

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting
April 3, 2007
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Praught at 6:02 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

John David Praught	James Levin	Joanne Freeman
Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Robert Kosowicz	Russell Martin (arrived 6:40 p.m.)

ABSENT:

Susanne Fitzgerald	Robert Curtis	Scott Miller
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OTHERS:

John S. Whelan	Katherine Sullivan	Peter Hopke
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II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

"In accordance with its practice, the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District does not permit oral comments from the public relating to specific personnel decisions regarding individuals employed by the District during the portion of its meeting where the Board permits public comment. Members of the public are welcome to send questions, comments or concerns regarding these or other matters to the Board in writing."

III. SUPERINTENDENT/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

- Mr. Whelan advised there might be a special meeting next week (or on the 16th at the latest) to look at, and award, bids relative to the capital project.
- Mrs. Sullivan announced that the artwork of Knox students Brynn Hlozansky and William Bulger has been chosen for display in the New York State Art Teachers Association & New York State Legislative Art Show and will be on exhibit in the well of the Legislative Office Building in Albany from May 1 – 4.
- Mrs. Sullivan also announced that the JHS Amethyst Gold Winter Guard took first place in the Mid-York Color Guard Circuit Championship for the third year in a row and the Amethyst (jv) and Gold Dust (elementary) Winter Guards each placed second.
- Mr. Hopke reported that confirmation has been received from SED regarding the EXCEL eligible pieces of the project and the projections are on target. If the additional \$4 million bond is approved, it will add \$5.68 to the tax bill on a home assessed for \$100,000 (this increase is before the star exemption). Mr. Levin noted taxpayers would be getting a new auditorium for less than the cost of a visit to McDonalds.
- Mr. Hopke also reported that the state budget has been approved and there will be additional aid for education above what was proposed in the governor's budget. Confirmation was received yesterday that there is an increase of \$424,000 for the general fund. Various budget documents are available for viewing on the school web site.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on March 21, 2007 and March 27, 2007.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO

V. **REPORTS (PRESIDENT/STANDING COMMITTEES)**

- Audit Committee (B. Curtis, Chairperson)
- Facilities Planning Committee (S. Miller, Chairperson)
- Academic Curriculum Committee (J. Freeman, Chairperson) Workshop 4/25/07, ≈ 6:45 PM
- Extra-Curricular Committee: Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth advised that the committee met this evening. In the winter season wrap-ups, it was noted both boys and girls basketball participated in sectionals; wrestlers Kaylee Gillen and Joe Morrison advanced to individual sectionals; Winter Guard will be competing in the World Championships in Dayton, Ohio this weekend; and there were two scholar-athlete teams: girls basketball and the Nordic skiing. It was noted that the spring season participation numbers are up and an additional modified softball coach may be needed. John Underwood met with the spring coaches and a training day for students is being planned. James Hillier and Holly Duesler were recognized by the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (NYSAPERD) with Capital Zone Leadership Awards on March 7 and there will be some elementary students recognized in May. The committee also discussed revising the extra-curricular year-end report and reviewed the selective classification process.

VI. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. February 2007 Warrants
- B. February 2007 Treasurer's Reports
1. Appropriation Status Report
 2. Unrestricted Cash Balance
 3. Handwritten Checks
 4. Budget Transfer Schedule #5
 5. Vendor Listing By Number (Vendor Additions)
- C. **Transportation For 1 Special Education Student from Johnstown to Albany, NY – Bid#07-14**
- Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the transportation contract for 1 Special Education Student from Johnstown to Albany, NY – Bid #07-14, effective April 5, 2007 through June 22, 2007, with Norman Boyer as the lowest, qualified responsible bidder as seen in addendum #1.*
- VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO

VII. **EDUCATION ITEMS**

- A. **PERSONNEL**
1. **Separations**
 2. **Leaves of Absence**
 3. **Abolishments**
 4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Payment of Music Festival Stipends**

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the payment of music festival stipends for attendance at the Fulton County Music Festival 2 on March 3, 2007 for the following individuals:

<i>Andy LaCoppola</i>	<i>\$104</i>
<i>Cynthia Fiorenza</i>	<i>\$104</i>
<i>Tamara Healy</i>	<i>\$104</i>
<i>Daniel Jones</i>	<i>\$104</i>
<i>Joshua Stamp</i>	<i>\$104</i>
<i>Kim Tyler</i>	<i>\$104</i>
<i>Patricia Zullo</i>	<i>\$104</i>

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CPSE, CSE

1. **Committee for Preschool Special Education**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to approve the minutes of the Committee for Preschool Special Education meeting(s) held on 3/23/07:

<i>009140215</i>	<i>009140164</i>	<i>009140183</i>
<i>009140170</i>	<i>009140168</i>	<i>009140175</i>

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO

2. **Committee for Special Education**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meeting(s) held on 2/12/07, 3/14/07, 3/15/07, 3/19/07, 3/21/07, 3/22/07, 3/23/07, 3/26/07, 3/27/07 and 3/28/07:

<i>002500074</i>	<i>000960013</i>	<i>000240047</i>	<i>000240032</i>
<i>000960043</i>	<i>002500087</i>	<i>000950059</i>	<i>000950052</i>
<i>000890053</i>	<i>002500033</i>	<i>000900074</i>	<i>000900070</i>
<i>000910103</i>	<i>009140133</i>	<i>009140007</i>	<i>009140020</i>
<i>009140042</i>	<i>000910095</i>	<i>000890041</i>	<i>009140042</i>
<i>XXXXXXXX</i>	<i>000910104</i>	<i>000910064</i>	<i>000240019</i>
<i>000240018</i>	<i>009140132</i>	<i>002400081</i>	<i>009140031</i>
<i>000970012</i>	<i>000250009</i>	<i>009140054</i>	<i>000960026</i>
<i>000200008</i>	<i>009140096</i>	<i>000980025</i>	<i>000240017</i>
<i>000990021</i>	<i>000960058</i>	<i>000980003</i>	<i>009140160</i>
<i>000960039</i>	<i>009140056</i>	<i>000950047</i>	<i>002400090</i>
<i>000950015</i>	<i>000980038</i>	<i>000940051</i>	<i>000940048</i>
<i>000940052</i>	<i>000960006</i>	<i>000960030</i>	<i>009140101</i>
<i>000970030</i>	<i>000940043</i>	<i>000960018</i>	<i>000990051</i>
<i>009140015</i>	<i>000240015</i>	<i>000940038</i>	<i>009140027</i>
<i>002400055</i>	<i>000970024</i>	<i>002400049</i>	<i>000980024</i>
<i>000960010</i>	<i>000940039</i>	<i>000970025</i>	<i>000960035</i>
<i>000950064</i>	<i>002500071</i>	<i>009140138</i>	

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

1. Appointment of Election Inspectors

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the individuals listed to serve as election inspectors for the May 15, 2007 Board of Education Election and Budget Vote:

Pleasant Avenue

*Georgianne Chatterton (R)
Emily Kralovic (R)
June E. Loya (D)*

Johnstown Public Library

*Bonnie J. Dostal (D)
Claudia J. Fruit (D)
Dorothy Cole (R)*

Jansen Avenue

*Barbara Sprung (R)
Rosemary Schreivogl (R)
Patricia Bender (D)*

Ephratah Fire House

*Hazel Prall (D)
Denise Duesler (D)
Darlene Terricola (R)*

Knox Jr. High School

*Anne Dipppo (R)
Joanne Blair (R)
Elaine Schrum (D)*

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO

2. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL FIRE REPORT SUMMARY

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to approve the Annual Fire Report Summary of inspections conducted March 20, 2007 through March 22, 2007, effective April 3, 2007.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO

3. Budget Proposition

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to **TABLE** the proposed budget of expenditures of the Greater Johnstown School District for the school year 2007/08 in the amount of \$27,106,390, and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditure, adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by law.*

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO

4. Property Tax Report Card for 2007-08

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the Property Tax Report Card for the Greater Johnstown School District for the school year 2007/2008 for submission to the New York State Education Department as provided by law.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Vincent Brooker, speaking as President of the Class of 2008 and Co-Vice President of the Student Council, expressed concerns with the Board’s decision not to allow students to speak publicly about a personnel issue at the March 21 meeting. He proposes that the Board consider a student liaison representative.
- Steven Leigh, speaking as the parent of two students in the district, indicated he feels the process for handling parental concerns, specifically regarding sporting events, is flawed and that people who are allowed to circumvent the system and go directly to the Board are undermining the system, with destructive repercussions. He suggests the Board needs to spend adequate time interviewing parents, students and colleagues to understand problems.
- Richard Baker questioned whether the architect is earning an additional 10% fee for work related to the \$4 million bond. The Board indicated the work was already done and there is no additional fee.
- Richard Baker inquired if taxpayers are being asked to fund programs for which the original source of funding is gone. Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the differences between Title I program funding and funding for non-essential programs (i.e., after school program).

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

April 25, 2007	Business Meeting Workshop re: Declining Enrollment	6:00 PM Public Session 6:45 PM (approximately) Johnstown High School
May 1, 2007	Voter Registration Budget Hearing & Candidates Night	Noon – 4:00 PM JHS 6:30 PM Knox Jr. High
May 9, 2007	Discussion/Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Knox Junior High
June 20, 2007	Note change: Meeting Canceled	

XI. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 6:47 p.m.

VOTE: 6 Yes 0 No

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk