



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

Date: December 18, 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.

District Vision:

- To be a community of excellence achieved through a commitment to HIGH performance, morale, and involvement.

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Sara Benscoter	President	X	
Stephanie Champney	Vice-President	X	
Kathleen Driscoll	Member	X	
Mary Ellerson	Member	X	
Gene-Paul Jordan	Member	X	
Joseph Silvanic	Member		X
Thomas Tasber	Member	X	
Patricia Follette	Superintendent of Schools	X	
Jo-Ann Sexton	Director of Curriculum and Instruction	X	
Zachary Woodard	School Business Executive	X	
Cynthia Burchell	District Clerk	X	

Others in attendance: Laura Chestnut, Marie Gresham, Murphee Hayes, Aaron Kaminsky, LuAnn Kida, Phyllis Kimble, Jo-Anne Knapp, Cammie Sack, Dan Sweeney, Bruce Tytler

**Moment of Silence**

Sara Bencoter asked all present to observe a moment of silence in wake of the school shooting that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

A moment of silence was observed.

**Minutes**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on December 4, 2012.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Mary Ellerson

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**Warrant**

The Board of Education acknowledged receipt of the November Warrant.

**Correspondence**

Letter from Royice A. Harford

**Policies – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

None

**Policies – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

None

**Comments from the Public**

None

**Commendations**

Ms. Follette commends:

- Ms. Gac and the Tiohgnioaga Riverside Academy Grades 4-5 for their Winter Choral Concert held on December 4, 2012.
- The Whitney Point Central School District staff, students and community for the festive Whitney Point Tree Lighting and a beautiful array of music provided to welcome in the holiday season held on December 7, 2012.
- Ms. Williamson and the Tiohgnioaga Riverside Academy Grades 6-8 for the delightful concert held on December 11, 2012.
- Ms. Gac and the Tiohgnioaga Riverside Academy Grades 6-8 for their festive holiday chorus concert held on December 13, 2012.
- The following Whitney Point High School 9th Grade band students on their acceptance into the 2013 BCMEA 7-9 All County Band

Flute: Katie Perry  
Clarinet: Kaylee Tasber  
Bass Clarinet: Mackenzie Cafferty  
Trumpet: Noah Wenzinger

- Whitney Point High School students Kaylee Tasber and Sonny Coy for their acceptance into the Grades 7-9 All County Chorus.
- The following students who auditioned and were accepted into either the 5th & 6th Grade All-County Band or the 7th –9th Grade All-County Band.

**5th & 6th Grade All-County Band**

Abigail Somers, Flute  
Katie Cafferty, Flute  
Shelby Rood, Flute  
Katlynn Hayes, Flute  
Makayla Langton, Clarinet  
Ciara Davis, Clarinet  
Ethan Baker, Alto Saxophone  
Sarah Case, Alto Saxophone  
Kaylee Monk, Alto Saxophone

Hayden Kennerup, Euphonium  
Joshua Shear, Euphonium  
Andrea Gehm, Mallet Percussion

**7th-9th Grade All-County Band**

Florence Wolf, Flute  
Kirstie Dean, Clarinet  
Stephanie Jeker, Clarinet  
Sara Dewey, Clarinet  
Kelly Perry, Trumpet  
Zachary Kelsey, Trombone

- The following students for their acceptance into either the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade All-County Chorus or the 7-9 All-County Choruses

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade All-County Chorus**

Ashley Barnhart  
Katie Cafferty  
Bethany Frank  
Erin Hurlbut  
Carter Ingraham  
Kiersten Merwin  
Danika Tasber  
Emmanuel Coy  
Ethan Falciola  
Trevor Fralick  
Natalie Leuci  
Marilyn-Jean Peterson

Sylvia Rosa  
Joshua Shear  
Collin Slack

**7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade All-County Chorus**

Katurah Aleba  
Kelly Perry  
Kirstie Dean  
Jake Dunham  
Hunter Jordan  
Dylan Harford  
Miguelito Masso  
Ben Shear

***Addenda***

**Commendations**

Ms. Follette commends

- Ms. Gilbert, Mr. Jones and the Whitney Point High School Band and Chorus for the festive Winter Concert held on Monday, December 17, 2012. Ms. Follette thanked Jo-Anne Knapp for accompanying on the piano.
- Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Pudish, Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Price and The Friendship Tree for contacting families, collecting, organizing and delivering gifts. The generosity of our staff and community provided a beautiful array of gifts

from quilts and clothing to toys for 80 families in our community this year.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

### **a. High School Strategic Plan**

Mr. Bruce Tytler presented the High School Strategic Plan. He reviewed the High School's Academic Improvement Plan consisting of

- Improved graduation rates
- Reduction of dropout rates
- Improvement of cohort passing rates
- Increase percentage of graduates earning  $\geq 75$  on ELA and  $\geq 80$  on Math Regents
- Increase of graduates achieving advanced designation diplomas
- Increase percentage of grades 9-12 students passing year-end courses

Mr. Tytler stated overall the High School is heading in the right direction.

Mr. Tytler presented the Shared Decision Making Team's Improvement Plan.

Thomas Tasber asked if the mentoring programs were after school.

Mr. Tytler stated, if possible. Without a ride home, it is difficult for some students to stay after.

Thomas Tasber asked what students would get preference.

Mr. Tytler stated they would start with peer tutoring.

Thomas Tasber asked about the students that were close to failing.

Mr. Tytler stated the teachers are working very hard to keep up with all the state mandates while monitoring student performance.

Jo-Ann Sexton stated if a student is struggling, teachers invite him/her to stay after, pull them from study halls, etc.

Thomas Tasber stated a lot of focus seems to be on the bottom of the list and not too much about the students that are struggling.

Mr. Tytler stated, if you came after school you would be amazed by the number of students staying after for help.

Sara Bencoter stated the students that are struggling are picked up and monitored by teachers so they don't fall into the extreme group. Her daughter has been able to get extra help in study halls and after school. The invitation has always been there by teachers, but the intent is more now and she is extremely pleased with the ownership. It is good to keep an eye on it.

Mr. Tytler stated he would look forward to discussing this topic further with Thomas Taber.

Gene Jordan stated Thomas Tasber has a good concern, but he can't speak highly enough about the teachers and how hard they work with how thin the teachers have been cut. He commended Mr. Tytler on keeping the good things going within the High School.

Mr. Tytler stated he can't speak highly enough about the High School staff. The teachers are reaching out to the kids.

A discussion ensued.

Mary Ellerson asked about the significance of a Regents Diploma.

JoAnn Sexton stated it is not the seal, it is the course work. It is a stronger selling point to a college.

Mr. Tytler discussed the shifts in ELA/Literacy consisting of balancing information and literary text, knowledge in the disciplines, the staircase of complexity, text-based answers, writing from sources and academic vocabulary. He explained the shifts in mathematics consisting of focus, coherence, fluency, depth, application and dual intensity.

Mr. Tytler pointed out the decline in the high school dropout rate and discussed the future.

Sara Benscoter stated the Board of Education would like to help and would be interested in what he has to say.

#### **b. SHARE Program Update**

Ms. Luann Kida presented a SHARE Program update. Ms. Kida discussed SHARE, a grant funded program under the Safe Schools/Health Students Initiative. She stated SHARE works with ten different school districts, and their primary mission is to enhance school climate. Olweus, family engagement, social work services and professional development are all part of the program. She stated active engagement allows parents to better understand the school system and what is there for them. Family engagement leads to higher academic achievement, and greater cognitive competence, problem solving skills, school enjoyment, attendance and behavior. She stated Whitney Point receives Social Work Services through herself, serving as a Social Work Supervisor, and Marie Gresham in the VISTA Position along with a number of Binghamton University interns. They serve 19 families and 67 children to date. She discussed community outreach and stated that some families receive home visits. She stated families are brought together through gatherings where they receive gas cards, raffles for gift cards which are used to cover transportation expenses and improve attendance. Ms. Kida discussed the Parent Leadership Training is developed around the needs expressed by the families. She introduced Cammy Sack, a parent member in attendance at the Board Meeting.

Sara Benscoter asked Ms. Sack about the most useful thing learned.

Ms. Sack stated learning about caring and how to reach out to help others.

Kathleen Driscoll commended Ms. Kida for all she is doing for the community.

Ms. Sack stated some of the educational lingo, especially special education, was difficult to understand so when she goes to parent-teacher conferences and CSE Meetings. She will take a SHARE member with her to help understand. Ms. Sack provided a detailed description of how SHARE has helped her children.

Stephanie Champney suggested parents be given a 'cheat-sheet' to use when attending CSE meetings.

Ms. Follette stated the SHARE program has worked very hard to help address our attendance needs. She stated SHARE ends at the end of this year with the grant. Our challenge as we get through this tight

budget season is how do we keep this program going and keep people on site. The outreach this program has provided is a shift that needed to be made and needs to continue

Thomas Tasber commended Ms. Kida and her work with the SHARE program.

A discussion ensued.

### **c. Medicaid Compliance Update**

Ms. Jo-Ann Sexton presented the District's quarterly update on Medicaid Compliance. She reviewed the reason for the District's compliance plan as well as New York State's role in Medicaid billing. Ms. Sexton gave an overview of the new procedures for Medicaid. She described the Medicaid Fee For Service Program and stated the purpose is to provide reimbursement for medically necessary services that are received in schools and provided or arranged by a school system for Medicaid-eligible students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Effective for dates of services beginning October 1, 2011, services will be cost reimbursed and an annual Medicaid cost report must be filed by each school district. Services are currently reimbursed according to a fee schedule and cost for transportation. She stated Kinney Systems continues to sift through all claims to make sure they are in line with what has been required. She explained how the state receives our reimbursements for the certified public expenditures and if money is owed, the District has to pay it.

### **d. Budget Calendar Approval**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the 2013-2014 budget development calendar.

The Board of Education commended Ms. Follette on the layout of the calendar.

Ms. Follette stated the calendar is an outline of the workflow during the budget season.

Mary Ellerson asked if the calendar will be placed on the website.

Ms. Follette stated yes.

Moved by Mary Ellerson

Seconded by Stephanie Champney

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **e. Plaque Approval**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the plaque in recognition of Coach Jack Halloran.

Moved by Gene Jordan

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

Ms. Follette stated the plaque will be displayed in compliance of the recognition policy.

Sara Bencoter asked where the plaque will be displayed.

Ms. Follette stated on the wall in the hallway by the concession stand.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **f. Unpaid Leave of Absence**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of an unpaid leave of absence for **Jenny Gac**, Music Teacher, from September 2013 to September 2014.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Stephanie Champney

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **g. Appointments**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the appointment of **Rosemarie Mahoney**, full-time Food Service Helper effective December 18, 2012.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Gene Jordan

Ms. Follette stated Rosemarie has been with the District for quite some time and we are pleased she applied for the position. She is a very strong worker.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the appointment of **Amanda McGovern**, Bus Driver effective the date of her license approval.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Mary Ellerson

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **h. Resolution to Abolish Position**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval to abolish one (1) part-time position in the **Food Service Helper** area effective December 18, 2012.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

Ms. Follette stated the abolishment of this position is due to the addition of the cook position.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **i. Resignation**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the employment resignation of **David Ellerson**, Bus Driver, effective December 31, 2012.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Gene Jordan

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **j. Termination**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the employment termination of **Sara-Jean Gage**, Cleaner, effective December 3, 2012.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**k. Committee on Special Education**

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

Moved by Mary Ellerson

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**l. Meat & Cheese Bid**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the award to Behlogs, Maines, Renzi, and Sysco for the Meat & Cheese Bid as prepared by Broome Tioga BOCES Food Service Program. Bid is valid 1/1/13 to 2/28/13.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Mary Ellerson

Sara Benscoter asked if the approval was only for two months?

Zachary Woodard stated, yes but for the Meet & Cheese only. All others are good for one year.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**m. General Funds Appropriation and Revenue Reports**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the attached Appropriation and Revenue Reports for the General Fund for the months of October and November 2012.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Stephanie Champney

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**n. Cafeteria Funds Appropriation and Revenue Reports**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the attached Appropriation and Revenue Reports for the Cafeteria Fund for the months of October and November 2012.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Mary Ellerson

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**o. Special Aid Fund Appropriation and Revenue Report**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the attached Appropriation and Revenue Reports for the Special Aid Fund for the months of October and November 2012.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED



**p. Budget Amendments**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the attached Budget Amendments through November 30, 2012.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Mary Ellerson

Thomas Tasber asked about the transfer of funds to the bus maintenance line.

Zachary Woodard responded the bus maintenance line was very low. It was put in as \$20,000 instead of the usual \$60,000. He stated the cafeteria transfer was due to the reallocation of expenses to the appropriate line.

Stephanie Champney asked about the workers compensation and dental transfer.

Zachary Woodard responded the line was increased to accommodate the full obligation of the District for the current fiscal year.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**q. Application for Refund and Credit of Real Property Taxes**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the applications for refund and credit of real property taxes pursuant to Section 554 of the NYS Real Property Tax Laws.

Grand Total Warrant Changes:	\$( 11,735.97)
Grand Total STAR Changes:	\$ <u>6,650.00</u>
Grand Total Refunds	\$( 5,085.97)

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**r. Unpaid Tax Report**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the 2012-2013 Unpaid Tax Report.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Mary Ellerson

Zachary Woodard stated if the taxes are not collected at the District, they are turned over to the County who makes the District whole. The refund amount is budgeted every year and this amount is under the current budget amount.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**s. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the November 2012 Treasurer's Report.

Moved by Gene Jordan

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## t. Change Orders

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the following Phase II-B and Phase II-C change orders:

**MC-053** - to provide a credit in response to the revised CEA library layout.

The Contract Sum of \$2,526,615.00 will be decreased by this Change Order in the amount of \$1,289.00 to \$2,525,326.00.

**PC-055** - to provide a credit for the unused portion of project allowance PC-02 back to the District.

The Contract Sum of \$905,001.00 will be decreased by this Contract Allowance Credit in the amount of \$3,000.00 to \$902,001.00.

**PC-002** - to provide all labor, material and equipment to replace an existing failed wall hydrant (hose bibb) near the TRA rear loading dock.

Total cost of \$582.00 will be subtracted from the Contract Allowance. Hence, the Contract sum of \$175,725.00 will remain unchanged.

**GC-003** - to provide aluminum mesh screens in new TRA windows in lieu of specified fiberglass mesh screens.

Total cost of \$4,510.00 will be subtracted from the Contract Allowance. Hence, the Contract sum of \$1,786,000.00 will remain unchanged.

**SC-003** - to provide all labor, material and equipment to unload TRA playground equipment purchased by the District through State Contract.

Total cost of \$287.00 will be subtracted from the Contract Allowance. Hence, the Contract sum of \$1,738,510.00 will remain unchanged.

**SC-004** - to provide all labor, material and equipment to revise under drain storm drainage in the retention area on the southeast corner of the new TRA tennis courts and provide additional grading to achieve new lawn depth.

Total cost of \$4,422.00 will be subtracted from the Contract Allowance. Hence, the Contract sum of \$1,738,510.00 will remain unchanged.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Mary Ellerson

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### Comments from the Public

Mary Ellerson stated the Sandy Hook PTA asked each PTA to make a snowflake and send it to their District by January 12, 2013.

### Adjournment to Executive Session

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval to recess the public meeting and at 8:48 p.m. and adjourn to Executive Session to hear discussion on contractual issues.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**FYI**

December 24, 2012 – January 1, 2013 –No School, Winter Recess

January 9, 2013 – Joint Dinner Meeting (Chief School Officers, Organization of Instructional Representatives, Principals' Center, Leadership Academy and School Boards' Association (with Dr. Robert Reidy, Jr. as the keynote speaker.)

January 21, 2013 – No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 22-25, 2013 – Regents Exams

January 24, 2013 – TRA Science Fair

January 25, 2013 – 11:30 a.m. dismissal



Cynthia R. Burchell  
District Clerk



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District Vision:

- To be a community of excellence achieved through a commitment to HIGH performance, morale, and involvement.

Meeting called to order at 8:53 p.m.

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Sara Benscoter	President	X	
Stephanie Champney	Vice-President	X	
Kathleen Driscoll	Member	X	
Mary Ellerson	Member	X	
Gene-Paul Jordan	Member	X	
Joseph Silvanic	Member		X
Thomas Tasber	Member	X	
Patricia Follette	Superintendent of Schools	X	

**Executive Session**

For matters of personnel and contractual issues.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Motioned to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Kathy Driscoll

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED



Cynthia R. Burchell  
District Clerk