

Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Generated by Rhonda Schaefer, District Clerk

Members present

Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Meeting called to order at 7:09 PM

1. Meeting Called to Order

Action, Procedural: A. Call to Order
(not specified)

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Larry Young.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Procedural: B. Account for Absences

2. Proposed Executive Session, subject to Board Approval

Action: A. It is anticipated that the Board will act upon a resolution to convene an executive session for discussions involving proposed, pending or current litigation.

3. Return to Public Session

Action, Procedural: A. Return to Public Session

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: A. Approve Tonight's Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

5. Approval of Consensus Agenda Items

Action (Consent): A. MOTION for Approval of Consensus Agenda Items
What is Spike Ball? Teams spike the ball against a surface.

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action (Consent), Minutes: B. Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action (Consent): C. Personnel Appointments

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action (Consent): D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

6. Public Comment

Information, Procedural: A. Public May Address the Board of Education

No public comment.

7. Board President's Remarks

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Remarks

President Bellavia thanked members for full participation attendance at NYSSBA's 100th Annual Convention in Rochester. Full participation. Next year the convention will again take place in NYC. Later on the agenda, members will report on the sessions they attended.

8. Student Representative's Update

Discussion, Information: A. Student Representative's Update

Student Board Representatives, Lindsay Cody, and Lexie Schiedel reported.

Comments:

Students (underclassmen), have expressed concern regarding the changes with AP Calc and Physics II; students are feeling behind as a result.

Flexibility and accommodations have been made with the construction work, and this has been appreciated by students. Some seniors feel disappointed about not having a senior pit during their senior year. The student council is seeking some alternate options for a senior area.

Q - What have you thought about as options? A - A velvet rope to separate the cafeteria, however, this is not optimal because all grade levels need to use this space.

The students inquired about an exemption for the gym requirement. Some would like to have an opportunity to apply this option as they participate in sports regularly.

The Superintendent thanked the student representatives and suggested that perhaps the items would appear on a future agenda.

Comments from the board included suggestions for future presentations to provide good news items as well.

9. Superintendent's Report

Discussion, Information: A. Announcements

Superintendent shared his presentation regarding the latest events across the campus. These details are outlined in the Superintendent's powerpoint presentation, duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet.

Discussion, Information: B. Update on Proposed Action Items

Discussion, Information: C. Presentations - Red Ribbon Week; Capital Project Phase II.V

The Red Ribbon Proclamation was read aloud by Board President, Carol Bellavia. Red Ribbon pledges have been taken by many high school students and there are several events occurring across the District to take part in this annual week-long event.

Introductions from presenters of the Capital Project II.V Update included:

Mike Ebertz, SEI Design Group

George Spinaris, Campus Construction

Mark Esposito, Campus Construction

Sarah Bald, SEI Design Group

Superintendent Mancuso highlighted the areas of focus for the upcoming proposed Capital Project II.V. He shared the bullet points of items and areas of focus included in this project. All highlights and reports are duly maintained as a part of the BoardDocs packet content.

Capital Project Committee Members present:

Dave Youngblut

Judy Meacham

All areas of highlight for the proposed project are duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet for the October 29, 2019 meeting under agenda item# 9.C.

If the project is approved by voters on December 17, 2019, items that are already approved, and those that have been added will be approved or re-approved by SED to complete the next step in the process.

Phase II completion is anticipated in June or December 2021.

Superintendent Mancuso recapped how this project came about:

In 2015-16 the board approved a capital project scope and bids came in higher than projected. As a result, several cuts were made from that project that are now being included in this Phase II.V project and are mostly already approved by SED. This project will have NO tax impact on the community members and voters. Capital reserves are one-time funding and must be approved by the voters and used or they are forfeited. Mike Ebertz further described the process and Superintendent Mancuso added how the building condition survey assists in moving the project forward.

Q - Voters will vote yes or no. If voters vote no, the capital reserve would stay there. The bond specifically states that the aid is reimbursable. 29% is the down payment, and the remainder is financed through bonds, which the state pays for that balance in aid.

Voting in December should be clear to tie the reasoning for the vote date, and that the District simply requires permission to use the capital reserve funds.

The resolution is written to indicate that the district will finance the project, however, state aid will be reimbursed at the same rate, which means zero cost to the community. Bond resolutions are a fairly technical part of the law and presentation and wording of the bond resolution is restrictive. However, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations will inquire if the resolution can be written in a clearer fashion. It was noted that, if NYS goes bankrupt, the district taxpayers would be

responsible for the project amount.

C - Board members suggested adding the pie chart to the newsletter about this project.

10. Board of Education - Action Items

Action: A. Monthly Treasurer's Report

Audit Committee Chairperson, Gary Stottler, reported that the Audit Committee has reviewed the September Treasurer's report and gained clarity about some details about the timing of payments. By in large, everything looks good and on track.

Motion to approve the Monthly Treasurer's Report, as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Larry Young.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action: B. Final Review/Approval of 2019-20 Program Budget Assumptions, Goals and Guidelines

Motion to approve the 2019-20 Program Budget Assumptions, Goals and Guidelines, as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action: C. Approval of 2019-20 Program Budget Advisory Council Members

C - New members are still welcome to join and will be brought back to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

Board Vice President David Francis commended the board for meeting the board goal of promoting the growth of the committee.

Motion to approve the 2019-20 Program Budget Advisory Council Members, as presented.

Motion by Caralyn Ross, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action: D. Approval of Reserve Funds Transfer for Capital Project II.V

Audit Committee Chairperson, Gary Stottler, explained that the reserve funding and targets were reviewed by the Audit Committee on Thursday, 10/24. A recommendation was made to transfer a small amount (\$150,000) from the Unemployment Insurance reserve fund to the Capital Reserve fund, to fund the II.V Capital Project with zero impact on the voters and community. Adjustments will be made to target refunding to the Unemployment Insurance reserve account. In 2012, a 9-million dollar Capital Reserve account was approved by the voters, and the board began to fund that reserve account. That account requires replenishment in the future to approve future projects, therefore a resolution will be brought forward in the near future to begin replenishment of this account.

Motion to approve the Reserve Funds Transfer for Capital Project II.V, as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action: E. Approval of State Environmental Quality Review (SEQRA) Resolution

Q - Who does the assessment? A - Mike Ebertz responded that it is a combined effort.

Putting in some light poles on the new turf field qualifies at the lowest level impact. Therefore this is considered a Type II low-level impact.

Motion to approve the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQRA) Resolution, as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action: F. Approval of Capital Project II.V Bond Resolution

Motion to approve the Capital Project II.V Bond Resolution, as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Larry Young.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action: G. Approval of Legal Notice for December 17, 2019 Capital Project II.V Budget Vote

Motion to approve the Legal Notice for December 17, 2019 Capital Project II.V Budget Vote, as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action: H. Approval of Election Inspectors for December 17, 2019 Capital Project II.V Budget Vote
Motion to approve the Election Inspectors for December 17, 2019 Capital Project II.V Budget Vote, as presented.

Motion by Larry Young, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Action: I. Gift to the School - Grant for reading exercise bicycle, Manor School

Motion to approve a Gift to the School - Grant for reading exercise bicycle, Manor School, as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Action: J. Gift to the School - Grant toward attendance to Librarians Conference, Manor School

Motion to approve a Gift to the School - Grant toward attendance to Librarians Conference, Manor School, as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

11. Board President's Update

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Update

12. Board of Education - Review Only Items

Discussion, Information: A. Summer Professional Development/Curriculum Report

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Renee Williams, presented the summer professional development curriculum report. She summarized by stating that much meaningful time was spent and was requested by teachers. Long-term multi-day presentations were provided on Schoology. Participation and time spent was well worth it. No national presenters will be utilized next year therefore the budget should be less next year. The per person cost for PD, is sometimes duplicated and unduplicated. The, My Learning Plan software platform utilized by the District, assisted with these calculations.

Discussion, Information: B. Annual Special Education Report

Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Lindsay Ali, was present and indicated that the report highlights a 10% increase of Special Education time spent in General Education classes.

Discussion, Information: C. Annual Student Attendance Report

Lindsay Ali reported that there is a decrease from 16,000 days to 14,000 days from 1st year to this year. She is looking forward to results next year as there are even greater results anticipated. Much time and effort has been taken to understand the reasons for absences and how best to support students to attend schools regularly.

Q - 2017-18, bump in number of absences however percentages remain the same. A - This data will be reviewed for discrepancies.

Q - What efforts are being taken? A - Hiring of Social Worker allows much greater reaching out to parents and counselors, reviewing students on a regular basis, attempting to catch reasons early to support students toward improvements. Tightening up plans for intervention, and supports. Seeking to understand underlying issues.

Q - In Middle School, is this similar? A - Check ins, calling home sooner, helping students to understand the ways that they can catch up. So yes, some similarities.

The High School SIT has taken this on as one of their goals as well.

Discussion, Information: D. First Discussion on NYSSBA Convention, October 24 – 26, 2019 - (to be continued on 11/12/19)
Board members reported on the sessions attended at the recent NYSSBA Convention, October 24 – 26, 2019.

BOARD GOVERNANCE

Vice President, Dave Francis prefaced that HFL is NOT seeking to hire anyone new for quite some time, however he and Gene attended the session entitled, "Find a Superintendent in Six Months". The Board President and Vice President from another school district presented on their experience. Structure and process were very transparent. Highlighted public search versus private search, with the public search netting many more applicants. They reported that the process unified their board, there was a high level of community engagement, a broad spectrum of stakeholders, and they mobilized the senior class for feedback.

Using Complex Data To Enhance Strategic Planning: Dr. Williams attended and shared the data dashboard, alternative and regular ed high school students. Subsets of students watch along their strategic plan.

Managing Conflict: The Courage to Listen: Carol, Dave F., and Holly attended. There were some cultural change recommendations and how to begin meaningful conversations and what the board's role is. The session emphasized the importance of the Superintendent's evaluation. Many connections to Brene' Browns work.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Problem Based Learning. An Evolving Initiative: Dave G., Dave F. attended - Research shows that real world problem solving develops skills sets. Slides and Youtube videos are provided as attachments to highlight this interesting presentation.

Burying the "I" in Leadership Dave F. attended - Public Relations was the predominant group in attendance with the presentation focused on communication breakdowns and strengths and strategies to build trust with the community, including Emotional Intelligence, and using a "Trust Barometer". The message suggested that turn over occurs when trust erodes. Maintaining a trusting relationship with the community, and the board relationship and roles were highlighted. Examples included celebrating things that happen in school. There was a suggestion to film an HFL promo video by the board to celebrate and showcase students and staff. Facebook live clips of the transportation department was another idea to showcase all things interesting about becoming a bus driver and to instill confidence when the safety check of components on the bus are shared publicly.

CULTURAL AWARENESS AND DIVERSITY

Building A Systemic Equity Framework: Dave F. attended - This session was about a disproportionate number of students of color being suspended in one District. The Code of Conduct ended up being revised as a result for this school district. The District partnered with NYU and realized that there were underlying discriminatory pieces. This may not apply well to HFL as there is not much diversity of this nature, here.

EMERGING EDUCATIONAL TRENDS AND TIMELY DEBATE

Redefining Ready! New York Style: Caralyn, and Renee attended - Two tactics in the sample school system selected to move electives to a higher level to support interest in certain career paths. Multiple options would be of consideration in this model. A Research based proposal was offered to rethink how students obtain graduation certificates depending on a leveling system. Not quite an a la carte approach, but offered a realistic assessment to identify if students were, life ready, job ready, or college and career ready.

Superintendent Mancuso added that the State of Maine has just adopted a method of Career and Happiness quadrants. Pass/fail electives have been researched in other districts as well. Career indicators and academic indicators are defined. Others added that learning practical life skills is valuable. Basic Finance classes have been recommended by the HF-L Board of Education previously.

The remainder of topics will be continued at the next meetings.

Discussion, Information: E. Workshop Topic Selection - Dot Storming Activity

The Board agreed that they'd be ready to determine the next workshop topic from the previous potential topics, and future topics will be addressed after more conversation.

The Dot-Storming voting poll determined that On-Line Learning Potential will be the next workshop topic on November 26, 2019.

There was further discussion about BP Calc and AP Physics, which could possibly be addressed with some on-line options. The Board is seeking to understand the capabilities and possible solutions through online learning. What can be expected legally? What are the broader expectations? Are there some examples that can be provided? The Board would like to understand what online learning looks like today and what a reality of human interaction might look like as a result.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Renee Williams, indicated that she will do her best, but may not be able to cover all questions. Much research has already been done and many conversations with colleagues have been had. Dr. Williams looks forward to sharing her findings during the next workshop. Comments were captured in the Dot Storming activity.

Discussion, Information: F. Updates on Committee Meetings

MCSBA Labor Relations Committee - Developing Teacher Leaders toward staff growth. A. West, G. Stottler and Bruce Capron attended the latest meeting and found the value in realizing that best practices are something that HF-L is already doing. Gary added that this is a way of taking collaboration to the next level, developing expertise in social emotional learning. Churchville Chili had strong emphasis on how to structure resources. Organization of structural leadership was interesting.

MCSBA Legislative Committee - J.Alati visited with Senator Funke recently. There was much discussion regarding Medicare and Medicaid issues, leaving questions about how this will impact the budget. Superintendent Mancuso confirmed that it will and more remains to be seen on this topic. Conversations were again focused on teacher and bus driver shortages. Foundation Aid reform and the necessity of it were also echoed in conversations and communicated openly. Additionally, creating a funding stream for mental health supports was another area of discussion. Senators Funke and Robach are rumored to be retiring.

The Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, 11/6.

13. Questions from the Audience

Discussion, Information: A. Questions from the Audience

14. Adjournment

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:13

(not specified)

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Joe Alati.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

15. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics

Information: A. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics