

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
May 21, 2009
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:01 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Robert Curtis	Robert Kosowicz	Russell Mart (arrived 7:01 p.m.)
John David Praught	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	James Levin (arrived 7:14 p.m.)
Joanne Freeman	Susanne Fitzgerald (arrived 7:24 p.m.)	

ABSENT:

Scott Miller

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 Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Praught to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on April 30 and May 7, 2009.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mrs. Sullivan advised that four Requests for Proposal (RFPs) had been received for the Microsoft Conversion and that some meetings had been set up. Conversion will take place over the summer.
- Mrs. Sullivan advised that James Mraz will attend the Facilities Committee meeting next month to help put together a request for RFPs regarding lease of the Jansen Ave. building.
- Mr. Acquaro advised that, with regard to the Transportation Facility, that Ashley-McGraw Architect is assessing both the county premises and the Crescendoe Road premises and that a stand alone assessment/decision making matrix is expected by June 11. A walking tour will be offered to Board members; a September vote is possible, with plans to State Ed by November, bids to be awarded in April and a move to the site by August 2010.
- Mrs. Sullivan thanked Leader Herald reporter Mike Anich for providing a detailed and accurate report in the newspaper regarding the May 19 voting issue. She also thanked WENT reporter Tom Roehl for questions he raised regarding the accuracy of final tallies due to the ballots not being aligned properly on one machine for propositions 3 & 4.

B. WARRANTS – March 2009

*Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrant for March 2009, as seen in **addendum #1**:*

General (A): #38, 40,
School Lunch (C): #17, 18,
Federal (F): #17, 18,
Capital Bonds (H): #9,
Trust & Agency (TA): #29, 30, 31, 32,
Expendable Trust (TE): #8

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

C. TREASURER’S REPORT – March 2009

*Motion by Mr. Kosowicz seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer’s Report for March 2009, as seen in **addendum #2**.*

- 1. Unrestricted Cash Balance
- 2. Handwritten Checks
- 3. Budget Transfer Schedule #9
- 4. Appropriation Status Report
- 5. School Lunch Program Profit & Loss Statement
- 6. Vendor Listing by Number (Vendor Additions)

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

D. TAXES – CORRECTION OF ERRORS

Motion made by Mrs. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Kosowicz that:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon information provided by the tax collector and recommendation of the Superintendent, correct the following taxable assessments and reduce the levy and the tax amount due and/or refund overpayment of taxes, by the appropriate amounts as indicated below:

Timothy P Lamori, City of Johnstown, 162.16-14-12, Life use for Earl Fosmire, Sr was omitted along with the Senior STAR Exemptions.

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Assessment	\$44,800	\$44,800	\$ -0-
Taxes	\$489.94	\$.00	\$489.94

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

VII. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

d. Fall Coaching Appointments

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following fall coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

Mark Ralbovsky, Head Coach, Golf \$2,000

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

e. Fall Coaching Appointments

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following fall coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

Jon Jennings, Head Coach, Boys' Soccer \$3,257

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

f. Fall Coaching Appointments

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following fall coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

Jennifer O'Neil, Head Coach, Girls' Soccer \$3,257

VOTE: 6 YES 1 NO (Mr. Kosowicz)

g. Fall Coaching Appointments

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Levin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following fall coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

Colleen Tabor, Girls' Soccer Assistant #1 \$2,399

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

h. Fall Coaching Appointments

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following fall coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

Sarah Jones, Girls' Soccer Assistant #2 \$2,114

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

i. Fall Coaching Appointments

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following fall coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

Julianna Frederick, Head Coach, Girls' Swimming \$3,141

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

j. Fall Coaching Appointments

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following fall coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

Michael Bruce, Head Coach, Girls' Tennis \$2,000

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

k. Fall Coaching Appointments

Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following fall coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

Michelle Robinson, Head Coach, Volleyball \$3,257

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

l. Fall Coaching Appointments

Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve term appointments of the following fall coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

Kirsten Belknap, Volleyball Assistant #1 \$2,399

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

B. CSE/CPSE MINUTES

1. 504 Committee for Special Education

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Freeman to approve the minutes of the 504 Committee for Special Education meetings held on April 28, 2009

009140343

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Committee for Special Education

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Freeman to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on April 23, 27, 28 and 29 and May 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 13, 2009

000173116	000305967	000306229	000305999	000193007
000183704	000183086	000305976	000193043	000305996
000173104	000144699	000155990	000144873	000154755
000305898	000144928	000144619	000184938	000305949
000306173	000306235	000900286	000306015	000164985
000146853	000173769	000400054	000140009	000940002
000900129	000185000	000140329	000195284	000140352
000306113	000900573	000900283	000146839	000145927
000175132	000175136	000184910	000185242	000185229
000185214	000195286	000165115	000176954	000144593
000145915	000155973	000155974	000194959	000185203
000185201	000154861	000900224	000155980	000195283
000165060	000145936	000184931	000900160	000155117
000195285	000185192	000165091	000176961	000155159

000165043	000143734	000900120	000166898	000155978
000186062	000166080	000176987	000175155	000900171
000900197	000176984	000306110	000165070	
VOTE:	<u>8</u> YES		<u>0</u> NO	

C. STUDENT MATTERS

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

1. Acceptance of the School District Vote for Board of Education Members, 2009/2010 School Budget and Capital Construction Reserve

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the May 19, 2009 Election results for Board of Education members, Proposition No. 1 (budget) and Proposition No. 2 (capital construction reserve) and to reject the May 19, 2009 Election results for Proposition No. 3 (Crescendoe Rd lease extension) and Proposition No. 4 (bus lease extension), as seen in Addendum #3.

VOTE: 8 YES NO

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS AT A SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING

(Board Member) Mrs. Freeman presented the following resolution and moved its adoption, Seconded by (Board Member) Mr. Praught:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN (the "District") that a special meeting of the qualified voters of the District be and the same is hereby called to be held at the polling places specified below on Thursday, July 16, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. prevailing time for the purpose of voting on the following two propositions:

PROPOSITION NO. 1
TRANSPORTATION FACILITY LEASE

SHALL the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District be authorized to renew its lease with respect to its transportation facilities located at Crescendoe Rd., Johnstown, New York, for a term of one (1) year effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and at a rent not to exceed \$97,715.00 for such renewal term?

PROPOSITION NO. 2
EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY BUS LEASES

SHALL the Board of Education of the Greater Johnstown School District be authorized to (1) enter into an agreement to extend the District's current one-year emergency leases for three 66-passenger buses and one wheelchair bus for an additional four years, effective July 1, 2009, at a maximum principal cost not to exceed \$12,000 per year for each 66-passenger bus and not to exceed \$13,000 per year for one wheelchair bus; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the tax necessary therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of

Education, taking into account state aid received; and (4) levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

The vote upon such propositions shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. prevailing time or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 8:00 p.m. to cast their ballots.

The polling places and school election districts are as follows:

For residents of the City and Town of Johnstown:

Johnstown High School Auditorium Lobby

For residents of the Towns of Ephratah and Palatine:

Ephratah Fire Department

An accurate description of the boundaries of the aforesaid school election districts, into which said City School District is divided is on file and may be inspected at the Office of the School District Clerk, 1 Sir Bills Circle, Johnstown, New York.

Personal registration of voters is required, either pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law or pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law. If a voter has heretofore registered pursuant to Section 2014 of the Election Law and has voted at an annual or special district meeting within the last four (4) calendar years, he/she is eligible to vote at this election; and, if a voter is registered and eligible to vote under Article 5 of the Election Law, he/she is also eligible to vote at this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register.

The School District Board of Registration shall meet for the purpose of preparing the register for the School District at the Administration Building, 2 Wright Drive, Johnstown, New York and shall hold registration between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on July 2, 2009 for any person who is not registered under permanent registration with the Fulton County Board of Elections. Any person shall be entitled to have his or her name placed on the register provided that at such meeting of the Board of Registration, he or she is known or proven to the satisfaction of the Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at the school meeting for which such register is prepared.

The register prepared by the Board of Registration shall be filed in the office of the District Clerk (1 Sir Bills Circle, Johnstown, New York) and beginning July 6, 2009 shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the School District from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time on weekdays and at the polling places on the day of the vote.

Absentee ballots may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on or prior to July 9, 2009, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on July 16, 2009. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be available for public inspection during regular business hours (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) of the District Clerk until the day of the vote. Any qualified voter may, upon examination of such list, file a written challenge of the qualifications as a voter of any person whose name

appears on such list, stating the reasons for such challenge. Such written challenge will be transmitted by the Clerk to the inspectors of election on the vote date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a notice of such meeting in the Leader Herald and Gazette, four (4) times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding such School District meeting, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Brandi Maye, a Warren Street parent, is upset that the third and fourth grade field trip to the Great Escape was denied. Mrs. Sullivan indicated the K-6 principals were advised some time ago that only sixth grade would be approved for the Great Escape; lower grades are only approved for educational trips. Ms. Maye said the children earned free passes as an incentive for a Read to Succeed program and feels the district should provide busing. Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth noted the sixth grade has traditionally been allowed to go to the Great Escape as their “going away trip” and while the lower grades might have been allowed to go over the past few years, it shouldn’t have been allowed.
- Ron Beck thanked those that voted for him; believes 70% of people who voted don’t want cuts in band and science. Mr. Curtis stated the Board and Administration worked hard to craft a balanced budget while balancing student needs, treating taxpayers with respect and minimizing staff reductions.
- Robin Kane, mother of high school students, said she has a letter from JHS alumnus J.D. Aldrich, who is in favor of maintaining the vocal program, as well as a petition from residents.
- Sharon Humphrey, teacher of the family consumer science program at JHS spoke on behalf of keeping that program intact. Mrs. Sullivan noted that neither the Choices or the Field Experience programs are being eliminated.
- Adelle Friello, senior at JHS, Valedictorian, said she is going to Cornell and the music program helped her get there. Questioned rumors about cuts to AP courses that will hurt students. Said if Johnstown loses programs, she wouldn’t come back and send her children here; thinks her peers feel the same. Mrs. Sullivan invited Adele to come see her to discuss facts versus rumors.
- Brenda Pasquariello said she has two children in the district, one of whom participates in band/winterguard. She feels the Board isn’t doing anything to dispel rumors. Mr. Curtis noted the Board isn’t generating the rumors and doesn’t have control over them. He stated there are no cuts being made to extra-curriculars, that no such cuts have been discussed, other than a discussion during the Extra-Curricular/Academic Committee meeting earlier in the evening regarding making adjustments to clubs that no longer have participants. Mrs. Sullivan advised that the district is making staff reductions, but not program reductions; there will be some adjustments or consolidations to programming, but students will not be missing out. She noted that the district has been providing three choruses and will now be providing two, which is appropriate to enrollment levels; band will still be offered; there may now be six students in a session instead of 2 or 3, but students will still have 98% of what they are used to having.
- Desiree, a student, feels the decline in enrollment has more to do with having three different teachers over the past few years.

