

A **Regular Meeting** of the Batavia City School District Board of Education was called to order on **Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:06 PM** by Vice-President, Wayne Guenther, in the Batavia High School Library Media Center, 260 State Street, Batavia, NY.

Call to Order

Members Present: Amy Barone, Patrick Burk, Wayne Guenther, Steven Mountain, Gary Stich

Roll Call

Absent: Andrew Pedro, Gail Stevens (arrived-7:28 PM), Taylor Harkness, Ex-Officio Student Rep.

Others Present: Margaret Puzio, Superintendent; Scott C. Rozanski, Business Administrator/Clerk; Roberta Norton, Asst. Clerk to the Board; Pamela Wentworth, Teachers' Association President; Mark Warren, Teachers' Association Vice-President; Ted Graney, Paul Pedersen, Jeremiah J. Pedro, John Mellander, Julie Taggart, Stephanie Holmes, Cheri Kolb, Michelle Dillon, Moses Owiny, Jill Halpin, Jen Houseknecht, Sherri Wahr, Jennifer Burke, Korinne Anderson, Geoff Redick, *WBT4*.

Mr. Guenther welcomed those present to the meeting and led the pledge to the flag.

Pledge to Flag

Motion made by Mr. Burk, seconded by Ms. Barone, to enter into Executive Session at **7:06 PM** to discuss matters leading to the continued employment of particular persons.

Executive Session

Yes – 5 No – 0 Absent – 2

Motion carried.

Mrs. Stevens, upon arrival at 7:28 PM, entered into Executive Session.

Motion made by Mr. Stich, seconded by Mr. Mountain, to return to public session at **8:24 PM**. The meeting resumed at **8:29 PM**.

Return to Public Session

Yes – 5 No – 0 Absent – 2

Motion carried.

Two guests, Jill Halpin and Jennifer Burke, signed up to address the Board under *Public to be Heard*.

Public Heard

Jill Halpin, parent of a Kdg. and 2nd grader at John Kennedy, has 34 questions regarding the consolidation and asked how she can get them answered to avoid having to take up too much time at the upcoming community meeting regarding building consolidation. Mrs. Puzio asked that they be e-mailed to her for her response.

J. Halpin – re: Consolidation

Jennifer Burke has three children at John Kennedy in grades Kdg., 2 and 4, and is excited about the upcoming meetings to know what is going on with the building consolidation. She does have some concerns and is sure they will be answered at the meeting on Wednesday. However, she would like to know the result of what would happen if all three schools remained open. What specifically would be cut from our budget and is that even an option going forward? As a long-time community member who attended John Kennedy, Middle School and High School, these are concerns for her. She is hearing comments in the community with residents possibly moving out of our district. This bothers her. There is a trickle-down affect happening which will alter her property taxes and property value creating changes in many ways. If we are not a competitive school or a district that people want to be at, what happens to her children and others – family, friends, etc. Being unsure of where to find the answer, she would like to know what would happen if all three schools remained open.

Mrs. Stevens indicated that a lot of questions will be answered in the general sessions. Mrs. Puzio did respond briefly by saying that New York State just passed the Tax Cap which limits our ability to raise money for our educational system in the community. That is probably the most significant factor that people need to understand. Financial information will be presented at the next community meeting of possible ways to close the \$1 million dollar financial gap we currently face. We will have to cut this amount from our budget to come

in under the Tax Cap. When we think about the cuts that had to be made this year to reduce our budget by \$750,000.00, additional cuts would have to be made to get to \$1 million dollars. If three schools remained open, cuts would still have to be made somewhere.

Motion made by Mr. Mountain, seconded by Mr. Burk, to amend the agenda as follows:

Delete: XI. Reports A-E; re-letter accordingly
XII, XIII, XIV – Executive Session, Personnel, Return to Public Session –
renumber accordingly

Yes – 6 No – 0 Absent – 1

Motion carried.

Presentations

Batavia High School Highlights – Mr. Dailey

Highlights of the four focal points for student success at Batavia High School were explained by Mr. Dailey, outlining the current situation as well as strategies for continuous improvement upon entering the 2011-2012 school year. Student Performance, Communication, Safe Schools and School Climate continue to be the areas of focus to “Take Care of BHS”. The high school continues to make progress in increasing achievement levels as they strive for a 100% graduation rate. The School Report Card figures show a slight decrease in the graduation rate of 79% from 81% but the data does not include IEP diplomas (8) or GED’s (2). For more improved communication, the student handbook is now available on the district website (www.bataviacsdsd.org). Staff members are visible at extra-curricular activities, timely updates are accessible utilizing the BHS newsletter and Parent Portal, the continuation of alternating BHS Parent Teacher Group meeting times, and use of a visitor check in system continue to keep the lines of communication open. Safe schools continuously remain a major focus districtwide utilizing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. Respect for self, others and school, strategies for continuously working to develop and maintain a positive school climate where students, faculty, staff and administration can work, learn, and grow include this year’s staff book focus, *Teach Like A Champion: 49 Techniques that Put Students on the Path to College*. A positive attitude and encouraging outlook continue to enhance the performance of students, staff and administration at BHS.

Hockey Team Field Trip Request – Mr. Pedersen

Mr. Paul Pedersen, Coach for the Batavia Hockey Team, presented his request for approval to take approximately 20-25 students/hockey players to Plattsburgh, NY on January 27-28, 2012 for the annual Saranac Hockey Tournament. Two coaches (Mr. Briggs & Mr. Pedersen), along with 1 or 2 chaperones, will monitor students at all times. Fundraising has taken place to support the event, along with Sports Boosters assisting financially by covering one third of the cost for the trip.

Mrs. Stevens thanked Mr. Pedersen for coming in and said the Board would get back to him.

Motion made by Mr. Burk, seconded by Mr. Stich – **BE IT RESOLVED** to approve the following Consent Items A-I as listed.

- A. CSE Reports: 9/6/11
- B. CPSE Report: 8/30/11
- C. Resignations
 - 1. Carolann Hyde, Library Clerk, effective September 9, 2011.
- D. Leaves
 - 1. David Russo, Sr. Custodial Worker [Admin.], Family Medical Leave, effective August 29, 2011 through *date to be determined*
- E. Appointments
 - 1. AMEND Salary – Katherine Porter, 2-year Probationary Science Teacher [BHS-DeMarco], effective September 1, 2011; salary according to the Batavia Teachers’ Agreement – (\$36,111).

Agenda Alterations

Presentations *BHS Highlights*

Hockey Team Trip

Consent Items

CSE Minutes CPSE Minutes Resignations *C. Hyde* Leaves *D. Russo*

Appointments *AMEND* *K. Porter*

2. AMEND Salary – Andrea Tamfer, Long-term Substitute Science Teacher [BHS-Fusco], effective September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012; salary according to the Batavia Teachers' Agreement – (\$36,111).	<i>AMEND A. Tamfer</i>
3. Doreen Shormann, Library Clerk [JK-Hyde], recalled to Library Clerk position from the Preferred Eligibility List (PEL), effective September 12, 2011, according to NYS Civil Service Regulations.	<i>D. Shormann</i>
4. Shelly Zinni, Cook [JK-Goodenberry], effective September 6, 2011; salary according to the Nutritional Services Agreement, 2011-12 - \$10.00 per hour; 6.25 hrs. per day.	<i>S. Zinni</i>
5. Alberta Tufts, Food Service Helper [JK-Rogers], effective September 6, 2011; salary according to the Nutritional Services Agreement, 2011-12 - \$8.50 per hour; 5.75 hrs. per day.	<i>A. Tufts</i>
6. Yvonne Stanton, Food Service Helper [BMS-Heale], effective September 6, 2011; salary according to the Nutritional Services Agreement, 2011-12 - \$14.93 per hour; 6 hrs. per day.	<i>Y. Stanton</i>
7. Anne Sequerth, Long-term Substitute Food Service Helper [JA-Jackett], effective September 6, 2011 through end of 2011-12 school year ; salary according to the Nutritional Services Agreement, 2011-12 - \$8.50 per hour; 4 hrs. per day.	<i>A. Sequerth</i>
8. Sheri Payne, Substitute Food Service Helper (per-diem), effective September 6, 2011; \$8.50 per hour.	<i>S. Payne</i>
9. Dawn Videan, Substitute Food Service Helper (per-diem), effective September 6, 2011; \$8.50 per hour.	<i>D. Videan</i>
10. Cody Towner, Substitute Cleaner (per-diem), effective on or about September 13, 2011; \$10.00 per hour.	<i>C. Towner</i>
11. Ian Davis, Substitute Cleaner (per-diem), effective on or about September 13, 2011; \$10.00 per hour.	<i>I. Davis</i>
12. Adam Mullen, Substitute Cleaner (per-diem), effective on or about September 13, 2011; \$10.00 per hour.	<i>A. Mullen</i>
13. BHS "E" List for Substitutes, 2011-12, \$24 per ½ block; \$48 full block – Jillian Adams, James Allein, Amanda Antonucci, Amy Burnham, Jordan DelMedico, Robert Donley, Kelly Fix, Susan Greening, Stephani Hamilton, Susan Hawkins, Kathryn Herniman, Tom Ingalsbe, Glenna Hinkson, John Kirkwood, Cecilia Ladd, John McCarthy, Stacy McCarthy, Jeremy Mettler, Paul Pedersen, Kristen Prospero, Marty Sabato, Virginia Walker, Mark Warren, Cathy Weaver, Nann Zorn	<i>BHS "E" List</i>
14. Schedule "D" – 2011-12 Principal Designees; salary \$825 plus longevity (\$40/yr.) according to the Batavia Teachers' Agreement – Jamie Polhamus [JA-\$825+\$40]; Karen Cima [JK-\$825+\$640]; Beth Reimer [RM-\$825+\$160]	<i>Sched. D – Principal Designees</i>
F. Financial	Financial
1. Warrants #16 – Fund A-A Cash Disb 9/2/11 for 8/20/11-9/2/11 # 5 – Fund TA-TA Processing 9/2/11 PR for 8/20/11-9/2/11 #15 – Fund A-X Cash Disb 9/2/11 for 8/20/11-9/2/11	<i>Warrants</i>
G. Contracts	Contracts
1. Batavia Nutritional Services Assn. Agreement, 2008-2011 - Extended to 2012.	<i>Nutritional Svs.</i>
2. Agreement to resolve contract dispute with School Aid Specialists on State Aid Review and High Tax Aid - \$30,000	<i>Contract Resolution SAS</i>
3. Genesee Community College Affiliation Contract – 2011-12 Nursing Program	<i>GCC Nursing Pgm.</i>

H. Bids

1. Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (GVEP) Cooperative Ice Cream Bid – 2011-12; Perry's Ice Cream Company, Inc. – Total Bid Award: \$5,249.30
2. Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (GVEP) Cooperative Milk Bid – 2011-12; Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc. – Total Bid Award: \$66,153.48
3. Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (GVEP) Food Services Paper Products Bid – 2011-12; Chudy Paper – Total Bid Award: \$18,678.06

I. Conference Requests

1. Nic Pelton, IT Novell Technician – Novell's BrainShare Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct. 10-14, 2011 – Training Expenses: \$3,077 excludes applicable taxes

Yes – 6 No – 0 Absent – 1

Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Guenther, seconded by Mr. Mountain to accept the Tax Warrant and Tax Rate Determination for 2011-12 totaling \$18,952,554.00 as explained in a brief summary by Mr. Rozanski.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Absent – 1

Motion carried.

Reports

Superintendent's Report – Mrs. Puzio

Building Consolidation Meetings have been scheduled and are now taking place in the various schools. We are getting out early to inform our staff members, parents and the community of the options developed for the consolidation plan. A one-page document is available on the website which includes all dates and times of information meetings. We are hoping for a good turnout at the public sessions to gather valuable feedback from parents. A "Q & A" section will be posted on the website based on questions and concerns expressed at the public meetings. Mrs. Puzio noted that it is important to remember that the consolidation proposal has many positive features, even some which are an improvement over what the District is currently able to provide. For instance, having all students in the same grade level in one building provides many academic advantages and new opportunities. Mrs. Puzio indicated a few topics have surfaced that she felt warranted some brief but immediate clarification. It is important to understand that any decision about consolidation will be made by the Board of Education. The Board has agreed to thoroughly review the four options and make their decision by late November, as the budgetary requirements and figures for 2012-13 begin to take shape. There is the possibility that the Board would opt to not consolidate, but this is unlikely.

Secondly, there is concern as to how much money the District will save, and, if we do this for 2012-2013, what cost-cutting measures will need to happen in subsequent years? Mrs. Puzio explained with the two main forms of revenue for the District being State Aid (which is challenging to predict) and local taxes (which just became severely limited by passage of the country's most stringent tax cap), it is difficult to anticipate how financial needs will be met in the future. However, all else being equal, if the tax cap had been in place last year, it would have been necessary to cut an additional \$1 million (on top of the three-quarters of a million already cut) from the budget. One of the things that makes the consolidation so fiscally appealing is that the savings realized from consolidating are not one-year savings. Just as downsizing to a smaller home would save money the first year and every year thereafter, so too will consolidating to fewer buildings and reconfiguring grade distribution save money for the District for years to come.

With some research suggesting that moving students from school to school makes them less likely to graduate on time, will moving students to a different building every few years negatively impact their academics? In looking into this research, Mrs. Puzio found that the "moving from school to school" as described in the study was typically referring to moves out of one district and into another, such as when a family relocates. In the cases of these repeated relocations, the students who moved were not just changing a physical location but were also leaving a whole familiar academic program including teachers, staff, and classmates whom they knew and

Bids

Coop. Ice Cream

Coop. Milk

Food Services

Paper Products

Conf. Requests

N. Pelton

**Tax Warrant/
Tax Rate
Determination**

Reports

Superintendent

who knew them. By contrast, the consolidation proposal for our District has students moving with their peers within the same academic program.

The remaining parent/community meetings are:
September 13, 7 p.m., Robert Morris Elementary (80 Union Street)
September 14, 6:30 p.m., John Kennedy Elementary (166 Vine Street)
September 28, 5:30 p.m., Batavia High School (260 State Street)
October 4, 6 p.m., Jackson Elementary (411 S. Jackson Street)
The public is encouraged to attend.

Motion made by Mr. Burk, seconded by Mr. Guenther, to adjourn the meeting at
9:11 PM.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Absent – 1

Motion carried.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott C. Rozanski, Clerk

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