

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting
January 7, 2010
Johnstown High School

I. Called to order by President Curtis at 7:04 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth
James Levin
Joanne Freeman

Ronald Beck
Evamarie Mraz
Russell Martin

John David Praught
Scott Miller
Robert Curtis

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent
Alice Dillenbeck, Business Manager

Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk

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. Miller seconded by Mr. Levin to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on December 17 and December 28, 2009.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- School physician Dr. Richard Solby, together with school nurses Debbie Ruggeri and Marilyn Fariello, discussed the recently implemented practice prohibiting home-made foods from being distributed in elementary buildings as shared snacks or for classroom parties and similar functions. Noted that it is for student safety, there are a high number of children with food allergies, as well as insulin dependent diabetics and that store purchased items with labels affixed allow for improved monitoring of ingredients and carbohydrates and less risk of cross contamination (many labels indicate when foods have been prepared in a facility that also processes allergy inducing items). Indicated reason home-made foods can be permitted at extra-curricular functions is that parents are present and are responsible for monitoring their individual child's food intake during those functions. Procedure ties in with Public Health Law Section 2500-h, which directs schools to implement strategies reducing the risk for anaphylaxis by controlling exposure. Inquired whether all celebrations need to be food based. Noted all change brings controversy. Asks that procedure not be abandoned while Board reviews information and options.
- Mrs. Sullivan reported that Assistant Fire Chief Mitchell Zelich, together with Director of Facilities & Operations E.J. Maye, recently completed annual fire reports for all school buildings. Thanked E.J. and staff for helping the district to achieve a spotless record.

V. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- Facilities chairman Mr. Miller reported on the workshop held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 5, at which an architect from BCK was in attendance. Received information on bus wash and site work; indicated cost of \$4.5 million to build a small bus maintenance facility in the 5,000 square foot range. Committee recommends seeking another opinion to see if it can be built less expensively. Mr. Beck suggested looking into a pre-fab metal building; President Curtis indicates may not be approvable by SED. Committee recommends investigate to see whether we can continue leasing Crescendoe Road until issue can be resolved. Concerns expressed as to what happens if State or voters fail to approve continued lease at Crescendoe. Noted

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

1. Approval of Annual Fire Report Summary

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Beck to approve the Annual Fire Report Summary of inspections conducted December 14, 2009 through December 16, 2009, effective January 7, 2010.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

2. Adoption of 2010-2011 District Calendar

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Beck to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to adopt the District Calendar for the 2010-2011 school year effective January 7, 2010, as seen in addendum #1.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

3. First Reading of New Policy #5693

#5693 – Respirators for School Nurses

4. First Reading of Revised Policy #4212

#4212 – Organizational Chart

5. Waiver of Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policy #4212

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Beck to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to waive the second reading of the following revised policy and adopt the same effective January 7, 2010.

#4212 – Organizational Chart

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

6. BOCES Board Vacancy

*Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller that the Board of Education cast one vote for **Joanne Freeman, residing at 12 South Melcher Street, Johnstown, NY 12095**, to serve as a member of the Hamilton, Fulton Montgomery Board of Cooperative Educational Services and that the District Clerk certify that at this public meeting, January 7, 2010, the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education adopted a resolution to cast its vote in the January 20, 2010 special election of members of the Board of Educational Services for **Joanne Freeman** to fill an unexpired vacant term.*

VOTE: 7 YES 1 NO (Mraz) 1 ABSTAIN (Freeman)

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Brandi Maye feels only a small percentage of the population has allergies, but the baked goods ban affects a large percentage people. Asks what makes a Price Chopper cupcake better than hers.
- Melissa Miles said her child was previously in a class with a peanut allergy child and a diabetic child and learned a lot, which they discussed at home. She doesn't trust food made in stores. Says parents don't attend PTA functions or, when they do, they don't properly supervise their children.
- Dick Baker thinks coaches should be trusted and allowed to decide what to do. Suggests "you people" butt out and let coaches run program – if they want to practice every Sunday, let them do it.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Jan. 21, 2010 (Thurs)	Facilities Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
	Long Range Enrollment Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
	Business Meeting	7:00 PM JHS

XI. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 14 OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Mraz to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law at 8:13 p.m.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

XII. MOTION TO RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mr. Praught, seconded by Mrs. Mraz, to reconvene in public session at 9:150 p.m.

VOTE: 9 Yes 0 No

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mrs. Mraz to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

VOTE: 9 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk