

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 24, 2014

The Webutuck Board of Education held their March 24, 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
Mary Grden, School Business Manager
Therese Trotter, District Clerk
Jon Zenz
Andrew Coon
students of modified baseball
Laura Calabrese
Chrissy Ford
Nancy Gagne
Michael Smith
Al Barros
M/M Lopane
Christine Murphy
Jason Watson
Kevin Kleespies
Community members

1. CALL TO ORDER

President McGhee called the business meeting of March 24, 2014 to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. PRESENTATION

Technology Presentation: K. Kleespies

Mr. Kleespies recommended purchasing Chromebooks, which is the Google version of netbooks, as one of the technology upgrades at the high school. He reviewed the pros and cons of purchasing Chromebooks. Mr. Kleespies commented about having email through google at no cost. Ms. Moran commented that there are a lot of companies that provide free email. Ms. Moran spoke about the problems of having google storing district employee emails particularly with IEPs. Mr. Kleespies stated that IEPs would not be done on Chromebooks. He explained how access is restricted for students using google. He then went over the cons of Chromebook and also discussed costs of standard laptops versus Chromebooks. Mrs. Panzer was surprised and disappointed that the computer upgrades were not going to be for this year but next year. It was decided to purchase the Chromebooks and iPads for use this year. Discussion ensued.

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3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following topics were commented on by the public:

-modified baseball concerns, not enough kids, no coach currently

2014-2015 Budget Presentation: Superintendent J. Gratto

Mr. Gratto reviewed last year's budget numbers with a 2013-2014 total budget of \$20,493,269 and a tax levy at 1.7%. He reviewed and explained the following: the projected 2014-2015 enrollment, additional expenses, expense reductions/cost avoidance totaling \$882,800, revenue for the district, state aid amount (\$14,951) and tax levy limit \$14,577 which puts the District at a tax levy of 0.12%. Ms. Grden explained the 0.12% tax levy limit. Mr. Gratto stated that the budget to budget increase is 4.2 % higher than last year and reviewed the figures of appropriated fund balance, revenue, 2013-2014 tax levy, tax levy increase and percentage increase which came in at 6.7% which Mr. Gratto stated was much too high. Mr. Gratto reviewed the reductions that were considered which included 2 full-time teachers, 1 part-time teacher (Earth Science), German from .4 to .2, .4 Business position, labor (if bus proposition passes) which is a total reduction of \$241,000. He then went over his specific recommendations which were as follows: 1.4 teachers (1.0 special education, .4 Earth Science), reduction of German to .2, reduction of Business teacher, reduction of labor costs (if the bus proposition passes) with a sub total of recommended reduction of \$171,000. Mr. Gratto ended the presentation with the proposed budget at \$21,351,158 with a 1.77% tax levy increase.

Mrs. Panzer stated that she would need solid information on reducing a special education position. Other questions were asked by Board members regarding the necessity of two part-time secretaries, and the .6 business position salary. Ms. Grden stated that then .6 Business position figure is with benefits, a BOCES co-ser and is aidable. Board members questioned if the Earth Science course can be alternated every other year and be able to keep the students current in their course work. Mr. Gratto stated it could be done but needed planning. Board members were in agreement and wanted to save a teaching position that effects the most students. Discussion ensued.

4. STUDENT REPORT

Student Representative Coon stated the musical "Damn Yankees" was a big success. He noted that Spring sports have begun. Student Council is thinking about doing a color 5K run as a fundraiser for the Schoonmaker family that had the home fire recently. Details are being finalized. Lastly, he reported that there has been an increase in peer tutoring, students haven't been able to stay after school; currently upper classmen have taken their own time to tutor students.

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Athletic Report: J. Zenz

Mr. Zenz commented on the parents' concerns with modified baseball during public comment and things he could do differently to prevent miscommunication going forward. He highlighted points in his athletic report; proposed new policy for selective classification and developing a protocol on how to go about it (testing up). He discussed that allowing students to test up to play at the next sports level has been very easy and it should have more of a process to it. He noted that his Athletic Report was written from the point of view of what was the best for athletics and was necessarily budget minded. Mr. Zenz commented on transportation for golf and the Superintendent noted the number of participants in September was low. It was discussed that golf could be canceled due to low enrollment. Discussion ensued.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Millerton Elementary Appraisal

Mr. Gratto reported that all Board members have reviewed the appraisal and it will be on the next agenda for discussion. Ms. Moran commented that she thought when you are marketing a property she didn't think it appropriate to discuss figures in public. Ms. Moran would like the attorney to advise us on that. Mr. Gratto will follow up.

B. Bus Proposition

We will begin to advertise the bus proposition now that it is approved.

C. Other

7. CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE

Ms. Moren made and Mr. Perotti 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 #11.A. from the Consent Agenda until further information is attained and removing #10.A. for further revisions to the calendar.

The Board of Education acknowledged the generous donation from the PTA and thanked them for continued support of the students.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

8. DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT

***A.** Approval of Minutes for March 10, 2014 Board meetings.

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Perotti seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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***B. Acceptance of Financial Reports as submitted:**

Ms. Moran made and Ms. Perotti seconded a motion to approve the Financial Reports as submitted.

Treasurers Report for the month ending January and February.
Comprehensive Budget Status Report ending January and February.
Comprehensive Revenue Status Report ending January and February.
Claims Auditor Report Warrants #40-48
Warrants #40 - 48

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

C. Delegations – None

9. PERSONNEL

***A. Substitute Instructional Appointment**

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Perotti 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:

James Kolessar Substitute Teacher
Effective: March 25, 2014 Salary: \$90/per day

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***B. Substitute Support Staff Appointments**

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Perotti 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 appointments:

James Kolessar Substitute Teaching Assistant
Effective: March 25, 2014 Salary: \$11.96 per hour

James Kolessar Substitute Teacher Aide
Effective: March 25, 2014 Salary: \$11.96 per hour

Kelly Kilmer Substitute Bus Driver
Effective: March 25, 2014 Salary: \$16.80 per hour

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***C. Extra-Curricular Resignation for the 2013-2014 School Year**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Extra-Curricular resignation for the 2013-2014 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Jay Bradley Instrumental Music Director
Effective: February 25, 2014

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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***D. Extra-Curricular Appointment for the 2013-2014 School Year**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Extra-Curricular appointment for the 2013-2014 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Jay Bradley	Instrumental Music Co-Director
Effective: March 25, 2014	Salary: \$911.50/stipend

Eric Wiener	Instrumental Music Co-Director
Effective: March 25, 2014	Salary: \$911.50/stipend

Jenna Parks	Open Gym Basketball
Effective: March 25, 2014	Volunteer

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***E. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Felice LaPietra, Secondary English Education, from year two to year three, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***F. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Jennifer Hengen-Chason, School Administrator, from year one to year two, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***G. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Jack Mosel, Earth Science, from year one to year two, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***H. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Matthew Eyler, Special Education, from year one to year two, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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***I. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Tara Camo-Hart, Social Work, from year one to year two, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***J. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Chris DeSario, Special Education, from year one to year two, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***K. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Jenna Garofalo, Secondary English, from year one to year two, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***L. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Monika Baker-Bozik, ESL, from year one to year two, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

10. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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).

11. BUSINESS and OPERATIONS

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

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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.

***B. Notice of Annual Meeting Authorization**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs the District Clerk to give notice to the qualified voters of the School District of the Annual Public Hearing on the Budget on Monday, May 12, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2014-2015 School Year and the Annual Meeting, School District Election and Vote on the Budget to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***C. Acceptance of Donation**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts with gratitude the a donation for a field trip to the Bardavon for a Class to Concert Workshop for Grades 2 and 3 from the Webutuck PTA in the amount of \$470.00.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***D. Authorization of Payment**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes payment to Reverse Polarity in the amount of \$930.00 for services beyond the approved contractual amount of \$9300.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

12. BOARD OF EDUCATION

***A. Authorization of Transportation Proposition to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting of the qualified voters on May 20, 2014.**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the following transportation proposition to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting of qualified voters on May 20, 2014:

2014-2015 Transportation Vehicle Proposition

Shall the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to:

(a) acquire six (6) 72 passenger buses at a maximum aggregate cost of \$650,000; (b) expend such sums for such purpose; (c) expend from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund for such purpose; (d) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid received and amounts disbursed from the reserve fund; and (e) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$650,000, and to levy a tax to pay the interest on such obligations when due?

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

B. Committee Reports

1. Policy

The Committee has been reviewing the district plans. The Guidance Department is rewriting their plan and Mr. Gratto will have them add information on summer experiences in the area to that. The will send it to the Committee for review

2. Finance

The next meeting for the Finance Committee will be April 7th.

C. Mr. Mayville commented on an article about the CAPE program that was in the Poughkeepsie Journal. Board members would like more information on the program. Mr. Gratto will look into it and add it to a future Board packet.

Ms. Panzer would like information on how Guidance handles summer opportunities. It's a great opportunity for creating exciting situations for our students. How can we do more? It was decided that information on summer opportunities would be added to the Guidance Plan. Discussion ensued.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Panzer made and Mr. Mayville seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:09 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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13. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Westfall made and Mrs. Panzer seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 10:56 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Panzer made and Mr. Perotti seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 24, 2014 at 10:57 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter
District Clerk