

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting
March 4, 2009
Warren Street Library

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:05 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

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

ABSENT:

Russell Martin

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent	Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk
Ralph Acquaro, Interim Business Official	

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on February 12, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mrs. Sullivan relayed to Board members a request from the Post Prom advisors requesting the sum of \$1,000 to replace lost funding they used to receive under a pouring contract. Mr. Kosowicz indicated he thought it would be money well spent. Mrs. Freeman made a motion seconded by Mr. Kosowicz (see item VI E below)
- Mrs. Sullivan offered congratulations to the Lady Bills basketball team; they will be playing in the finals at Hudson Valley Community College at noon on Saturday. Mr. Praught asked if there will be a spectator bus; Mrs. Freeman asked who would cover the cost of a spectator bus; Mr. Kosowicz suggested a nominal fee of \$5 per student; general consensus was that this is agreeable.
- Mrs. Sullivan referred to a letter from Mike Gendron in response to the District's inquiry about sharing the county's garage facility. Mr. Curtis advised that the District has met twice with the county and twice with the Gloversville School District to discuss shared facilities. Mr. Acquaro noted that in addition to discussions with the county and Gloversville, a third path under discussion is the possibility of purchasing a piece of property from Crossroads Incubator to use for a maintenance facility if SED will provide building aid. Mr. Praught noted whatever long term option is eventually chosen, in the interim the voters still need to approve a lease extension for Cresendoe Road until a new plan can be implemented.
- Mr. Curtis advised that filing of an Educational Impact Statement by the Citizen's Advisory Restructuring Committee is anticipated by next Monday at the latest; the Board will meet to review it in a workshop at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, followed by a budget workshop at 8:00 p.m.

V. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

C. TREASURER'S REPORT – January 2009

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer's Report for December 2008, as seen in addendum #2.

1. *Unrestricted Cash Balance*
2. *Handwritten Checks*
3. *Budget Transfer Schedule #7*
4. *Appropriation Status Report*
5. *Vendor Listing by Number (Vendor Additions)*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

D. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION AND AMENDMENT OF BUDGET

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the donation of \$3,500.00 from Wal-Mart for classroom supplies and, be it

Further resolved, that the Board of Education increase the 2008-09 General Fund budget by \$3,500.00 as follows:

<i>Increase Revenues:</i>	<i>A2705 -</i>	<i>Gifts & Donations</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>
<i>Increase Expenditures:</i>	<i>A2110501-</i>	<i>Supplies</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>
<i>Budget Increase:</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>\$29,061,903</i>	
	<i>To:</i>	<i>\$29,065,403</i>	

Be it further resolved, that the District Treasurer be authorized to appropriate funds as specified by this resolution.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

E. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO POST PROM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to transfer funds in the sum of \$1,000 from the Board of Education's contractual expense account to the Post Prom activities account.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO 1 ABSTAIN (Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth)

VII. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Resignation of Susan Santos, Elementary Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the resignation of Susan Santos, elementary teacher, effective February 13, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. Resignation of Steven Drescher, Knox Junior High School Principal

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the resignation of Steven Drescher, Knox Junior High School Principal, effective June 30, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- c. **Retirement of Ronald Beck, Social Studies Teacher**
Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Ronald Beck, as social studies teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.
- VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO
- d. **Retirement of Lisa Buggeln, Elementary Teacher**
Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Lisa Buggeln, as elementary teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.
- VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO
- e. **Retirement of James Donovan, Earth Science Teacher**
Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of James Donovan, as earth science teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.
- VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO
- f. **Retirement of Maria Greco, Spanish Teacher**
Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Maria Greco, as Spanish teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.
- VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO
- g. **Retirement of Roger Rhodes, Elementary Teacher**
Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Roger Rhodes, as elementary teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.
- VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO
- h. **Retirement of David Rockwell, Science Teacher**
Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of David Rockwell, as science teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.
- VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO
- i. **Retirement of Mary Ann Simek, Elementary Teacher**
Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Mary Ann Simek, as elementary teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.
- VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

j. Retirement of Jane Sitterly, Special Education Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Jane Sitterly, as special education teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

k. Retirement of Thomas Skoda, English Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Thomas Skoda, as English teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

l. Retirement of Lynn Smero, Elementary Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Lynn Smero, as elementary teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

m. Retirement of Amy Sponenberg, Elementary Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Amy Sponenberg, as elementary teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

n. Retirement of Kathryn Zajicek, Art Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Kathryn Zajicek, as art teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

o. Retirement of Patricia Zullo, Music Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Patricia Zullo, as music teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

p. Resignation of John St. Peter, Softball Assistant #1

Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of John St. Peter, as Softball Assistant #1, effective March 2, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Abolishments

4. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

a. Term Appointments of Coaching Staff

Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following coach for the 2008-2009 school year:

*Robert Kraemer, Casual Strength Coach for
March & April \$343 per month*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. Term Appointments of Coaching Staff

Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following coach for the 2008-2009 school year:

*Mark Ralbovsky, Baseball Assistant #2 \$2,228
Michael McHenry, Track Assistant #3 \$2,114
Theresa Brandt, Softball Assistant #1 \$2,399
Melissa Mylott, Softball Assistant #2 \$2,114*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

c. Addition of Softball Assistant #3

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the addition of a modified softball assistant #3 for a stipend of \$2,114 for the 2008-2009 school year.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

d. Term Appointments of Coaching Staff

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following coach for the 2008-2009 school year:

Melissa Livingstone, Softball Assistant #3 \$2,114

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. CSE/CPSE MINUTES

1. Committee for Pre-School Special Education

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on February 11, 26, 2009:

000900384 000140350 000900387 000900446 000900393
000140316

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. STUDENT MATTERS

1. Adoption of Textbook

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt the textbook Abriendo Paso, published by Prentice Hall Publishers, for use at Johnstown High School, beginning in September 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

1. BOCES Board of Education Nomination

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, three (3) seats are expiring June 30, 2009 on the Hamilton-Fulton & Montgomery Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services, and

WHEREAS, nominations must be received at the Office of the Clerk of the Hamilton-Fulton & Montgomery Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services no later than March 20, 2009; be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District nominates the following individual as a candidate for a position on the Hamilton-Fulton & Montgomery Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services:

Joanne Freeman, residing at 12 South Melcher Street, Johnstown, New York 12095

and, directs the District Clerk to submit the nomination accordingly.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO 1 ABSTAIN (Mrs. Freeman)

2. Adoption of 2009-2010 District Calendar

*Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to adopt the District Calendar for the 2009-2010 school year effective March 4, 2009, as seen in **addendum #3**.*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mr. Kosowicz offered a blanket thank you to all retiring staff; noted they had outstanding dedication; commented on a personal level that Kathy Zajicek was the first teacher he had in Johnstown and she had a profound effect on him.
- Mrs. Freeman said she owed a great deal of gratitude and debt to the staff members that had educated her children well.
- Kathy Zajicek thanked Johnstown for being her second family and said she will miss it.
- Mr. Curtis wished all staff much health & happiness in retirement.
- Dick Baker commented on the principal at Knox resigning; doesn't think District should hire people from away that won't stay; should look at local community, not people who use Johnstown as a stepping stone; feels there is lots of continuity and stability with Mr. Beatty, Mrs. Christiano and Mr. Crankshaw, who are all local people.
- Mr. Kosowicz offered congratulations to kids and coaches on great winter sports seasons. Noted that the wrestling team working with only eight wrestlers came in third place in the section; they overcame struggles and personal obstacles and demonstrated tenacity & hard work. He said they are a great group of kids in a difficult and grueling sport who work their hearts out.
- Mr. Curtis addressed comments made in the newspaper and throughout the community questioning the integrity of the Citizens Advisory Restructuring Committee. Stated that it does a disservice to those trying to do the right thing and what is right for the community. He offered thanks to all people working on the committee. Indicated that when people say we need outside experts, he feels Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Munn and Mr. Acquaro have experience that is unmatched.
- Mrs. Freeman commented on letters appearing in the newspaper regarding the football team. She said she is really disappointed in the community, who supported the team when it was winning, but don't offer support when it is really needed. Said the young men hold their heads up high on the field and could use the extra momentum of the community behind them.

She is proud of them for trying week after week and noted the problem is not the coach, it is the community that doesn't show motivation and offer support.

- Mr. Levin thanked the public for coming out to the restructuring forum on February 26. Noted that it takes a lot of energy to operate Warren because the Network Operations Center is there; also, the cost of air conditioning for the NOC year-round, and in the summer for BOCES classes and other summer programs is tremendous. Added that Warren is used for many other events. Noted that each building has its own activities, but there is lots going on at Warren that doesn't happen elsewhere.
- Mr. Curtis advised that the Citizens Advisory Restructuring Committee members were presented with certificates and offered refreshments at their March 2 meeting as a thank you for their work and that he has asked them to let us know what we can do better for future committees. Noted that new committees will be established for short term and long term planning, using a cross section of community members again.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

March 5, 2009	PRISM Concert	7 PM, JHS Performing Arts Center
March 19, 2009	Audit Committee Meeting Business Meeting	6:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
April 2, 2009	Facilities Committee Meeting Discussion/Business Meeting	6:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM Public Session JHS

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

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Praught to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:42 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Levin, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter
District Clerk