

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting
May 7, 2009
Knox Junior High School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Russell Martin (departed 5:55 p.m.)	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	Susanne Fitzgerald
Joanne Freeman	Robert Curtis	Robert Kosowicz
James Levin (departed 7:30 p.m.)	Scott Miller	

ABSENT:

John David Praught

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent
Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk
Ralph Acquaro, Interim Business Official (arrived 7:30 p.m.)

II. **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 5:30 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

III. **MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mrs. Freeman, to reconvene in public session at 6:45 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

IV. **BREAK FOR REDISTRICTING WORKSHOP 6:45 p.m.**

V. **RECONVENE FOR DISCUSSION/BUSINESS MEETING 7:32 p.m.**

VI. **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."

VII. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Mrs. Sullivan announced that Central Council will be hosting Candidate's Night at 6:30 p.m. on May 14 in the high school cafeteria

VIII. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **PERSONNEL**

1. **Separations**
2. **Leaves of Absence**

B. CSE/CPSE MINUTES

1. Committee for Pre-School Special Education

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on: April 28, 2009

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VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

C. STUDENT MATTERS

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

1. Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Girls' Swim

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kosowicz, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the interscholastic athletic merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Fonda-Fultonville Central School District for girls' swimming effective for the 2009-10 school year.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

2. Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Boy's Swim

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kosowicz, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the interscholastic athletic merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Fonda-Fultonville Central School District for boys' swimming effective for the 2009-10 school year.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

3. Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Modified Football

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kosowicz, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the interscholastic athletic merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Wheelerville Union Free School District for modified football effective for the 2009-10 school year.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

4. Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Modified Boys' Soccer

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded Mr. Kosowicz, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the interscholastic athletic merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Wheelerville Union Free School District for modified boys' soccer effective for the 2009-10 school year.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

5. Interscholastic Athletic Merger for Modified Wrestling

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kosowicz, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the interscholastic athletic merger between the Greater Johnstown School District and Wheelerville Union Free School District for modified wrestling effective for the 2009-10 school year.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

6. Adoption of Textbook

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Kosowicz to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt the textbook Algebra 2 and Trigonometry, published by Amsco Publishers, for use at Johnstown High School, beginning in September 2009.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Dan Jones said he had been director of bands at GJSD for 15 years, has experience across the state and the country, believes staffing decisions eliminating one and one-half positions in the music department will negatively affect the program and the students. Said not replacing Patricia Zullo and cutting Jim Morton’s position to ½ time will prevent students from receiving weekly vocal instruction next year. Urges district to seek the input of Bill Crankshaw before risking the excellence of the program.
- Josh Schermerhorn, said he is a senior at JHS and chairman of the Young Democratic Association. Said if the music position is cut, lessons will be cut, extra-curricular choir will be cut and opportunities will diminish. He implores the district to reconsider.
- Dick Baker asked why Mike Satterlee is being appointed acting junior high principal and what happened to Mr. Drescher. Mr. Curtis advised that Mr. Drescher will be moving to the business office to help with summer school programming.
- Joanne Freeman said she totally and completely supports the music program and that the Board really and truly thinks before acting on these matters, the positions weren’t eliminated with the swipe of a pen.
- Desiree Kane said during four years of high school there have been three different teachers and she is afraid if Mr. Morton’s position is reduced to ½ time, he will leave too. Said she loves choir and the district should consider the impact of this decision.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

May 14, 2009	Redistricting Workshop Candidate’s Night Hosted by Central Council PTA	5:00 PM @ JHS Library 6:30 PM @ JHS Café
May 19, 2009	Budget Vote & Board Election Results Announced at JHS	Polls Open 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. JHS Auditorium Lobby & Ephratah Firehouse 8:30 p.m. (approximately)
May 21, 2009	Extra-Curricular/Academic Committee Meeting Business Meeting	6:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM @ JHS
June 11, 2009	Facilities Committee Meeting Business Meeting	6:00-7:00 PM 7 PM @ JHS
June 15, 2009	Joint Meeting with Wheelerville Board of Ed	6:30 PM. @ Wheelerville

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded by Mrs. Freeman, to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

VOTE: 6 Yes 0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk