

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting
Thursday, May 6, 2010 – JHS

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

ATTENDEES:

Evamarie Mraz	Ronald Beck	Robert Curtis
Joanne Freeman	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	James Levin
Russell Martin	Scott Miller	

ABSENT:

John David Praught

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent	Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk
Alice Dillenbeck, Business Manager	

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

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:03 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IV. MOTION TO RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth, to reconvene in public session at 7:26 p.m.

VOTE: 8 Yes 0 No

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

- Mrs. Sullivan noted that five Fulton County Scholarship awards were given out at the Chamber of Commerce Student Recognition Breakfast and two of them went to Johnstown students. Congratulations to Katie VanDenburgh and Cassidy Shiel. Also, congratulations to Johnstown students Anna Swierzowski and Megan Pollak, who received two of the seven Leading By Example Awards at the recent Fulton County Youth Bureau’s Recognition Dinner.
- JHS Physics teacher Heather Buskirk introduced students Natalie Bentley & Becky Power, who volunteered to present their research on alternative energy options for JHS. Mrs. Sullivan had challenged the students to find a less expensive energy solution and eliminate pollution. Via a PowerPoint presentation, they recommended installation of solar panels.
- Hans Litz introduced the following district teaching staff, who were given an opportunity to speak about projects for which they were awarded JTA mini-grants: Dylan Thomarie, JHS media specialist used grant money to purchase 2010 JHS Anthology books for each student who contributed to the project; Astrid Duross, Colleen Raye & Kristin Meashaw purchased flash drives so they could work on activities at home to bring to school for their students; Susan Ackerbauer purchased woodland animal puppets to assist in teaching her Warren Street

kindergarteners about letters and sounds and the Adirondack area; Karen Dufel purchased more recent & popular young adult books to meet the needs of the students; Rebecca Hart applied funds to the Knox's Winter Activities Day; Mary Hallgren purchased items to start a new local history collection at Knox; Beth Brower hasn't spent her money yet, but will use it in connection with obtaining a keynote speaker for the PTSA Career Day at Knox.

VI. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- Bully Prevention Committee Report – Mrs. Freeman reported that Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Satterlee met with the Johnstown Police Department and the juvenile officer and are working on a schedule for the officer to be more visible at Knox. The committee discussed security cameras, which will be further pursued by the Facilities Committee. Mrs. Sullivan reported that Clint Froschauer, social studies teacher at JHS, is working on an internship to be a principal and his schedule will permit him to assist at Knox; he has already put together a list of things he will look at tackling. Mr. Froschauer was present and offered thanks for the opportunity; says he is eager to work with the staff. Mr. Satterlee said Clint will be welcome at Knox. Mr. Satterlee noted everyone is aware bullying is a national issue; that his main objective when he went to Knox last year was to improve climate at the building. Reports that in November he and a team of teachers visited the South Glens Falls middle school, which has been recognized as a school to watch for the improvements made. They met with former Johnstown teacher Mark Fish, who is the principal there, and came back with ideas to improve morale and behavior and to make the Knox building safer. They are continually working on this. Mr. Satterlee also attended a PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports) conference with JHS Principal Mike Beatty and Mrs. Kilburn and she is helping to implement programs. He and the Knox guidance counselor attended a conference on bullying, which was a showcase of programs to buy rather than information to bring back, although they did obtain information on cyber-bullying. Advised that nationally recognized consultant Brenda McGuire has spent a ½ day in the Knox building observing and has met with Knox faculty. She will be in the building all day on May 25 and will provide a parent/community bullying prevention workshop at 7 p.m. that evening. Will then tailor a program for the school involving students, parents, community and staff and will continue to be an ongoing presence. The Catholic Charities Banishing Bullies program has been and continues to be part of seventh grade health class. Notes that kids are reluctant to step up and speak when they see things. There is a major initiative underway to make them feel comfortable in coming forward; they are asked to sign a contract; explain how to report incident, teach them to be a caring ally. There is a bullying box in the guidance office and they may report anonymously. Assembly programs provided this year included Dr. Bird (Dr. Stephen Birchak www.docbird.com) in January and former NFL player and book author Tim Green in April. Advised that individual safety programs are developed as needs arrive, including daily check-in plans, transition plans and arranging for safe areas. There is a school climate committee. Looking to target three behaviors: disrespect to others; failure to comply with adult requests; and respect for self-space (never have hands on others). Indicated kids are often unwilling to let adults know what is going on and things therefore escalate before staff can get involved. Working on communication. Mrs. Freeman asked that the committee meet again at 5:30 p.m. on June 10 to review programs and see if there are any other areas we are missing.
- Audit Committee Report – Mr. Levin said the committee discussed what happens as federal stimulus aide diminishes (funding cliff). Noted we anticipate a shortfall of \$466,000 next year. Discussed Medicaid compliance and internal audit functions. Reported that money was put aside last year for the Wilson Nature Trail and there is a \$4,000 balance to use. Jen Hall, director of pupil services, elaborated on Medicaid compliance, noting that it is sometimes possible for the district to receive reimbursement of monies expended for students receiving OT, PT and speech services, but there are complicated filing requirements.

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000900241	000115012	000286465	000133666	000940002
000306113	000274135	000146874	000146839	000154750
000306263	000145114	000900459	000900937	000900953
000165091	000165070	000144873	000900197	000166898
000176984	000176987	000166080	000900812	000900759
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VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Committee for Pre-School Special Education

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the minutes of the Committee for Pre-School Special Education meetings held on April 27, 2010

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VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. STUDENT MATTERS

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

A. Second Reading of New Policy #5641, Tobacco-Free School Environment

#5641 – Tobacco-Free School Environment

B. Adoption of Policy #5641, Tobacco Free School Environment

Motion by Mr. Levin seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to adopt Policy 5641, Tobacco Free School Environment, effective May 6, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. First Reading of New Policy #5571, Medicaid Compliance

#5571 – Medicaid Compliance

D. Voting for Members of the HFM BOCES Board of Education in a Run-Off Election - Two (2) Open Seats: One (3) Year Term and One (1) Year Term.

VOTE FOR UP TO TWO (2) OF THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES:

1. BOCES Board Vacancy

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin that the Board of Education cast one vote for **Joanne Freeman, residing at 12 South Melcher Street, Johnstown, NY 12095 in the Greater Johnstown School District** 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, May 6, 2010, the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education adopted a resolution to cast its vote in the annual election of members of the Board of Educational Services for **Joanne Freeman**, effective May 18, 2010.*

VOTE: 7 YES 1 NO (Mr. Beck)

2. BOCES Board Vacancy

*Motion by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Levin that the Board of Education cast one vote for **Jean LaPorta, residing at 39 Prospect Avenue, Gloversville, NY 12078 in the Gloversville Central School District** 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, May 6, 2010, the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education adopted a resolution to cast its vote in the annual election of members of the Board of Educational Services for **Jean LaPorta, effective May 18, 2010.***

MOTION FAILS **VOTE:** 1 YES 7 NO (Mrs. Mraz, Mr. Miller, Mr. Levin
Mrs. Freeman, Mr. Curtis, Mrs.
Buggeln-Bosworth, Mr. Martin)

X. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth thanked the baseball and lacrosse teams for stepping up and assisting with raking at the Concordia Club. Noted it is usually a four hour job, but was reduced to two hours this year with their help. In return, the Concordia Club provides a substantial donation to the post prom party.
- Hans Litz, JTA co-president, read a prepared statement regarding honesty, character and respect in labor relations.
- Doug Dougherty asked if the Board or Mr. Martin will issue an apology for denigrating comments made by a board member. Mr. Curtis replied it is not incumbent upon the Board to apologize and it should be taken up with the individual.
- Joe Pazzaglia, owner of local businesses PTSI Security Services and Martial Arts & Me said he is concerned about reports of bullying at Knox and suggested his services could be of use to the district.
- Ron Beck said it makes him sick that someone he serves on the Board with refers to teachers as farm animals and since he is a former teacher that must mean him too.
- Mr. Martin noted some board candidates referred to Mr. Acquaro as a bully and no one is calling for them to apologize. Says his statements were directed at union negotiations, not individual teachers.
- Lucinda Ormiston doesn't think kids are aware of the Bullying Box in the guidance counselor's office at Knox; says they learn of it in health class, but some of them don't have health until later in the year. Suggests mentioning it to sixth graders when they come in for orientation. Thanks Mr. Satterlee for trying to work with her. Says school counselor made ridiculous suggestions such as for anxious child to be excused early to transition to classes, eat lunch in the counselor's office with a friend and use the nurse's bathroom. Upset at suggestion that victims should receive counseling, says it is the bullies who need counseling.
- Joe Pazzaglia indicated if the school won't use his services, he may provide his own after school program.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

May 18, 2010 (Tues.)	Budget Vote & Board Election	Polls Open 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. JHS Auditorium Lobby Ephratah Firehouse
May 20, 2010 (Thurs.)	Academic/Extra-Curricular Committee Meeting Long Range Restructuring Committee Meeting Business Meeting	5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM JHS
May 25, 2010	Parent/Community Bullying Prevention Workshop	7 p.m., Knox

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Mraz seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk