

**Board of Education
OWEN D. YOUNG CENTRAL SCHOOL
October 14, 2009**

Regular Meeting - Auditorium

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debra Bronner, Cathy Mayton-Collins, Thomas Kowall,
Matthew Jacoby and Mark Peters

OTHERS PRESENT: Virginia Keegan, Superintendent, Keara Battisti, Assistant Principal,
Linda Bambara, District Clerk and 8 guests.

In a motion by Vice President Jacoby, second by Trustee Peters, the board entered into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In a motion by Trustee Mayton-Collins, second by Trustee Peters, the board exited the Executive Session at 6:58 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President Bronner called the board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

In a motion by Trustee Peters, second by Trustee Mayton-Collins the meeting agenda of October 14, 2009 was approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The consent agenda approval was acted upon by each individual item as follows:

a. In a motion by Trustee Mayton-Collins, second by Trustee Peters, the board approved the Board of Education and Water Board Minutes for September 23, 2009.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. In a motion by Trustee Mayton-Collins, second by Vice President Jacoby, the board approved the 2008-09 Annual Audit Report as presented on September 23, 2009.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. In a motion by Trustee Mayton-Collins, second by Trustee Peters, the board approved the Facilities Rental Agreement with Herkimer County BOCES for Preschool Building for 2009-10 (\$6,500.00).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. In a motion by Trustee Mayton-Collins, second by Trustee Kowall, the board approved the Contract for Grant Writing Services between Ms. Lynda Stephens and the District for 2009-10

(\$13,000).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. In a motion by Trustee Peters, second by Vice President Jacoby, the board approved the following as Independent Psycho-educational Evaluation Sources:

1. Dr. Brad Bennett
2. Dr. Gina Gosgrove
3. Ms. Donna Amberman
4. Dr. Evelyn Ferris
5. Dr. Andrew Kinney

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. In a motion by Vice President Jacoby, second by Trustee Peters, the board approved the following as Independent Psychiatric Evaluation Sources:

1. Dr. Minhaj Siddiqi
2. Dr. Kishor Sangani
3. Dr. ken Gordon

Ayes: 4 Abstained: 1

g. In a motion by Vice President Jacoby, second by Trustee Peters, the board approved the following Local Agencies that may provide additional evaluation sources:

1. Learning Disability Association of the Mohawk Valley
2. Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

DISTRICT PRESENTATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Guilfoyle, Reading Coordinator and Mrs. Jordan, Elementary Teacher, gave a broad overview of the new Treasurers Reading Program and advised on how well the program is been accepted by the students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Superintendent Keegan addressed the following items in her report to the Board of Education:

A. Stair Tread and Riser Proposal - A proposal from John's Floorcovering Co., Inc. was handed out and a board discussion ensued relative to the necessity of the repair of the same.

B. Stoop Repair and Front Entrance - Superintendent Keegan asked for the board's input as to how to proceed and Vice President Jacoby inquired as to whether the repair of the stoop would come from excess Excel monies. Thereafter further discussion took place concerning who would be able to bid on the job and as to how it would be advertised.

C. Van Horne Scholarship Fund - Handout - Superintendent Keegan advised that according to the Mohawk Valley Capital Management, LLC letter dated September 29, 2009 the Scholarship Fund is recovering and there may be funds available for upcoming scholarships.

D. Upcoming Assembly Programs - November 23, 2009 - Superintendent Keegan provided a handout for the school-wide *Showtime and Hearts & Hands* assemblies.

E. Evacuation Drill - October 6, 2009 - Superintendent Keegan gave a brief overview of the procedures and protocol for the Owen D. Young Central School evacuation drill.

F. Science Assessment - Superintendent Keegan provided the board with the OHM BOCES Science Scope & Sequence information kit concerning grades K-6.

G. Veterans Day Program - Superintendent Keegan gave the board a Veterans Day Program concerning the upcoming events to be held on November 10, 2009.

H. Superintendent's Conference Day - October 9, 2009. Superintendent Keegan advised that with EET grant monies the school was able to purchase 14 laptop computers. Assistant Principal, Keara Battisti, discussed the Angel program and how it works with interaction between the teachers and students at the elementary level. Superintendent Keegan further discussed the second part of the conference concerning curriculum mapping.

I. Bullying Intervention - Superintendent Keegan advises that Mr. Hage is commencing discussion relative to said intervention with the 6th graders.

J. Grades 3-8 Testing - Superintendent Keegan provided a Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Regional Testing and Scoring Calendar 2010 concerning English Language Arts 3-8 and Mathematics 3-8.

K. Individual Education Evaluations (IEE) - Superintendent Keegan advised that this matter was discussed by Assistant Principal, Keara Battisti previously in the consent agenda.

Superintendent Keegan provided the board with the *Music Express* magazine that our music department is utilizing.

Specifically, regarding materials received by Superintendent Keegan a discussion relative to enrollment was commenced by Trustee Mayton-Collins concerning the numbers and asked if the drop in numbers were due to the relocation of students. Assistant Principal, Keara Battisti, indicated that the drop in numbers were in fact due to relocation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

A. Owen D. Young's Birthday - School/Community Celebration Plans - Trustee Mayton-Collins advises that there is great enthusiasm amongst the community concerning this event. In

addition, a planning committee will be meeting to move along the scheduling and carrying out of the celebration events.

B. Electronic Communications Between Board Members - policy discussion - President Bronner, after a lengthy discussion, advised that the board will verify whether or not the policy contains CD ROM language.

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION TIME

Trustee Kowall discussed the damage to the soccer field and advised that two scheduled soccer games were moved to Springfield.

Trustee Mayton-Collins asked for clarification concerning the up and running of the computers to the elementary students and was advised that all but a couple of computers are running and the couple non-working computers are in the process of being repaired. Superintendent Keegan commented on what a phenomenal job Mr. Hill has been providing concerning computer technology. Additionally, Trustee Mayton-Collins voiced a question concerning procuring an equipment list not in the budget and was advised that the skeleton and six printers were received. Lastly, Trustee Mayton-Collins asked that an item be added to the next meeting concerning setting a price for "building use".

Trustee Peters said there was a need for increased communication concerning busing regulations. He asked if a "frequently asked questions" page could be provided to students and parents at the beginning of the school year addressing a lot of these type of questions, ie: busing.

Vice President Jacoby asked if the Guidance Counselor was in possession of scholarship guideline material and, if so, this information should be provided to the students along with any applications by January. Vice President Jacoby advised he will provide a power point presentation concerning the Law Conference at the November meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Galusha inquired as to whether the Treasurer's reading program included the Pre-K and was advised that it in fact did. Additionally, Ms. Galusha asked if the Pre-K students had access to computer use and was advised by Superintendent Keegan that to the best of her knowledge she did not think the Pre-K had such access. Ms. Galusha commented that it would be a good idea to contact the Herkimer BOCES masonry department concerning the masonry work to be done on the front stoop. Superintendent Keegan advised that she will get in touch with BOCES concerning the same. Finally, Ms. Galusha asked whether the Veterans Day celebration was open to the public and was advised that the community was invited.

Ms. Snyder inquired as to the \$1,000 EET stipend. Further, Ms. Snyder asked if our computer policy followed our policy guidelines. Ms. Snyder asked about the content of the Executive Committee sessions and was informed that the content concerned upcoming agenda and issues to be discussed. Finally, Ms. Snyder would like to be provided with a Morning Program schedule.

Ms. Hugick commented on open meeting interpretation and referred to the October 6th and 7th edition of the Evening Telegram. Ms. Hugick also asked that the board provide her with the name of the Public Records Officer.

BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Peters commented on the outstanding team support concerning home and away soccer games from families and the community.

Trustee Mayton-Collins would like H1N1 attendance to be placed on the upcoming agenda. Also, concerning dashboard indicators, Trustee Collins would like discussions concerning teachers teaching outside of their certifications. Trustee Mayton-Collins would like to bring back the recognition of students and their accomplishments through some sort of awards ceremony.

President Bronner advised that there is a full agenda for the next upcoming meeting and therefore it has been decided that Mrs. Golosh will attend the November 14, 2009 meeting.

Vice President Jacoby read the definition of an “open meeting” to the board and a discussion ensued.

In a motion by Trustee Peters, second by Trustee Kowall, the meeting of October 14, 2009 adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Linda T. Bambara, District Clerk