

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion Meeting
September 4, 2007
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Praught at 7:11 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

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

ABSENT:

Russell Martin

OTHERS:

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

- Mr. Whelan commended E.J. Maye and the buildings & grounds staff for the time and efforts they put in over the summer getting things ready, especially making sure Knox was ready, safe and clean on time despite the circumstances of the building project.
- Mrs. Sullivan complimented the custodians for their work. She noted we are working to make the new telephone systems operational by the end of week, with the secretaries undergoing training today; she anticipates the new features will enhance safety and confidentiality.

III. **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

- Mrs. Freeman reported that discussion at the academic curriculum committee held earlier tonight focused on the coming year and enrollment. Plans will be made for the board to continue reviewing this topic.
- Mr. Levin asked Mr. Hopke to give the audit committee report. Mr. Hopke indicated the internal auditors will meet with committee members on November 7. He reported that the external auditors were here the week of August 23 and will come back on October 3 to review a draft of the financial reports with the committee, followed by a presentation to the full board on October 17. Other items in the works include a review of tax increases in recent years and new regulations from the IRS regarding 403b plan administration taking effect January 1, 2009.
- Mr. Kosowicz indicated the extra-Curricular committee met with Mr. Satterlee earlier in the evening, who provided them with numbers for fall sports and marching band. It appears 300+ kids, or about fifty percent of the student body, are participating. It was also reported that the Gloversville and Broadalbin-Perth school districts have generously allowed us the use of their athletic facilities to accommodate our construction schedules. It was noted that it is a struggle to find volunteers for intramurals and play days are being looked at.
- Mr. Miller stated the facilities committee met earlier and wished to acknowledge the great job E.J. Maye's crew did, working all weekend to make sure Knox was ready, which was a huge job; and also that the elementary schools look super and we are thankful. The committee also discussed the \$1.3 million in EXCEL funds available for use and are now beginning the process of looking at what items to use it for, such as lighting replacement, sensors, security issues, painting, electrical box and panels at Knox, and boilers for Glebe & Jansen, all of which will need SED and public approval.

IV. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

V. **EDUCATION ITEMS**

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

- Mr. Curtis inquired about the location for drop-off and pick-up of sports students. Mr. Satterlee advised that an announcement will be made tomorrow.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

"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."

- James and Christine Stremezzi objected to their son's placement at Warren Street elementary school and stated that when they purchased their home, the realtor claimed it was in the Pleasant Avenue school area. They further expressed the belief that all other children in their area attend Pleasant Ave. and that their child is being singled out. Lastly, they questioned a letter they received from the transportation department earlier in the day regarding busing for their son. Mr. Whelan advised that homes in their neighborhood are located within the Warren Street school area and Mr. Praught indicated the realtor had provided them mis-information. Mr. Whelan noted that while some students in that area have been assigned to other buildings due to special circumstances (such as disproportionate classroom numbers in particular years), their claim that their child is the only one being sent to Warren Street is incorrect. He acknowledged that the letter from the transportation department was an unfortunate error.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

September 19, 2007 Johnstown High School	BOE Business Meeting	6:00 PM
October 3, 2007 Glebe Street Library	Extra-Curricular & Audit Committees Academic & Facilities Committees BOE Discussion Meeting	6:00 PM –6:30 PM 6:30PM – 7:00 PM 7:00 PM

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Curtis seconded by Mr. Levin to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk