

Date: **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**
 Place: Hilltop Board Room
 Kind of Meeting: **Regular Meeting**

Members Present: Amy Applebaum, President
 Thomas LaColla, Vice President
 Claudette Clarke, Secretary
 Bryan Burrell, Trustee
 Claudette Jimerson, Trustee
 Michael Lagana, Trustee
 Michael Mark, Trustee
 Chloe Soukas, Student Representative
 Student Representative

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dr. Valencia Douglas, Superintendent
 Walter Woodhouse, Ass't Supt. For Instruction
 Gail Fleur, District Clerk was absent
 Community Members
 Staff Members

President Applebaum called the regular meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Trustee LaColla moved and Trustee Jimerson seconded to go into Executive Session for discussion of personnel matters at 6:15 PM

Motion Approved (7-0)

Trustee Mark moved and Trustee Jimerson seconded to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:35 PM and reconvene to Public Session. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion Approved (6-0)

President's Report

President Applebaum reported on the first day of school. Schools looked beautiful and everything went smoothly. She credited Carleen Millsaps, Assistant Superintendent for Business, who in turn thanked the Facilities Office, Kevin Heaton and the cleaning crew. She reported that the ArtsAngels, the parent booster group for the arts, has recently received its official papers documenting that it is now officially a non profit organization. The group can now apply for grants and contributors can get a tax deduction for contributions.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Douglas echoed that the facilities were sparkling. Thanks to all for their efforts. She reported that the District was fully staffed and thanked the Human Resources Department and all the interview committees for their efforts. She stressed that the football team did not stumble through their first football game, as reported in the newspaper, but won forcefully and on their strengths. In addition, she emphasized that it is very important that families send in their updated emergency contact forms to the District.

Student Representative Report

Chloe Soukas reported that the wearing of ID cards is a problem at the school, since not everyone is wearing them and it is hard to enforce. Dr. Douglas said Mr. Spero is trying to motivate students to wear them and everyone just must keep at it until it catches on, since it is very important that all wear them. Trustee LaColla asked if the cards are color coded and was told they are. He objected to that, with fear for bullying. Dr. Douglas said the School Resource Officers really need them color coded; It helps them know where students should be. Chloe also said the facilities look great. In addition, she said that the students don't know about the emergency forms and who should get them and about the Code of Conduct signed forms. Dr. Douglas explained that the forms were sent to parents and perhaps Mr. Spero could make an announcement to remind families to return them. The Code of Conduct will be discussed with the students in the school and then a form must be signed by them. President Applebaum asked to find out who the point person is in regard to the Code of Conduct forms at the High School.

Board of Education Reports

Trustee Mark said he enjoyed the first day tour and having staff looking cheerful. He said the new principals obviously got to know their buildings and facilities before the first day.

Trustee Lagana asked the Superintendent if the emergency forms had to be updated every year. She said families were sent the forms each year and instructed about them in a letter. If there was no change in information they were still supposed to send them back and this year we were asking for e mail addresses to help with communication.

Trustee Clarke said it was always a pleasure to have the first day go smoothly.

Trustee Burrell thanked all for their comments and said he will be serving on the NYSSBA Resolutions Committee once again this year.

Trustee LaColla apologized for leaving the meeting early last time. He visited Liberty that morning and all was well organized. He intends to visit each of the schools, even though he could not go on the tour. He encouraged all students and parents to join something and do something new and different this school year. He mentioned that the car barricade at MacCalman Field seems to be working well.

Trustee Burrell reminded all that the RCSBA meeting was that Thursday with dinner being served and with presentations. The State has passed a law regarding health insurance, stating that children can be covered under family insurance through age 29. Rate increases will probably be reflected in insurance. Dr. Douglas said we haven't gotten anything written on it yet.

Trustee Jimerson repeated it was a joy to visit the buildings.

Response to Citizens Prior Questions:

Walter Woodhouse responded to Kathleen Panov's questions about the Algebra 8 course. He thanked Mrs. Panov for her continuing interest in this area. The questions and response will be on the website. He summarized the questions and gave the answers. (**see attachment**).

Citizens Proposals, Questions and Concerns

Arlene Siroko, President of the Valley Cottage PTA, distributed the PTA enrichment program brochure. She thanked Mrs. Panov for getting this started last spring. Thirteen courses are given on Wednesdays and eight on Friday. It will be tied into the PTA Reflections Program.

Workshop:

Report on the GASBE 45 (Government Accounting Standards Board Statement No.45 by Raymond Cerrone, CPA (Questar III BOCES) GASBE 45 Implementation Service. Mr. Cerrone had been invited to explain the GASBE and said that it was an actuarial study of contractual employee retirement benefit commitments/liabilities that all districts have to have. It is a requirement and next year there will be a roll forward of the report and every other year there is a redo of it. Trustee Lagana had asked that the GASBE be put on the website so people can see the liabilities that are being incurred. The goal was to create an awareness of this liability not to find a solution. It is a potentially devastating bill that exceeds the districts' assets. Dr. Douglas urged Districts to discuss this issue together. Mrs. Millsaps said in the short term where it could hurt districts is in the Bond Market. Dr. Douglas said it can affect us in a growing shortage of teachers. Everything drives up the cost of highly trained personnel, and benefits are a huge piece.

Public Comments

Travis Secus: Protecting our bond rating is the need to focus on, since we can't control anything else. The District needs to have something in writing stating that these liabilities do not have to be funded per NYS.

Mr. Cerrone was thanked for his expertise and time.

Board of Education Public Participation Policy 1230 and 2350 Board Meeting Procedures.

President Applebaum said once again the discussion was based on trying to figure out a consistent way to run meetings, since current practice, the statement on the agenda and policy are not aligned currently. The issue is to reasonably balance the needs of getting Board business done in public and receiving community input.

Board suggestions/comments made:

- Reduction of time that a request must be made to place an item on the agenda from ten days to five days. Perhaps it can just say to be placed on the next agenda.
- The three areas on the agenda for public input is comfortable for the public, but is not reflected in the policy.
- Keep the 30 minutes allotted for public participation and have people sign in to speak so the Board can judge how much time is needed to public input and if the three minute limit has to be invoked. The Board can overrule its own rules if necessary by a majority vote.
- When someone gets up to speak they should have one question or comment and then give others a turn. If many people want to speak on a topic then perhaps it should be an agenda item.
- Should there be a different time rule if it is a group that wants to speak.
- There does not have to be a rule for each scenario. There would be an opportunity for someone to speak even if they initially didn't sign up.

The District's Legal Counsel will make a draft of a revised policy based on the comments made. Trustee Lagana was concerned about the policy language that says that Board members do not respond to public comments with a resolution immediately after comments are made at a meeting. President Applebaum felt this was very important to keep in and was an integral part of how the Board was to act. Dr. Douglas said getting the educational background on a question or comment helps the Board members make an educated decision and response. Trustee Mark agreed that giving due consideration of an issue is important. Trustee Burrell said that Board of Education Reports should read Board of Education Reports/New Business and the order should have the Superintendent's Report before the Student Representative's Report. He suggested that when we get the policy together we send it to our key communicators.

ACTION General

Trustee Lagana moved and Trustee Jimerson seconded to table the minutes from 8/6/09 and 8/25/09.

Motion Approved (7-0)

President Applebaum asked that at a future meeting the Board discuss how the minutes can be made more minimal since there is now the podcast. This may prevent the minutes having to be tabled.

Instruction

Trustee Clarke moved and Trustee Jimerson seconded to approve the following:

Committee on Pre-School Education Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommendations of the Committee on Pre-School Education

Claims Auditor Report July and August 2009

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt of the Claims Auditor Reports for the months of July 2009 and August 2009.

Motions Approved (7-0)

Trustee LaColla moved and Trustee Clarke seconded to approve the following:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education hereby adjusts the 2009-2010 annual budget to appropriate the remaining stimulus funds that were designated as part of our 2009-2010 State Aid allocation as follows:

2009-2010 BUDGETARY ENTRY

Debit A.510	Estimated Revenues	\$70,500
Debit A.4285	State Aid – Stimulus	\$70,500
	(Subsidiary Ledger)	
Credit A.960	Appropriations	\$70,500
	Subsidiary Ledger Credit:	
A.2330-161-00-4285	Salary - Bilingual Community Liaison	\$35,000
A.2825-151-00-4285	Salary – Social Worker (.4)	\$14,556
A.5540-422-07-4285	Internship Program for Advanced Students	\$11,052
A.2110-131-00-4285	Salary – .4 MS ESL Reading Teacher	\$ 7,892
A.2110-451-07-4285	Supplies – Program for Advanced Students	\$ 2,000

Dr. Douglas read the allocations above publicly at the request of Trustee Burrell. Trustee Lagana said he continued to be concerned about how we spend the stimulus money, taking on liabilities that the District may not be able to fund in two years after the funds no longer exist.

Motion Approved
(5-1-1)

Trustee Lagana No, Trustee Burrell abstained

PERSONNEL

Trustee Clarke moved and Trustee Lagana seconded to approve the following in one motion:

Staff Appointments

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent Schools that **MICHELLE EIDE** be appointed as a Teaching Assistant, Liberty Elementary School, effective September 9, 2009 at Step 1, \$14,552.10.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent Schools that **SHARI ROSE** be appointed as a Teaching Assistant, Valley Cottage Elementary School, effective September 9, 2009 at Step 1, \$14,552.10.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent Schools that **NANCY DEACON-OWENS** be appointed as a Teaching Assistant, Valley Cottage Elementary School, effective September 9, 2009 at Step 1, \$14,552.10.

BE IT RESOLVED, that **JOHN CASTELLANO** be appointed as Athletic and Academic Center Coordinator/Student Mentor, Part-Time (.5) at a stipend of \$31,920, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

BE IT RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the individuals named below be appointed to the terms set forth - Coaches.

Modified Football	ADAM WATERBURY	\$4558
Junior Varsity Field Hockey	CHERYL EGLIN	\$4239

Increase in Assignment

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of School, approve the increase in assignment for **ROXANNA JUAREZ**, Spanish Teacher, Nyack H.S. for an additional section (.2) - \$10,523.60.*, effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Motions Approved
(7-0)

Trustee Mark moved and Trustee Lagana seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Motion Approved
(7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fleur, District Clerk