

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**OWEN D. YOUNG CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**Tuesday, January 15, 2013**  
**Regular Meeting – 5:00 pm**

*The mission of the Owen D. Young Central School is to provide an excellent educational environment in which all students can achieve success and become contributing citizens.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cathy Mayton-Collins, George Mower, Natalia Rogers, Lawrence Snyder and Linda Tharp. Cathy Mayton-Collins arrived at 5:19.

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James Picolla, Superintendent; Brennan Fahey, Building Principal; Marilyn Kennerknecht, District Clerk and 9 guests.

Vice President George Mower called the meeting to order 5:04 p.m. followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

In a motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee Tharp, the meeting agenda was approved.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In a motion by Trustee Tharp, seconded by Trustee Rogers, the consent agenda was approved.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2012
- b. Approval of December Treasurer's Report
- c. Approval of Medical Leave request from Mrs. Carol Sue Luke effective December 11, 2012.
- d. Approval of class of 2014 request to hold their Prom off campus at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown on Saturday, May 11, 2013.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

In a motion by Trustee Tharp, seconded by Trustee Snyder, the Board entered into Executive Session at 5:08 p.m. for the purpose of medical, financial, credit or employment history of any particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of any particular person or corporation and proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities as defined in section 105 (1F) of the public officer's law. Mr. Mark Vivaqua was in attendance and invited to attend Executive Session.

In a motion by Vice President Mower, seconded by Trustee Rogers, the Board exited Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Board Ethics Discussion – President Mayton-Collins briefly went over the following, policy on the "Code of Ethics for all District Personnel" dated 2005 and the recent draft of 2013 "Code of Ethics for Board Members and all District Personnel" as well as the sample policy #2160 provided by NYSSBA "School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics." President Mayton-Collins announced that these policies need to be shared with any new employees to the district within thirty days. Superintendent Picolla stated that the policy is posted in the Main Office.

- b. Board Meeting Calendar – President Mayton-Collins said that there is a conflict for her with the Board Meeting scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> due to the boys' basketball games. She asked what process Board members would like in place in regards to moving meetings currently scheduled on the calendar. Trustee Tharp stated that we should try to stay with the current meeting calendar since plans are made around that. Superintendent Picolla said that when setting the calendar for next year at the July reorganization meeting the Board should look at what the best night is for meetings. It was decided to meet on January 28<sup>th</sup> without President Mayton-Collins. The meeting will begin with a budget workshop at 6:00 p.m. followed by the regular meeting.
- c. VanHorne Scholarship – This will be included in the next Board packet for review.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Workshop Review – Discussed the meeting with the consultants and went over the categories. At the last faculty meeting, Superintendent Picolla shared the test data with teachers and the desire to instill a world class education. A BOCES Staff Developer will be here this week meeting with staff members to find out their understanding of common core and test data. At the March 16<sup>th</sup> conference day, the Staff Developer will be here to address current problems. She will also be coming in throughout the year to meet again with individual staff members to talk about their specific situations. Superintendent Picolla also said that we are looking at changing the current math textbook, Saxon Math, since current test data shows it isn't working as well as we would like. Vice President Mower inquired whether money is available for new text books. Superintendent Picolla is not sure and will ask Mrs. Rodriquez at the next meeting. Trustee Tharp asked whether the consultants suggested offering any further services. Superintendent Picolla asked if Board members would like him to contact them and look at pricing and options. The Board was in agreement.
- b. APPR Summary – Superintendent Picolla explained how teachers and principals are being evaluated on a 100 point scale. 20 points is typically assigned by NYS based on test scores, 20 points is assigned by the district based on the learning objective that the district sets and 60 points is from the classroom observation process. Each grade uses a different assessment.
- c. Policy Review – Briefly reviewed policies 1410-1650.
- d. Valedictorian/Salutatorian Policy regarding class rank - Superintendent Picolla provided the Board with samples used by Brookfield and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill schools. He asked the Board if they would like him to do work on the language of the policy regarding "Co" valedictorian. The Board agreed.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- a. Updates - Mr. Fahey reported that regents' exams take place next week Tuesday through Friday. Out of twenty three exams, sixteen students are retaking an exam for a passing score and eight students who have previously taken the exam are trying to improve their score. Teachers have been doing regents review. Students who did not pass have been worked with during the year. Teachers cannot grade their own exam. Three people who are certified in that area are scoring.

### **DISCUSSION TIME**

Trustee Tharp mentioned reading that people age sixty five and older population is increasing dramatically in Herkimer County. She is concerned that if social security payments are lowered, will there be money for the budget.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs. Paula Monk asked when "co" valedictorian/salutatorian is going to take effect. Would it be this year or beginning with the in-coming 9<sup>th</sup> grade class ranking? Superintendent Picolla stated that it would take effect this year until the new policy is in place. Mrs. Monk said her concern is the current seniors know what their requirements for "val/sal" currently are. She is also concerned with why we are changing anything effective with this year's senior class and said it is not fair to the seniors who have been under the existing policy. Mrs. Monk inquired whether this will affect the college and the money you get for being valedictorian or the Clark scholarship.

Mrs. Jackie Snyder asked if there had been any discussion with Clark regarding “co” valedictorians that are close in GPA and would there be two large scholarships available. Mr. Brennan Fahey responded that he was told by the Clark foundation that does not deem what you will receive even though that is how it has worked in the past. Their decision is based on other criteria.

In a motion by Vice President Mower, seconded by Trustee Tharp, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Kennerknecht  
District Clerk