

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Business Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2010 - JHS

I. Called to order by Board President at 7:05 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Ronald Beck	Paul VanDenburgh	Douglas Dougherty
Jennifer Spinnoble	Evamarie Mraz	Robert Curtis
Scott Miller	Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth	

ABSENT:

James Levin

OTHERS:

Katherine Sullivan, Superintendent	Guest: David Carr, Wheelerville Superintendent
Alice Dillenbeck, Business Manager	Guest: Howard Dutcher, Wheelerville BOE President
Larraina Carpenter, District Clerk	Guest: Shannon Wager, Wheelerville BOE Trustee

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 DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON

Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh seconded by Mr. Dougherty to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person at 7:06 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IV. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh, seconded by Mr. Dougherty, to reconvene in public session at 7:22 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Beck seconded by Mrs. Spinnoble to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on July 1, 2010 and July 29, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mrs. Sullivan welcomed Wheelerville Union Free School Superintendent David Carr, Wheelerville Board of Education President Howard Dutcher and Wheelerville Board of Education Trustee Shannon Wager who were joining Johnstown for a joint board meeting.
- Mrs. Sullivan offered congratulations to Alice Dillenbeck on attaining a perfect score on the civil service exam for the business manager position. Mrs. Sullivan noted that in other happy news, Ms. Dillenbeck is getting married soon.
- Mrs. Sullivan reported that Board members had been provided with a draft of a proposed brochure highlighting several school programs and facilities, which is to be delivered to local realtors to introduce potential home buyers to the district. Mr. Beck thinks the brochure

- should focus on promoting the district's teachers; he said he believes people want to know about awards the teaching staff has won and what projects they are working on.
- Patricia Kilburn, District Director of Curriculum, Testing and Personnel, provided a presentation on a new program coming to JHS this fall. The Young Entrepreneurs Academy will be offered as an elective to students in grades 9-12 through the business department. The course was originally launched at the University of Rochester in 2004 and takes students through the processes necessary to form and control a legally registered business or social movement. Mrs. Kilburn indicated she has reached out to the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce for its support in involving the local business community. This program is currently only available locally through JHS and Mohonasen.
 - Mrs. Kilburn also provided a presentation on the Enhancing Education Through Technology Stimulus Grant for online learning. This three-tiered grant will allow JHS students to receive online courses from NYS certified teachers for remediation and acceleration. Secondary Johnstown teachers will receive in depth professional development in how to teach a fully virtual online course or how to teach a blended online course. The district will evaluate the effectiveness of online instruction for JHS students and plan for its own approach to online instruction in Johnstown. Advantages of the program include providing for Johnstown students to graduate with online learning experience, better preparing them for college. It also opens doors to students who may need to repeat a course and need to learn in a different way. Finally, it allows Johnstown teachers to create virtual and blended classes that fit our students and our school district.
 - Mrs. Sullivan noted there are many opportunities in Johnstown and we need to look into promoting more of them at Board meetings so that people become more aware of them.

VI. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- Mrs. Mraz reported that the long range restructuring committee compiled the results of the June 2010 restructuring survey. She stated that the elementary parents who responded strongly disagreed with implementing the "Princeton Plan" model of grade level grouping and that survey respondents favored keeping the current "neighborhood schools" structure, even though this will result in the return of singletons (a single section of a grade level) as enrollment continues to decline. The district will continue to keep an eye on enrollment and further assess it down the road.
- As a facilities update, Mrs. Sullivan advised that she met today with Beebe Construction regarding assessment of the pillars in the basement at Pleasant Avenue. Noted one pillar failed slightly at end of school year and E.J. Maye then dug out several others to determine their status. Indicated that of the 60 pillars, it is estimated 1/3 will need attention. Because the repair work will be noisy, would like to complete it when the students aren't there. To prevent future erosion, the existing fan system should be replaced with a dehumidification/air conditioning system. Stressed that here is no immediate danger, but it does need to be addressed. Students and staff may continue to safely use the building; rumors of a move to Jansen Avenue are not true.

e. Substitute Bus Driver Appointments

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to approve the following as Substitute Bus Drivers, effective August 23, 2010, pay per the 2010/11 classified substitute pay schedule:

<i>Gary Butler</i>	<i>Kelly Morrison</i>	<i>Kimberly Smith</i>
<i>Andrew Walters</i>	<i>Gary Green</i>	<i>Michael Fonda</i>
<i>Brian Crankshaw</i>	<i>Shirley Lang</i>	<i>Rodney Chamberlain</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

B. WARRANTS – May 2010

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the District Auditor, to accept the following warrants for May 2010, as seen in addendum #1:

<i>General (A):</i>	<i>#45, 47,</i>
<i>School Lunch (C):</i>	<i>#21, 22,</i>
<i>Federal (F):</i>	<i>#20, 21,</i>
<i>Capital (H)</i>	<i>#5,</i>
<i>Trust & Agency (TA):</i>	<i>#35, 36, 37,</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

C. TREASURER’S REPORT – May 2010

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the District Treasurer, to accept the Treasurer’s Report for May 2010, as seen in addendum #2.

- 1. Unrestricted Cash Balance*
- 2. Budget Transfer Schedule #13*
- 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

D. Surplus Vehicle/Bus Bid #11-06

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award vehicle #3 to Brown Transportation, Inc. for \$9,218.00 and to reject all bids for vehicle #2, as seen in addendum #3.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

E. Classified Substitute Pay Schedule 2010/11

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the classified substitute pay schedule for the 2010/11 school year as seen below:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>	<i>\$9.00/hour</i>
<i>Bus Drivers</i>	<i>\$11.50/hour</i>
<i>Clerks (clerical)</i>	<i>\$7.25/hour</i>
<i>Food Service</i>	<i>\$7.25/hour</i>
<i>Nurses (LPN)</i>	<i>\$11.50/hour</i>
<i>Nurses (RN)</i>	<i>\$14.00/hour</i>
<i>Teacher Aides/School Monitors</i>	<i>\$7.25/hour</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

F. Cooperative Canned Food Bid #11-03

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Canned Food Bid #11-03 to various vendors, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidders, as seen in **addendum #4**.*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

G. Cooperative Snack Food & Fruit Drink Bid #11-05

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Cooperative Snack Food & Fruit Drink Bid #11-05 to various vendors, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidders, as seen in **addendum #5**.*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

H. Bus Lease Bid #11-08

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to award the Bus Lease Bid #11-08 to Leonard Bus Sales, as the lowest, qualified, responsible bidder, at a cost of \$32,150 per year for five years, as seen in **addendum #6**.*

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

I. School Bus Lease 2010/11 School Year

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth that:

WHEREAS, the Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education is responsible for providing bus transportation for students during each school year, and

WHEREAS, the voters of the Greater Johnstown School District approved by a vote of 639 to 242 on May 18, 2010, the lease of (2) two (66) sixty six passenger buses.

WHEREAS, the Greater Johnstown School District advertised for a five year lease agreement for the subject buses, and

WHEREAS, lease proposals were opened on Thursday, July 15, 2010 and read aloud, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent, and School Business Manager reviewed, and recommend, the terms and conditions of the subject lease agreement,

M. Tax Rates

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. VanDenburgh to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the levy of taxes for the 2010/11 school year in the amount of \$7,200,614 and approve the individual tax rates per \$1,000 as follows:

<i>City of Johnstown</i>	<i>\$21.70234</i>
<i>Town of Johnstown</i>	<i>\$20.81047</i>
<i>Town of Ephratah</i>	<i>\$18.08529</i>
<i>Town of Palatine</i>	<i>\$25.74854</i>
<i>City of Gloversville</i>	<i>\$15.19164</i>

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

VIII. EDUCATION ITEMS

A. STUDENT MATTERS

B. PERSONNEL

1. Separations

a. Resignation of Jessica Elliott, Guidance Counselor

Motion by Mrs. Sponnoble seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the resignation of Jessica Elliott, Guidance Counselor, effective July 26, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. Resignation of Duilio Viscusi, Assistant Principal

Motion by Mrs. Sponnoble seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the resignation of Duilio Viscusi, Assistant Principal, effective August 13, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

c. Resignation of Victoria Leonard, French Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Sponnoble seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the resignation of Victoria Leonard, French teacher, effective August 31, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

d. Resignation of Daniel Jones, Music Teacher

Motion by Mrs. Sponnoble seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the resignation of Daniel Jones, music teacher, effective August 31, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Discussion: Mr. Dougherty noted that Mr. Jones was here with Mr. Crankshaw during the glory years when the district was state & nationally recognized. Indicated that it may be hard, but with new people the district can build the music program back up.

e. **Resignation of Jeffrey Blacha, Transition Coordinator**

Motion by Mrs. Spohnoble seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of Jeffrey Blacha, as transition coordinator, effective August 31, 2010.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. **Leaves of Absence**

3. **Abolishments**

4. **Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

a. **Correction of Appointment for Debra Schienberg, Extended Leave Substitute School Counselor**

Motion by Mrs. Mraz seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve correction of the appointment of Debra Schienberg, as extended leave substitute school counselor, to be at Step A2 (\$37,805) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

b. **Appointment of James Morton as Full-Time Music Teacher with Tenure**

Motion by Mr. VanDenburgh seconded by Mrs. Buggeln-Bosworth to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the return of James Morton to full time status with tenure, in the music tenure area, effective 9/1/10. Mr. Morton will be paid at Step C4 (\$40,286) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

VOTE: 7 YES 1 NO (Mr. Miller)

c. **Probationary Appointment of Allison Weber, Spanish Teacher**

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the probationary appointment of Allison Weber, as Spanish teacher, in the Spanish tenure area, at Step C2 (\$39,699) of the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2013, pending fingerprint clearance.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

d. **Appointment of Laurel Headwell, Extended Leave Substitute Health Teacher**

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Dougherty to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Laurel Headwell, as Extended Leave Substitute Health Teacher, at Step A1 (\$37,434) prorated, pursuant to the Johnstown Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective September 1, 2010 through January 28, 2011, pending NYS certification and fingerprint clearance.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

2. Committee for Special Education

Motion by Mr. Dougherty seconded by Mr. VanDenburgh to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on July 27, 30 and August 3, 2010:

000140406 000901012 000173113 000133701 000140409
000900998 000116628 000124570 000900377 000900447
000144619 000185229

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

- Mr. Curtis reported that he had been approached by a Johnstown police officer who suggested changing the signs at Knox Field to indicate students can use the field from 5 a.m. to dusk, but that only adults can use the field from dusk to 10 p.m. That gives police officers some latitude to remove people after a certain point.
- Mrs. Sullivan added that police also suggested that rather than attempting to install security cameras to cover all of the field, which is virtually impossible, cameras should instead be placed at the gates.
- Mr. Curtis advised that when Board members would like to see an item added to the agenda, they should contact him and he'll take it to Mrs. Sullivan. Issued a reminder that Board members should not be approaching staff directly and that Board members who seek items of information individually need to file a FOIL request the same as anyone in the public. Committee members should contact their committee chairperson, who will contact the district clerk.

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Dick Baker asked if the district has to pay the normal rate for the emergency project at Pleasant Avenue. Mrs. Sullivan indicated the emergency designation is so that the district can get aid back next year at the regular ratio and doesn't have to bond out. Mrs. Dillenbeck said the emergency designation expedites the process.
- Dick Baker gave compliments to the people or person responsible for the new backstop on the boys field at Briggs Street.
- Dick Baker asked if the Colonials are charged for using Knox Field (yes). Said Amsterdam charges \$600 and inquired what Johnstown charges. Ms. Dillenbeck will check on the figure.
- Dick Baker referred to a July 21 article in the Gazette about Broadalbin-Perth charging tuition to non-resident employees who enroll their children in the school district. Asked if Johnstown does the same. Mrs. Sullivan noted most of our employees live here; at last count only two employees were bring their children from outside of the district.
- Dick Baker asked what the tuition rate is for the high school (\$2,000). He thinks the district should use the Seneca Falls Formula and charge more.
- Dick Baker said he is sorry to see Mr. Maye retiring. Said while he is a big proponent of promoting from within, he feels it is incumbent on Mrs. Sullivan and the Board to get someone who knows what they are doing as buildings & grounds is a big budget department to oversee.
- Jeff Vivenzio, Pleasant Avenue Principal, proffered thanks to those who helped with the recent phase one clean-up of the Nature Trail. Said the goal is to fix it so that staff can get a mower in. Suggested a re-opening when repairs are completed.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

September 2 (Thu)	Facilities Meeting Special Meeting	6 PM, JHS 7 PM, JHS
September 16 (Thu.)	Business Meeting	6 PM, JHS
October 7 (Thu.)	Committee Meetings - TBD	6 PM, JHS
October 19 (Tues.) <i>(note date change!)</i>	Business Meeting	6 PM, Warren St

XIII. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FINANCIAL, CREDIT OR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR CORPORATION, OR MATTERS LEADING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, DISMISSAL OR REMOVAL OF A PARTICULAR CORPORATION, AND, TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 14 OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW.

Motion by Mrs. Mraz seconded by Mrs. Spinnoble to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, dismissal or removal of a particular corporation, and also to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the Civil Service Law, at 8:50 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

XIV. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Mraz, seconded by Mrs. Spinnoble, to reconvene in public session at 10:57 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Buggeln-Bosworth seconded by Mrs. Mraz to adjourn at 10:57 p.m.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter,
District Clerk