

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting
January 9, 2008
Pleasant Avenue School Library

I. Called to order by President Praught at 7:10 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Russell Martin	John David Praught
Joanne Freeman	James Levin	Scott Miller (arrived 7:11 p.m.)

EXCUSED:

Susanne Fitzgerald	Robert Curtis	Robert Kosowicz
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OTHERS:

John S. Whelan	Katherine Sullivan
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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'S/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- Mrs. Sullivan advised that the web based program "School Tool" has been chosen to store and track our student data, after reviewing several different possibilities. Tracy Ringer, teaching assistant from the Pleasant Avenue computer lab, demonstrated various aspects of the software and discussed its functions and capabilities.
- Mr. Blanchard thanked the Board for coming to Pleasant Avenue and introduced students Nathan Cowles and Collin Ball, the winners of a recent "Book Float Parade" held at the school. A PowerPoint slide show presentation that highlighted student activities, and which was put together by sixth graders with input from the student body, was shown.

IV. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- Academic Curriculum – Mrs. Freeman advised that the committee discussed implementing reimbursement to juniors for the cost of taking PSAT exams. She asked if the Board would support this on a trial basis. It was decided to place a motion on the January 23 agenda for consideration. She further indicated that the committee discussed the nature trail and the possibilities for tying it into academics. They would like Mrs. Sullivan to develop a survey for grades K-6 and seek input on ways to use it.
- Audit – Mr. Levin advised that the capital project is currently within budget and that the second bond anticipation note is now under development, scheduled to go out within the next couple of weeks. He also reported that planning for the 2008-09 budget is underway and that they are keeping an eye on equalization rates and the impact on taxpayers.
- Extra-Curricular – In Mr. Kosowicz's absence, Mr. Praught reported that we are still looking for an alpine ski assistant, a tennis coach and baseball and lacrosse assistants. He announced that the physical education staff and the basketball teams will be holding play days at Warren Street on January 22 and 23; that a Family Fun Night is scheduled to take place at JHS on February 29; and that Winterguard will begin its season this weekend.

- Facilities – Mr. Miller reported that the committee continues to review the EXCEL allocation of \$1.3 million available for use. He advised that the administration should be presenting enrollment proposals in March; that the bus garage lease will expire in December 2008 and that other options are being looked at; and that with regard to the nature trail, his committee is awaiting a proposal from the academic committee. Finally, he announced that the Board will look at the Knox capital projects during a walk through at 5 p.m. on January 23 and then check the high school classroom addition and progress at the auditorium before proceeding to its meeting at 6 p.m.

V. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Resignation of Amanda Embree, Teacher Aide (one to one)

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Amanda Embree as a Teacher Aide (one to one) effective January 9, 2008.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

VI. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

1. Probationary Appointment of Steven Drescher as Principal at Knox Junior High School

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a three-year probationary appointment of Steven Drescher, as junior high school principal, effective February 21, 2008 through February 20, 2011 at \$75,000 in conjunction with the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Administrators' Association.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CPSE, CSE

1. Committee for Preschool Special Education

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the minutes of the Committee for Preschool Special Education meeting held on 12/13/07:

000140194

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

VII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

January 23, 2008 Business Meeting

5:00 PM, Walk-thru at Knox
6:00 PM Public Session
Johnstown High School

February 13, 2008 Business Meeting

6:00 PM Public Session
Johnstown High School

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

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Levin to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:47 p.m.

VOTE: 6 Yes 0 No

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Levin, to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk