

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting  
February 6, 2012

The Webutuck Board of Education held their February 6, 2012 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Dale Culver, President  
Joanne Boyd  
William McGhee  
Judy Moran  
Kristen Panzer  
Robert Trotta

Also Present:

James Gratto Jr., Superintendent  
Mary Grden, School Business Manager  
Therese Trotter, District Clerk  
Kenneth Sauer, WES Principal  
Rosanna Hamm  
Darryl Gangloff, Lakeville Journal Company  
Kayla Smith, Millerton News  
Barbara Riley  
Robert Eastman  
Community Members

Absent:

Brian Christofel, Student Representative  
John Perotti

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Culver called the Business meeting of February 6, 2012 to order at 7:45 p.m.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. McGhee made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 7:45 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

Ayes    6            Nays    0            The motion carried.

**3. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

Ms. Moran made and Mrs. Boyd seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 8:18 pm.

Ayes    6            Nays    0            The motion carried.

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#### **4. PRINCIPALS' REPORT**

##### **High School BET and Guidance Update – Ken Sauer**

Mr. Sauer stated a major goal for the high school is that Webutuck will be the highest performing school in Dutchess County. Mr. Sauer noted other BET goals that will help move the school towards that main goal; increase graduation rate by 10%, increase mastery rates by 20% and reduce the number of failures by 10%. Mr. Sauer created several committees and assigned several staff to each one with the hope that the focus will highlight efforts and solutions to those areas regarding to the BET goals. He reported on the committees of Community Relations, Dropout Prevention, Staff Morale, School Pride, Rigor, Student Morale, and Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Sauer also noted information provided by Jon Zenz, Athletic Director about the role of athletics with respect to improving school pride. One main point about Athletics was that the commitment to success in academics as well as extra-curricular activities is a foundation to a renewed school pride. Actions that can be taken towards improving school pride through athletics are to hire effective coaches, organize the AD responsibilities and accountability, support those coaches with resources, provide for better public information, and provide as good an experience for parents and spectators as possible.

Lastly, Mr. Sauer spoke about college applications and acceptance. He noted statistics of the current graduating class; there are 62 seniors, 3 have enlisted in the military, 16 have not applied yet to college, 1 student plans to travel before going to college, 42 students have applied to 165 colleges and 61 acceptance letters have been received thus far. Mr. Trotta questioned how these statistics compare to last year's graduating class. Mr. Sauer stated that he did not feel it was drastically different but he didn't know off the top of his head. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Moran stated that in other BET reports goals were more specific and questioned if the High School BET would be coming up with more specific goals. Mrs. Hamm reported that there was a lot of brainstorming going on at recent meetings. She felt more specific goals will come next year. Ms. Moran questioned Mr. Sauer on clarity about increasing the graduating rate. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Boyd referred to the attendance information in the packet and questioned what exactly we are looking for in terms of percentage of attendance for the month. Is the amount stated in the information for High School good, should it be higher or lower. Mr. Gratto stated there was not a usual percentage range for attendance. President Culver asked that this kind of information be shared when the superintendents meet. Discussion ensued.

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

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**6. STUDENT REPORT**

The student representative had a previous commitment and was not in attendance.

**7. CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE**

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Trotta seconded the following motion to approve the Consent Agenda. 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.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**8. DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT**

\*A. Approval of Minutes for January 23, 2011 Board meeting.

Ms. Moran made and Mrs. Trotta seconded a motion to accept the minutes as submitted:

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**B. Delegations - None**

**9. PERSONNEL**

**\*A. Instructional Appointment**

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

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

Erik Lynch      Elementary Teacher  
Effective: February 13, 2012      Tenure Area: Childhood Education  
Probationary Period: February 13, 2012- February 12, 2015  
Annual Salary = \$50,908 (prorated), Step 2      Replaces: Brian Geraghty

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**\*B. Substitute Support Staff Appointment**

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Trotta 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 support staff appointment:

Sandra McCool      Substitute Teacher Aide/Assistant  
Effective: February 7, 2012      Salary: \$11.96/hour

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**\*C. Substitute Instructional Appointment**

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Trotta 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 appointment:

Sandra McCool      Substitute Teacher  
Effective: February 7, 2012      Salary: \$85/day

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.



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**B. Marathon Project**

Mr. Gratto addressed a question that had been asked at a previous Board meeting by Ms. Moran. He stated that all Marathon Project mentors go through a background check unless they already have been through one because they are a school employee. Board members were in agreement that Mr. Gratto should sign the Marathon Project agreement.

**C. Client Survey**

Mrs. Trotter has been in touch with Marist regarding the survey. Her contact at Marist is determining what department would be able to help in directing us.

**D.** Mr. Trotta asked Mr. Gratto if he had been able to visit classrooms to see what is taking place. Mr. Gratto stated he had been able to and he can talk about it more in Executive Session.

**11. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**A. Report on January 27, 2012 Professional Development Activities**

Mr. Gratto reported back on the Professional Development activities on January 27. He received the minutes from every department from that day and common core units they have been working on. He stated it was viewed as a very positive and productive day. K through 12 staff felt it was time well spent on APPR, common core standards, Edline, etc. They would like March 30 and May 8 as half days to continue to work on those areas. It was suggested that March 30 early release day be approved at the next Board meeting.

**\*B. Committee on Special Education Monthly Reports**

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Trotta 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 January 2012, 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.

**12. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

**\*A. Cooperative Bidding Authorization**

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

WHEREAS, the Dover Union Free School District (hereinafter "Dover") has offered municipalities, including Webutuck (Northeast) Central School District (hereinafter "School District"), the opportunity to participate in cooperative bids regarding the purchase of certain commodities and services utilized by Dover, in an effort to obtain better prices from bidders for all participants; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that it would be in the best interest of the School District to participate in such cooperative bidding for the particular commodities and services; and

WHEREAS, such municipal cooperative activities are authorized by Article 5-G of the General Municipal Law;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Webutuck C (Northeast) Central School District hereby authorizes the School District's participation in such cooperative bidding to the following conditions: (1) the School District agrees to purchase the specific commodities and services being put out to bid and purchased by Dover, and (2) agrees not to submit separate bids or requests for proposals or quotations for the same or similar commodities or services separately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator of the Dover Union Free School District is hereby authorized to communicate the District's interest in participating in such cooperative bidding to Dover and to review the list of commodities and services to be put out to bid and purchased by Dover in order to determine if it would be in the School District's best interest to purchase any such commodities and services on a cooperative basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Official shall report back to the Board of Education periodically regarding the efficacy of such participation.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**B. Acceptance of Donation**

Ms. Moran made and Mrs. Boyd seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the generous donation of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the Amenia Lodge, F&AM No. #672, to be used for scholarships for graduating senior with one five hundred dollar (\$500) scholarship being given each year for nineteen (19) years and one scholarship being given in the 20<sup>th</sup> year in the amount of the remaining balance in the account.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**\*C. Approval of Action on Inactive Extra-Curricular Accounts**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the closure of the inactive Extra-Curricular Student Accounts (as listed) and transferring those funds to the Student Council:

Class of 2006, Class of 2007, Class of 2008, Class of 2009, Class of 2010,  
Class of 2011, Football Club, Happy Warriors, Jason Club, and Leo Club.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**\*D. Approval of Web Services Program**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the purchase of Edline, a host and provider for web services at an annual cost of \$5,200 to be prorated for the 2011-2012 school year.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

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**E.** Mrs. Grden reported on the Finance Committee. She stated they discussed the Senior Exemption and bringing it to the Board. It would need to put it on the next agenda for a public hearing.

Ms. Moran questioned if there was further information on the property at MES. Mrs. Grden stated there was information on the Board packet on that topic. Mr. Gratto stated that Mr. Merwin had stopped by the office. He had received the letter and he did indicate that the sale might impact their decision. He will put that information in writing to the Superintendent.

Ms. Moran explained that if the exemption level was raised for seniors it would result in moving the burden onto someone else because the District would still have to raise the money. She suggested the Board leave it as is because of the current economic environment. Ms. Moran stated that a public hearing has to be by held by February 13 therefore a decision needs to be made tonight. It was then determined that the Finance Committee recommends leaving the senior exemption as is. Board members agreed with the recommendation. Discussion ensued.

### **13. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **A. Second Reading of Policy Series #4000 (Instruction)**

It was decided not to include any adoptions of policies in the consent agenda.

#### **\*B. Adoption of Policy Series #4000 (Instruction)**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves Policies series #4000 Series Instruction.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

#### **C. Administrative Appointment**

Mrs. Panzer made and Ms. Moran seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby extends the employment of James A. Gratto, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, commencing on July 1, 2012 to August 31, 2014 with no change in terms and conditions until negotiated.

President Culver stated that he was very appreciative of the number of hours Mr. Gratto puts into his job.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**D.** Mr. Trotta stated that he might not be able to make the Facilities Meeting and he would like to move it to the end of March early April.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**The following were topics commented on by audience members:**

-teachers are acknowledged for extra hours; support staff works extra hours and should get praise also

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Panzer seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:20 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Panzer seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 11:10 pm.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following unpaid .8 leave of absence without benefits:

Steven Pollak      English Teacher

Effective: February 7, 2012 – August 31, 2012

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mrs. Boyd made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of February 6, 2012 at 11:14 pm.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter  
District Clerk