

MINUTES OF THE
May 5, 2008

Regular Meeting
of the
Berne-Knox-Westerlo CSD
Board of Education

The regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District was held on May 5, 2008, in the High School Auditorium.

Members Present:	Maureen Sikule Helen Lounsbury Joan Adriance (arrived at 6:02 p.m.)	Jack Harlow Michelle Fusco
Others Present:	Kimberly LaBelle Andy Nolte Edward Ackroyd Staff Tyler Schuling, Altamont Enterprise	Timothy Holmes Jeff Harvey Parents/Residents Students Mark Raven, Reporter

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Sikule at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session

At 6:01 p.m., motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues, Contract Negotiations, and CSE/CPSE Recommendations. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Mr. Nolte, Mrs. LaBelle, and Mr. Holmes were present during executive session. Mrs. Adriance arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Nolte left executive session at 6:55 p.m.

Return to Public Session

At 7:00 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Adriance, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to return to public session. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Sikule at 7:04 p.m. Mrs. Sikule welcomed all present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Schrade led all in the pledge of allegiance.

Recognition Program

Mrs. Sikule turned the program over to Superintendent Schrade who proceeded to introduce the top scholars for the Class of 2008. Those students were: Alysha Van Dyke; Allyson Bates; Samantha Moak; Katrina Yakel; Sean Picinich; Heather McCormick; and Anna Kusler. He gave a brief synopsis of each student, noting their accomplishments, awards, and future college plans. Mr. Schrade announced the Valedictorian for the Class of 2008 – Anna Kusler; and the Salutatorian for the Class of 2008 - Heather McCormick.

All present participated in a brief refreshment break at 7:15 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President, Mrs. Sikule.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Sikule added an additional CSE Recommendation in addition to removing the minutes for the meetings of April 7, 2008 and April 21, 2008, and asked if there were any further items on the consent agenda which needed to be withdrawn. There were no further changes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the list of Special Education Summer School Staff as follows: Jill Roemer, Special Education Teacher; Sandra Quay, Special Education Teacher; Kimberly Domermuth Special Education LPN; Special Education Teacher Aides: Diane Dorety, Charise Crouse, and Eileen Dunston, as per the attached memorandum. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the attached list of Emergency Conditional Appointments. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to appoint Jennifer Houck as a part time, hourly Clerical Worker in the Transportation Department, effective May 5, 2008, as per the attached memorandum. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to accept the resignation from Tammy Krueger as a part time Clerk in the Transportation Department, effective 04/07/08. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to accept the resignation from Deborah Gilman, Keyboard Specialist, effective 05/02/08. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to accept the resignation from Brittney Smith, High School Mathematics Teacher, effective 06/30/08. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the Treasurer's Reports, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on April 3, 2008, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the attached list of Election Inspectors; Clerk of the Meeting; Chairman of the Meeting; Chairperson of the Election Inspectors, and Custodian of the Voting Machine for the Annual Meeting/Budget Vote to be conducted on May 20, 2008. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the establishment of the V. Robert Morey Memorial Scholarship Award in the amount of \$250.00, as per the attached criteria. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to authorize the solicitation of bids for the 2008-2009 school year for the following: Milk; Ice Cream Vending; Athletic, Custodial and Transportation Supplies. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the Board of Education Academic Achievement Award in the amount of \$250; the Extra Curricular Activities Award in the amount of \$75; and the Eighth Grade Award of a \$25 certificate for Barnes and Noble. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the attached request from the Town of Berne for the use of the Elementary Building and school buses for their 2008 Summer Program from July 7 through July 11, 2008, and July 14 through July 18, 2008, at no cost to the District. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury that the Board of Education has no objections to the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Pre-School Special Education, and approves the authorization of funds to implement the Special Education programs and services consistent with such recommendations, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the future agenda items, as enclosed. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the dates to remember as enclosed. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Adriance, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on April 7, 2008, as amended and attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Adriance, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on April 21, 2008, as attached.

Mrs. Sikule votes yes.

Mr. Harlow votes yes.

Mrs. Lounsbury votes yes.

Mrs. Fusco votes yes.

Mrs. Adriance abstains.

Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury that the Board of Education has no

objections to the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Pre-School Special Education, and approves the authorization of funds to implement the Special Education programs and services consistent with such recommendations, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Member Comments

Mrs. Lounsbury asked whether e-mail sent to Board Members via the BKW website is being monitored. Mr. Schrade noted that Jeff Harvey periodically checks for messages and informs the Superintendent. Mr. Harvey explained that with the District's filtering of spam items, some e-mail messages may be deleted. Mr. Harvey will check into this.

Mrs. Lounsbury also questioned whether the District is in compliance with the Physical Education requirements, as per the recent School Boards article. Mr. Schrade explained that at the first or second June BOE Meeting, the Program Focus will be on Physical Education, and these and other questions will be addressed at that time.

On behalf of an inquiry from a District Resident, Mrs. Lounsbury asked if all organizations sponsoring foreign exchange student programs were allowed access to our High School. Mr. Schrade assured her that they were.

Mrs. Lounsbury noted that a taxpayer had expressed concern over bus fuel usage, and whether changing the school week to 4 days versus 5 days could be a consideration. Mr. Schrade noted it would not be feasible since New York State legislates that the school year be 180 days, and those regulations would have to be amended.

Mrs. Sikule suggested that the Board Members begin to formulate ideas for the Reorganizational Meeting. These will be discussed at the June meeting.

In regard to the posting of draft BOE Minutes on the BKW website, Mrs. Sikule proposed that after the Minutes are formally approved by the Board of Education and there have been changes, that someone go into the website and make any revisions necessary.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mrs. Fusco that after Board of Education Minutes have been formally approved, and in the event corrections have been made to the draft posted on the BKW Website, that the Website be corrected to reflect those changes. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Mrs. Sikule noted she has the School Board Resolution kit for the next NYSSBA Convention.

Board Members were reminded to contact Mrs. Shunney concerning reservations for the Schoharie County School Boards Dinner Meeting on May 15th.

In light of recent news articles regarding lawyers and other professionals being receiving benefits

under public retirement systems, Mrs. Sikule questioned whether BKW had any such occurrences. Mr. Schrade noted that our District does not, attorneys, physicians and other professionals are paid contractually.

Program Focus

Mrs. LaBelle presented the 2006-2007 School Report Card as it pertains to data compiled for the Elementary and Middle Schools. Mrs. LaBelle explained terminology, accountability guidelines; District accountability; ELA, Math and Science scores as they pertained to all students, and students with disabilities. Charts were displayed with ELA and Math Data. It was noted the BKW continues to maintain the “Good Standing” designation. Students in Levels 1 and 2 are decreasing, while students in Levels 3 and 4 are increasing. Value Added Data and curriculum mapping were also discussed. High School data is due to be released sometime in June. A brief discussion on related items ensued.

New Business

Mr. Schrade announced the results of the BOCES Vote as follows: the Administrative Budget passed 23–1; Incumbent Board Members were re-elected. He also noted the new BOCES District Superintendent will be Charles Dedrick from Cohoes City Schools, and will begin some time in June

Unfinished Business

In regard to rotation of Board President, Mrs. Adriance suggested that the policy be kept simple and straight forward. Mrs. Sikule pointed out the current Board Policy wording regarding the rotation of Board President. Information from surrounding school districts was distributed to the Board Members regarding their policy and procedures in the selection of Board Officers. In regard to BKW policy, it was suggested that the last sentence be deleted.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to preliminarily amend Board Policy #1320 – Nomination and Election of Board Officers to delete the last sentence – “As has been the practice of the Board, by a majority vote, the offices of President and Vice President rotate”. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (First Motion)

Public Discussion

Mrs. Tiffany introduced the two Elementary Student Teachers, Niccole Valentino and Sarah Frueh.

A District Resident had questions concerning special education designations, services, etc. Mrs. LaBelle addressed his questions.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Mrs. Adriance, seconded by Mrs. Fusco that the meeting adjourn. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:3 p.m.

Denise J. Martin
District Clerk