

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Discussion/Business Meeting**  
**April 7, 2005**  
**Johnstown High School Small Café**

I. Called to order by Board President at 6:00 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Peter Cinelli	Russell Martin	John David Praught
Joanne Freeman	Richard McGuire	William Pollak
Kathleen Leo	Brian Miller	Christopher Swatt (arrived 6:01 PM)

OTHERS:

John S. Whelan	Katherine Sullivan	Peter Hopke
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II. **SUPERINTENDENT'S/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

Mrs. Sullivan discussed the NY State School Report Card, which is designed to provide information to the public about student performance on State tests and other measures of school and district performance. Her presentation included various statistics regarding performance in English Language Arts (ELA), Math and Science, and graduation rates for groups of students who first entered grade 9 in the same school year (cohorts). Each principal in the District has held/will hold a report card night for the public as follows: Warren St, April 4<sup>th</sup>; JHS, April 6<sup>th</sup>; Knox, April 6<sup>th</sup>; Glebe Street, April 11<sup>th</sup>; Jansen Ave., April 12<sup>th</sup>; and Pleasant Ave., April 25<sup>th</sup>.

III. **PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

IV. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Capital Projects - Mr. Swatt indicated there was no new report since the last Board meeting. Mr. Whelan advised that, because the Board has chosen to remove the combined bus maintenance garage and district-wide storage facility from the Capital Project, we will be looking to continue the lease for the current facility on Snyder Ave. and approval for the lease extension will have to be provided by the public
- Restructuring – Mr. Swatt noted that this committee had been established to review parent concerns regarding singletons. As part of the review process, 3,951 surveys had been sent out seeking input from the public. 356 responses were received back (about 9%). Final tallies indicated that 13% of those responding (48 responses) were in favor of three buildings with a K-6 configuration; 25% of those responding (88 responses) were in favor of three buildings with alternative group settings; and 61% of those responding (220 responses) were in favor of keeping the current singleton system. Several open forums were then conducted seeking further public input, however community attendance was poor. Mr. Swatt advised that he had obtained information via the internet which indicates that the average class size nationally is 18-20 students or 22-25 students, and that for best results the maximum class size should not exceed 25 students. He noted that we are at the lower end of the national average in this regard, as our elementary classes currently have the following average class sizes: Glebe Street 20.3 students, Jansen Ave. 19.0 students, Pleasant Ave. 19.2 students, and Warren Street 19.5 students (not including the Pre-K). It is the recommendation of the committee that no restructuring take place at this time and that the Restructuring Committee be dissolved for this school year, with the understanding that it can be re-established in the future if the need arises. Mr. McGuire extended the appreciation of the Board for the committee's efforts and thanked Mr. Swatt, Mr. Praught and Mr. Miller for their services in this regard.

- Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Pollak advised that the next committee meeting will take place on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 PM in the Board Conference room, with a report to follow at the April 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. He advised that there is again a problem with vandalism to the lights at Knox Field, which seems to occur every spring. He asked that anyone in the area who notices suspicious activity report it to the proper authorities and requested that the press perhaps assist in bringing this matter to the public’s attention.
- Academic – Mr. Martin reported that the committee had met this evening at 5:00 PM and reviewed the Extra-Curricular Code. Seven changes are recommended and a draft of the proposed revisions is being distributed to Board members for review. There will be a reading of the revised code at the next Board meeting on April 27, 2005, followed by a proposal to adopt the same. Mr. Martin also announced that the committee will be meeting to set up a table at Knox Junior High at 5:30 PM on the night of the Public Budget Hearing (May 3, 2005), to further distribute information about available high school awards and scholarships. Arrangements are being made to post this information on the web page as well.
- Finance – Mr. Miller advised that the next committee meeting is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in the Board Conference room. Mr. Hopke reported that a meeting had occurred recently with the District’s legal counsel and several staff members from the Snyder Ave. facility regarding vehicle damages caused by Pearl Leather emissions. Approximately twenty employees have been affected and may seek to file small claims court actions against Pearl Leather.

**V. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR FOR COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-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 business meeting where the Board permits the public comment on agenda and non-agenda items. The Board will accept written comments from the public on this subject matter and all other agenda and non-agenda items.”*

- Mr. McGuire noted that letters to the editor continue to appear in the local paper containing misconceptions about the bus maintenance garage and district-wide storage facility previously considered as part of the Capital Project. He stated that it was never the District’s intention to build a garage in which to store buses. What was actually proposed was a maintenance garage in which to attend to routine service of district-owned buses, tractors and equipment, and which would be built in such a size as to also include much needed space for storage of District-wide supplies (paper goods, etc.). Storage was only intended for supplies, not buses, and he would like to see something printed in the paper to help clarify this and dispel any misinformation circulating in the community.
- Alexis Swatt, a student at Pleasant Avenue, requested Board members signatures for the time capsule celebrating Pleasant’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Everyone was happy to assist her.
- Mrs. Freeman noted that the Senior Winter Guard is competing in Dayton, Ohio and has advanced to the semi-finals. They are hoping to get to finals and World Championships. She commended them as a fantastic group. Mr. McGuire said he hopes they will come before the Board to receive the recognition they deserve.
- Mr. Swatt noted the special education reports in item VIII A-1 of tonight’s agenda cover 129 special ed students in the District. Judy Swatt noted that these reports take about 1 – 1 ½ hours each to generate and she is glad for the assistance of the software program introduced by Special Education Director Kevin Crampton. The Board acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Crampton and Ms. Swatt.

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mrs. Leo to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on March 16, 2005 and March 30, 2005.*

*VOTE:              9   YES                                      0   NO*

**VII. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Discussion Items**

- Warrants
- Vendor Additions
- Treasurer's Reports

**2. Budget Proposition**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the proposed budget of expenditures of the Greater Johnstown School District for the school year 2005/06 in the amount of \$22,801,764 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditure, adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by law.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**VIII. EDUCATION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CSE, CPSE**

**1. Committee for Special Education**

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Praught to approve the minutes of the Committee for Special Education meetings held on March 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 22, 2005.*

000950030	000960035	000960010	000960025
000970025	002400049	002400096	000240015
000960018			
000960058	000960030	000240017	000960039
000950047	000940051	000950015	000950064
000940048	000940019	000940040	000930065
000940034	000240021	000930060	
000940031	000950027	000950046	000950057
000940028	000950022	002400064	000940016
000940039	000980031	000940012	000930001
000250003	000930035	000920051	000950009
000930046	000920083	002400050	000930053
000920046	002400054	000930016	000920065
000950059	000950052	000240047	000960043
000940058	000940033	000240002	000930050
000930054	000930038	000920023	000250010
000920054	000240048		
000950066	000240008	000940043	000930063
000940038	000240009	000940017	009140003
000920088	000920061	000930037	000920078
000910101	000920060	000930026	000920062
000240006	000240001	000950053	000950019
000960061	000960055	000950060	002400065
000940027	000940032	000930030	000920085

000910068	000910082	000910064	000900110
000900063	000000079	000900127	002500035
000240003	000900010		
000920072	000910108	000900034	000910100
000920044	000890109	000900128	000910114
000900106	000890029	000890044	000900074
000910095			
002400051	000900038	000900070	000910089
000920067	000910103	000240018	000910107
000910104	000910113	000920036	
000850230	000860206	000880930	000880981
000870105	000890028	000850127	000860148
000860010	000870189	000870190	000870151

VOTE:              9   YES                      0   NO

**B.     PERSONNEL**

**1.     Separations**

**a.     Resignation of Timothy Harris, Assistant Principal**

*Motion by Mr. Cinelli seconded by Mr. Pollak to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Timothy Harris, with regret, as assistant principal, effective April 7, 2005.*

VOTE:              9   YES                      0   NO

**2.     Creations/Appointments/Adjustments**

**a.     Appointment of Timothy Harris as Principal**

*Motion by Mr. Cinelli seconded by Mr. Pollak to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment (10 month) of Timothy Harris as elementary school principal in the principal tenure area at a salary of \$61,800 in conjunction with collective bargaining agreement of the Johnstown Administrators' Association effective February 28, 2005 and expiring February 27, 2008.*

VOTE:              9   YES                      0   NO

**b.     Probationary Appointment of Matthew Greco, English Teacher**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the three-year probationary appointment (**pending certification**) of Matthew Greco as English teacher in the English tenure area at Step C1 (\$36,212) of the collective bargaining agreement with the Johnstown Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2005 and expiring August 31, 2008.*

VOTE:              9   YES                      0   NO

c. **Appointment of Co-Curricular Advisors**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of the following individuals as co-curricular advisors for the 2004-2005 school year:*

*Sarah Corrigan, Vocal Ensemble – Women’s Choir Advisor  
Sarah Corrigan, Vocal Ensemble – Men’s Group Advisor  
Louis-Philippe Parent, Winter Percussion Unpaid Assistant*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

d. **Term Appointment of Elementary Summer School Instructors**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mrs. Leo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following individuals as elementary summer school instructors for the 2005-2006 school year:*

<i>Sandra Vosburgh, Pre-K</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>Jennifer Hickok, Pre-K</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>Sherri Salatel, Pre-K/Kindergarten</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>Emily Klingbeil, Kindergarten</i>	<i>\$1,700</i>
<i>Melissa Livingstone, Gr. 1</i>	<i>\$1,700</i>
<i>Rebecca Voudry, Gr. 2</i>	<i>\$1,700</i>
<i>Helen Reed, Gr. 3</i>	<i>\$1,700</i>
<i>Paul Cuttica, Gr. 4</i>	<i>\$1,700</i>
<i>June Coleman, Gr. 5</i>	<i>\$1,700</i>
<i>Roger Rhodes, Gr. 6</i>	<i>\$1,700</i>
<i>Linda Cecconi, Enrichment</i>	<i>\$18.75 per hour</i>
<i>Deborah Sepanara, substitute</i>	<i>Per Diem</i>
<i>Loretta Smith, substitute</i>	<i>Per Diem</i>

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

3. **Leave of Absences**

a. **Child Care Leave of Absence for Siobhan M. Wood, Elementary Teacher**

*Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to allow a child care leave of absence for Siobhan M. Wood as elementary teacher, effective approximately June 10 - 30, 2005.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

C. **STUDENT MATTERS**

1. **Establishment of Co-Curricular Club**

*Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to establish the Vocal Ensemble-Women’s Choir co-curricular club effective April 7, 2005, with an unpaid advisor appointment.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

2. **Establishment of Co-Curricular Club**

*Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to establish the Vocal Ensemble-Men's Group co-curricular club effective April 7, 2005, with an unpaid advisor appointment.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

3. **Field Trip for Winter Guard to Dayton, Ohio**

*Motion by Mr. Swatt seconded by Mr. Praught to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the winter guard field trip to Dayton, Ohio effective 04/06/05 (12:00 PM) through 04/10/05 (6:00 PM) for the purpose of competition.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

**IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS**

1. **Second Reading of Revised Policy #7412, Academic Eligibility**

#7412 – Academic Eligibility

2. **Adoption of Revised Policy #7412, Academic Eligibility**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Cinelli to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, to adopt Revised Policy 7412, Academic Eligibility, effective April 7, 2005.*

VOTE:              9   YES                              0   NO

3. **Appointment of Election Inspectors**

*Motion by Mr. Praught seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the 15 individuals listed to serve as election inspectors, and the two individuals listed to serve as alternate election inspectors, for the May 17, 2005 Board of Education Election and Budget Vote.*

**Pleasant Avenue School**

*Sophie Kovarovic (R)  
Elaine Schrum (D)  
Barbara Sprung (R)*

**Jansen Avenue School**

*Ellen Dorman (D)  
Emily Kralovic (R)  
Rosemary Schreivogl (R)*

**Knox Junior High School**

*Jacqueline Swatt (D)  
Louis Pioli (R)  
Rosemary Lesser (R)*

**Johnstown Public Library**

*Thomas Jennings (D)  
Patricia Bender (D)  
Myrtle Thomas (R)*

**Ephratah Fire House**

*Denise Duesler (D)  
Hazel Prall (D)  
Jacqueline Hill (R)*

Alternates

Patricia Valachovic(R)

Bonnie Dostal (D)

VOTE:            8 YES                    0 NO                    1 ABSTAIN (Swatt)

**X.    COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

➤ Dick Baker asked if the language “other sources as provided by law” contained in the budget proposition includes getting a percentage from public utilities because if we don’t, he thinks we should. Mr. Hopke advised that in certain municipalities school districts can impose a tax on utilities and we can look into this.

**XI.   INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

April 18, 2005	Board Candidate Expense/Contributions First Statements Due	
April 27, 2005	Filing Deadline for Board Candidate Nominating Petitions	5:00 PM
April 27, 2005	Business Meeting	6:00 PM Public Session Johnstown High School
April 28, 2005	Ballot Draw for Board Candidates	1:00 PM District Office
May 3, 2005	Public Budget Hearing	6:00 PM Public Session Knox Junior High Auditorium
May 9, 2005 (rescheduled from May 4th)	Annual Joint Board Meeting	7:00 PM Public Session Wheelerville Union Free School

**XII.   MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS WITH A CERTAIN DISTRICT EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION**

*Motion by Mrs. Freeman seconded by Mr. Miller to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with a certain district employee organization, at 7:02 PM.*

VOTE:            9 Yes                    0 No

**XIII.   MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

*Motion by Mrs. Leo seconded by Mrs. Freeman to return to public session at 8:05 PM.*

VOTE:            9 Yes                    0 No

**XIV.   ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mrs. Leo seconded by Mrs. Freeman to adjourn at 8:05 PM.*

VOTE:            9 Yes                    0 No

Respectfully submitted,

Larraina Carpenter  
District Clerk