

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 16, 2012

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

Board Members Absent: – Mrs. Beth Steves, Mr. Getty was 30 minutes late (Mrs. Thomas started and finished the meeting)

Guests: – Sean Farley, Rhonda Becker, Wendy Simmons, Mrs. Combs, Mr. Smith, and the Boys' Soccer team and parents.

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge – Mrs. Thomas

2.0 Prayer – Mr. Jessen

3.0 Welcome – Mrs. Thomas

3.1 Student Recognition – A number of soccer team members received post season recognition for their efforts this past season. I would ask the following individuals come forward to receive a certificate of recognition: **First Team Adirondack League: Ethan Farley, and Shane Rogers.** **Second Team Adirondack League: Cody Palmer, and Cameron Farley.** **Third Team Adirondack League: Dylan Jones, Matt Graves, and Pat Coppens.** Also, **Post Star All Stars - First Team Shane Rogers, Honorable Mention** – Ethan Farley, Cody Palmer and Cameron Farley

3.2 Public to be Heard – Mrs. Combs asked if there was going to be Executive Session and what was going to be discussed and how the negotiations were going. Mr. Abraham said personnel issues, negotiations, and that the HFA and the Board have signed an agreement for no public discussions. A discussion ensued regarding why this would be done. Mr. Abraham relayed that this has been common practice since he has been here. Mrs. Combs wanted to know when the contract negotiations are finished will it be available for the public to see prior to the board voting on it. Mr. Abraham said that under FOIL the contract would be available.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Review and Approval of Minutes from the December 19, 2011 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the December 19, 2011 Regular Board of Education meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

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 4-0

6.0 Superintendent's Report

6.1 Congressman Gibson's Visit – On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, Congressman Chris Gibson visited Hartford Central School District. The main purpose of his visit was to tour our alternative energy

plant. In addition to the plant tour, Congressman Gibson toured our educational facilities in the Tech. Building, visited our Pre-K Program and took some time to speak with student representatives from the government class.

6.2 Health Insurance Projections for 2012-13 – As the board is aware, the Health Consortium has subsidized premium costs over the past two years. This enabled the consortium to maintain premium costs at the same level for a two year period (the consortium has subsidized approximately 11.4% of premium costs this current school year and approximately 7% from the previous year). However, when reserves are used, they tend to eventually run out. To avoid a negative balance in the near future (probably within two years), the consortium is projecting an increase in premiums for next year that will be no less than 9%. The final determination will be based on the negotiations conducted with Empire Blue Cross. There is a belief Empire will come in with a proposal around 15%, which will not be accepted.

The final increase in premiums will have a wide ranging effect not only with our line item for insurance, but on the costs associated with all of the BOCES programs we subscribe to.

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

Item #1 – School Law Bulletin (2)

Item #2 – Legal Notes for Education

Item #3 – NY Times Article – This article looks at the issues surrounding student teacher social networking.

Item #4 – Superintendent’s Evaluation Forms – In each board member’s packet is a copy of the superintendent’s evaluation form and a mailing envelope. I would ask that you file out the evaluation and mail it to Mr. Getty no later than February 1, 2012 in order that he can compile the information and review it with the superintendent.

Item #5 – Letter from State Senators – A number of NY State Senators have filed a letter with the Governor over the inequities that exist in state funding and as you can from the enclosed letter, they are requesting remediation to the issue.

Item #6 – Adirondack Area School Boards Meeting – The flyer announcing the next meeting and the agenda are enclosed. Please let my secretary know if you plan on attending so reservations can be made. I will be unable to attend because it conflicts with my teaching at Plattsburgh’s Branch Campus.

Item #7 – Commissioner’s Decisions – There were only three decisions brought before the commissioner since our last board meeting and all three were dismissed.

Item #8 – ELA and Math Testing Schedule – The state has released the spring testing schedule for ELA and Math for grades 3-8 and it is intense. Three days in a row and 90 minutes of testing for each day. When instructional techniques clearly indicate there is a need to change modalities for young students every twenty minutes in order to keep them engaged and on task, I believe the 90 minute testing without a break for the younger students will prove to be difficult to say the least.

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

7.0 Principals’ Reports

7.1 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix – 2012 SCAT testing were given to 21 students; Hartford Project Enrichment classes started and will run for 5 weeks. These classes included Strategy Games, A mixture of letters and numbers = algebra; Sew Simple; Making a Book Trailer; Spanish Traditions; Loom Knitting. Second grade students are learning all about the history of Hartford. Students are reading grade level appropriate material, looking at old photographs, and planning projects for the 100th day. As the unit progresses the students will learn about Hartford in the present and think about the future of our town. Furthermore, as part of the social studies curriculum the students will do a study on Mr. Floyd Harwood, who was such an important figure in Hartford. I will be looking for someone to come in and speak to the classes about Mr. Harwood in the near future. Sue Brown initiated that Make-a-Wish raised \$136.

7.2 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook - Regents week is fast approaching. There are a variety of new state regulations that have gone into place for the Regents exams (i.e. requires a male and female proctor if male and female students are taking an exam). Saturday, January 21st is the volleyball banquet. On January 5th and 6th,

Trooper Murphy from the NYS Police presenting to our MS/HS students on a variety of social issues: bullying, cyber-bullying, and sex-ting. In addition, on February 10th we have an under-cover Supervisor visiting the district to speak with students on the dangers of drugs. Two area Vietnam veterans, Jerry Ross (Pat Ross' husband), who served aboard an air craft carrier, and Lee Winchester, who served as an Army Sgt. over 13 men, spoke to sophomores, who recently read excerpts from "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien. 75 secondary students attended a performance of "To Kill a Mockingbird" based on the novel by Harper Lee at the Charles R. Wood Theater on Jan. 5. Six faculty/staff members volunteered to chaperone. Students covered the cost of gas. The theater received a donation and reimbursed students' \$5 admission. The sophomore class organized a Hartford Community Tubing Day at Willard Mountain Sat. Jan. 21. Tickets purchased two hours on the hill and a pizza lunch. The 30 elementary kids who signed up will be chaperoned by 8 sophomores, 5 parent volunteers & 3 teachers. The 2011 holiday helper program was successful in helping: 36 families- a total of 83 students- by providing clothes, toys, and food thanks to the help of Operation Santa Claus, the Hartford community, faculty/staff, student clubs, local parishioners, and WCKM Regional Radio. Thank you to Wendy and Tricia for their job well done. Senior Eco Forum was held last week.

8.0 Old Business

- ***8.1 Second Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy #445 – Bullying Peer Abuse in Schools** – At the December Board of Education Meeting, the board made revisions to the proposed policy to correct grammar and/or mechanics. No other changes were made. – The Board of Education approved as a second reading the proposed policy on bullying and peer abuse. Once approved, it will replace and supersede any and all other policies on this issue. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

9.0 New Business

- ***9.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations** – There are a few recommendations for your consideration this month. As always, should you have a question regarding any of the recommendations, the item in question should be tabled for discussion in Executive Session. – The Board of Education accepted the recommendations of the CPSE/CSE Committee. Motion made by Mr. Fish and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 4-0
- ***9.2 Establishment of Budget Workshops** – The budget development season is upon us and I am recommending the following dates for budget workshops: March 5, March 12, and March 26. – The Board of Education approved the dates listed as budget workshops for the development of the 2012-13 School Budget. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish with changes – no meeting in February. Approved 4-0
- ***9.3 Resolution to Participate in Cooperative Bidding with Educational Data Services** – This particular service represents several hundred schools in the state and can purchase materials and supplies at a greatly reduced cost. The guarantee is the District will at least save as much as the fee charged by the service. In essence EDS is a broker for educational supplies. The first resolution will allow the District to participate from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. By approving this resolution we will be able to access the savings for the 2012-13 School Year Budget. – The Board of Education approved the resolution for cooperative bidding through Educational Data Services for the time period of January 1, 2012-June 30, 2012. (**Voice vote required**). Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0 (Voice Vote – Mr. Fish – yes, Mr. Jessen – yes, Mr. Getty – yes, and Mrs. Thomas – yes)
- ***9.4 Resolution to Participate in Cooperative Bidding with Educational Data Services** – This second resolution with EDS will be for the period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 and allow us to access the service for the purchase of materials and supplies for the 2013-14 School Year. – That, the Board of Education approved the resolution for cooperative bidding through Educational Data Services for the time period of July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013. (**Voice vote required**). Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0 (Voice Vote – Mr. Fish – yes, Mr. Jessen – yes, Mr. Getty – yes, and Mrs. Thomas – yes)
- ***9.5 Excess Surplus Property** – The fifth grade has social studies books that are no longer relevant to the course and there has been a request from the grade level and Mrs. Mannix that the books be declared

excess surplus property and be properly disposed of. – The Board of Education declared the books listed on the enclosed memorandum as excess surplus property and authorize their proper disposal. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.6 Appointment of Literacy Specialist** – As the board is aware; Mrs. Christine Jones retired effective December 31, 2011. A decision was made to replace Mrs. Jones with a certified literacy specialist. Mrs. Mannix conducted interviews during the month of December and has made a recommendation to me. – The Board of Education appointed Ms. Rhonda Becker to position a position in the certification and tenure area of literacy. The appointment of Ms. Becker will be retro-active to January 1, 2012 and terminate on December 31, 2014. Salary for Ms. Becker will be step 1 with 36 graduate hours and a master's degree. Salary January 1-January 31 will be \$39,307 pro-rated to reflect the start date and effective February 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012 a salary of \$40,196 pro-rated to reflect the MOA with the HFA. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.7 Overnight Field-trip Request** – The FFA Advisor has submitted an overnight field-trip request for the period of February 6 and 7, 2012. The overnight field-trip would allow the officers to attend the Farm Bureau Government Awareness Institute, which will be held at the Empire State Plaza. As you can see, the students (at this time 2) and the advisor would accompany Greenwich students on their bus. – The Board of Education approved the request of the FFA for an overnight field-trip on February 6-7 to Albany in order to participate in the Farm Bureau Government Awareness Institute. Approval is contingent upon compliance with all policies and procedures governing overnight field-trips. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.8 Request for Leave of Absence Under the Provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act** - I have received a request from Misty (Poirier) Smith for a request for a leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act. The District Office has been in contact with her physician and the request is within the parameters established by the FMLA Regulations. – The Board of Education grant the request of Mrs. Smith for a leave of absence under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act for a period of time beginning on January 6, 2012 and terminating on or about February 6, 2012. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

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 4-0 at 8:16 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – Board returned to open session at 9:19 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish Approved 4-0. Mrs. Thomas indicated the board had discussed specific personnel and the status of negotiation. No further action taken by the board. Board adjourned at 9:20 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk