

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 August 16, 2010

Board Members Present: – President Brian Getty, Vice President Mrs. Janine Thomas, Philip Jessen, and Adam Fish
Mrs. Beth Steves – arrived at 7:10 pm

Board Members Absent: – None

Guests: – Mr. Gibson and Donna Cater

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

2.0 Prayer – Mrs. Thomas

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

3.1 Public to be Heard

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the July 12, 2010 Re-Organizational Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the July 12, 2010 Re-Organizational Meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 4-0

***4.2 Minutes from the July 12, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the July 12, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 4-0

5.0 Financial Reports

5.1 Treasurer's Report – No report because of the audit.

***5.2 Warrants**

5.3 Cafeteria Report – No report because of the audit. – Mr. Fish asked what work was done by Glens Falls Landscaping – The answer was – trenches, boulders, sod. The Board of approved the Warrants. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

6.0 Superintendent's Report

***6.1 Update on Technology Building Siding** – Officials from Dutch Valley Construction Corporation were on-site July 21st to review the color panel selection to insure the replacement panels were the same color as what was being replaced. It will take approximately 2-3 weeks for the new panels to be manufactured and shipped to Hartford. Dutch Valley is hoping to have the work completed before the start of school. The panels will be supplied at cost of production only. Total cost of the project should not exceed \$32-35,000.

***6.2 SWPP Reports and Required Site Work** - North Country Engineering is required to file environmental reports with DEC regarding the status of the construction site at Hartford. Some of the reports have been very picky – grass clippings found on the drainage stones. Apparently, the engineers are required to come in once per week until all of the issues are addressed. I filed a notice with NCE indicating there seemed to be new items with each report and it is time to put their time at Hartford to an end.

***6.3 New Standards for Proficiency and College Readiness** – The State Education Department has developed a new set of standards for students. This process happens every time a new commissioner comes in. However, of greater concern is the adjustment to the state assessment cut points.

Over the last several years, the assessment cut scores have been adjusted to make it somewhat more difficult to get students to level 3. The new commissioner and the Board of Regents now believe the scoring has been too easy and have adjusted the cut points to insure more students do not make proficiency.

I am not normally a suspicious person, but I believe all of the changes and pontifications are directly linked to the state's attempt to receive Race to the Top funds. My belief is based on several factors.

First, you have the State Education Department and Legislature agreeing to link student assessment scores to teacher evaluations (a requirement for consideration); then you have the Legislature increase the cap on the number of Charter Schools (again a requirement for consideration). The governor and legislature favor a commission which will review and make recommendations about forced school consolidations. These will give the state the ability to re-organize schools and make staff changes – all part of the RTT requirements. With the changes in cut scores that have just occurred, more schools will be in need of improvement - justifying harsher evaluations, school reorganization and more charter schools. It is a concerted effort to change the educational processes within the state, which will bring in more federal money and allow the state to reduce expenditures at the local level through consolidation or reorganization.

***6.4 Informational Packet** - There are a few items for your review this month.

Item #1 – On Board – This is the newsletter from the New York State School Boards Association.

Item #2 – News Report on Consolidation Panel

Item #3 – Diesel Fuel Tank Issue – Our fuel tanks seemed to have a lot of debris and water in them which was leading to filter clogging and poor performance. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Fullerton drained the tanks and cleaned them. The process took several days, however, the alternative would have been to call in a company and spend several thousands of dollars to have the process done. The enclosure documents the issue and the process. Mr. Getty will look into a fuel conditioner similar to what is used on farms to help preserve the tank.

Item #4 – School Law Bulletin

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

7.0 Principals' Reports

7.1 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix - August 2nd and 4th: Dr. Axelrod met with teachers involved in co-teaching this year to help them start planning. She also provided them with many valuable resources and a presentation on teaching vocabulary. Tom and I are meeting with Sally McGuirk this week regarding a Quality Improvement Plan we will have to complete. Sally is from the Special Education Resource Center located at Gick Road BOCES. Kindergarten Orientation will be held on August 31st from 6-7pm for all in-coming Kindergartners. In-coming Pre-K students will have the opportunity to meet Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Jones and see their classroom on September 1st between 9 and 11am. PTA Meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 5-6:30 in the Tech Building. I encourage staff and parents to attend. The Junior Achievement Program will be added to our K-5 curriculum this year. I am still looking for volunteers to come into a class 5 times throughout the year. Training by Junior Achievement staff will be provided.

7.2 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook - Fall sports begin next week, Monday, August 23rd Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week is the summer Regents Exam testing period. 6th Grade Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1st. I would like to thank and congratulate Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Giblin for all their work on the AP Biology Curriculum and Mr. Flower on his work on the AP US History

Curriculum. Both syllabi have been accepted by the College Board and we are all set to include the AP designation on transcripts.

8.0 Old Business

***8.1 Second Reading of Revised Board of Education Policy #524 ESEA Title I and PCEN Plan** – The Board of Education approved the first reading of proposed revised policy at the July 12, 2010 Board of Education meeting. At that time, the board did not make any revisions to what was being presented. – The Board of Education approved, as presented, the second reading of Policy #524. Once approved it will supplant and replace all policies regarding this matter. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

9.0 New Business

***9.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations** – There are a few recommendations for your review and approval this month. As always, should there be a question on any of the recommendations being made; the item or items 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. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.2 Approval of the 2010-11 Tax Levy** – I have included in your packet an overview of equalization rates for each of the towns. The equalization rate when applied to the tax levy establishes the tax rate for each of the towns within the District. You can see what the impact will be on each of the towns should we adopt the tax levy associated with the budget process presented to voters in May. – The Board of Education approved a tax levy of \$3,167,675. This figure represents a 1.92% increase over last year's levy. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 5-0

***9.3 Appointment of Elementary Newspaper Advisors** – At the July Board of Education meeting, the approved creating two new student organizations. Both organizations were run on a volunteer basis during the previous school year. This evening, I am recommending the advisors for the elementary school newspaper. – The Board of Education appointed Victoria Vanier and Donna Cater as co-advisors for the elementary school newspapers for the 2010-11 School Year. Stipend will be per Contract of Agreement with the Faculty Association. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.4 Appointment of Interim School Psychologist** – As the Board is aware; Ms. Barbara Miner will be on a leave of absence for an unspecified period of time. The position was posted and interviews were held, but the candidates wanted more assurances for a specific amount of time and therefore were not available to fill the vacancy.

Instead, the District will be bringing in a retired school psychologist on a per diem basis to fill the vacancy. Mr. George Roberts has agreed to work as an interim and will be in the District an average of 3 days per week. – The Board of Education appointed Mr. George Roberts as an interim school psychologist at the per diem rate of \$200/day. (Please note the per diem rate based on step one is \$198.06). Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 5-0

***9.5 Approval of B.A.N. Resolution** – As the board is aware; voters approved the purchase of a new school bus. The District will borrow the funds necessary to purchase the vehicle and pay it back over a five year period of time. To secure the necessary funds, the board must approve a B.A.N. authorizing the securing of the funds. – The Board of Education approved the resolution authorizing the issuance of a B.A.N. (*Voice Vote is required*). Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0 (Voice Vote – Mr. Fish – yes, Mr. Jessen – yes, Mrs. Steves – yes, Mrs. Thomas – yes, Mr. Getty – yes.

***9.6 Appointment of CPSE/CSE/504 Committee** – Each school year, the Board of Education is required to appoint the members of the CPSE/CSE/504 Committee. Mrs. Mannix has submitted a list indicating the individuals who are to be appointed for the school year. – The Board of Education appointed the individuals listed on the correspondence for Mrs. Mannix as members of the

CPSE/CSE/504 Committee for the 2010-11 School Year. Motion made by Mr. Fish and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0

***9.7 Appointment of Substitute Cafeteria Worker** – The Board of Education appointed Becky Monger and Maureen Jones as substitute cafeteria workers. Ms. Monger and Ms. Jones will be called on an as needed basis by Mrs. Howe. The hourly rate for this substitute position was approved by the board at the July Board of Education meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 5-0

***9.8 Appointment of Co-Advisor for Elementary Learning Club** – The Board of Education appointed Mrs. Kerry Babson as a co-advisor for the Elementary Learning Club for the 2010-11 School Year. Mrs. Babson will serve with Mrs. Christina Talmadge. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.9 Approval of Overnight Field Trip** – The FFA has submitted a field trip request to attend the State Fair to participate in Dairy Judging. – The Board of Education approved the request from the FFA Advisor to allow FFA members to attend the State Fair September 1st-September 2nd. Approval is contingent upon all board policies and procedures being followed. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.10 Appointment of Cleaner** – As the Board is aware a vacancy in our buildings and grounds crew occurred recently. The District advertised for applications. A number of applications were received, and Mr. Jones conducted interviews for the vacancy. – The Board of Education appointed Ms. Sheryl Norton to the position of cleaner. Salary for Ms. Norton will be \$10/hour. She will be eligible for benefits as outlined in the Terms of Conditions of Employment established for the cleaning staff. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 5-0

***9.11 Non-Resident Tuition Request** – The District has received a correspondence requesting the Board of Education grant permission allowing a non-resident student to attend Hartford on a tuition paying basis. The correspondence is in your packet. – Motion to table for executive session was made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

***9.12 Appointment of Foreign Language Teacher** – The Board of Education appointed Mrs. Elizabeth Emblidge to a three year probationary appointment in the certification and tenure area of secondary foreign language. The appointment is to be effective September 1, 2010 and terminate on August 31, 2013. Salary for Mrs. Emblidge will be based on Step 2 (\$36,445) with 31 graduate hours (\$1,550) for an annual salary of \$37,995. 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 Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0 at 7:40 pm.

On a motion from Mr. Jessen seconded by Mrs. Thomas 5-0 vote the Board returned from Executive Session at 8:30 pm. Mr. Getty indicated the Board discussed a specific student issue and one personnel issue. Board took up the issue of item 9.11 Non-resident tuition student. – The Board of Education un-tabled items. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

***9.11 Non-Resident Tuition Request** – The Board of Education granted the request Mr. and Mrs. Terry Merithew to allow their son Tristan to attend second grade as a non-resident tuition paying student. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

11.0 Adjournment – Mr. Getty indicated while in Executive Session, the Board of Education discussed issues related to specific student issues and issues associated with negotiations. No additional business conducted. Board adjourned at 8:33 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk