

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 April 11, 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:** – Mr. Farley and members of Mr. Farley's history class, 10 members of the community, Mrs. Combs, Mr. and Mrs. Keeley, Mrs. Lawrence.

**1.0 Call to Order** – Mr. Brian Getty, Board of Education President at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**2.0 Prayer** – Mr. Getty

**3.0 Welcome** – Mr. Getty

**3.1 Public to be Heard** – Mrs. Combs wanted to know what the school was going to do with the \$21,000 extra monies the state was saying they would release. Mr. Abraham said that he would address that when he gave the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Farley addressed the audience and the BOE saying that he was proud of the BOE and the Superintendent for their cooperation in coming to an agreement with the teachers.

**4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes**

**\*4.1 Minutes from the March 21, 2011 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes of the March 21, 2011 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

**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 as presented.

**\*5.4 Budget Summary** – This summary was presented for your review and inquiry. – No Action Necessary.

**\*5.5 Student Activity Account – Quarterly Report** – This report was presented for your review and inquiry. – No Action Necessary.

**6.0 Superintendent's Report**

**\*6.1 Changes in State Budget and Aid to Education** – As everyone is aware, New York State has an on-time budget for the first time in several years. Negotiations for the budget deal resulted in approximately \$270 million being added to the budget for aid to education. Most of the appropriated funds went to downstate and Long Island. For Hartford there was a slight increase in the amount we are scheduled to receive. Depending on the formula used, we will receive approximately \$21,000 more than we originally calculated. However, due to State Education Department audits of previous years' aid, I would not recommend contemplating using the funds to further adjust next year's budget.

I have also included for your review an article from the Syracuse Newspaper clearly indicating that districts are not getting the amount of aid that the runs seem to indicate on the surface.

**\*6.2 State Education Department Nutrition Audit – Final Report** - As I mentioned last month, the State Education Department conducted a nutrition audit of our cafeteria operations. A copy of the findings can be found in your packet along with the required response.

**\*6.3 Information Packet** – There are a number of items in your packet this month.

**Item #1 – School Law Bulletin**

**Item #2 – BOCES Fiscal Plan**

**Item #3 – Legal Notes for Education**

**Item #4 – Article on Class Size**

**Item #5 – Teacher Registry Rates for 2011-12** – This is a copy of the official notification that the amount charged Hartford for participation in the registry will be reduced by 13.56%.

**Item #6 – Letter from BOCES To Hartford Student** – This is a copy of the letter from Terry Blanchfield to Patrick DeLa Cruz thanking him for participating in the BOCES presentation at the March Board of Education meeting.

**Item #7 – Change In Assignments** – Due to a run elimination, there were changes in route assignments at the bus garage. The enclosure will explain who went where.

**Item #8 – Information from NERIC** – The enclosed e-mail explains the process regarding the billing procedures for districts for the upcoming regent exams. We do have the option of buying all of the equipment associated with scanning and transmission, but I would not advise following that option until the state determines exactly what is going to happen to regent exams.

**Item #9 – News from the Hill** – This is a Capitol newspaper article that discusses the reauthorization of NCLB. Even though the legislation regarding the law has expired and needs to be reauthorized, you can see the committee chair is in no hurry to get the changes done because he does not want the president to take credit for the needed changes.

**Item #10 – Commissioner's Decisions** – For the second month in a row the commissioner has not sustained an appeal. There were seventeen appeals heard by this commissioner dealing with transportation, referendums, student discipline and residency. All seventeen appeals were dismissed. There is definitely a different approach being taken by this commissioner.

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

### **7.0 Principals' Reports**

**7.1 Secondary Report** – Mr. Cook – The third quarter officially ended on April 1<sup>st</sup>. As a result of third quarter grades, 118 students qualified for an academic honor; including 36 students on principal's select - overall GPA of 94.5 or higher. March 25<sup>th</sup> was the annual Senior-Class play. I would like to congratulate the senior class on a wonderful production. Also, a big thank you to Ms. McGuirk and Ms. Miner for all their help in directing and organizing the event. March 26<sup>th</sup> was the "Tip-A-Teacher" fundraiser at Chicago Pizzeria Uno, at this event, members of the faculty served as the wait-staff and all tips and 20% of the bill went to scholarships. Aside from the poor service, the event was a huge success and I would to publically thank everyone that was involved. April 6<sup>th</sup> professional MMA fighter Tom Murphy visited the Middle/High School and conducted a presentation focusing on anti-bullying efforts. I would like to thank Ms. Stewart and the FFA for helping sponsor this event. A committee of parents has asked for my help in organizing a "Post-Prom" event. The highlight of the event would be a large laser-tag event held at the school. The Adirondack League baseball and softball schedule has been altered due to the unpredictable weather. League games will be starting after spring-break and we will only play each team in the league once. Upcoming Events: Tomorrow, is our Middle School "Strive-4-Five" event. 89 students qualified to attend. Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> is the Jr./Sr. Band and Chorus Concert - 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> is the Language Fair - 4 - 6:30p.m. Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> is the Prom-crash simulation drill at Fort Ann. State Testing: Middle School ELA and Math State Testing begin the first week in May.

**7.2 Elementary Report** – Mrs. Mannix – Bus Riders of the Month for March. Week of March 28<sup>th</sup>: Ag Literacy Week - students came to the elementary classes and read *Chicks and Chickens*. Chronicle articles: Nick

Mattison (grade 3) wrote about the best pet he ever had. Brendan Petit (grade 4) wrote about someone he has known for a long time. Alicen Barker (grade 4) wrote about her brother being in Korea. Ms. Donohue's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students nominated her for teacher of the week at the end of March. Abigail Robbins, 5<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the Barnes and Noble essay contest recently. April 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: Beth Bidwell did a FREE presentation on *Birds of Prey*. This event was free due to funding by Stewart's Shops. April 8<sup>th</sup> PARP ending assembly. April 10-16<sup>th</sup> is National Volunteer Week: Thank you to all who volunteer at the school, as well as the BOE members. May 4-6 Grades 3-8 ELA State Testing; May 11-13 Grades 3-8 Math State Testing (note some changes). Date change: Tanager Concert and recorders is moved from May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. May 24<sup>th</sup>: Bike Rodeo grades 2-5. We need bikes! June 1<sup>st</sup>: Kindergarten Round-Up. Saxon Math: I have received information on how Saxon Math correlates to Common Core Standards. They will be supplying us with extension lessons where necessary. Final Closing Assembly for PARP: PARP highlights TOTALS: 237 students in Pk-5<sup>th</sup> grade, 191 read for some of PARP, 125 read for ALL 4 WEEKS. Mrs. Mobley's class and Mrs. Stewart's AM class earned pizza parties for reaching their reading goal and scoring a goal every week! Congratulations to those two classes!!!! We had 23 Middle High School Students read with 35 elementary students. Thank you for sharing your reading talent. Tug of war: Middle/High went first since they need to go back to class.

## **8.0 Old Business** – No Old Business to Conduct

## **9.0 New Business**

- \*9.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations** – With Annual Reviews underway, there are several recommendations for your consideration this month. As always if there are any questions regarding a particular recommendation, the item 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 Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- \*9.2 Appointment of Pre-K Teacher** – Last month, the Board of Education accepted the retirement resignation of Mrs. Mary Stewart. As I indicated at the time, the position would be filled internally. – The Board of Education appointed Mrs. Allison Ward to the position of Pre-K Teacher beginning in the 2011-12 School Year. Due to Mrs. Ward's certification and time in the District, seniority, tenure and salary placement will be unaffected by the transfer. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- \*9.3 Appointment of Poll Clerks** – With the upcoming budget vote, it is necessary for the board to appoint poll clerks for the process. – The Board of Education appointed the following individuals as poll clerks for the May 2011 Budget Vote and Board of Education Election: **Becky Arlen, Ginny Robbins, Donna Burch, Karen Harrington, Diane Mercure and Marjorie Durling**. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- \*9.4 Approval of Transportation Requests** – The District has received two transportation requests that comply with Board of Education Policy and therefore can be acted on by the board. – The Board of Education approved the request of Mrs. Lori Franchini to provide transportation for her son Joseph K. Franchini to St. Mary's St. Alphonsus for the 2011-12 School Year. In addition, it is recommended the board approve the request of Mrs. Marguerite Cosey to provide transportation for her son Lucas Bannon to Truthville Christian Academy for the 2011-12 School Year. Motion made by Mr. Fish and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- \*9.5 Appointment of Teaching Assistant/CIO** – With the retirement of Mrs. Charlene Whitney, it is necessary to appoint a replacement for her. Due to the nature of Mrs. Whitney's position, we have been providing training to an individual over the past year in order to allow for a smooth transition. – The Board of Education appointed Mrs. Darlene McCane to a three-year probationary appointment effective July 1, 2011 and terminating on June 30, 2014. The salary for Mrs. McCane will be \$16,640. Please note, due to her responsibilities as CIO, Mrs. McCain will work during the summer as needed on a per diem rate. Motion made by Mr. Fish and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0

**\*9.6 Non-Resident Student Request** – Per Board of Education Policy, non-resident employees have the ability to request approval for their children to attend Hartford at without paying tuition. We have received such a request for the 2011-12 School Year – The Board of Education granted the request of Mrs. Melissa Hemsing to allow her son Joshua to attend third grade for the 2011-12 School Year. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

**\*9.7 Overnight Fieldtrip Request** – The FFA has submitted a request to attend the New York State Convention held at Cobleskill May 5-6. The fieldtrip is an integral part of the Agricultural Program Curriculum. The Board of Education approved the field-trip request of the FFA contingent upon compliance with all Board of Education policies and procedures related to overnight fieldtrips. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

**\*9.8 Memorandum of Agreement** – Recommend we discuss this in Executive Session prior to approving.

**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 7:45 pm.

**11.0 Adjournment** – Board returned to open session at 8:09 pm on a motion from Mrs. Thomas second by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty announced the board discussed specific personnel issues and matters pertaining to litigation.

**\*9.8 Memorandum of Agreement** – The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to sign and implement the Memorandum of Agreement with the Hartford Faculty Association. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

No further action taken by the board. Board adjourned at 8:10 pm on a motion from Mrs. Thomas seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marjorie M. Durling  
District Clerk