

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion Meeting
October 3, 2007
Glebe Street School Library

I. Called to order by President Praught at 7:13p.m.

ATTENDEES:

John David Praught	Scott Miller	Robert Kosowicz
Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	James Levin	Susanne Fitzgerald
Russell Martin	Joanne Freeman	

EXCUSED:

Robert Curtis

OTHERS:

John S. Whelan	Katherine Sullivan	Peter Hopke
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II. SUPERINTENDENT'S/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- ❖ Mr. Whelan thanked everyone for attending and asked the building principals and Mr. Hopke to introduce new staff members. Many were in attendance and were welcomed by the Board.

III. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- Academic Curriculum & Facilities Planning – Mr. Whelan stated that members of these committees, together with the rest of the Board, met for a workshop immediately prior to tonight's meeting in order to look at enrollment issues. Some items discussed included whether it is feasible to keep four elementary schools open when two of the buildings have eight single sections and, whether it would be wise to put EXCEL aid into all of the buildings if some aren't going to be used. The Board will look to meet with the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corp. to review all possible options as part of its financial responsibility to the community.
- Audit – Mr. Levin stated that the committee reviewed a draft of the external audit performed by Dorfman-Robie and advised that the final audit will be presented to the full Board next month. He indicated that 260 new computers have been added within the district since June and that people appreciate the new systems. Mr. Praught lauded Mr. Levin for taking a position on updating computer hardware and for following through with it.
- Extra-Curricular – Mr. Kosowicz advised that the committee met with Mr. Satterlee, who indicated fall sports are going great. As long as the weather cooperates, Knox Field renovations will be sufficiently completed for the football team to play its homecoming game there. Noted that if the field is completed, there is the potential to host a field hockey regional tournament and boys soccer sectionals this year. With regard to intramural play days, it was reported that 100 students participated in football and 30 participated in soccer. It was noted that modified swimming and Nordic skiing coaches are still needed.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

V. EDUCATION ITEMS

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-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.”

- David Childs questioned whether a curb around the football field is dangerous; asked about pits at the end of the field; inquired about insurance coverage for student athletes; wondered why there aren't rails on the steps in the stands at Knox.
- Brandi Maye disagrees with rules that prohibit parents from walking their children all the way to their classroom doors in the elementary schools; believes she should be able to eat lunch in the school cafeteria with her son whenever she so chooses.
- Holly Hojohn says her third grader left school grounds at the end of the day and began walking home alone, instead of waiting to be picked up by either her or her friend as she had instructed him to do. Thinks school personnel don't do enough to protect children in situations like this.
- Lavanna (no last name given) claimed same problem with her son leaving school grounds when she was late picking him up. Feels the rules that are in place push people out and keep them from being school volunteers.
- Mr. Crankshaw read a letter addressed to the Board advising that the Glebe Street PTA is donating \$50 to the Glebe library in the Board's honor. Mrs. Ellithorpe will choose the new books to be purchased and a commemorative "plaque" will be placed inside of each.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

October 6, 2007	JHS Hall of Fame Ceremony	7:00 PM, JHS Auditorium
October 17, 2007	Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
November 7, 2007	Extra-Curricular & Audit Committees Academic & Facilities Committees Discussion/Business Meeting	6:00 PM –6:30 PM 6:30PM – 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Jansen Ave. Library

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Levin, to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk