.

**X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

June 6, 2005	Board of Education Candidates Final Expense/Contribution Stmt Due	
June 15, 2005	Business Meeting	5:00 PM Executive Session 6:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
July 6, 2005	Organizational & Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School

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

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Swatt to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and the employment history of a particular person at 6:20 PM.*

VOTE:        6 Yes        0 No

**XII. MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Swatt to return to public session at 6:30 PM.*

VOTE:        6 Yes        0 No

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mrs. Freeman to adjourn at 6:30 PM.*

VOTE:        6 YES        0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter  
District Clerk