

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 December 20, 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: – Chris Jones, Sean and Jen Farley, Wayne North, Art Clauder, Mr. Smith and daughter, Paul Rogers, Maggie Cosey, Scott DeKalb, S. Norton, Students

1.0 Call to Order – Board of Education President Brian Getty at 7:00 pm

2.0 Prayer – Mrs. Thomas

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

***3.1 Student Recognition** – I am pleased to announce that our varsity volleyball team qualified as a Scholar Athlete Team. All members of the team will be receiving a pin and certificate. I would ask that the following students come forward: **Kayla Casey, Misty LaCross, Brittany Lincoln, Christina Petteys, Brittany Brayman, Chrissa Lewis, Morgan Mercure, Gwenn Harsha, Rachel Liebig, Molly Spear, Morgan Wicks and Cailyn Harrington.** Also, Post Star Adirondack League for Volleyball **1st Team – Christina Petteys, Brittany Brayman, 2nd Team – Kayla Casey, Gwenn Harsha, Morgan Wicks and Honorable Mention – Misty LaCross and Rachel Liebig.** Post Star All Stars for Soccer – **All area 1st Team – Charles Cornell, All area 2nd Team Jon Louie, Honorable Mention – Shane Rogers, Ethan Farley, Zack Tripp.** Adirondack League for Soccer – **1st Team Charles Cornell, Jon Louie – 2nd Team Section 2 Charles Cornell, - 2nd Team Zack Tripp and Ethan Farley.**

3.2 Public to be Heard – Mrs. Farley wanted a letter of details of Section 2 achievements sent home to parents from the AD and also to ask if the coach could attend the presentations.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the November 15, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the November 15, 2010 Board of Education meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. 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 until a majority reviewed the bills. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0. After the majority reviewed the bills the Board of Education approved the financial reports. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 5-0

***5.4 Budget Summary** – This budget summary is presented for your review and inquiry. I will inform you that due to a county placement within the district, there will be an increased expenditure within the transportation code. The District will bill back to the District of residence of the student. – No Action Necessary

6.0 Superintendent's Report

***6.1 The Latest on the State's Financial Status** – At the last board meeting, I informed the board that the Office and Management and Budget was projecting a current year deficit of \$375 million and a \$9

billion budget for next year. It gets easier to understand why the state has fiscal problems when the various departments cannot determine the size of the red ink. Just a few days after my report and the Office of Management and Budget pronouncement, the State Comptroller's Office came out with a current year deficit projection of \$1 billion and a \$14 billion deficit for next year. Apparently, someone misplaced a decimal point.

Either projection does not bode well for education in the state. There will eventually have to be mid-year reductions in aid and there will have to be significant decreases in state aid for next year. These cuts cannot be avoided without significant tax increase. I cannot foresee the state increasing taxes to the degree necessary to cover the deficit. (That will only drive more people out of the state). So I anticipate cuts in aid and cost shifting from the state to the localities.

The state legislature did come back for a special session to deal with the deficit, but no deals were reached. Everyone is willing to wait until the new administration takes over in January. It would also appear the legislature will be split again with the Democrats in control of the Assembly and the Republicans in control of the State Senate.

***6.2 Charging For Regent Exams** – I have enclosed an article regarding the Board of Regents exploring the possibility of charging schools for each regent exam taken by students.

The proposal would charge Districts \$5.93 for each exam taken by a student. Conceptually, sophomores take three regents exams in a given year – one math, one science and one social studies. If we have a grade level enrollment of 35 students the state formula would read $\$5.93 \times 3 \times 35 = \622.65 . Juniors take regent exams in foreign language, social studies and English Language Arts and possibly math: $\$5.93 \times 4 \times 35 = \830.20 .

It is anticipated these costs *could be* in addition to the correcting costs that are being transferred to Districts.

The Regents are floating this plan because they have a projected \$15 million deficit in their secondary testing bureau. The Department is anticipating further cuts in state aid. Maybe they should have used some of the Race to the Top funds to offset the deficit instead of hiring an additional 100 people.

I do believe this proposal was issued in an attempt to stir the pot of public opinion against further cuts in SED funding and to force the legislature to pick up the \$15 million deficit. I do not believe the strategy will work.

***6.3 Informational Packet** – There are a number of items for your review this month.

Item #1 – Summary of Potential Revisions of High School Graduation Requirements – The new deputy commissioner at the state education department has floated the idea of changing graduation requirements. Here is a summary of the proposal. You may wish to obtain a law degree before attempting to read the document.

Item #2 – Bill Gates News Article – The article summarizes Bill Gates view on the necessary changes regarding educational funding.

Item #3 – Letter from the Business Education Council – This letter is written by the council indicating the importance of business education in schools. The letter is written to superintendents across the state in anticipation of programs being eliminated due to the pending state budget cuts.

Item #4 – School Law Bulletin

Item #5 – Legal Notes for Education

Item #6 – Talking Points from the Statewide School Finance Consortium – This consortium has developed a four point plan to bring school spending under control. The proposals are sound and would bring some costs down for schools. However, the proposals would mean someone's job and therefore, be opposed by one or more organizations.

Item #7 – Board of Regents Proposal Regarding State Aid to Education

Item #8 – Letter from the New York State Department of Health – This letter to Janet Rock is exemplary for her record keeping and cooperation regarding a regent audit of school records related to immunization.

Item #9 – New Law Books – Every two years board members are supplied with the latest law books. Here is your latest edition hot of the press.

Item #10 – New York State School Music Association Booklets – I have enclosed booklets and announcements for the recent state conference. Charles Cornell was the only Hartford student selected to perform at the conference.

Item #11 – Commissioner's Decisions – Most of the decisions brought before the commissioner this month were dismissed.

***6.4 Board of Education Questions, Comments and/or Concerns**

7.0 Principals' Reports

7.1 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook – November 18th was the annual Turkey-Trot race and we had 41 students participate. I would like to thank everyone who helped donate food items for the race and Mr. Capone for all his work organizing the event. December 9th was the Jr./Sr. Band/Chorus concert. I would like to congratulate all the students who participated, Mr. Nerp, and Mrs. Dougher for an excellent concert. Wednesday, December 15th Deputy Sullivan from the Washington County Sheriff's Office visited the school and conducted an assembly on "Distracted Driving." Congratulations to Brittany Lincoln for her poem which was published in "A Student Journal" entitled "Bloody Tears". Congratulations to Sarah Bean who was the illustrator for the work "A Deer for Dad" which was just published. I would like to thank Mrs. Harrington and Mrs. Shaw for all their hard work with the Holiday helper program. This year the program helped 32 Hartford families (a total of 78 children) by providing food, clothing and toys because of the generous donations of: Faculty/Staff, Local Parishioners, Community members, the Regional Radio Station, and of course Operation Santa Claus. Also, I would like to thank Mrs. Phillips and the Key Club for running a successful elementary food drive which helps out this program. Mr. LaVoie just returned from Washington D.C. where he was invited to participate in a High School teacher liaison group discussion with the American Chemical Society. Mr. LaVoie was one of 10 teachers from across the country selected to participate in this discussion. Congratulations to the volleyball team on their scholar athlete recognition – this is an extreme honor for our student athletes. Congratulations to Charles Cornell on his All-State performance on Jazz Piano.

7.2 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix – We continue to recognize students once a month: Citizens, Bus Riders of the Month, Birthdays, and Class Perfect Attendance. Hartford Star issue is coming out this month. 12/10/10 The GF Symphony performed "Peter and the Wolf." Thank you to Joann Searles for organizing this event. 12/16/10 Tanager Voices Concert was well attended. Lexi Boucher had a piano solo. 5th graders played their recorders. 12/22/10 Sing-a-long provided by Lynnette Dougher and elementary students. Grade 4 made maps of the building. Junior Achievements is happening in each of the grad levels. Thank you to our volunteers. Harvest Fest began with breakfast – thank you to Melanie Howe. There were 6 stations in afternoon: Forestry Management – Gary Burch; Alpacas/Nigerian Goats/Spinner – Wade's and Clapp's – Diane Baker; Fiber Bracelets; Cornell Coop Ext. – Chrys and Miriam Nestle; Washing County Conservation; Creating 2 pocket folders with alpacas hand stamped on front – Thank you to Heather Holl. 12/16/10 K-2 Teachers attended training on Common Core Standards for Math. Happening in Mrs. Ward's 4th Grade. – The students completed map skills projects. Using our knowledge of keys, symbols, and grid boxes, the students worked with partners to make a map from such supplies as candy, bottle caps, and even Barbie doll shoes. (Some are displayed around the library.) In lieu of a gift exchange, the students collected hats, mittens and even homemade booties to donate to the local churches to help make the holiday season a little brighter for someone less fortunate than ourselves. Mrs. Knowlton is working with the grade students on the Junior Achievement program. We are finishing up a recycling project in which the students are using old magazines from home to make beautiful Christmas trees to give as gifts to their family members. (On display in the library.) Both 4th grade classes wrote holiday cards to donate to the residents of the Robert J. Cronin High-rise in Glens Falls.

8.0 Old Business

- ***8.1 Second Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy #218 Information Security Breach and Notification** – At the November Board of Education meeting, the board approved a first reading of this policy without making revisions.
- ***8.2 Second Reading Revised Board of Education Policy #805 Independent Auditor** – At the November Board of Education meeting, the board approved a first reading of this policy without making revisions.
- ***8.3 Second Reading Revised Board of Education Policy #810 Purchasing** – At the November meeting the proposed revised policy was approved in a first reading without making any further revisions than those being proposed by the administration.
- ***8.4 Second Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy # 819 Bidding Requirements** – As with the previous presented policies, the board approved a first reading without revision at the November Board of Education meeting.

- ***8.5 Second Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy #820 Investments** – This policy was approved as a first reading at the November board meeting.
- ***8.6 Second Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy #821 Cash Management Procedures** – As with all of the other policies reviewed this evening, this policy was approved at the November board meeting without revision. – The Board of Education approved the second reading of proposed Board of Education Policy #218, Policy #805, Policy #810, Policy #819, Policy #820 and Policy #821. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- ***8.7 Extra-Curricular Activity Resignation – Tanager Voices** – This resignation was tabled at the last board meeting. – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mrs. Gwynne Cosh as co-advisor for Tanager Voices effective January 28th with the understanding that she would have to request along with others for next years approval. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 5-0

9.0 New Business

- ***9.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations** – There are a few recommendations for your consideration this month. As always, should there be a need to discuss any of the recommendations; the matter should be tabled for discussion in Executive Session. – The Board of Education accepted the recommendations from the CPSE/CSE Committee. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 5-0
- ***9.2 Extra-Curricular Activity Appointments** – Due to resignations, there are two positions to be filled this evening. – The Board of Education appointed Ms. Emily Rubin as Cheerleading Advisor and Mrs. Barbara Miner Co-advisor to Tanager Voices for the 2010-11 School Year. Stipends for each of the positions are per Contract of Agreement. Motion made by Mrs. Steves and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- ***9.3 Establishment of Budget Workshop Dates** – It is that time of year again when we have to set the dates for our budget workshops. There are five dates listed below for your consideration. – The Board of Education established the following dates for budget workshops for the 2011-12 School Budget development: Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

Workshop #1 Monday January 31, 2011
 Workshop #2 Monday February 7, 2011
 Workshop #3 Monday February 28, 2011

Workshop #4 Monday March 7, 2011
 Workshop #5 Monday March 14, 2011

Please note that the early date of January 31 may be altered depending on whether there is an announcement on State Aid.

- ***9.4 First Reading Revised Board of Education Policy #700 Transportation** – At the first meeting of the Shared Decision Making Committee, the building administrators requested a review of the Transportation Policy in order to address concerns regarding pick-ups and drop-offs. The revisions to the policy have been hi-lighted. – The Board of Education approved the first reading of the revised Board of Education Policy on Transportation with one mistake that was corrected. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- ***9.5 Family Medical Leave Request** – Mrs. Christina Talmadge has submitted a request under the Family Medical Leave Act. The request is within the parameters allowed under FMLA. – The Board of Education granted Mrs. Talmadge a leave of absence under FMLA. The leave will commence on or about March 14, 2011 and terminate on or about April 25, 2011. As you can see, a portion of the leave would be with pay under the leave act. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- ***9.6 Appointment of Full-Time Bus Driver** – Due to the additional runs being added after the start of the current school year, it is necessary to add a bus driver to our transportation fleet. The run was posted as per contract of agreement with the Drivers' Association. – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Casey Arlen as a full time driver effective December 20, 2010. Salary for Mr. Arlen will be \$14,831 pro-rated to reflect his start date. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.7 Family Medical Leave Request** – The Board of Education granted a leave of absence to Mrs. Megan Capone under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act. The leave would begin on or about March 2, 2011 and terminate on or about May 30, 2011. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

10.0 Executive Session – Recommend the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion made by Mrs. Steves and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0 at 7:52 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – Board returned to open session at 9:22 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen second by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty indicated while in Executive Session, the Board of Education discussed personnel issues and matters pertaining to litigation. No further action taken. Board adjourned at 9:23 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk