

MINUTES OF THE
February 9, 2009

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 February 9, 2009, in the District Office.

Members Present: Helen Lounsbury
Michelle Fusco
Maureen Sikule (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)
Sean O'Connor

Member Absent: Jack Harlow

Others Present: Kimberly LaBelle
Timothy Holmes
Mark Jones
Brian Corey
Edward Ackroyd
Mike Reynolds
Carl Baranishyn
Hunter Fortuin
Xena Pulliam
Residents
Brian Corey
Andy Nolte
Robert Schofield
Bruce Bonacquist
Vas Lefkaditis
Mary Jane Araldi
Mr. & Mrs. Fortuin
Mrs. Pulliam
Joan Bentley
Mark Raven, Reporter

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

Executive Session

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

Andy Nolte, Mrs. LaBelle, and Mr. Holmes were present during executive session.

Mrs. Sikule arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Return to Public Session

At 7:05 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to return to public session. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lounsbury at 7:06 p.m. Mrs. Lounsbury welcomed all present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Schrade led all in the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Motion was approved. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on January 26, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the minutes of the Special

Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 2, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the list of emergency Conditional Appointments, as per the attached list. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule 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. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the Future Agenda Items, as enclosed. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the Dates to Remember, as enclosed. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Public Discussion

There were no public discussion items at this point in the meeting.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Program Focus

Mark Jones and Bruce Bonacquist were present to give an overview of Capital Region BOCES Services and Programs offered and supplied to BKW. Mr. Jones explained the organization and structure of the services offered. He touched on the various programs which include Special Education; Career and Technical Education; Itinerant Services; General Instruction; Instructional Support Services; and Non-Instructional Support Services. He briefly explained the three types of BOCES Aid: Services Aid; Administrative Aid, and Facilities Aid. In regard to the status of the Internal Auditor Services, Mr. Bonacquist reported those Districts who are part of the current agreement are being canvassed to see if they wish to continue the current arrangement and hire a replacement or garner this service from a private auditor.

Xena Pulliam, a BKW student currently attending the Tech Valley High School was present to share her experiences with the Board at Tech Valley. She elaborated on the program, thanking the Board for her opportunity to attend the school, and urged the Board to allow her to attend the program again next year. She briefly explained that the program is project based learning, and suits her well. She encouraged the Board to allow other students to attend next year.

Hunter Fortuin was also present to ask the Board's permission to attend the program next year. He has attended the Tech Valley Camp during the summer, and is very interested in attending, but the application deadline is coming up soon.

New Business

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to preliminarily approve Board Policy #5752 – Idling School Buses on School Grounds, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (First Motion)

Mr. Schrade stated that ERIE I BOCES has streamlined the policies, and when certain issues are in law, it is redundant to cite it again in the policy.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to preliminarily approve Board Policy #5681 – Communicable Diseases, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (First Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to preliminarily approve Board Policy #6212 – Certification and Qualifications, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (First Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to preliminarily approve Board Policy

#6230 – Determination of Employment Status: Employee or Independent Contractor, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (First Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the attached request from Baseball Varsity Coach Jeff Teats for a trip to Disney's Spring training in Florida in April (vacation week) of 2010, for the Varsity Baseball Team, at no cost to the District. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

There was brief discussion concerning the trip, and the success of the last venture.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the request from Roberta Villanova Nunn for transportation for her daughter, Aderia Crawford, at the central pick up point, in order to attend Bishop Maginn High School, provided there is room on the existing route, and there is no extra cost to the District. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the request from the BKW Ski Club for a trip to Jiminy Peak in Hancock, Massachusetts on February 28, 2009

Mrs. Sikule questioned if there had been similar trips in the past, and if the District has increased liability insurance to cover the participants. Mr. O'Connor pointed out the Ski Club waiver forms.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to amend the motion on the floor to require that all participants and parents sign all the Ski Club Waiver Forms. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mr. O'Connor that the Board of Education amends the 2008-2009 Budget to allow for the expenditure of \$68,000.00 from Budget Code A1620.200, funded by a Budget Transfer of funds from Budget Code A1620.405 in order to provide for the purchase of the two generators; one for the Water Treatment Facility, and one for the District Office/Transportation Building. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Mr. Holmes explained the critical need for these generators.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the attached Resolution to standardize the SimplexGrinnell Fire Alarm Detection System for the upcoming Capital Project. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Mr. Holmes recommended the standardization in order to have the same fire alarm system in the elementary and high school buildings. This would be more cost effective in respect to maintenance, repair and replacement part storage. He went on to say that Mr. Shunney and the maintenance staff are familiar with the system and are quite satisfied with its performance. The Board questioned competitive bidding and state contract for the alarm systems. He said that the amount would be limited by the line item in the Capital Project. Mr. Holmes stated that although the current system has passed inspection, it is not working perfectly. Mr. Schrade noted there was a flaw in the original system design, which was not picked up at the time installation. It is functioning, but the District has been advised by the Architects and the Fire Inspector to standardize the systems.

Mr. Holmes stated the Budget process is continuing. The District is awaiting word regarding the Federal Stimulus Package, and the State Legislative Budget. The Budget Advisory Committee will meet on February 12th at 8:30 a.m. General Support, Operations & Maintenance, and Transportation will be discussed, with a presentation to be made at the March 2nd Board Meeting. Mrs. Lounsbury reiterated the Board's target for no more than a 1% or possibly a 0% increase in the tax levy.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Holmes and Mrs. La Belle met with members of the Helderberg Christian School to discuss in detail the Westerlo Building condition, scope of the needed repairs, priority in scheduling these repairs, and a potential lease for next year. A plan was discussed wherein the District would purchase the materials necessary to do needed repairs, with the Helderberg Christian School's Membership providing the labor and installation of. It was stressed that these individuals must be fully insured and bonded. Mr. Holmes made it clear that a lease would be for one year only, with the District exercising the option to sell or lease to another entity. The Board would like to see more details in regard to this proposal.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to remove “Connect to Municipal Water” from the list of Westerlo School Repairs - 6 year Plan - 2008-2014. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to direct Mr. Holmes to explore the details of repairs to the Westerlo Building versus renting or lease payments on the building. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Concern was expressed that repairs be done to the satisfaction of the District. It was also suggested that our insurance company be contacted to determine what coverage is needed and what, if any, would be the liability on the District. School District Attorney, Robert Schofield suggested taking a closer look. Mrs. Sikule noted there will be discussion on the disposition of the Westerlo property at the next regular Board Meeting. Mr. O'Connor would like to see the three year classroom projection. Mrs. LaBelle distributed to the Board copies of the three year projection for their review.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the attached resolution approving the Bus Bond Proposition in the estimated total cost of \$368,000, to be placed on the ballot at the Annual District Meeting and Election to be held on May 19, 2009.

Mrs. Lounsbury votes yes.

Mrs. Sikule votes yes.

Mr. O'Connor votes yes.

Mrs. Fusco votes no.

Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to approve Board Policy #3310 – Public Access to Records, as amended. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve Board Policy #6410 – Maintaining Discipline and Conduct, as amended. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve Board Policy #6550 – Leaves of Absence, as amended. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve Board Policy #6551 – Family and Medical Leave Act, as amended. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (Second Motion)

Public Discussion

Mike Reynolds, a District Resident, urged that the Board not cut sports and extra curricular activities in next year's budget, and consider utilizing community volunteers. Mr. Schrade stated the Board has not made any decisions yet, but NYS Public High School Athletic Association has mandated that the maximum number of contests in each sport be reduced.

In regard to questions concerning the cost of special services being provided at the Helderberg Christian School, Mr. Schrade noted that regardless of its location, the District is still responsible for transportation and special services, as necessary. It reported that out of the 115 signatures on the Helderberg Christian School Petition, 38 were District Residents. Also questioned whether costs for holding athletic activities at a different location were incorporated into the capital project.

Mr. Ackroyd inquired when teaching staff would be informed of potential layoffs. Mr. Schrade stated per contract, before May 1st. However, by March 15th, the Administration and Board will know what's going to happen, but if some teachers retire, the number exceeded will be lower.

Mr. Schrade commented that at the present time, the Pre-K program is still included in the Governor's proposal for the 2009-10 school year.

Executive Session

At 9:22 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Mr. Schofield, Mrs. Mrs. LaBelle and Mr. Holmes were present during executive session.

Return to Public Session

At 9:57 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to return to public session. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lounsbury at 9:58 p.m.

Personnel

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to approve the Teachers' Retirement Incentive Memorandum of Agreement between the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District and the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Teachers' Association, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Executive Session

At 9:59 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Mr. Schofield was present during executive session.

Return to Public Session

At 10:55 p.m., motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to return to public session. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Fusco that the meeting adjourn. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Denise J. Martin
District Clerk