

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 January 17, 2011

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

Board Members Absent: – None

Guests: – Ms. Harke, Ms. Poirier, Mrs. Chalen Lathrop and her husband.

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

2.0 Prayer – Mr. Fish

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

3.1 Public to be Heard

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the December 20, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes of the December 20, 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 approved the financial reports. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

6.0 Superintendent's Report

***6.1 Board of Regents Proposal for BOCES Aid** – Shortly after the November Election, I indicated to the board the new administration in Albany was planning on changing expense driven aid. Two of the biggest such areas are building aid and BOCES Aid. The Board of Regents has submitted a proposal for consideration that would fundamentally change how BOCES aid is calculated. On page two of the recommendation is a chart that lists schools as A, B, or C. Hartford would be a B school on the list. Under the Regents proposal, the aid ratio would actually improve for Hartford.

I am not sure this proposal would bring about the savings the Governor would need to see, nor am I sure the Governor will give the proposal serious consideration. (I cannot remember a time when a governor has agreed with aid proposals coming from the Board of Regents or the State Education Department.

***6.2 Letter From And To Betty Little** – This letter is a response to my communication regarding the unfunded mandate related to Districts being asked to fund the costs associated with the new assessment correcting. The letter enclosed is actually from SED explaining their position on several items that Senator Little had inquiries on.

Unfortunately, the SED response does not address the issue of unfunded mandates. What the department states is, they were responding to a recommendation from the State Comptroller's Office on how to use BOCES as the most cost effective way to pass costs on to the local districts. Two comments: (a) the recommendations from the Comptroller's Office are just that, recommendations and are in response to irregularities in grading coming out of NYC and the other large city districts. As a recommendation, it does not have to be adopted. (b) Cost effectiveness and BOCES are an oxymoron.

I have also enclosed, for your perusal, a copy of my response to her letter.

I received a follow-up phone call from an aide to the Senator's Office to discuss my letter. The Aide indicated the Senator understands my position and supports. The aide indicated the senator believes the push by SED to bill schools for regent exams and for correcting is an attempt to get more money from the state legislature, which will not be forthcoming.

The aide was not aware that the Chief Counsel to the Commissioner who wrote the initial response and is pushing for BOCES to be the conduit for correcting was a former District Superintendent for the BOCES that will benefit from the correcting. It will be interesting if Senator Little's participation on a committee that will be reviewing state mandates will be effective.

6.3 Town Committee for Disaster Preparedness – I have been asked by the Town Supervisor to be a member of a town committee that will review and revise the Town of Hartford's Disaster Preparedness Plan. In the original plan the school would be used as location for displaced individuals. As I indicated to the Supervisor, this would not be a problem unless the area lost power because the school does not have a generator to get our systems running. This is a concern that could be addressed in the revised plan.

6.4 Participation in Efficiency Study – The Fort Ann School District is coordinating an effort for an Administrative Efficiency Study and the Superintendent called to ascertain Hartford's willingness to participate.

The study is not an effort to look at consolidation, but to study ways in which Districts can better utilize their administration. There is a cost of \$2,000 to participate in the co-ser so I did not commit until I had the opportunity to discuss this with the board. Mrs. Thomas thought that Mr. Abraham should look into it, Mr. Jessen thought that Mr. Abraham should not commit.

***6.5 Informational Packet** – There are a few items for your review this month.

Item #1 – Tanager Times – This is a copy of the High School Newsletter.

Item #2 – Legal Notes for Education

Item #3 – School Law Bulletin

Item #4 – Commissioner's Decisions – There were eleven appeals brought before the commissioner since our last board meeting: three on student discipline, three dealing with district elections, one for employee discipline, one on employee seniority, two on residency, and two on immunization. Of the eleven appeals, only one (student discipline) was sustained.

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

7.0 Principals' Reports

7.1 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix – Junior Achievement is under way (or finished) in most grade levels K-5. I just completed Mr. MacDougall's first grade class talking about *Our Families*: how family members help each other, wants and needs, how learning skills and holding a job pays for our wants and needs, and different jobs that people do. I would like to thank Jennifer Lawrence, Shelley Dupuis and Sue Brown for their time and assistance in interviewing 7 candidates to fill our 2 maternity leave positions. As you can see, we have recommended 2 individuals to Tom. On January 6th, Sue Eckert from SED visited the special education office to review data. I am pleased to announce that the students' folders in question did contain all of the appropriate

documentation. Now we are working hard to maintain compliance for preschool special education timelines. At our January 10th Faculty Meeting, teachers (K-2) shared their experience in Fort Edward discussing the new Common Core Standards. The day was beneficial to all who attended and provided teachers with information defining the differences between NYS Math Standards and Common Core Math Standards. Participants also had the opportunity to meet with teachers from other districts in their same grade level to discuss curriculum changes that will need to be made (minimal for *Saxon Math* users). Winter Enrichment: 5-week courses have started for students in grades 3-6. Up-Coming Events: January 19th - SCAT Testing (School and College Abilities Test) to determine eligibility for participation in the Young Scholars Program. January 21st - QIP Meeting with Sally McGuirk to discuss activities in place and February walk-through; Professional Development Training on integrating Specially Designed Instruction, Co-teaching and co-assessment of students, writing and progress monitoring of annual IEP goals. February 2nd (K-2) and 3rd (3-5): Parents' Breakfast starting at 7:30. Approximately, February 12th: 100th Day of School.

7.2 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook – December 22nd we held an “Active Shooter Drill” with the Washington County Sheriffs Office. I would like to thank: Mrs. Harrington, Mr. Whitney, and Ms. Stewart for volunteering to play the “bad guys” with myself. The FFA is organizing the Hartford CSD “Team Up to Fight Hunger” campaign. The organization has come up with a couple of great ideas to help Hartford beat the other area schools. January 11th we administered the revised English 11 Regents. Next week the MS/HS will be conducting Regents and mid-term examinations. The NHS/NJHS inductions will be Feb. 2 and 3. 12 applications were handed out for NHS and 27 for NJHS. The NHS is continuing their Positive Trend project. They are bringing positive energy to the school by creating bulletin boards about things people care about, providing fun riddles on the morning announcements, creating a badminton tournaments, and bringing in guest speakers. The 2nd quarter ends in January.

8.0 Old Business

***8.1 Second Reading of Revised Board of Education Policy #700 – Transportation** – The first reading was approved in December without further revisions being made. – The Board of Education approved the second reading of the revised policy. Once approved, the policy will replace the existing policy. 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 consideration this month. As always, should there be a question or questions regarding any of the recommendations the item in question 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 Extra-Curricular Appointment – Modified Girl’s Softball Coach** – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Mike MacDougall to the position of Modified Girl’s Softball Coach for the 2010-11 School Year. Stipend will be per Contract of Agreement. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

***9.3 Appointment – Long-term Substitute – Fifth Grade** – Earlier this year, the Board of Education granted a leave under the terms of the Family Medical Leave Act to Mrs. Gwynne Cosh. Mrs. Mannix conducted extensive interviews on January 5th and has forwarded a recommendation to me. – The Board of Education appointed Ms. Chalen Lathrop as a long-term substitute to fill the leave of absence of Mrs. Gwynne Cosh. Ms. Lathrop’s appointment will commence on or about January 31, 2011 and terminate on or about April 15th or upon the return of Mrs. Cosh. Salary for Ms. Lathrop will be \$37,048 (Step 1 plus Masters Degree) prorated to reflect her stay in the District. (*The board should note the step placement is due to the leave of absence extending beyond forty days*). Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.4 Appointment – Elementary Substitute – Second Grade** – This appointment is due to the absence of Mrs. Christina Talmadge under FMLA. As with the above appointment, Mrs. Mannix conducted

interviews and has forwarded a recommendation to me. – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Jonathan Dillon as an elementary substitute to fill the leave of Mrs. Christina Talmadge. The leave will commence on or about March 14, 2011 and terminate on or about April 15, 2011 or upon the return of Mrs. Talmadge. The rate of pay will be per diem (\$85/day) due to the leave being less than 40 days. Please note, should there be unforeseen circumstances that would cause the leave to extend beyond 40 days, Mr. Dillon would be moved to step one retro-active to his start date. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.5 Excess Surplus Property – School Tractor** – At the end of last year, the Board of Education authorized the purchase of a new tractor for mowing and snow removal. With the addition of this new tractor the old Mitsubishi tractor (dating back to approximately 1980) can be designated as excess surplus property. The specifications of the tractor are: Mitsubishi MT160D with four wheel drive and a three speed standard transmission. It comes with a front loader and plow blade. – The Board of Education declared the Mitsubishi MT160D as excess surplus property and authorize the Superintendent to accept bids in order to sell the tractor. 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 matters. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 5-0 at 7:25 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – Board returned to open session at 7:40 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen second by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty announced the board discussed issues related to personnel matters. No further action taken by the board. Board adjourned at 7:42 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk