

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
December 17, 2009
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

James Levin	Joanne Freeman	Ronald Beck
Evamarie Mraz	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	John David Praught
Scott Miller	Robert Curtis (departed 9:30 pm)	

ABSENT:

Russell Martin

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent	Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk
Ralph Aquaro, 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. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on November 19, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

➤ Mrs. Sullivan introduced John Knudson of Bearsch Compeau Knudson Architects & Engineers PC, who discussed three options for a bus maintenance facility, as well as estimated costs. He proposed a pre-engineered metal building with masonry base. Board members asked questions regarding materials, design, pricing, finishes, building life expectancy, campus location and green technologies. Mrs. Mraz indicated she would not be willing to go to the taxpayers for \$4.2 million, which was the least expensive/smallest option offered. Mr. Aquaro asked if there was a number beyond which the Board would not want to pursue the project. A facilities workshop was scheduled for 6 p.m. on January 5, at which time BCK will provide additional information for the Board's consideration.

V. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

➤ Mr. Levin reported the audit committee met just prior to the board meeting, at which time Mr. Acquaro reviewed available information regarding state budget monies. There is currently a \$70,000 deferral for December and there may be an additional \$200,000 reduction in January. Federal aid will be dropping over the next couple of years. Significant revenue losses are possible and the district needs to be very cautious. While the district is okay for this year with the fund balance, two years from now it could be in the hole. Need to look to reduce costs, although no one wants to reduce services.

B. Response to Management Letter from to Bonadio & Co., LLP

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the District's corrective action plan as set forth in the letter dated December 17, 2009 to Bonadio & Co., LLP in response to the findings contained in the management letter from Dorman-Robbie, CPA, PC dated October 19, 2009.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. WARRANTS – September 2009

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrants for September 2009, as seen in addendum #1:

General (A): #10, 11
School Lunch (C): #5, 6
Federal (F): #4, 5
Trust & Agency (TA): #8, 9, 10
Expendable Trust (TE): #2

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

D. TREASURER'S REPORT – September 2009

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2009, as seen in addendum #2.

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

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

E. WARRANTS – October 2009

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrants for October 2009, as seen in addendum #3:

General (A): #14, 16
School Lunch (C): #7, 8
Federal (F): #6, 7
Trust & Agency (TA): #11, 12, 13

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

F. TREASURER'S REPORT – October 2009

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2009, as seen in addendum #4.

1. Unrestricted Cash Balance
2. Budget Transfer Schedule #4 & 5
3. Handwritten Checks

4. *Revenue Budget Status*
5. *School Lunch Program Profit & Loss Statement*
6. *Appropriation Status Report*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

G. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the donation of \$50.00 from the “Fifty Plus Senior Citizens” made in appreciation of the December 3, 2009 performance of the JHS Choir at the Johnstown Senior Citizens Center.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Discussion: President Curtis offered thanks on behalf of the Board for the very nice donation.

H. AUTHORIZATION FOR PETTY CASH FUNDS

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mrs. Freeman that the Board of Education establish petty cash funds as listed below in accordance with Commissioner’s Regulation 170.4; 8NYCRR§170.4(e), effective January 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010:

<i>Transportation, RoseAnn Duross</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Buildings & Grounds, Debbie Sherman</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IX. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Retirement of Judith Finley-Kane, Social Studies Teacher

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the retirement of Judith Finley-Kane, social studies teacher, effective January 22, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Mr. Beck noted the district is losing an outstanding teacher. Said she helped to build the student council, sociology course and scuba diving club.

b. Resignation of Judith Finley-Kane, Social Studies Department Coordinator

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Freeman to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of Judith Finley-Kane as social studies department coordinator, due to her retirement, effective January 22, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Creations/Appointments/Adjustments

- a. **Correction to Extra-Curricular Appointment of Amanda Landsberg**
Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to change the extra-curricular appointment of Amanda Landsberg from Knox Junior High School Yearbook Advisor to Knox Junior High School Yearbook Assistant, at a stipend of \$857, prorated, for the school year 2009-2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- b. **Payment of Music Festival Stipends**
Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the payment of \$104.00 as music festival chaperone stipend for the following individuals for attendance at the Area All State Festival in Saratoga Springs, New York, on November 20, 2009 and November 21, 2009, per JTA bargaining unit agreement.

Cynthia Fiorenza \$104.00
 Daniel Jones \$104.00

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

- c. **Term Appointment of Coaching Staff**
Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the term appointment of Hanz Litz as Casual Strength Coach, from December 2009 through June 2010, at a stipend of \$343 per month, per JTA bargaining unit agreement.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –CSE & CPSE

1. **Committee for Pre-School Special Education**
Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on November 19, 2009:

000140341

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. **Committee for Special Education**
Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Praught to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on November 13, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 30, 2009 and December 1, 4, 7, 10, 2009:

000166899	000193007	000306001	000605998	000165075
000113591	000136066	000140118	000140328	000140331
000306263	000900802	000140391	000136777	000305897
000305078	000930048	000900721	000123641	000900181
000140390	000145936	000143752	000155159	000146852
000900810	000900387	000900120	000900197	000176987
000165043	000144593	000155024	000900812	000900759
000196105	000144619	000196105	000165115	000173910

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. **STUDENT MATTERS**

1. **Senior Class Trip to Orlando, Florida**

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the senior class trip to Orlando, Florida; leaving Johnstown High School on Saturday, April 24, 2010, at 6:45 a.m. and returning on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at approximately 11:00 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth commended the class advisors, saying they are very hard workers. Mr. Praught said he commends them as well, however, he would like to see more reasonably priced options in the future.

X. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

A. **HFM BOCES Board of Education Nomination**

Motion by Mrs. Mraz seconded by Mr. Praught, on this 17th day of December, 2009:

*RESOLVED, that the Greater Johnstown School District nominates **Richard McGuire**, who resides at 3 Tryon Place, Johnstown, NY 12095, to fill the seat on the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES Board of Education vacated by the passing of William Finch (St. Johnsville).*

Motion Fails VOTE: 4 YES 4 NO (Miller, Levin, Freeman, & Buggeln-Bosworth)

HFM BOCES Board of Education Nomination

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller, on this 17th day of December, 2009:

*RESOLVED, that the Greater Johnstown School District nominates **Joanne Freeman**, who resides at 12 South Melcher Street, Johnstown, NY 12095, to fill the seat on the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES Board of Education vacated by the passing of William Finch (St. Johnsville).*

Motion Fails VOTE: 4 YES 4 NO (Praught, Curtis, Mraz, & Beck)

HFM BOCES Board of Education Nomination

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller, on this 17th day of December, 2009:

*RESOLVED, that the Greater Johnstown School District nominates **Joanne Freeman**, who resides at 12 South Melcher Street, Johnstown, NY 12095, to fill the seat on the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES Board of Education vacated by the passing of William Finch (St. Johnsville).*

VOTE: 5 YES 3 NO (Curtis, Mraz, & Beck)

B. **One-Time Waiver Regarding Prohibition of Sunday Practice**

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Beck to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a one-time waiver of any policy, rule or regulation previously adopted by the Greater Johnstown School District prohibiting athletic or extra-curricular practice on a Sunday, for the specific purpose of permitting the boys' varsity basketball team to practice for no more

than one hour and thirty minutes on Sunday, December 27, 2009, in preparation for a game on Monday, December 28, 2009.

VOTE: 6 YES 2 NO (Freeman, Miller)

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mr. Levin questioned a memo about procedures for (banning) home baked goods in elementary schools. Feels it is bigger than a procedure, more like a policy, and the Board should have a say before a long standing tradition is taken away. Said he was taken aback by the decision, which he feels has a huge impact, and wants it reviewed in committee.
- Mr. Curtis indicated the school physician made a recommendation and that is why he is hired – to make recommendations.
- Mr. Miller said he didn't have an issue with cupcakes, but that the board should have been advised before the memo was sent home; he was bombarded by parents and had no idea what they were talking about.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

January 5, 2010 (Tues)	Facilities Workshop	6 PM, JHS
Jan. 7, 2010 (Thurs)	Extra-Curricular/Academic Committee Discussion/Business Meeting	6:00 PM 7:00 PM Pleasant Ave.
Jan. 21, 2010 (Thurs)	Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Business Meeting	6:00 PM 7:00 PM JHS

XIII. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF PARTICULAR PERSONS AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 14 OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW

Motion by Mrs. Mraz, seconded by Mrs. Freeman to go to executive session for the purpose of the employment history of particular persons and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law at 8:36 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

XIV. MOTION TO RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Mraz, seconded by Mrs. Freeman, to reconvene in public session at 9:50 p.m.

VOTE: 7 Yes 0 No

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk