

Mrs. Sikule asked if there were any items on the consent agenda which needed to be withdrawn. There were changes to the Minutes of the 03/03/08 Board of Education Meeting, therefore, consent agenda "Item 5g" was removed. Mr. Schrade also distributed to the Board a leave of absence request.

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

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve the Resolution authorizing a Budget Amendment to the 2007-2008 General Fund Budget which increases the Interfund Transfer line item appropriation from the Capital Reserve Fund - Facilities by the amount of \$200,000, as per the attached memo. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve the attached list of Emergency Conditional Appointments. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve the future agenda items, as enclosed. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve the dates to remember as enclosed. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow 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. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve Board Policy #5241 - Property Tax Exemptions, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve Board Policy #5570 - Financial Accountability, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve Board Policy #5650 - School Food Service Program (Lunch and Breakfast)/School District Nutrition Advisory Committee, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve Board Policy #5730 - Transportation of Students, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (Second Motion)

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve Board Policy #7650 - Identification and Register of Children with Disabilities (Child Find), as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes. (Second Motion)

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 March 3, 2008, as revised and attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Committee Reports

Mrs. LaBelle spoke of her attendance at the recent Schoharie County School Boards Executive Committee Meeting. BKW will be hosting the Spring meeting. Plans were discussed, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Schoharie. Topics will include change and students in the 21st Century. Guest speaker will be Brenda McGuire. Schoharie VOTEC students will be catering the dinner. There will also be a musical group from BKW performing. It was noted Cobleskill CSD will be sponsoring the New School Board Member orientation in June.

Mr. Schrade, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Lounsbury, Mrs. Sikule and Mrs. Storm recently met with Senator Breslin to lobby on behalf of the School District. There was discussion of the Governor's plan to remove School Resource Officers from Districts; the restoration of BOCES aid; potential tax caps; possible future legislation to mandate consolidation of school districts, rising fuel costs, and special education costs. The group also met with Assemblyman McEneny.

Member Comments

Mrs. Sikule and Mrs. Lounsbury attended the contractual meeting with the BKW Teachers' Association on March 10th. Notes were compiled and distributed to the other Members of the Board for their review. The Board will respond to the Association's concerns within the next six weeks.

Program Focus

Mr. Schrade handed out material which had been discussed by the Budget Advisory Committee. He cautioned that historically, low tax levy increases have resulted in high increases in the following 4-5 years. Mr. Schrade cautioned against attempting to keep tax levy/budget increases too low, which when done, historically has resulted in severely cutting the educational program in subsequent years. Once programs are cut, it is difficult to re-instate them without creating huge tax increases.

Mr. Holmes presented the following areas of the proposed budget: supervision; instructional; special education, debt service and employee benefits. At the next meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee on March 25th, the whole picture will be presented; expenses and revenues. Although there is still fine-tuning to be done, Mr. Holmes is projecting the budget to have a 5.8% increase, with a tax levy of 1.9%. He reviewed in detail the above mentioned appropriation areas. Mr. Holmes also distributed a report on major budgetary increases, and gave an explanation of each category, plus historical budget and tax levy increases. There was much discussion regarding anticipated revenue and potential increased expenses due to rising fuel costs. In order to have ample time to consider the recommendations of the Budget Advisory Committee, it was decided to hold a special budget workshop meeting on April 3 in order to prepare for adoption of a budget proposal at the next regular Board Meeting on April 7th.

New Business

In regard to the upcoming BOCES Vote on April 21st, Mr. Schrade explained that for the first time in over two decades there will be a contest for seats on the BOCES Board. He explained the resolution adopted by the BOCES Board for the distribution of BOCES Board Seats by County. He gave historical information concerning previous agreements. He urged the Board to vote for the Albany County Candidate. Profiles of the proposed candidates will be forthcoming.

Per regulations by the Commissioner of Education, school districts have to review their Shared

Decision Making Plan every two years. The plans then need to be revised or recertified. There was discussion on filling vacant seats on some of the Committees. The Board agreed that the plan is okay as it stands. They also asked that copies of the minutes of each Shared Decision Making Committee be forwarded to the Board Members.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Lounsbury to re-certify the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District's Plan for School Based Shared Decision Making, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

District Clerk, Mrs. Martin announced that there will be two (2) open seats on the Board of Education, both three year terms to fill the expired terms of Mrs. Joan Adriance and Mrs. Maureen Sikule. Petitions are now available in the District Office, and must be returned to the District Clerk no later than April 18, 2008.

Mr. Harlow inquired if the Board of Education could put forth a proposition to the District Voters in which Candidates for Board of Education Member could determine what term length they would be running for, i.e. three year term or five year term. Mr. Schrade will explore this concept with the school attorney as to the legality of this proposal.

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to approve a one year extension to the Lease Agreement with the Helderberg Christian School, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

There was a brief discussion on the monthly rental amount, maintenance and associated costs, and HCS enrollment.

Unfinished Business

The 2007-2008 Board Goals were reviewed, with discussion and implementation and completion dates added were appropriate.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve the request from Shannon James, High School Science Teacher, for a maternity leave of absence for the period September 1, 2008 through September 1, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Public Discussion

Mrs. Storm suggested that a follow up letter requesting funding for member items be sent to Senator Breslin and Assemblyman McEneny.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Denise J. Martin
District Clerk