

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 15, 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, Phil Gibson, Shelly Dupuis, Mr. and Mrs. Bowen, Jessica Louire, Amy Thomas, Karen Knoll

**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**

**4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes**

**\*4.1 Minutes from the July 11, 2011 Re-Organizational Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the Re-Organizational Meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0

**\*4.2 Minutes from the July 11, 2011 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the July 11, 2011 Regular Board of Education 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. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish Approved 5-0

**\*5.4 Interest from Student Activity Account** – The student activity account interest for the 2010-11 School Year amounts to \$642.93. It is obvious interest rates are low and not generating as much as we did two or three years ago. – The Board of Education divided the interest in the following manner: \$50 to the Elementary Student Government, \$50 to the Middle School Student Government, \$100 to the High School Student Government, and \$442.93 to the Yearbook. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Fish Approved 5-0

**6.0 Superintendent's Report**

**6.1 The Hidden Cost of APPR** – As the board is aware; the State Education Department promulgated new regulations regarding the evaluation of teachers and administrators. The new regulations take effect this September. What the state did not inform the districts of is the hidden costs behind the new APPR program. The state sent out requests for proposals regarding specific canned programs on evaluation (e.g. The Danielson Model). The Department has accepted four or five different

programs and Districts must choose one of the models or apply for a variance (which won't be approved). Each of the programs approved by the state carry a professional development cost that must be absorbed by the District and the costs range into the thousands of dollars.

Our BOCES is looking into whether or not the training they are operating would qualify for the work being required. If so, they must then determine if they can apply Race to the Top funds to pay for some of the materials associated with the training.

**6.2 January Regent Exams Update** – Earlier this spring, the Board of Regents/State Education Department eliminated the Proficiency Exam in Foreign Language, the Regent Exam in Foreign Language and all January Regent Exams. They took these steps without anticipating the problems they would create. For example without the proficiency exam, there is no way for a district to monitor a student's progress toward Checkpoint A, with the end of the Regent Exam in Foreign Language, there is no way to monitor Checkpoint B. The end of the January Regent exams creates a different problem. Many schools are in a semester alignment which necessitated giving the Regent Exam in January. Without the January Regent Exams, students have to wait until June to take a final for a course that ended in January – not educational sound.

The Department has been discussing the issue of re-establishing January Regent Exams, but at a cost to the Districts. This is still under some discussion, but again demonstrates the complete incompetence of the Department in the decision making process.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, it was announced that Mayor Bloomberg and the NYC Chancellor has secured \$1.5 million in private donations to fund the January Regent Exams. In actuality, six people coughed up \$250,000 each to make the donations. The tests are back in for now as the department tries to find a long-term solution to the testing dilemma.

**6.3 Final Resolution to Hudson Falls/Hartford Property Issue** – During the 2009-10 School Year Hartford was made aware of a property issue regarding a parcel of land erroneously assigned to the Hudson Falls School District. The county assessor admitted the property should have been assigned to Hartford, but was assigned to Hudson Falls. Both boards had to pass resolutions requesting the property be assigned to Hartford. The resolutions were forwarded to the Interim District Superintendent, Charles Dedrick. The DS reviewed the information presented and submitted a request to the Office of New York State Real Property to correct the situation. I am pleased to announce the issue has been resolved and the property in question has been transferred to the Hartford Tax Rolls.

**\*6.4 Informational Packet** – There are a number of items for your review this month.

**Item #1 – School Law Bulletin (2)**

**Item #2 – Medical Update on Regent Dawson** – Regent Dawson has undergone medical treatment for some serious issues. He has issued a statement regarding his condition and progress in recovery.

**Item #3 – Adirondack Area School Boards Association Calendar of Events** – Enclosed in your packet is the announcement from AASBA listing all of the dates for this year's meetings. As you can see the first meeting is scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars for the dates listed. In addition you will notice they are changing the meal format for these meetings to be a light buffet to reduce costs to districts.

**Item #4 – Legal Notes for Education**

**Item #5 – Editorial on Grading of Teachers**

**Item #6 – NY Times Article** – The article reviews the legal case pending regarding the new evaluation process established within the state by the Board of Regents. Interesting enough, the author believes the lawsuit will prevail.

**Item #7 – Commissioner's Decisions** – There were 13 appeals brought before the commissioner. Of the appeals brought to the commissioner, two were sustained, which I have included in your packet. I have also included an appeal that was dismissed, but I thought you might be interested in because it pertains to preferred eligibility and termination.

**Item #8 – Landfill Article** – This is an article from the Post Star regarding the controversy on the Hartford Landfill. Take note we are not mentioned in the article, which is fine with me.

**Item #9 – Middle School Assessment Results** – Here are the preliminary numbers on the Middle School Assessments in ELA and Math. As you can see, for the most part, there was improvement in the percentage of students reaching proficiency.

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

### **7.0 Principals' Reports**

**7.1 Secondary Report** – Mr. Cook – Fall sports (soccer and volleyball) begin next week, Monday August 22<sup>nd</sup>; The 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>; I would like to thank Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Bryant and Mrs. Dupuis for all their help during their resume review and interview process for our vacant math position. We received a number of highly-qualified individuals and I am excited to welcome Ms. Jessica Lourie to our Middle/High School staff; Capital Region Business Review +15 points, second highest in the region; State Test Scores – the scores are not where we want them, however, comparatively speaking we did quite well; in the chart shows we went up in 5 of 6 exams and outscored many of the other schools in the county.

**7.2 Elementary Report** – Mrs. Mannix – QIP meeting 7/13 – Tom, Barbara, Andy, Beth and Sally. ICT moving into 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year. 7/14 – Training for website. Shelly will help train teachers; 7/13-7/19 Interviews for 1<sup>st</sup> grade position – 97 applicants in addition to applications on file, 31 had 3 or more certifications; 7/5-7/28 – Camp Read-a-Lot; Four week reading and writing summer program offered in July for 3 days a week Tuesday - Thursday from 9-11 40 participants on average 38 students present daily 5 teachers - Mrs. Genevick, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Babson, Mrs. Matthews, and Ms. Wordelmann, 2 Aides - Mrs. Chadwick and Mrs. Hamilton and Nurse Rock Reach Your Highest Peak at home reading challenge - Students were challenged to read as a camp for 5,344 minutes. This number represents the height of Mount Marcy, the tallest mountain in the Adirondacks. Campers read 6,009 minutes and were rewarded with a new book and smores on the last day of camp. Wednesday library visits - 239 books signed out from the library. Visit from local forest ranger and Smokey Bear. Thursday Assemblies - reading on beach towels, a book hike, reading with flashlights on the stage, and daily camp reading of *A-Z Mystery Camp Detective*

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

### **9.0 New Business**

**\*9.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations** – There are a number of recommendations for your consideration this month. As always, should there be a question regarding one or more of the recommendation, it should be tabled for discussion in Executive Session. – The Board of Education approved the recommendations from the CPSE/CSE Committee. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0

**\*9.2 Resignation – Secondary Mathematics** – Ms. Kerry Krychear has submitted her resignation as a secondary math teacher in Hartford. Ms. Krychear has been offered a position that will allow her to return to an area close to her home. – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Kerry Krychear effective August 18, 2011. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish Approved 5-0

**\*9.3 Probationary Appointment – Elementary** – When the board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Stewart this past spring, there was a chain of events that have led to some staffing changes and ultimately the need to hire an elementary teacher. Mrs. Ward moved from fourth grade to Pre-K and Mrs. Babson moved from first to fourth, which opened up a first grade position.

Mrs. Mannix conducted a series of interviews with a number of candidates and has made a recommendation to me. The candidate being recommended has certification in elementary education, secondary ELA, special education and literacy. – The Board of Education appointed Mrs. Amy Thomas to a three year probationary appointment in elementary education within the certification area of 1-6. The probationary appointment will commence on September 1, 2011 and terminate on August 31, 2014. Salary for Mrs. Thomas will be based on Step 1 (\$36,048) with a

Masters Degree (\$1,100) with forty graduate hours (\$2,400) for a total salary of \$39,548). Please note – due to the agreement with the Hartford Faculty Association, the salary listed for Step 1 will be for the time period of September 1 – January 31. As of February 1, 2012 the base step salary increases to \$36,936, which increases the annual salary to \$40,436. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish Approved 5-0

**\*9.4 Probationary Appointment – Secondary Mathematics** – With the departure of Ms. Krycheer, Mr. Cook conducted a series of interviews during the week of August 1<sup>st</sup> and has forwarded his recommendation to me. – The Board of Education appointed Ms. Jessica Lourie to a three-year probationary appointment in the tenure and certification area of Secondary Education – Mathematics. The probationary appointment will commence on September 1, 2011 and terminate on August 31, 2014. Salary for Ms. Lourie will be Step 1 (\$36,048/36,936) with 36 graduate hours (\$2,160) and a Masters Degree (\$1,100) for an annual salary of \$39,308/40,196. Please note the changes indicated represent the split salary schedule agreed to during budget negotiations. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0

**\*9.5 Appointment of CPSE/CSE Committee Members** – Each year the board must appoint the members of this particular committee. Mrs. Mannix has submitted a list of committee members for your review and action. – The Board of Education appointed the individuals listed to the CPSE/CSE Committee. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0

**\*9.6 Transportation Request** – Under SED Regulations and Commissioner’s Decision, all transportation requests related to private schools must be submitted by April 1 prior to the school year of the request unless the District is already providing transportation to the school in question. The request presented for your review and action was submitted this month, which is definitely beyond the April 1 deadline. However, the District is already providing transportation to the school in question and therefore the request will not have a budget impact. – The Board of Education approved the request of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Barrachina to provide transportation for their child to Truthville Christian Academy for the 2011-12 School Year. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish Approved 5-0

**\*9.7 First Reading – Revised Board of Education Policy #700 Transportation** – The Shared Decision Making Committee reviewed the transportation policy this past spring and recommended a further revision to the policy. The section that has been revised is in bold print in section 705-04. – The Board of Education approved the proposed revision as presented. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0

**\*9.8 Extra-curricular Activity Appointments** – There are three extra-curricular activity appointments for your consideration this month. Any stipends will be per Contract of Agreement. – The Board of Education tabled the following individuals to the positions listed:  
Rock Chadwick – Volunteer Varsity Basketball Assistant  
Louise McGuirk – Yearbook Advisor (stipend per contract of agreement)  
Louise McGuirk – Web Master (stipend per contract of agreement). Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0

**\*9.9 Setting Final Tax Levy and Authorizing Van Purchase** - Every August, the District receives the final equalization rates linked to the voter approved budget. The Board of Education is required to formally establish the tax levy at this time as well as to authorize the purchase of the van, which was approved by the voters with an affirmative vote on a transportation proposition. – The Board of Education approved a 2011-12 Tax levy of \$3,167,459 (which reflects a 0% increase over 2010-11) and authorize the purchase of a school van not to exceed \$20,000. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0

**\*9.10 Approval of APPR Template** - Under the terms of the State Regulations governing APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review), all districts are responsible for submitting a plan by September 10th (or 1st or 5th or somewhere in there). I have included a template for your review and approval. There are a couple of items that will be subject to review with the Hartford Faculty Association, but this will give the District a direction to comply with the state regulations. - The Board of Education

approved the template for APPR. 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 Mr. Fish and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0 at 7:45 pm.

**11.0 Adjournment** – Board returned to open session at 8:46 pm on a motion from Mrs. Thomas second by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty announced the board discussed personnel and student issues as well as an issue of possible litigation.

**Item of Action**

**9.8 Extra-Curricular Appointments** – Motion by Mr. Jessen second by Mrs. Steves to appoint. Approved 5-0.

Board adjourned at 8:48 pm on a motion from Mr. Fish seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marjorie M. Durling  
District Clerk