

MINUTES OF THE
March 16, 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 March 16, 2009, in the District Office.

Members Present: Helen Lounsbury Michelle Fusco
Maureen Sikule Sean O'Connor
Jack Harlow

Others Present: Kimberly LaBelle Brian Corey
Timothy Holmes Robert Schofield
Beth Bourassa Karen Barber
Tom Galvin Jeff Vogel
Eileen Rogers Neil McConnelee
Mary Jane Araldi Bill Tindale
Fred Marcil Fran Marcil
Bob Rue Zach Simeone, Altamont Enterprise
Mike Reynolds Edward Ackroyd
Don Dennis Brian McCoy
Andy Wright Sheila Martin
Kelly Smith 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 Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to enter into Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations and CSE/CPSE Recommendations. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

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

At 6:44 p.m. Mrs. LaBelle, Mrs. Martin, and Mr. Holmes left executive session.

At 6:55 p.m., Mr. Schrade left executive session.

Return to Public Session

At 7:02 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to return to public session. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lounsbury at 7:07 p.m. Mrs. Lounsbury welcomed all present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Schrade led all in the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Lounsbury noted Item 5b - Accept Retirement Resignation and Item 5c - One Personnel Appointment will be voted upon as separate items.

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. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the Emergency Conditional Appointments, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 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 March 2, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the request from the Art Department for a trip to New York City on May 7, 2009, to tour the Metropolitan Museum of Art and also the Guggenheim, at no cost to the District, with the usual disclaimer on the permission form. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the Future Agenda Items, as enclosed. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to approve the Dates to Remember, as enclosed. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. Harlow that be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Steven M. Schrade, that the Board of Education approves the resignation, with regrets, from William Sossei, for retirement purposes, from his position as a Mathematics Teacher, effective June 30, 2009. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Fusco that be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Steven M. Schrade, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Christopher Johnson as a Part Time Auto Mechanic Helper, at a rate of \$13.00/hour, effective 04/01/09.

Mrs. Lounsbury votes yes.

Mrs. Fusco votes yes.

Mr. O'Connor votes yes.

Mr. Harlow votes yes.

Mrs. Sikule votes no.

Motion was carried.

Public Discussion

There was no public discussion at this time.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Sikule noted the Audit & Finance Committee had met earlier with Paul Connelly. Some revisions, as discussed with the auditor, need to be made. These revisions will be reviewed again by the Committee, with a few items correlating to contract negotiations. The final report will be presented to the Board at the April 6th Meeting.

Mr. Holmes reported on the Budget Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 12th. Mr. Holmes distributed to the public copies of the packet presented to the Budget Advisory Committee Members. The two areas of discussion were Instructional and Employee Benefits. Instructional expenses represent 28% of the budget, and Employee Benefits equals 45%. He briefly reviewed these expenses, noting that due to the current financial climate, there may potentially be large increases to the Employees' and Teachers' Retirement Systems in the next fiscal year. March 26th will be the next meeting of the Committee, where the entire 2009-10 Budget will be reviewed, and also projections for 2010-11 will be presented. The District expects to have a better picture on the State Budget, as well as information on the Stimulus Packet at that time. Discussion ensued regarding fund balance, staffing for next year, tax levy, state aid, and the overall fiscal state of the District. Mr. Holmes expressed the Board's desire to maintain program, while keeping the tax levy low. It was stated that if the District received more revenue than expected, that scenario would warrant further discussion and review. There was also brief discussion concerning the costs of BOCES services, surplus monies returned to participating districts, as well as the vote on BOCES's Administrative Budget.

Mrs. Lounsbury noted the receipt of a letter from the Town of Westerlo Volunteer Fire Company officially asking for the opportunity to submit a bid for the Westerlo School Building.

In regard to the Administrative Restructuring Committee, Mrs. Sikule stated there are still unknowns, so the work of the Committee continues. To move forward with the process, the Committee would like to recommend that Mr. Schrade advertise for a secondary school principal while the Committee continues to meet. The Committee also asks that due to the building project at the High School, a potential lack of space during construction, along with the discipline issues in the building, Mr. Schrade evaluate moving the 6th Grade to the Elementary Building for the next school year.

Mr. Schrade noted the time line for a replacement at the High School would be to advertise for 4-6 weeks, interviews to be held the first weeks in May, with an appointment at the end of the month, and a potential start date of July 1st. Mrs. Lounsbury suggested an interview committee be formed. Mrs. Sikule noted the Board wants an experienced administrator in the High School, and wants stability. Mrs. Fusco reiterated there are no recommendations at this time for further administrative restructuring. There was discussion on the topic of moving the 6th Grade in the Elementary Building for next year. Discussion continued on this topic, with members of the 6th Grade Team expressing their objections, and reasoning behind their objections. Mr. Schrade noted further discussion will be held tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. with the 6 Grade Team, and afterwards with the 7th Grade Team. There was concern that there have been too many changes in the High School, and students need stability.

At 7:45 p.m., Mrs. Lounsbury called for a brief period to stretch before continuing with the meeting.

There was applause for BKW's Section II Class D Wrestling Coach of the Year, Mr. Vogel.

Program Focus

As required by New York State Law, Mrs. LaBelle gave the annual Special Education Report. Topics covered were the special education budget, the District's special education data enrollment, BKW's program development, updates on new special education regulations, special education program changes, and the District's needs in relation to professional development training, differentiated instruction, alternate assessment, and area school collaboration. A brief discussion ensued regarding the potential restructuring of the elementary school special education program, and adding two new classes at the middle/high school, thus returning students currently placed out of District, at a cost savings.

Personnel

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to approve the additional 2009 Spring Coaches, as per the attached memo from the Athletic Director. Motion as carried. 5 yes.

Member Comments

There were no member concerns.

New Business

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to preliminarily approve Board Policy #5660 - Records Management, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (First Motion)

Mr. Harlow felt intimidated by the policy notation on the bottom, "Arts and Cultural Affairs Law Article 57-a...." and asked if there was any way to distinguish between the BOCES person's recommendation and what is mandatory by law. Mr. Schrade will research.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Harlow to preliminarily approve Board Policy #5683 - Fire Drills, Bomb Threats and Bus Emergency Drills, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (First Motion)

There are currently 12 mandated drills. Mr. Schrade noted lock-down drills occur, but more evacuation drills need to take place.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to preliminarily approve Board Policy #6213.1 - Disciplining of a Tenured Teacher or Certified Personnel, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (First Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to preliminarily approve Board Policy #6217 - Professional Certification: 175 hours of Professional Development Requirement, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (First Motion)

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to award the bid for Occupational/Physical and Speech Therapy Services for 2009 through 2011 Summer Services; and 2009-2010 through 2011-2012 school years to Advanced Therapy, per the attached request for proposal. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to award the bid for two (2) Chevy Suburban Buses for the 2009-10 school year, at a price of \$36,033.00 each to Hoselton Chevrolet, Inc., as per the attached Capital Region BOCES Cooperative Bid RFB 09-008. This bid award is

contingent upon voter approval of the Bus Bond Proposition, to be voted upon May 19, 2009. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Unfinished Business

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve Board Policy #1330 - Appointments and Designations by the Board of Education, with amendments. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve Board Policy #5510 - Accounting of Funds, as amended. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve Board Policy #7220 - Graduation Requirements/Early Graduation/Accelerated Programs, as amended. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (Second Motion)

Mrs. Sikule noted a grammatical error, which needed to be fixed.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve Board Policy #7512 - Student Physicals. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (Second Motion)

Discussion on Board Goals was tabled until the next meeting.

Public Discussion

Regarding the earlier approved field trip request, a resident asked what that entailed.

District Clerk, Mrs. Martin announced that there will be one open seat on the Board of Education to fill the expired term of John Harlow. This is a three year term. Petitions will be available in the District Office tomorrow, and must be returned to the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2009.

Executive Session

At 8:23 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to enter into Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

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

At 9:20 p.m., Mr. Schrade, Mrs. LaBelle, Mr. Holmes and Mrs. Martin left executive session.

At 9:25 p.m. Mr. Schrade entered executive session.

At 9:30 p.m., Mr. Schrade left executive session.

Return to Public Session

At 9:35 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to return to public session. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Denise J. Martin
District Clerk