

MINUTES OF THE
June 2, 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 June 2, 2008, in the High School Auditorium.

Members Present:	Maureen Sikule Helen Lounsbury Joan Adriance	Jack Harlow Michelle Fusco
Others Present:	Kimberly LaBelle Fred Marcil Robert Freeman Andrew Wright Erin Wilbur Tim Service 30+ Teachers Parents/Residents Tyler Schuling, Altamont Enterprise	Timothy Holmes Brian Corey Scott Hannay Sean O'Connor Chrissie Margiotta PTA Representatives Students Mark Raven, Reporter

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Sikule at 6:02 p.m.

Executive Session

At 6:03 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mr. Harlow to enter into Executive Session to discuss particular Personnel Issues, Contract Negotiations, and CSE/CPSE Recommendations. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

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

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

Superintendent Schrade led all in the pledge of allegiance.

Recognition Program

The recognition program was to honor athletes who participated in the Boys Varsity Basketball Team and the Boys and Girls JV/Varsity Track and Field Teams. Mrs. Sikule turned the program over to Athletic Director, Fred Marcil. Mr. Marcil spoke of the Boys' Basketball Team and their accomplishments. Coach Andy Wright gave details on the team's season, thanking players, parents, the Administration, and the BKW Community for their support. Each player was named, with those present receiving a certificate of achievement.

The next group to be honored was the Boys and Girls JV/Varsity Track and Field Team. Coaches Hannay, Wilbur and Service were present to congratulate each member. Coach Hannay recognized Bill Tindale's 13 years in developing the Track Program at BKW and also thanked the Board and Administration for their support of the program. Each of the Track Members was identified and presented with a certificate.

All present participated in a brief refreshment break at 7:25 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:40 p.m. by the President, Mrs. Sikule.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Sikule asked to remove the Budget Transfers, Bids for Transportation and Athletic Supplies, and the Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held on 5/12/08. She asked if there were any further items on the consent agenda which needed to be withdrawn. Mrs. Lounsbury noted the change to the Minutes of the 5/5/08 Regular Board of Education Meeting. There were no further changes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Adriance to appoint Jennifer Phillips as a Long Term Substitute Biology Teacher, on Step 1 of the Teachers' Contract, effective 09/01/08 through 06/30/09. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (To replace Shannon James who will be on a leave of absence)

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

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Adriance to approve the retirement resignation from Marcia Drake, Business Teacher, effective July 1, 2008. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Adriance to approve the retirement resignation from Sandra Kelsch, Part Time Food Service Helper, effective June 30, 2008. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Adriance 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. Adriance to approve the attached transportation request from the Hilltowns Senior Citizens for the use of a school bus for a trip on June 8, 2008 to The Boathouse in Coeymans, at no cost to the District. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Adriance to award the Bid for Milk to Midland Farms, Inc, for the 2008-2009 school year, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Adriance to award the Bid for Ice Cream Vending to Gillette Creamery, for the 2008-2009 school year, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

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

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

Mrs. Sikule asked for an explanation from Mr. Holmes on two Budget Transfers.

Motion was made by Mrs. Adriance, seconded by Mr. Harlow to accept the Budget Transfers, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Adriance, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on May 12, 2008, with the noted change. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Mrs. Sikule noted there was a typographical error in noting the name of the Board President.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on May 5, 2008, with the noted changes. Motion

was carried. 5 yes.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Fusco spoke highly of the BKW sponsored Schoharie County School Boards Dinner Meeting. There was outstanding food provided by the BOCES Culinary Arts Class Students, very professional service, an excellent job done by the musical groups; and a very interesting speaker. It was also noted that the BKW Art Department provided the center pieces for each table.

Member Comments

Mrs. Lounsbury commended the web administrator for the recent stories posted on the District website.

It was noted the Board received notification in their package that the District has been awarded the Outreach Mini Grant. This Grant will support literacy experiences to selected students in the 5th, 6th and 9th Grades. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Canfield, and Mrs. Stempel were commended for their efforts to obtain the grant.

Program Focus

Three Members of the PTA spoke of their various activities and contributions to the School District which include: academic enrichment; banking, dance, karate and helmet programs, family fun night; the father-daughter dance; the holiday shop; P.A.R.P. Committee; PTA Newsletter; the Emergency Phone Tree; the Art Contest; the Science Fair; staff appreciation efforts; teacher reimbursement and grants; and awards for students at the end of the year. They gave brief descriptions of these activities. It was noted that Mrs. Fusco is stepping down as president, after 5 years in the position.

New Business

Mrs. Sikule introduced Robert Freeman, Executive Director for the NYS Department of State Committee on Open Government. Mr. Freeman distributed copies of the pamphlet on "Your Right to Know New York State Open Government Laws". He went into great detail on freedom of information, the scope of the law, what constitutes a record, accessibility to records, retention schedules, and how to obtain these records. He also reviewed the open meetings law, detailing the definition of a meeting; notification of meetings, video conferencing, executive sessions, minutes, etc.

He cited as an example of a violation of the open meeting laws for a majority of the Board to be participating simultaneously in a chat room situation. The Board had questions concerning the potential foiling of e-mails between Board Members, confiscation of personal home computers, the perception of conducting business through the use of e-mails, especially when communicating with Administrators and each other. Mr. Freeman stated that the content determines what becomes public, and what is not.

Mrs. Fusco left the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Mrs. Fusco returned to the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Mr. Schrade asked the Board if they were interested in pursuing a discussion with the Town of Berne (Supervisor Kevin Crosier) regarding the construction of a bus/truck wash station. The Board agreed to have Mr. Crosier present to the Board.

In regard to a proposal from a developer of a proposed senior housing project to purchase school water, the Board would like to hear more information.

Discussion ensued regarding the date for the Reorganizational Meeting and if there should be a facilitator to help with the goal setting session. It was suggested that a representative from NYSSBA be asked to facilitate the meeting. The Board also expressed a desire to have the Administrators present goals, visions for their buildings and programs. The Board asked that representatives from the Teachers' Association be present to help formulate these goals.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to set Tuesday, July 1, 2008, as the date for the Board of Education Reorganizational Meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the District Office. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

After brief discussion of the proposed 2008-2009 Board of Education Meeting Calendar, the Board tabled approval until the next meeting, with suggestion to be forwarded to Mr. Schrade. Mrs.

Lounsbury would like to see the Community Forum reinstated.

Mr. Schrade read a citation given to Mrs. Sikule from NYS School Boards Association in recognition of her participation in School Board Member Training, receiving 40 credits.

Unfinished Business

Motion was made by Ms. Adriance, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve Board Policy #1320 – Nomination and Election of Board Officers, as amended. Motion was carried. 5 yes. (Second Motion)

Public Discussion

Teachers' Union President, Kelly Smith addressed the Board and distributed a letter on behalf of the Association. She expressed their desire to have a full time high school principal in place by opening day of school in September to provide leadership and stability to the High School Building.

Mr. Robert Bentley and Mr. Gregory Speck expressed the same sentiments. Several parents expressed similar concerns. Much discussion between the Board and the public ensued. Mrs. Fusco assured the teachers and parents that there will be a principal in the principal's office by September, and that person will not be Mr. Schrade. Mr. Harlow expressed the Board's appreciation to the teachers for their diligence, patience and extra efforts in dealing with the difficult situation. Mrs. Sikule thanked those present for coming to the Board Meeting and expressing their concerns.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to authorize the hiring of a qualified person to help monitor the student parking lot through the end of the school year. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Executive Session

At 10:19 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mr. Harlow to enter into Executive Session to discuss particular Personnel Issues and Contract Negotiations. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

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

Return to Public Session

At 10:47 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mrs. Adriance to return to public session. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to award the Bid for Athletic Supplies, per the attached recommendations to the various vendors, for the 2008-2009 school year. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Adriance, seconded by Mr. Harlow to award the Bid for Transportation Supplies, per the attached recommendations to the various vendors, for the 2008-2009 school year. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to award the Bid for Roofing Work to Henderson-Johnson Co., Inc. – Base Bid in the amount of \$109,575.00; and Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$46,150.00, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the attached list of Summer School Staff. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

District Clerk