

MINUTES OF THE
October 21, 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 October 21, 2009, in the Secondary School Auditorium.

Members Present: Maureen Sikule Michelle Fusco
 Sean O'Connor Helen Lounsbury
 Carolyn Anderson

Others Present: Kimberly LaBelle Tom McGurl
 Molly Tiffany Mr. & Mrs. Shunney
 Chrissie Geraci Mark Raven, Reporter
 Sarah Domermuth Andrew Wright
 Students Residents

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Sikule at 6:01 p.m.

Executive Session

At 6:02 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to enter into Executive Session to discuss Negotiations and CSE Recommendations. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

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

Return to Public Session

At 6:59 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, 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. Sikule at 7:04 p.m. Mrs. Sikule thanked all present for coming to join in honoring the many dedicated staff, community members, and students. Mrs. Sikule summarized that the Board of Education Recognition Award recognizes individuals who have given outstanding service or brought outstanding recognition to the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District. Recipients of the 2009 Board of Education Recognition Award are: Lisa Achenbach; Rachael Empie; Danielle Schneible; Anna Lefkaditis; and James Sawyer. Mrs. Sikule gave a brief summary of each honoree's contribution.

Mrs. Sikule then turned the ceremony over to Mrs. LaBelle who announced the recipients of the Years of Service Awards as follows: 30 Year Service Award – Carlton Jones and Marlene Tiffany; 20 Year Service Award – Karen Barber; Robert Bentley, Jr.; Christopher Lewis; Lauri Motschmann; and Deborah Rosko. 10 Year Service Award - Brian Corey; Lisa Cortese; Dennis Pierce; Denise Robinson; and Adrienne White.

Secondary Principal, Tom McGurl then announced the Special Student Recognition Awards for the 2008-2009 school year for Academic Achievement by Students attaining 95% Average or Better – Grade 6 – Andrew Bub; Aaron Collins; Thomas Fisher; Samantha Flavell; Gregory Gustafson; Allison Haller; Derek Hempstead; Merryn Kleider; Ashley Lawson; Nicklas Nagengast; Anita Rice; and Alexandria Tedeschi. Grade 7 – Aidan Flanagan; Samuel Gerardi; and Rhianon Sherry. Grade 8 – Sarah Abbott; Angela Cunningham; Michaela Fisher; Adam Forti; Kyle Gibbs; Makayla McCormick; Katelyn Slaver; and Courtney Tedeschi. Students achieving 93% Average or Better – Grade 9 – Kristen Bassler; Ashley Bub; Keely Duffney; Taylor DellaRocco; Connor Devine; Rachel Fuller; Christina North; Xena Pulliam; Erin Salo; Faith Sisson; Abigail Swing; Maria Torina; Julia Turner; and Victoria Villeneuve. Grade 10 – Marian Bates; Tuesday Bishop; Kathryn Forti; Nicholas McSpedon; and Marion White. Grade 11 – Megan Bassler; Faith Carney; Julia Dancer; Kristin Depeaux; Michael Galgay; Lydia Gerardi; Rachel Jordan; Kevin Mason; Eliza Matlock; Victoria Perciballi; Moria Sherry; and Gabrielle Tubbs.

Special acknowledgement was given to Michael Galgay for achieving recognition as a Commended Student in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. He is one of 34,000 students in the nation recognized for exceptional academic promise, placing among the top 5%.

At 7:25 p.m., Mrs. LaBelle congratulated the recipients, and invited all to partake in a reception prepared by the BKW Food Service Staff in the Gymnasium.

The meeting resumed at 7:51 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Interim Superintendent LaBelle led all in the pledge of allegiance.

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. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on October 5, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury that the Board of Education has no objections to the recommendations of the Committee on 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. Lounsbury to approve the establishment of an After School Technology Club for the 2009-2010 school year, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to appoint Kevin Callagy as Purchasing Agent for the 2009-2010 school year, effective 11/02/09, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to appoint Kevin Callagy as Records Access Management Officer for the 2009-2010 school year, effective 11/02/09, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to appoint Kevin Callagy as Workers' Compensation Consortium Co-Trustee for the 2009-2010 school year, effective 11/02/09, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to appoint Kevin Callagy as the Officer to Certify Payrolls for the 2009-2010 school year, effective 11/02/09, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to appoint Kevin Callagy as Property Control Manager for the 2009-2010 school year, effective 11/02/09, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

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

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

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

Public Discussion

Mrs. LaBelle noted that this week was National School Board Recognition Week. She stated the Members are elected by the community and serve on a volunteer basis, dedicating much time and effort to their positions. She enlisted the help of Mr. McGurl and Mr. Corey to ask their students what the Board of Education is and what it does. She passed out samples of work the kids produced. She also gave an illustration of humorous descriptions given by a few of Mr. Dergosits' 4th Grade Students. Mrs. LaBelle thanked each Board Member and presented them with student art work and a gift.

There was no public discussion at this point.

Committee Reports

In presenting the proposed Program Focus Topics, by Board Meeting Date, Mrs. Sikule explained the Board's attempt to have more academic, curriculum centered Program Foci which are also in conjunction with Board Goals, to make the public more aware of initiatives taking place.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to accept the Program Focus Topic List, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Mrs. Sikule noted the amended Board of Education Meeting Schedule with Program Focus Topics will be posted on the BKW Website. Mrs. Labelle noted the rationale for the November to December Program Focus to review Board Goals would set the framework of current student achievement before the building presentations.

Mrs. Fusco noted she met with Mr. McGurl regarding sports teams and other student recognition. Their proposal brings ceremonies back to school during the day, so students can share achievements with their peers. This recognition encourages other students to excel. A quarterly recognition assembly schedule during 12th Period for Grades 6-12 was presented. This format will be tried, but depending upon length and management, there may be a need to break down the ceremonies by Middle School and Secondary School. Mr. McGurl will do a test run and report back to the Board.

Mr. O'Connor distributed a preliminary draft of Superintendent of Schools hiring brochure. The other Board Members were asked to review and forward input to him. He also mentioned that at the November 5th meeting, the application form will be included with the final brochure draft. Mrs. Sikule noted pending the results of the Superintendent Search Survey, there may be items to include. Mrs. Sikule and Mrs. Anderson in conjunction with Mrs. Geraci will be compiling those results for the November 5th Meeting. Mrs. Anderson will pick up from the District Office unopened surveys, which have been sent there.

In regard to evaluating resumes and credentials verification, Mrs. Lounsbury and Mr. O'Connor will be meeting with BOCES District Superintendent Chuck Dedrick who has offered his services in this area. They will also explore sample templates that may be pertinent to the process.

Mrs. LaBelle and Mrs. Anderson spoke of their attendance at the recent NYS School Boards Convention in New York City. Both felt the workshops and experience to be excellent. Materials are available on the NYSSBA Website.

Discussion ensued regarding the Superintendent Evaluation Instrument. Mr. O'Connor expressed the complexity of compiling a recommendation. Mr. O'Connor, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. LaBelle met to discuss the evaluation. Sample documents were reviewed, and further refinement of the Board of Education Goals and evaluation tool needs to be done. It will be presented at the next Board of Education Meeting.

Member Comments

Procedures for answering e-mails received by Board Members were reviewed.

Mrs. Fusco asked if the Administration could look into offering adult education courses in Math, English, Science, etc. which would enable participants in offering assistance to their children with homework and other class projects. The Board further asked that Mrs. LaBelle prepare a report on the Adult Education Program, outlining offerings, enrollment, costs, and income received.

New Business

Mrs. Sikule noted that since the Independent Audit has not yet been received, the Independent Audit Report and also approval of the Internal Audit Report have been tabled until the November 5th Board Meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Shunney was present to give the Board an update on the Capital Project. He reiterated that the hold up of the Project was due to the water capacity issue. Test holes were dug without difficulty and water tanks will be buried to accommodate water storage. Measurements were taken and will be forwarded to Architect Karl Griffith who will prepare a design to present to the Berne Fire Department. A letter will be forthcoming from the Berne Fire Company which will be forwarded to NYS Education Department. After State Education's approval, bids will be sent out. Mrs. Lounsbury expressed concern over legal liability issues. Mr. Shunney also elaborated on proposed changes to the Energy Performance Contract, which would convert the rest of the steam heat in buildings to hot water heat, and changes to the air conditioning units. Mrs. LaBelle will have proposed costs from Mr. Griffith and also provide additional information with more accurate figures. Mrs. Lounsbury stated the public is interested in receiving updates on the Capital Project and the Energy Performance Contract posted to the BKW Website. Mr. Shunney will obtain informational sheets from Honeywell and the Architects which would address the Board and Community's questions and concerns. Mr. Shunney

will work together with Mrs. LaBelle and Mrs. Geraci to keep the Community updated through the Website.

Public Discussion

Mrs. Tiffany asked if the installation of the water tank would have any impact on the Elementary Playground. Mr. Shunney assured her there would be none.

Executive Session

At 9:12 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to enter into Executive Session to discuss Negotiation issues. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

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

Return to Public Session

At 10:10 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to return to public session. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Personnel

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the revised list of 2009-2010 Winter Coaches, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to approve the attached request from the AP Literature and AP US History Classes for a field trip to Salem, Massachusetts on November 13, 2009, at no cost to the District, with the usual disclaimer. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to appoint Mandy Bailey as a Substitute Bus Driver, effective October 22, 2009, providing she meets all the rules and regulations under Article 19A of the Vehicle and Traffic Laws, per the attached recommendation. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to appoint Donna Lorette as a Substitute Bus Driver, effective October 22, 2009, providing she meets all the rules and regulations under Article 19A of the Vehicle and Traffic Laws, as per the attached recommendation. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to approve the Agreement between the Berne-Knox-Westerlo District School Business Official and the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District School, dated November 2, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. O'Connor that the meeting adjourn. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Denise J. Martin
District Clerk