

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 21, 2011

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

Board Members Absent: – none

Guests: – Sean Farley, Mr. White, Merchy Barnard, Mrs. Combs, Mrs. Lewis and Charissa, Mrs. Dupuis, Mrs. Eastman, Christina Eastman, Alison Parrott, Ms. Stewart and students from Mr. Farley's class

1.0 Call to Order/Pledge – Mr. Getty

2.0 Prayer – Mr. Fish

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty – 7:03 pm Mr. Getty asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion made by Mr. Fish and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0. Mr. Farley asked if he could be a part of the discussions. Mr. Abraham said he could in a few minutes. Board returned to open session at 7:20 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0.

3.1 Student Recognition – I am pleased to announce that Charissa Lewis has been selected to receive the 2011-12 Daughters of The American Revolution Good Citizen.

3.2 Special Presentation from Spud Run – Each year as a result of the Spud Run, Mr. Jessen makes a presentation to the Senior Class. He has asked to make the presentation this evening to a representative from the senior class. Mr. Jessen shared with the board that the Spud Run has been "running" for the last 26 years. It was first sponsored by the Mr. Calhoun, who owned the IGA in Hartford. Throughout the years the Spud Run has raised almost \$14,000 for the Senior Classes. This year the race was able to donate \$300 plus a sponsored donation from the Stewarts Shop.

3.3 Public to be Heard – Mrs. Combs wanted to know if the school had received and deposited the \$50,000 from the County in regards to the Land fill and what was the school going to do with the monies. Mr. Abraham said that it was going to be deposited into the General Fund as unanticipated revenue. Mrs. Combs also relayed a rumor that she had heard regarding a bus driver. Mr. Abraham said that he would look into it. And the third item by Mrs. Combs was, did Mr. Abraham know when the negotiations would be starting and were the same members from the board still on the panel. Mr. Abraham said that yes, the same members from the board were still on the panel and that he wanted to reassure her that any tentative contracts always were reviewed and discussed in great detail with the entire board of education before any agreement is put up for vote.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the October 17, 2011 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the October 17, 2011 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 approved the financial reports. Mr. Getty had a question regarding School Tax Overpayment. Mrs. Searles explained why these payments were made to Mr. Getty's satisfaction. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

***5.4 Student Activity Account** – No Action needed.

6.0 Superintendent's Report

***6.1 Electronic Voting Machines** – Effective December 31, 2012, lever action voting machines will no longer be allowed to be the primary source for the voting public for school budget/board of education elections. The first election to be electronic will be the May 2013 election and vote.

Districts will have two choices regarding the process: (a) purchase an electronic voting machine or (b) contact the Washington County Board of Elections and use a county machine. Using the county's equipment will require the district to pay for shipment, maintenance, return transport and all the scan sheets associated with the election. While the lever machines apparently are not to be the primary source, they can be used as backup should the electronic system fail (makes no sense to me).

I will be doing a cost estimate for the board for the December meeting since this will impact next year's school budget.

***6.2 Computer Driven Assessments** – As you can see from the enclosed State Education Department Memo, Dave Abrams is proposing that beginning in June 2014, all state assessments (regent exams) be taken electronically. The proposal is being made to increase testing security. (Apparently he has not heard how good students can be regarding hacking).

While I understand the proposal, he fails to take one concept into his proposal and that is if the state limits to one test per testing block there is no problem, however, if they have three or more exams in a testing time block, most small schools do not have the capacity to deliver that many tests. Maybe he is holding out hope that by June 2014, there won't be any small schools left.

***6.3 informational Packet** – There are several items for your review this month.

Item #1 – Legal Notes for Education

Item #2 – School Law Bulletin

Item #3 – Understanding New York's Tax Levy Cap – This item is a very brief summary of the regulations regarding the tax cap.

Item #4 – NYSIR Newsletter – This is the newsletter from the New York State Insurance Reciprocal.

Item #5 – Senate Panel Rewrites NCLB – The revision of the NCLB Regulations has passed its first hurdle by clearing a senate committee panel's recommendations. The recommendations are significant in that they pretty much do away with federal interference in local school districts.

Should the legislation pass the full Senate and the House of Representatives, it will replace the current NCLB Regulations. The proposal maintains the testing requirement for ELA and math for grades 3-8, but eliminates the requirement of using assessment scores to evaluate schools and teachers.

The proposed legislation was developed in response to President Obama allowing states to apply for waivers on NCLB, which congress believes is an overreach of his responsibilities and role.

Item #6 – Letter to the State Education Department on External Audit – As required by regulations, I submitted a written response to the External Audit Management Letter. It is enclosed for your review.

Item #7- Commissioner’s Decision #16304 – At the October Board Meeting, this decision was not printed in its entirety. Therefore, I have enclosed the completed copy of the resolution.

Item #8 – Remaining Commissioner’s Decisions.

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

7.0 Principals’ Reports

***7.1 Secondary Report** – Mr. Cook - It has been an extremely busy month at the Middle/High School. I would first like to congratulate all our Fall Sport participants. All teams represented the District well and had very successful seasons. Our varsity soccer team made it to the sectional semi-finals but lost to Fort Ann who was a state semi-finalist. Our varsity volleyball team was perhaps the most successful team Hartford has fielded: they were a scholar athlete-team, the Co-Champions of the Adirondack League, Section II Champions, Regional Champions, and a state semi-finalist. It has been wonderful to see the school and community band together to support the team and Coach Rex Ryan. On Monday, November 14th, the Math Team competed in the first meet of the Washington-Warren-Saratoga Math League. 22 students went to South Glens Falls that night and, at this point, they are in 5th place within the league. We had 4 students with top scores who helped out our team score immensely, Ethan Farley, Sarah Godnick, Cameron Farley and Kurt Clauder. The Hartford High School & Junior High FFA attended a Farm Tour on Saturday, October 29th. 22 students attended the tour which included tours of the Battenkill Veterinary Equine Facility, The Ice Cream Man & Allen-Waite Dairy Farm. 18 FFA students attended the District 3 FFA Meeting on Friday, November 4th, at the South Queensbury firehouse followed by the Adirondack Stampede Charity Rodeo. Over 100 students attended this event from District 3 which stretches from Schuylerville Central School all the way up to Northern Adirondack Central School. We are currently in the middle of our FFA Fruit Sale, see any FFA member to order your fruit which comes in December 14th. Thank you to Mrs. Dougher and the following students for their work at the area All-County on November 3rd and 4th in Lake George: **Elementary:** Raegan Thorpe, Sophia Olsen, Jared Nix, Austin Sessleman, Austin Mandingo, Janice Whiting, Abby Robbins, Rachel Yattaw, Samantha Whitney and (Patricia Fioretti was sick) **Junior High:** Abby Roy, Brianna Getty, Bianca Martin, Kurt Clauder, Michael Whitney **Sr. High:** Tyler King, Jake Whiting, Katie Fry, Rebecca Clauder, Thomas Yarter and (Hannah Clearwater - participated Friday night, but was in the ER on Sat.). The 6th grade had two special guest speakers to discuss WWII and Holocaust: Darrell Robins who was in Germany during WWII for job training and Christian Chaney's grandmother, Trudy, who was a child in Germany during the Holocaust. Thank you to Ms. Stoddard for organizing our "Homecoming Event" which was held on Saturday, November 5th. The annual 6th grade Pig-Roast was held on Friday, November 18th - thank you to Mrs. Burch and Ms. Harke for all their hard work organizing this event for the students and their families. Winter Sports have started and our first basketball games will be held on November 30th and December 1st in Hartford. Some interesting statistics: 40% of Juniors and Seniors are participating in A.P. or College-Level courses. 50% of students in grades 6-12 made the academic honor list from the Quarter 1 grades. Turkey Trot – 33 student participants. Thank you to Andrew Capone for organizing and everyone who donated to the event and those who participated: Mrs. Cosh, Ms. Donahue, Mrs. Chadwick and Mrs. Pollack.

7.2 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix - The first graders have just completed a science unit on weather. Over the past several weeks, Mother Nature helped Mrs. Thomas to present numerous hands-on lessons about the weather. Students learned to read a thermometer, make predictions about the weather, and compare their predictions to the meteorologists on television. The first graders also made rain gauges and monitored and graphed the rainfall. They learned how the weather in Hartford is very different from the weather in other parts of the world. Students were most excited when their weather predictions were correct. The PTA is very proud to award a donation of \$325.00 to the Art Department. This donation is the proceeds from a PTA sponsored fundraiser held this school year. We hope this donation will help you purchase whatever education tools you require. Third grade students just finished using the Rocks and Minerals Science Kit. Students had the opportunity to explore different types of rocks and minerals by their luster, hardness, weight and color. Students also listened to descriptive details to identify rocks and minerals by specific characteristics. In Social Studies students are learning about the seven continents, longitude and latitude lines as well as the equator. The first continent to explore in depth is close to home: North America. Students are learning about different cultures and traditions with in Canada, United States and Mexico. Third grade student have been working on preparation for the NYS ELA and Math test as we use practice test and

both the reading series and Math series to help students with specific skills. Third grade has had two students' writing, published in the Chronicle: Jacob Fish and Abby Monroe. The following students ran in the Spud Run Kids 1 mile race Lauren Wicks, Kayleigh Wade, Cassie Wade, Jason Wade, Lucas Casey, Reid Robbins, Jacob Fish and Kyle Eastman ran in the 5k race. Native American Presentation November 14, 2011 Old Fort House Museum Elizabeth O'Leary, of the Fort Edward Historical Association, visited the 4th grade classrooms to share information about Native Americans from our area. She gave a quick overview about Native Americans, read a story and shared actual artifacts with the students. The Pre-K classes have completed the September Apple theme. We did so many fun and educational activities with apples. Apple bar graphs, apple taste testing, apple songs and poems, apple math and science activities, apple crafts and even apple seed planting has kept us very busy. We went on a worm hunt and counted the number of worms we found. We also read a story called *Diary of a Worm*, we even made our own worm habitat. Now with the arrival of fall, we will be working on the beautiful colors of autumn and especially pumpkins. The PTA donated 10 pumpkins to Mr. MacDougall's first grade class. First, the students charted the number of seeds on a hundreds chart and later enjoyed roasted pumpkin seeds as a treat. Then the class took the largest pumpkin and carved it into a jack-o-lantern. The students wrote about the process of turning a pumpkin into a jack-o-lantern. Finally, the students wrote thank you letters to the PTA for helping with the project. First Grade Thanksgiving Feast – Thirty-seven Pilgrim and Indian first graders gathered in Mrs. Thomas' classroom to enjoy a feast on Monday, November 21st. Prior to enjoying the meal, everyone took a turn saying what they were thankful for. Family, friends, pets, freedom and toys were many of the things the first graders were most thankful for. Turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce, rolls and apple cider was served. Apple pie or pumpkin pie was given for dessert. Tuesday's Young Scholars - class has read an extended on-act play by Hart Robberson, IV, entitled *Into Little Pieces*, about a mother and her daughters in 1850 California. They have chosen this drama as the subject of their fall video, and script adaptation has already begun. They have also read an excerpt from *The Notebook* by Paul Gaugin, and written persuasive essays about it. They have discussed questions in science involving time and space, including exoplanets, relative space/time, time paradoxes and light speed. The discussion also included alternate rocket fuels, and how humans might react to true extraterrestrial civilizations they might chance to explore.

8.0 Old Business – No Old Business to Conduct

9.0 New Business

- *9.1 CPSE/CSE Committee Recommendations** – There are a few recommendations for your consideration this month. As required, should there be a question regarding any of the recommendation, that item or items should be tabled until executive session. – The Board of Education accepted the recommendations from the CPSE/CSE Committee. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.2 Resignation – Technician** – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mr. Nick Williams as the school's technician effective October 27, 2011. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.3 Termination of Probationary Appointment** – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mr. Steven Frampton effective December 31, 2011. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- *9.4 Overnight Fieldtrip Request** – The foreign language club has submitted a request for an overnight fieldtrip. The trip would occur April 5-April 13, 2012 and be to Costa Rica. Students would be responsible for funding their own trip. The actual number of students and actual chaperones will be submitted to the board prior to the trip. This is actually a preliminary request/overview. – The Board of Education approved the request of the foreign language club to travel to Costa Rica during the period of April 5-13, 2012. The approval is contingent upon all required procedures and policies being followed and adhered to. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.5 Approval of Hartford Varsity H Athletic Scholarship Organization Procedure** – As the board is aware, the Varsity H awards scholarships for athletic sports camps and summer leagues. Funds that

are used come from the vending machines maintained by Varsity H. The organization has submitted a formal process of procedures to govern the distribution of the funds. Only one reading is necessary. – The Board of Education approved the procedures to govern the Athletic Scholarships from the Varsity H. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.6 Excess Surplus Property** – Mr. Rogers has submitted the attached memo for your review and consideration. As you can see, he believes Bus #60 should be declared as excess surplus property because the cost of repairs to the vehicle would exceed the value. In addition, the bus has been out of service since October 20th. – The Board of Education declared Bus #60 as excess surplus property and authorized the superintendent to advertise for bids on the bus. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

***9.7 Appointment of Volunteer Coach – Modified Basketball** – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Sean Farley as an unpaid volunteer assistant modified basketball coach for the 2011-12 Season. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0

10.0 Executive Session – Recommend the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0 at 8:14 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – Board returned to open session at 9:04 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty indicated the board had discussed specific personnel and negotiation issues. No further action taken by the board. Board adjourned at 9:05 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk