



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PO BOX 249  
Whitney Point, NY 13862

Date: June 5, 2012

District Mission:

To provide an excellent education ensuring that all children maximize their potential, become contributing citizens, and pursue lifelong learning.

District Beliefs:

- All children possess unique qualities and come to school eager to learn and be successful.
- We respect all people within our community and treat them with dignity at all times.
- Learning is a partnership that includes school staff, parents, family and the community.
- Knowledge allows for critical thinking and effective decision-making.
- The community is well served by maximizing the use of available resources and by the responsible stewardship of assets.
- Purposeful and intentional change is a constant that leads to educational improvement and positive results.
- Compliance with state and federal regulations is critical to school district success.

Meeting called to order at 7:11 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Sara Bencoter	President	X	
Stephanie Champney	Vice-President	X	
Anthony Burchell	Member	X	
Kathleen Driscoll	Member	X	
Mary Ellerson	Member		X
Thomas Tasber	Member	X	
Mary Hibbard	Superintendent of Schools		X
Patricia Follette	Director of Curriculum and Instruction	X	
Thomas Strain	Interim School Business Executive		X
Cynthia Burchell	District Clerk	X	

Others in attendance:, B Angel, Kim Becker, Kelly Breward, Christy Croft-Driscoll, Edward Driscoll, Mark Driscoll, Russ Dunham, Jerry Fortunato, Chuck Green, Corey Green, Mary Green, Bill Lewis, David Nechwedowich, Jim Petrie, Jodi Ross, Jeremy Smith, Bob Stevens, David Theleman, Marilyn Theleman,

### **Minutes**

Mrs. Follette recommended Board approval of the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on May 15, 2012.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **Warrant**

None

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Policies – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

None

### **Policies – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

None

### **Comments from the Public**

Chuck Green asked the Board of Education to consider naming the gym or basketball court for Coach "Jack" Halloran. He stated Coach Halloran coached 40 plus years of basketball and had more wins than any coach in New York State. Mr. Green stated he represents 264 people who have signed a petition and has 60 letters in support of naming the gym after Coach Halloran. He stated his request is not unprecedented and has been done in other schools for people who do not have Coach Halloran's record. He provided names of neighboring high schools with fields/buildings named after coaches. There is a precedent set by the Whitney Point Central School District by the naming of Tymeson Field after Dr. Tymeson. It has been 18 years since Coach Halloran retired. He asked the school to overturn the policy to not have buildings named after individuals. He stated he felt it was the right thing to do and was able to get many more signatures if needed.

Mary Green handed the Board of Education an outline of all Coach Halloran's accomplishments and reviewed them in detail including five hall of fame inductions. She stated he is a legend and known throughout the state. Many other organizations have honored him. Mary stated she felt it was important that his own community honor him. Coach's legacy is his lifelong impact on the young men and women he coached that are out making a difference in the community. It is this legacy that warrants naming the gym or court in his name.

Kelly Breward read several letters received, including letters from Jason Mackey, Lisa Manassee Vasturo, Jessica Stevens Dillenbeck, and Tom Ellerson in support of naming the gym after Coach Halloran. Key points included:

- Coach Halloran made good moral decisions about team members, even if his decisions might lessen the team's ability to win;
- He honored hard work;
- One of his most positive influences has been his positive long term effect on his students;
- His leadership quality made you overachieve by being prepared;
- He created a sense of community in Whitney Point. The community would come together to watch the games, even if they did not have a student in school;
- He taught his students they could achieve what they thought was impossible to achieve;
- He taught the students more than how to prepare and compete on the court, he taught them how to prepare and compete in life;
- He brought well-deserved attention to Whitney Point, way beyond its bounds;
- He believed playing basketball was not a right, it was a privilege;
- He coach will remain one of the most influential people in Whitney Point history;
- He expected players to be model citizens first, players second;
- He believed character was what you did when no one was looking;
- He is considered the most influential person, outside of parents, to many of his players.

David Theleman stated there is a consistent theme throughout the letters, and a variety of people here to support the recommendation. He read a letters from Steve Macinski and Corey Green. He stated Coach Halloran has had a long standing personal effect on his career and he still applies what he learned from Coach in his life today.

Kelly Breward read letters from Mike McNeill and Jason Angel.

Jeremy Smith stated he appreciated all the Board of Education was up against with state regulations and mandates, and he would hope the Board would like to do something good in the midst of the negativity schools face every day.

Sara Benscoter stated the Board is not in favor of making exceptions to policies and, in fairness of the policy in place, the Board would like to take some time to read through the letters and take them into consideration while looking at the policy again as requested by the community. She stated she would communicate back with the contact people in the group.

Chuck Green asked when they could expect to hear back from the Board of Education.

Kelly Breward stated it is a very short policy. It should be able to be done in a 20 to 30 minute meeting, not in a couple of weeks.

A Statement was made that the topic would be taken to the press if necessary, and a question was asked about how the policy was put into place.

Stephanie Champney responded the policy was put into place after the naming of the Tioughnioga Riverside Academy. The Board of Education spent over a year discussing the policy. It doesn't mean the community feelings can't change and the policy can't change. The policy was discussed for a long period of time before it was enacted. She stated the Board would like a strong policy that the community would support and would represent the best interest of the school district. She further stated timing is an issue with a new Superintendent and new Board of Education members to consider when reviewing a policy.

Chuck Green stated he felt the meeting should not take that long and that the naming of the gym is a great way to reward great behavior.

Thomas Tasber stated he hears what people are saying and the Board is currently in the process of making several changes throughout the district including working with a new superintendent and two new board members. The Board of Education puts in long hours and will look at it in a thorough manner.

A statement was made that the Board members did volunteer for this position.

Mr. Tasber agreed, but nonetheless they have a lot of changes being made with new people coming in as coupled with the many decisions to make this time of year. It takes time to bring everyone up to speed and give the topics the attention they deserve.

Kelly Breward stated she had previously discussed the request with Board of Education members and the superintendent.

The Board of Education was asked if their review would take place in open session.

Sara Benscoter stated the policy will be thoroughly reviewed in executive session, but will be transparent.

### **Commendations**

Mrs. Follette commended:

- The High School staff and students involved in Cabaret. The evening provided a showcase for many talented students.
- The faculty that helped to organize and accompanied the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students on their Washington, D.C. trip May 16-18, 2012.
- The Caryl E. Adams School for its annual Spring Festival which was held on May 23, 2012.
- Mr. Tytler, Mr. Isaacs, Mrs. Cranston-Chrisler, Mrs. Ford, the high school faculty and office staff, the guidance office faculty and staff, and the National Honor Society for their successful Awards Ceremony held Thursday, May 30, 2012.
- Mrs. Gilbert and the High School Band for their following achievements at the Darien Lake competition held on Friday, May 25 and Saturday, May 26, 2012:

Concert Band

*1<sup>st</sup> place and superior/Gold with Distinction rating (the highest rating)*

Jazz Band

*1<sup>st</sup> place and Superior/Gold with Distinction rating*

Outstanding Saxophone Section

*Andy Pfeiffer, Chris VanDusen, Jesse LaPadula, James Pelzel,  
Will Tabachnik, Erin Hamm*

Outstanding Soloist Awards

*Andrew Pfeiffer & Chris VanDusen, Alto Sax; Jesse LaPadula, Tenor Sax;  
Andrew Costley, Drums*

- The Whitney Point Central School District Transportation Department receiving 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the NYATT Road-eo. The competition consisted of a written test and driving test.
- High School Senior Mykalene Gerst for receiving the Broome Tioga BOCES School-To Careers Outstanding Student award for the Whitney Point Central School District.

## **Old Business**

### **a. Phase II Update**

Mrs. Follette presented an update on the Phase II Renovation work. She stated the CEA library is 60% completed. She discussed the first floor ceilings at the TRA and stated they will be installed this week. Thomas Tasber asked about the size of the lockers. Students cannot fit coats and boots into their lockers. Mrs. Follette stated she would look in the locker size. Mrs. Follette discussed changes in the auditorium lighting and status of the seats.

## **New Business**

### **a. Appointments**

Mrs. Follette recommended Board approval of the appointment of **Vickie Kemak**, Cleaner, effective May 17, 2012.

Moved by Anthony Burchell

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Mrs. Follette recommended Board approval of the appointment of **Naomi Collins**, Maintenance A, effective July 1, 2012.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Anthony Burchell

Mrs. Follette stated Mrs. Collins is always happy and worked hard for this position.

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **b. Resignation**

Mrs. Follette recommended Board approval of the resignation of **Lauren Sonalkar**, Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2012.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Anthony Burchell

Mrs. Follette stated Mrs. Sonalkar only worked with us for two years. When we hired her, her husband was going to Cornell. She was very impressive and the district knew there would be future changes. She does have a job in the Boston area and we are happy for her.

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **c. Retirement Resignations**

Mrs. Follette recommended Board approval of the retirement resignation of **Kathryn A. Bensley**, Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2012.

Moved by Stephanie Champney, with regrets

Seconded by Anthony Burchell

Mrs. Follette stated Mrs. Bensley's classrooms were well structured and she helped her students recognize moral values. She will be missed.

Stephanie Champney commented on how Mrs. Bensley invited her daughter to read extra books from her classroom when needed. She will be missed.

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED, with regrets

Mrs. Follette recommended Board approval of the retirement resignation of **Janine Lawrence**, Elementary Teacher, effective July 1, 2012.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

Mrs. Follette commented on how Mrs. Lawrence's classroom was inviting, and full of energy and excitement. She will be missed

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED, with regrets

Mrs. Follette recommended Board approval of the retirement resignation of **Jill Tymeson**, Elementary Teacher, effective July 1, 2012.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Anthony Burchell

Mrs. Follette stated Mrs. Tymeson approached each student with understanding and patience. Her willingness to share has made a difference in the Whitney Point Central School District. She will be missed.

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED, with regrets

#### **d. Committee on Special Education**

Mrs. Follette recommended Board approval of the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

#### **Comments from the Public**

None

#### **Meeting Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

#### **Executive Session**

For matters of personnel and contractual issues.

**FYI**

May Monthly Enrollment Comparison  
June 6, 2012 – Ice Cream Social and District Art Show  
June 7, 2012 – District Art Show  
June 13-June 22, 2012 – Regents Exams  
June 15, 2012- Grade 8 Awards Ceremony & Dance  
June 16, 2012 – Alumni Banquet  
June 21, 2012- Baccalaureate Ceremony, 7:00 p.m. St. Patrick's Church  
June 22, 2012 – High School Graduation Ceremony

**Upcoming Meeting**

June 19



Cynthia Burchell  
District Clerk