

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting  
January 23, 2012

The Webutuck Board of Education held their January 23, 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

John Perotti

Also Present:

James Gratto Jr., Superintendent

Mary Grden, School Business Manager

Therese Trotter, District Clerk

Katy McEnroe, WES Principal

Jay Curtis, EBIS Principal

Brian Christofel, Student Representative

Darryl Gangloff, Millerton News

Robert Meade, BOCES Board member

Michelle Smith McLaughlin

Craig Trachtenberg, Technology

Peter McCaffrey, DLT Chairperson

David Shufelt

Jeanne Rebillard

Cathy Christofel

Trini Stevens

Mig McDonald

Kristen Lazarus

Laura Calabrese

Community Members

Absent:

Robert Trotta

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Culver called the business meeting of January 23, 2012 to order at 7:32 p.m.

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## **2. PRINCIPALS' REPORT**

**K. McEnroe:** WES BET Update

Mrs. McEnroe began her update by stating that they are working on all of their BET goals. They are continuing with whole language class instruction provided by the Speech Pathologist. She noted the BET have had two half days to work on Common Core Standards and have begun to develop units with the hope of having two units per grade level finished by end of year. They have been working with co-teachers on planning which still needs work and they are trying to revise the Teaching Assistant schedules to meet the needs of their AIS students. Maria Petrella consulted with Elementary BET today – she is the BOCES liaison for RTTT initiatives. They focused on common core standards and using data to inform and change instruction. Mrs. McEnroe noted that this Friday is a ½ day for students. Teachers will finish the day learning about Reading and Writing A to Z, a web based program for teachers that provides ideas and materials on how to differentiate on the reading and writing process. She spoke about the math block continuing this year and the problem solving model that is used every day in morning math. She reminded the Board they are looking at purchasing a new math series for K- 8. Lastly, she explained the BET was divided into two groups with a group focusing on Math goals and the other focusing on ELA goals. They want to make sure the BET is following their plan and is able to identify what their needs are. Discussion ensued.

**J. Curtis:** EBIS BET Update

Mr. Curtis thought it was great that Grades 4 - 6 were included in Spirit Week last week by being the judges for the High School hallway decorations. Mr. Curtis stated they have had one BET meeting since the December. He reiterated that the BET focus is on looking at the way teachers ask questions in Math. He noted that "operations" is not a problem but understanding what the question is actually asking, is. In keeping with making EBIS feel like a community, they came up with a theme of refrigerator work. The teachers covered white paper over all of the doors like a refrigerator and used it to display their students' work. Mr. Curtis spoke briefly on where EBIS is presently compared to September and also looking forward to next year as it relates to the budget. Discussion ensued.

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

- Negotiations open to the public, survey questions relating to teachers hours in the classroom
- Survey questions too broad can cause problems, questions are key; negotiations should be open to public, contact Marist for survey help

**4. STUDENT REPORT** Mr. Christofel gave a brief summary of spirit week. He stated that it was a great week. In reference to a previous question asked by Mr. Trotta, Mr. Christofel reported that the suggestions from the suggestions box are sent to the Student Council. At their meetings they discuss if they have the ability to act on the suggestions. It was decided that the suggestions the Student Council could not act on be sent to the Board of Education for review.

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**5. PRESENTATION:**

Robert Meade: BOCES Report

Mr. Meade began by informing the audience what BOCES stands for (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) and what it does. He explained that Dr. John Pennoyer is the District Superintendent at BOCES part-time while also an agent to the State Education Department part-time. Service is BOCES' mission. BOCES can arrange anything that two districts would like to share such as business officials, food service managers, transportation etc. The services BOCES provides are Instructional Services, Shared Services, Alternative and Special Education, which are two of the biggest areas of services. Trade education, such as plumbing, nursing, electric, etc. is also a big focus. He commented that tradesmen are in great need. He would like to see our guidance departments encouraging students to become trades people. The Board President asked if it was possible to have BOCES coordinate guidance department meetings to speak about trades and not only colleges. Mr. Meade stated their Career and Technical Institute does have summer and early fall programs for guidance people to attend about those types of program. Discussion ensued.

With regards to the 2012-2013 budget, Mr. Meade stated BOCES is moving towards a "no increase plan" in services for next year's budget with one caveat. He explained that some services could see an increased cost being offset by services that have a decreased cost. Ms. Moran commented that we used to share many services but that does not happen as much anymore. She questioned how we could move forward towards that model again. A couple of Board members suggested that BOCES should take a more active role in identifying areas that would benefit from shared services. Discussion ensued.

Craig Trachtenberg: Technology Committee - Craig Trachtenberg explained that the Technology Committee was asked to look at updating the District website. The current website was created and maintained in html code that is outdated by today's technology standards. A survey was given to students and faculty to determine what they would like to see on the District website. Those suggestions helped the Committee determine what web based program would be the best fit in updating the website. One of the benefits of the Edline program they chose is there will be no need for a webmaster. He explained other features of the program which would be part of the base product. Edline bought out the Alert Now system the District uses and that cost would be incorporated into the base product after the second year. Mr. Trachtenberg displayed Edline website other school districts use to give everyone an idea of what our web page could look like and how it would function. Mr. Trachtenberg stated the cost would be \$5200 for the year. He noted that the BOCES cost of \$1000 to be the host of our current website would go away as would the \$2100 Alert Now cost (in year two of using the program). This program would be 95% E-Rate eligible. Pete McCaffrey, the Chairperson of the DLT, commented that the District website has been a topic of the DLT for some time. He stated that first impressions can be made by a district's website. The current website is outdated, not flexible, and difficult to use. The Edline program is far more state-of-the-art and the ease of use is most important he noted. The Board agreed to vote on the resolution at the next

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meeting. Discussion ensued.

**6. CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Panzer questioned the information on the minutes under extra-curricular accounts on page 6.

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.

**7. DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT**

**\*A.** Approval of Minutes for January 9, 2012 Board meeting.

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded a motion to accept the minutes as submitted:

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

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

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded a motion to accept the Financial Reports as submitted:

Treasurers Report for the month ending November & December.  
Comprehensive Budget Status Report ending November & December.  
Comprehensive Revenue Status Report ending November & December  
Warrants 32-39

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

C. Delegations - None

**8. PERSONNEL**

**\*A. Amendment of Temporary and Substitute Support Employee Rates**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District amends the following Temporary and Substitute Support Employee Rates to include the Substitute Cook at a pay rate of \$12.43 per hour for the 2011-2012 school year.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

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**\*B. Substitute Support Staff Appointments**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer 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:

Gazella LeJeune	Substitute Cook
Effective: January 17, 2012	Salary: \$12.43/hour

Rudolph Eschbach	Substitute Courier
Effective: January 24, 2012	Salary: \$13.36/hour

Joseph Murtagh	Substitute Courier
Effective: January 24, 2012	Salary: \$13.36/hour

Richard Scala	Substitute Bus Driver
Effective: January 24, 2012	Salary: \$16.80

Richard Scala	Substitute Cleaner
Effective: January 24, 2012	Salary: \$13.36

Richard Scala	Substitute Maintenance Worker
Effective: January 24, 2012	Substitute: \$13.50

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

**\*C. Substitute Instructional Appointments**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer 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:

Brittany Bush	Substitute Teacher
Effective: January 24, 2012	Salary: \$85/day

Jill Peters	Substitute Teacher
Effective: January 24, 2012	Salary: \$90/day

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

**\*D. Approval of Tenure Recommendation for Teacher**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer 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
Lee Stowe	Music	February 1, 2012

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.



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**11. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

**\*A. Approval of Budget Transfer**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer 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 schedule #6 over five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per Board resolution dated 7/5/11.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**\*B. Authorization for Tax Adjustments**

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

WHEREAS, by Judicial Hearing, Charles Devin, Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Dutchess, dated January 6, 2012, in the matter of Small Claims Assessment Review for the 2011 assessment year were adjusted in favor of petitioner, Deborah Thomas & James Sherry, for property owned in the Town of Northeast, in the Webutuck Central School District, Tax Parcel No. 133889-7268-00-145734-0000, said reductions in assessment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to the terms of the above referenced Order, the School Tax Collector is hereby authorized to issue a refund for the 2011-2012 school year, said taxes should be based on assessed value of \$434,300 instead of \$455,800. The taxes levied were \$5,308.59 and should be \$5,058.19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator is hereby authorized to correct the 2011 assessment to reflect such valuation reductions, with a notation in the margin, opposite said entries that the corrections are by authorization of the above-referenced Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to the terms of the above referenced Order, the School Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund any overpayments of school taxes for the 2011-2012 school year, said refund in the amount of \$ 250.40.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**C. 2012-2013 State Aid projection – Mary Grden**

Mrs. Grden received the State Aid runs from the Governor's proposal. The reduction is \$15,249 projected in 2012-2013 State Aid at this time. She noted other reductions such as our loss of the Federal Jobs money which is \$281,667. She did stress these figures are preliminary. Mrs. Grden went on to say that there was discussion of having 4% increase in State Aid. She commented that the Governor tied APPR to some of this money and he stated in his proposal that if Districts could reach agreement with APPR there would be additional money if Districts completed it by September. The Governor did not say what the amount would be. He also stated if APPR was not complete by January 2013 there would be no State Aid increase. Discussion ensued.

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**D. Millerton Land Purchase Proposal – Mary Grden**

Mrs. Grden stated the realtor was approached by the land owners next to the Millerton School and would like to extend their property about a half of an acre. Our School Attorney stated that there are two methods that the Board can take; one is by resolution and the other is by voter approval. The District would need an appraisal first on the piece of property to find the value. (Mr. Perotti was not in favor due to the ongoing discussion on the possible building transfer to Millerton Town and Village.) He had concerns that if we sold a portion of the property those interested entities might not be interested any longer. The Board President asked that a letter be drafted to the Town and Village explaining the situation and asking if it would have any bearing on their interest. Discussion ensued.

**12. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**A. Policy Committee (recommendations received from NYSSBA)**

Ms. Moran commented that having a policy on bullying and harassment should not exclude stating someone should not be harassed because of their appearance. NYSSBA did not advise taking out that statement but they did comment that it went beyond the scope of the law. President Culver felt the more definitive the bullying policy was the more likely it was to irradiate the behavior. There were no further comments from Board members.

**B. Finance Committee**

There was a full slate of meetings coming up with review on parts of budget.

**C. Facilities Committee**

The Facility Committee met tonight. They worked on the Five Year Plan with Phil Zemke, the Architect. The Committee went through most of the prioritization of the buildings' repairs for the Facilities plan. There will be an additional meeting to finish that up. Items were pulled out to further incorporate them into the Power Authority such as energy saving and conservation items that they hope by incorporating them it will continue to reduce the infrastructure costs here. Over the next two months the Committee will conduct a building walk through.

**D. First Reading of #4000 series, (Instruction)**

There were no comments from the Board members.

**E. Mrs. Boyd questioned Mr. Gratto if there was anything on Interim Assessments and Textbook Proposal Updates under Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Gratto stated it was covered under Update on Instruction Council Activities.**

Mrs. Moran questioned if the Board wanted to take a vote on the website program. President Culver suggested that it be placed on the next agenda. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Boyd questioned if there was further information on student accounts. Mrs. Grden stated she will recommend some of the accounts be closed. The other accounts such as



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technology, band, and cheerleading will continue to be looked at.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:35 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**

Mr. Culver made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 10:58 pm.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Culver made and Mr. Panzer seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of January 23, 2012 at 10:59 pm.

Ayes 6      Nays 0      The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter  
District Clerk