

Superintendent – Thomas W. Abraham
Elementary Principal – Bethellen Mannix
High School Principal – Andrew Cook

HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hartford, New York

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting November 15, 2010

Board Members Present: – President Brian Getty, Vice President Mrs. Janine Thomas, Philip Jessen, Mrs. Beth Steves and Adam Fish

Board Members Absent: – None

Guests: – Sue Burch, Jen Lawrence, Erin Rubin, Mrs. Rubin, Sean Farley, Mr. and Mrs. Liebig, Christina Petteys, Andes Combs, Cody Beck.

1.0 Call to Order – Board of Education President Brian Getty at 7:03 pm

2.0 Prayer – Mr. Jessen

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

***3.1 Student Recognition** – I am pleased to announce that Erin Rubin has been selected as the 2010-11 DAR Good Citizen Award. The award is based upon dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Mrs. Barb Liebig presented this award to Erin.

3.2 Presentation by Internal Auditor – By regulation, the District is required to undergo an internal audit by an independent firm or individual (this is in addition to the external audit performed by the District's Auditor). The internal audit was performed by Mr. Greg Diefenbach. Mr. Diefenbach was in the District for a period of four days and will present his findings to the board. Mr. Diefenbach pointed out that the state is looking closely at Fraud, Waste, Abuse, but he found none of these at Hartford. Mr. Abraham gave kudos to Joann Searles for doing a fine job.

3.3 Public to be Heard

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the October 18, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the October 18th meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

5.0 Review and Approval of Financial Reports

***5.1 Treasurer's Report**

***5.2 Warrants**

***5.3 Cafeteria Report** – The Board of Education tabled the financial reports. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***5.4 Student Activity Account – Quarterly Report** – This report is presented for your review and inquiry. – No Action Necessary.

6.0 Superintendent's Report

***6.1 Quality Improvement Plan Update** – Under the regulations of the State Education Department, Ms. Sally McGuirk was assigned to Hartford to work with a QIP Committee to develop a plan for

improving special education students' performance on state assessments, graduation rates and discipline.

The plan was completed and sent to the State Education Department for peer review (scheduled for November 2nd). Revisions were made to the plan on November 9th and the plan was resubmitted. A copy of the plan is in each board members packet.

***6.2 NYSERDA Study** – Since Hartford was the first school in NYS to put in an alternative energy plant, there has been a request for the District to participate in a study regarding the woodchips that are being used. The study is being conducted by Clarkson University, but coordinated by NYSERDA. I find this somewhat odd because NYSERDA wanted nothing to do with the planning or building of our power plant, but was more interested in our lights and buses.

6.3 Race to the Top Update – Pursuant to the decision by the Board of Education at the October Board of Education meeting, I notified the state of the District's intent on participating in the Race to the Top process. Our final allocation for the process has been published and I am "pleased" to say that our allocation has been increased by six dollars (\$6) over the four year period.

***6.4 Update on State Financial Status** – The news that continues to come out of Albany is not good. The Office of Management and Budget has uncovered a current year deficit of \$312 million, which has led to the Governor to call for mid-year reductions in aid to education and further reductions in STAR reimbursements. OMB has also projected a \$9 billion structural deficit for 2011-12, which is up from \$8.2 billion (which by the way was down from an original \$14 billion). These figures will force additional cuts in education aid. The Governor-elect has pledged not to increase taxes to offset the deficit. With revenues falling and no new taxes on the horizon, it is not rocket science to figure out how the deficit will be reduced. Add to this picture the Governor Cuomo's pledge to institute a property tax cap of 2% and you can see the pressure municipalities and schools will be under.

***6.5 New Grading Format for Regent Exams** – The State Education Department has rolled out a new format for correcting exams. The format will require the tests to be scanned and electronically scored. The high school principal will have to certify changes on the test papers as being appropriate and student generated. Oh, did I mention there are costs associated with this process? We will be required to purchase a specialized software program – cost \$4,463.68, additional tech support for the software - \$736.28 annually, the purchase of a high-end scanner \$4,000 and we will be charged \$1 per student and \$1 per test taken. The estimated cost to Hartford this current year will be approximately \$10,000. Apparently, the State Education Department continues to live in a dream world and is not aware of the financial outlook of the state.

***6.6 Informational Packet** – There are several items for your review this month.

Item #1 – Newspaper Article on Candidate Cuomo – This is an article that outlines Andrew Cuomo's plans to battle labor unions once he becomes governor.

Item #2 – Newsletter from Girvin and Ferlazzo

Item #3 – Power Point Presentation from the Board of Regents – This power point outlines Board of Regents review of what is driving educational costs, impact on state aid and the need for educational reform. There isn't one item dedicated to looking at mandates that are driving costs and how to reduce mandates.

Item #4 – School Law Bulletin (2)

Item #5 – Legal Notes for Education

Item #6 – Opinion on Teacher/Principal Evaluations – This is an Op. Ed. from the New York State Council of School Superintendents regarding the new requirements on professional evaluations for schools.

Item #7 – NYSIR Newsletter

Item #8 – Unemployment Decision by Administrative Law Judge

Item #9 – Letter from Resident – This particular letter outlines her thoughts on what should be done regarding filing the administrative opening in the District.

Item #10 – Commissioner's Decisions

Item #11 – Department of Health Inspection – I have enclosed the most recent Health Department Inspection of our food service operations and as you can see it was an excellent inspection. There were a few minor suggestions on some items, but overall the inspector was pleased with the cleanliness and condition of the facilities.

Item #12 – Water Inspection – A water inspection was conducted by the DOH at the same time as the kitchen inspections and apparently everything went well with this inspection as well.

6.7 Board of Education Questions, Comments, and/or Concerns

7.0 Principals' Reports

7.1 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix – November 21st – FFA decorated pumpkins with elementary students after school. Thank you to Tricia Stewart and the FFA. 12/28/10 – PTA Halloween Fest – 100 plus students Kindergarten – Grade 5. 10/29/10 – Halloween Sing-a-long. Lynnette did a great job organizing each grad level with different songs and instruments. Citizen of the month assemblies – Citizens, Bus Rider of the Month, Birthdays, Cafeteria Student of the Month – Introduced character trait for following month. 11/5, 11/9 and 11/17 – Parent/Teacher conferences have been going well. 11/9 – Meeting with aids regarding lunchroom, movies on Wednesdays, cafeteria student of the month, posting cafeteria rules. 11/18 – Turkey Trot (grades 3/8). Thank you to Andy Capone for organizing this event. 11/22 – Harvest Fest – Washington County Water & Soil will be bringing in a very large fish tank, Fiber Bracelets, Cornell Cooperative Ext. – Plant fiber, mat weaving, Art Station with Heather Holl, Alpacas, Nigeria Goat, products and spinner, Gary Burch, Sr. – trees and forestry management – Starting the day off with a Harvest Breakfast. 12/16/10 Tanager Voices Concert.

7.2 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook - All-County Vocal Festival that took place at Whitehall Central School this weekend. We had 17 total students attend: 5 elementary, 8 Jr. High, and 4 Sr. High. I would like to congratulate Mrs. Dougher as she was the Jr. High chair for the largest choir that performed - over 100 students. Also, we had Charles Cornell featured on the Conga drums, and he and Brianna Palmer were recognized with an All-County pin for their Sr. year and final time at All-County. An audit of student health records by a New York State Department of Health reviewer found that all 6th grade students were in compliance with state immunization laws. Kudos to Mrs. Rock for hounding those parents to keep the school in compliance—A school can (and in the past) has been fined \$10,000 for allowing students to attend without proper immunizations. Saturday, November 6th was our annual homecoming event. I would like to thank the Senior Class Officers, Ms. Stoddard, Mrs. Petteys, and Mrs. Reynolds for all their hard work organizing the event. On October 29th Mrs. Capone and Ms. Krychear attended a colloquium at SUNY Adirondack to discuss the current state of HS math and the requirements for college. November 10th was the first of two economic forums sponsored by Mr. Parley's Economics class. I would like to publically thank Mr. Rob Leise and Mrs. Shelly McKernan for their participation. I would also like to recognize Mr. Farley's efforts in organizing and running this wonderful experience for our students. Nov. 12th was the annual Pig-Roast. Thanks to Sue Burch, Rebecca Harke, Tricia Stewart and Bonnie Naumann for organizing this event. Nov. 16th is the Fall Sports Award Night. Congratulations to all our athletes and HFA for sponsoring the dessert night. Nov. 18th is the Turkey Trot Event. Dec. 3rd and 4th our basketball teams will be participating in the regional Coaches vs. Cancer tournament. Dec, 9th is the Jr./Sr. Band and Chorus Concert.

8.0 Old Business – No Old Business to Conduct

After the break the Board of Education un-tabled action item **#5.0 Review and Approval of Financial Report** – The Board of Education approved the financial reports. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 3-0

9.0 New Business

- *9.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations** – There are a few recommendations for your review this month. Should you have a question about any of the recommendations, the item or items should be tabled for discussion in Executive Session. – The Board of Education accepted the recommendations from the CPSE/CSE Committees. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.2 Extra-Curricular Appointment – Junior Class Advisor** – The Board of Education appointed Ms. Sarah Bean to the position of Junior Class Advisor, retro-active to September 1, 2010. Stipend for Ms. Bean will be per Contract of Agreement with the Hartford Faculty Association. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.3 Extra-Curricular Activity Resignation** – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mrs. Amanda Sharrow as Co-cheerleading advisor effective immediately. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.4 First Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy #218 Information Security Breach and Notification**
- *9.5 First Reading Revised Board of Education Policy #805 Independent Auditor**
- *9.6 First Reading Revised Board of Education Policy #810 Purchasing**
- *9.7 First Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy #819 Bidding Requirements**
- *9.8 First Reading Revised Board of Education Policy #808 Investments**
- *9.9 First Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy #820 Cash Management Procedures**. – The Board of Education approved the first reading of proposed Board of Education Policy #218, #805, #810, #819, #808 and #820, . Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.10 Family Medical Leave Act Request** – Mrs. Gwynne Cosh has submitted a request for a leave of absence under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act. – The Board of Education approved the Request of Mrs. Cosh for a leave of absence under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act. The leave will commence on or about January 28, 2011 and terminate on or about April 18, 2011. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.11 Extra-Curricular Activity Resignation** – With her leave of absence under Family Medical Leave, Mrs. Gwynne Cosh has submitted her resignation as co-advisor for Tanager Voices. – The Board of Education tabled the resignation of Mrs. Gwynne Cosh as co-advisor for Tanager Voices until next month. Motion made by Mr. Fish and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.12 Extra-Curricular Activity Resignation** – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Ms. Rebecca Harke as Cheerleading Advisor effective immediately. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 5-0
- *9.13 Extra-Curricular Appointment – Boy’s Modified Basketball** – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Chris Doody to the position of Boy’s Modified Basketball Coach for the 2010-11 School Year. Stipend will be per contract of agreement with the Hartford Faculty Association. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.14 Extra-Curricular Appointment** – With the resignation of both Mrs. Sharrow and Ms. Harke, there is a need to appoint an advisor for the Cheerleading Squad. I want to point out, the state of New York does not categorize cheerleading as a sport, and therefore, the individual who supervises the activity is not required to have first aid or CPR. – The Board of Education appointed Mrs. Joann Searles to the position of Cheerleading Advisor for the 2010-11 School Year. Stipend will be per contract of agreement with the Hartford Faculty Association. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

10.0 Executive Session – Recommend the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and litigation. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0 at 8:05 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – On a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas, the Board voted to return to open session.

Mr. Getty announced the Board discussed Personnel issues, Litigation and the Superintendent search.

Additional Action by the Board.

9.15 Resending of Board Action of June 21, 2010 – On motion by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas, the board voted 5-0 to rescind their acceptance of the resignation of the Superintendent, Mr. Abraham.

9.16 Memorandum of Agreement – On a motion by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas, the board approved 5-0 a memorandum of agreement with the Superintendent. The MOA extended the Superintendent's contract through June 30, 2013 and established salary for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

No other business was conducted. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Board voted 5-0 to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk