

**MINUTES OF THE  
September 14, 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 September 14, 2009, in the Elementary Cafeteria.

Members Present:     Maureen Sikule                     Sean O'Connor  
                              Carolyn Anderson

Members Absent:     Michelle Fusco                     Helen Lounsbury

Others Present:     Kimberly LaBelle                 Tom McGurl  
                              Brian Corey                     Brian Jeff Keller  
                              Karen Barber                    Tara LaMalfa  
                              Karl Griffith                    Kelly Smith  
                              Laura Garry                     Beth Canale  
                              Amanda Gorman                 Laurie McBain  
                              Lisa Harvey                     Sue Abrey  
                              Melissa Crouse                 Jenniffer Wright  
                              Sarah Domermuth               Holly Klug  
                              Marsha Elliott                 Carol Rapp  
                              Dorothy Brown                 Peter Shunney  
                              Noreen Shunney                Chrissie Geraci  
                              Resident                        Jane McClaine  
                              Zack Simeone, Altamont Enterprise

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 Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to enter into Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations, Legal Issues, and particular Personnel Issues. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Mrs. LaBelle and Mrs. Martin were present during executive session.

**Return to Public Session**

At 7:01 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to return to public session. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Interim Superintendent LaBelle led all in the pledge of allegiance.

**Introduction of New Staff**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Sikule at 7:06 p.m. Mrs. Sikule welcomed all present and stated this was the meeting at which new teachers and staff members are introduced.

Mrs. LaBelle started with the introduction of the new Secondary Principal Tom McGurl. Mr. McGurl presented the newly hired Dean of Students, Brian Jeff Keller to the audience. Mr. McGurl then introduced new staff at the Secondary School: Beth Canale, Laura Garry, Amanda Gorman, and Laurie McBain. Brian Corey, Elementary Principal introduced his new staff members: Sarah Domermuth, Marsha Elliot, and Holly Klug.

At 7:12, there was a brief refreshment break. The meeting resumed at 7:31 p.m.

## **Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Sikule asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda; there were none.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on August 24, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on August 31, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on September 3, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on September 8, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to adopt the 2009-2010 Non-Resident Tuition Rates, as per the attached memo. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the Dates to Remember, as enclosed. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the Future Agenda Items, as enclosed. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

## **Public Discussion**

Resident Jane McClaine, representative of the Helderberg Community Energy Group, asked that their group be contacted for input to be considered as part of the discussion in the Superintendent process. She stated her group would support a Superintendent who is interested in renewable energy as part of the energy performance plan.

## **Committee Reports**

Mr. O'Connor stated the exit interview will be ready for the September 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

## **Member Comments**

Mrs. Sikule encouraged nominations for the Board of Education Recognition Awards for Staff, Community or District Members who have gone above and beyond in rendering outstanding service or have brought outstanding recognition to the School District.

Mrs. Sikule encouraged the Board Members to review the resolutions to be voted upon at the October NYS School Boards Convention, and to give their input to Mrs. Anderson, who will be the voting member at the Convention. Mrs. Sikule will also forward the information to Mrs. Lounsbury and Mrs. Fusco.

In regard to the H1N1 Flu, Mrs. LaBelle reported that a letter to parents outlining precautionary measures the District is taking and advice to parents, along with a CDC Brochure will be given out at the Open Houses. These items are also posted on the BKW Website. School Nurses have received specific information and guidelines provided by CDC.

## **New Business**

Karl Griffith, School Architect, was present to give an update on the Capital Project. He stated the project is still status quo. Due to a change in the Code, we are still awaiting a letter from the Berne Fire Department regarding their fire fighting capabilities and water storage at this site. The Architects are formulating a proposal to State Ed this week. Due to this holdup, he deems the impact implicates there will be a spring start to the construction versus this Fall. Mrs. Sikule asked whether the District would lose its EXCEL Aid. Mr. Griffith did not think it would be affected. He now estimates completion to be the Summer of 2012. If available, there will be an update at the September 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

## Unfinished Business

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve Board Policy #4336 - Dean of Students.

Mrs. Anderson suggested a strike out of a portion of the policy.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve Board Policy #4336 - Dean of Students, as amended. Motion was carried. 3 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve Board Policy #4333 - Secondary School Principal. Motion was carried. 3 yes. (Second Motion)

Mrs. LaBelle reviewed information distributed regarding Grades 3-8 Level Value Added Information and Achievement Summary; BKW Total Cohort Summary Report for Students in Attendance in Grades 9-12 in 2005; and the 2009-2010 Board Goals and Action Plans. The Board will review their goals in conjunction with the baseline data provided at this meeting.

## Personnel

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to appoint the 2009-2010 Teacher Mentors as follows: Lisa Harvey (for Sarah Domermuth); Kelly Smith (for Amanda Gorman); Melissa Crouse (for Holly Klug); Susan Abrey (for Beth Canale); Tara LaMalfa (for Laurie McBain); Audra Rys (for John Barrett); and Susan Abrey (for Laura Garry). Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to appoint Brendan Hogan to the permanent position of Help Desk Technician Trainee, in compliance with Albany County Civil Service, effective immediately. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to appoint Carol Rapp as a Part Time Salaried Bus Driver, effective September 1, 2009, providing she meets all the rules and regulations under Article 19A of the Vehicle and Traffic Laws. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to appoint Andy Clark as a Per Diem Car Driver, AM and PM Run, effective September 1, 2009, providing he meets all the rules and regulations under Article 19A of the Vehicle and Traffic Laws. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to appoint Rachael Rapp as a Long Term Substitute Part Time Salaried Bus Driver, effective September 1, 2009 through November 5, 2009, providing she meets all the rules and regulations under Article 19A of the Vehicle and Traffic Laws. Motion was carried. 3 yes. (For Sandy Brooks who is on a medical leave)

A staff member asked for clarification on the appointment.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to accept the resignation from John Barrett, Jr., Special Education Teacher, effective 09/10/09. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to appoint Erin Snyder as a 1.0 FTE English Teacher, contingent upon the receipt of funds received through the 2009-2010 Title I and 2009-2010 Title I ARRA Grants. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to appoint Philip Place as a .6 FTE Social Studies Teacher, contingent upon the receipt of funds received through the 2009-2010 Title I Grant. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

## Public Discussion

Mrs. LaBelle extended the invitation from Chuck Dedrick to the Board to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Tech Valley High School on October 1st at 11:00 a.m. We have two students currently attending the school. Reservations are to be made to Mrs. Shunney.

Mrs. Sikule also mention the Utica National Insurance Group Technology Meeting. Mrs. LaBelle noted she and Mr. Hogan will be attending. Also noted was the Schoharie County School Boards Association Meeting of their Executive Committee on September 17th. Mrs. Fusco is expected to attend that meeting. Mrs. Sikule and Mrs. Anderson will be attending the H1N1 Presentation given by CASDA.

### **Executive Session**

At 8:15 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal issues. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

Mrs. LaBelle and Mrs. Martin were present during executive session. At the request of the Board, Mrs. LaBelle and Mrs. Martin left executive session at 9:10 p.m., and returned at 9:22 p.m.

### **Return to Public Session**

At 9:25 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to return to public session. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

### **Adjourn**

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor that the meeting adjourn. Motion was carried. 3 yes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Denise J. Martin  
District Clerk