

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 7, 2014

The Webutuck Board of Education held their April 7, 2014 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

William McGhee, President
Christopher Mayville
Judy Moran
Kristen Panzer
John Perotti
Judy Westfall

Also Present:

James Gratto Jr., Superintendent
Therese Trotter, District Clerk
Jon Zenz
Kenneth Sauer
Jennifer Chason
Katy McEnroe
Tammy Nethercott
Patricia Carmody
Paul Christofel
Trini Stevens
Jean Roccanova
John Roccanova
Al Barros
Laura Robinson
Nancy Gagne
Christine Mothers
Sam Buell
Jenny Hansell
Bennett Chinn
Cory Chinn
Joanne Boyd
Patrick Hannon
Students
Community Members

1. CALL TO ORDER

President McGhee called the business meeting of April 7, 2014 to order at 7:35 p.m.

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2. PRESENTATION

Senior Trip: P. Carmody

Mrs. Carmody reported that out of 68 students in the senior class 40 have signed up for the senior trip at the end of the year. She explained that the students had looked at different ideas and came up with a day trip to Hershey Park in Pennsylvania. Board members questioned what chaperones would be going. Mrs. Carmody stated she would like four chaperones in total to go and she is presently working on it. Discussion ensued.

iPads: K. McEnroe

Mrs. McEnroe reported that Mrs. Nethercott could not make it at the last minute. She reported that they both went to a workshop in Newburgh three weeks ago. It was wonderful and presented great ideas about different apps and how to use them, how to use iPads appropriately in classroom and guidelines for use in classrooms. Mrs. McEnroe remarked that it was important buy iPads that came with Siri. She noted a program that increases reading ability for students and utilizes Siri. Ms. Moran stated that all of the iPads will have Siri. Discussion ensued.

Summer School: K. McEnroe

Mrs. McEnroe summarized the courses that will be offered for the 2014 Summer Program: ESL summer program for grades K-6 with one teacher, two special education classes housed in the elementary building one for grades K-3 and one for grades 4-6, the Writing Institute for Grades 4 -6, Math Boost program for 3rd graders going into 4th needing extra support, and a Reading Boost program for 2nd graders going into 3rd grade. Mrs. McEnroe commented that they would like a summer program for the identified data driven group in 1st grade going into 2nd grade. The Summer School Report will be in the Board packets Friday with associated cost. Discussion ensued.

3. STUDENT REPORT

Paul Christofel

Representative Christofel reported that spring sports games and meets have started. Track and Varsity baseball won their first outings. Math and Science night will be this Thursday. The Blood Drive will be this Friday and the French trip leaves this Thursday. He noted happily that spring break begins after school Friday.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget Presentation

Mr. Gratto reviewed the first public presentation made two weeks ago. He noted last year's budget amount and tax levy, enrollment, 2014-2015 additional expenses, expense reductions/cost avoidance, revenue and the reductions considered.

Mr. Gratto updated the Board and audience on the additional state aid received in the amount of \$133,796. With the additional State Aid the recommendation as of April 7th are reductions in the following areas: Earth Science to .6, German to .2, elimination of the .4 Business position, \$30,000 labor costs (if bus proposition passes) He also noted that he recommends maintaining the special education position previously considered for reduction and applying \$64,000 in additional state aid to the tax levy, reducing it from the

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proposed 1.77% increase down to 1.26%. He emphasized that 60% majority is required to pass the budget because it is over the tax cap of 0.12%. Mr. Gratto spoke about the \$450,000 amount from OPEB Liability Funds that have been added to fund the budget. There was discussion on using money from the reserves to fund the budget and what the effects are on future budgets.

Ms. Grden noted that in a couple of years there will be some debt payment reductions. She also noted that Boards can never look at just one year; they always have to look to the future. Mrs. Panzer noted from auditors' perspective, the Board was prudent in reducing that reserve. Ms. Grden agreed and stated that using reserves needs to be done in a planned and considered plan. President McGhee pointed out other issues that the District is facing e.g., sewer and water costs with estimates have not been determined. Discussion ensued.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following topics were commented on by the public:

- where's the reporter
- what costs the most in the budget; what are the increases in salary
- as a Board members there is a lot more information on which to base budget decisions
- checking what electives students will take
- business teacher is proud of what she has done with the business courses; wrote grants, exposed students to many things

6. CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion as amended.

A consent agenda is a single vote, which approves all asterisked items. Board policy (#008a) prohibits discussion of consent agenda items. Asterisked* items can be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion by any one Board member.

The amendments called for removing #10.C. off of the Consent Agenda allowing Kristen Panzer to vote on the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Panzer sits on the Board of NECC; therefore Webutuck Board policy prohibits her from voting or discussing any NECC resolution or topic. President McGhee acknowledged Hatty Butts on her retirement and thanked her for her years of service. Ms. Moran congratulated Monica Baker-Bozik on receiving her tenure.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

7. DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT

***A.** Approval of Minutes for March 24, 2014 Board meeting.

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

B. Delegations – none

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8. PERSONNEL

***A. Support Staff Appointments**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following support staff appointments:

Gregory Grey	Custodial Worker
Effective: April 8, 2014	Salary: \$13.63
Moustafa Elsirafy	Bus Driver
Effective: April 8, 2014	Step 1 of CSEA contract: \$17.12 p/h
Ayes 6 Nays 0	The motion carried.

***B. Substitute Instructional Appointments**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following substitute instructional appointments:

Leah Sprague	Substitute Teacher
Effective: April 8, 2014	Salary: \$85/day
Victoria Cruz	Substitute Teacher
Effective: April 8, 2014	Salary: \$90/day
Leah Sprague	Substitute Teaching Assistant
Effective: April 8, 2014	Salary: \$11.96 per hour
Leah Sprague	Substitute Teacher Aide
Effective: April 8, 2014	Salary: \$11.96 per hour
Ayes 6 Nays 0	The motion carried.

***C. Approval of Tenure Recommendations for Teacher**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby grant tenure to the following teacher:

Teacher	Tenure Area	Effective Date
Monica Baker-Bozik	ESL	September 1, 2014
Ayes 6 Nays 0	The motion carried.	

***D. Amended Support Staff Resignation**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following amended support staff resignation date for the purpose of retirement:

Hatty Butts	Custodial Worker
Effective: March 31, 2014(was April 1, 2014)	
Ayes 6 Nays 0	The motion carried.

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***E. Approval of Support Staff Resignation**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following support staff resignation:

Kelly Kilmer
Effective: April 1, 2014

Lori Milano
Effective: April 18, 2014

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***F. Extra-Curricular Appointments for the 2013-2014 School Year**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the following 2013-2014 extra-curricular appointments, contingent upon meeting coursework/certifications consistent with the NYSED coaching sequence requirements:

			Stipend
Jason Watson	Boys' Modified Baseball		\$2148.00
Mari-Ann Hoke	Girls' Modified Softball		\$2148.00
Larry Selfridge	Boys' Modified Baseball		Volunteer
Chip Watt	Girls' Modified Softball		Volunteer
Ayes 6	Nays 0	The motion carried.	

9. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

***A. Approval of 2014-2015 Webutuck School District Calendar (as presented)**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the 2014-2015 Webutuck School District Calendar (as presented).

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***B. Committee on Special Education Monthly Report**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Webutuck Board of Education hereby accepts the Committee on Special Education report for March 2014, prepared by the Webutuck Central School District Committee on Pre-School Education and by the Webutuck Central School District Committee Special Education

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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10. BUSINESS and OPERATIONS

***A. Approval of Football Merger with Dover Union Free School District**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED the Dover Union Free School District currently provides a football program for its high school students; and WHEREAS, the districts have discussed running one football program for the students of both districts; It is hereby resolved: Subject to receipt of any necessary approvals and an agreement with Dover, the Webutuck Board of Education hereby authorizes the “sharing” of a football program with Dover, effective for the 2014-15 school year.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***B. Approval of Budget Transfers**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the attached budget transfer schedules #14, #16, and #17 over five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

C. Approval of NECC Lease

This item was removed from the consent. Mrs. Panzer sits on the Board of NECC; therefore Webutuck Board policy prohibits her from voting or discussing any NECC resolution or topic.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the NECC Lease between Webutuck (North East) Central School District and North East Community Center for the 2014 – 2015 school year at a rate of one thousand dollars (\$1000) per month and directs the Board President to sign the approved lease.

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

Mrs. Panzer abstained.

D. Approval of 2014-2015 School Budget

Mrs. Panzer made and Mr. Mayville seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the 2014-2015 Budget in the amount of \$21,250,158 with anticipated revenue exclusive of taxes in the amount of \$5,972,280 and the amount to be raised through taxes of \$12,727,878.

Mrs. Panzer stated that potentially the District could have some increased revenue which might allow the Board to expand technology with great electives. The Board made a huge commitment to technology and she wants great classes and electives for students. She pointed out that the Board has talked about the District not being able to run classes with four or less students in them but she voiced concerns that the schedule is possibly driving those electives having so few students in them. Discussion ensued.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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11. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Discussion: Millerton Elementary Appraisal

Mr. Gratto noted that all Board members have had a chance to read the appraisal. Mr. Perotti stated that it is considerably less than the 2004 appraisal and at that time Board members were not happy with that appraisal. Ms. Moran suggested reaching out to local realtors for an estimate on what they think the building would sell for. Mrs. Panzer commented that the Finance Committee met and discussed the appraisal. She does not believe it is in our students' or District's best interest to sell the building to commercial interest – it's an asset. Mr. Perotti commented that between the Silo Ridge project, the Catamount project and a possible increase in Hispanic population due to those projects providing jobs, that we should not sell the building. He would like to work on using the building to our advantage. He feels it is a community asset also. Board members commented that something has to be done; the District cannot afford the drain on resources to maintain it in present condition. Ms. Moran stated we need to look at marketing the building. Mrs. Panzer commented the building could be a place where something more wonderful could be happening for students. She questioned what those programs could be, who could fund them, how could the District get private funding. Board members discussed having grant writing done by a professional and a piece of the funding could possibly cover the rent. Ms. Hansell commented that there are programs and funding out there. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves retaining ownership of the Millerton Elementary School and vigorously looks for more renters to cover District operational costs until we have explored all possibilities for the building.

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following amendment to the motion: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves searching for a viable way to retain ownership of the Millerton Elementary building and using it for the best educational and community purposes the District can while searching for funding to offset the cost to the District.

Aye 6

Nay 0

Discussion: President McGhee questioned if the Community Center would think about renting the whole building and picking up the cost on a monthly basis. Ms. Hansel stated they could not in the short term because they wouldn't be able to come up with the money but they would be interested in identifying programs to be housed there and then find funding to offset the costs. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Perotti seconded the amended motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves searching for a viable way to retain ownership of the Millerton Elementary building and using it for the best educational and community purposes the District can while searching for funding to offset the cost to the District for the 2014-2015 school year.

Aye 6

Nay 0

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B. Committee Reports

1. Policy

Plans will be in packets this week for approval. Ms. Panzer commented that a policy was established about donations for scholarship and Board approving the donations. She hasn't seen any donation yet. Mr. Gratto stated letters went out for Scholarship Committee. Discussion ensued.

2. Finance

Mr. Gratto noted that the auditors will be coming on April 22nd to the Finance Committee meeting.

C. Mr. Mayville asked if we received any information on the Cape program. Mr. Gratto stated that he was waiting for Ms. Caldiero to receive information from Elaine Trumpeto. Mr. Mayville noted that there was a meeting in Dover recently. He also noted that the Wappingers School District mandated that students had to attend the program to be involved in extracurricular activities.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Panzer made and Mr. Perotti seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:34 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

13. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Perotti made and Mr. Mayville seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 10:20 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Perotti made and Mr. Mayville seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of April 7, 2014 at 10:21 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter
District Clerk