

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 19, 2012

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

Board Members Absent – Mr. Brian Getty, President

Guests – Scott Hasemann, Jim Keeley, Russell Wade, Carrie Bryant, Sean Farley, Amy Thomas, Andrea Stoddard, Diane Petteys and Maggie Kelly

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge – Mrs. Janine Thomas, Vice-President

2.0 Prayer – Mrs. Thomas

3.0 Welcome – Mrs. Thomas

3.1 Public to be Heard – Russell Wade wanted to know “How many people have applied for the new principal’s job from within the District?” The answer was that the job has not been posted. Jim Keeley wanted to know “Could Ms. Smith be taken off from lunch duty? Children did not like to be taken out of class of their 1 on 1 lesson.” There was discussion from the Board, Principal and Superintendent, but no solution.

3.2 Special Presentation to the Class of 2013 – Mr. Jessen presented a check of \$125 to the Class of 2013 from the proceeds of the annual spud run. This was in addition to the \$500, which makes a total of \$625.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the October 15, 2012 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the October 15, 2012 Board of Education Meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

5.0 Financial Reports

***5.1 Treasurer’s Report**

***5.2 Warrants**

***5.3 Cafeteria Report** – The Board of Education approved the financial reports as presented. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***5.4 Budget Summary** – The summary is presented for your review and inquiry. – No Action Necessary

***5.5 Student Activity Account Quarterly Report** – The summary is presented for your review and inquiry. – No Action Necessary

6.0 Superintendent’s Report

6.1 Regionalization Study – There are two issues to bring to your attention regarding this matter. First, the Superintendents and selected Board Members met with CASDA representatives to review a draft of the findings and recommendations on November 1st at the Gick Road BOCES Center. Mr. Getty, Mr. Fish and Mr. Cook accompanied me to the meeting. The most important pieces to come from the draft findings and recommendations are that a consolidation of districts in Washington County is not feasible. The study does recommend the districts explore either sharing of academic programs among schools or even consider a regional high school approach. It is important to recognize the report indicates the recommendations are short term fixes toward a greater long term problem of financing education in NYS. The study drew a very distinct correlation between cuts in state aid, dwindling

local resources, state mandated costs, and the tax cap as a perfect storm that will eventually cause schools to greatly reduce educational opportunities for students.

The second issue revolves around the grant application filed by CASDA. Because of the nature of the work involved with the study, CASDA was eligible to file for a grant to pay for the study being conducted. Unfortunately, (and all too often) the grant was denied.

***6.2 APPR Approval Notification** – On November 1st, the District received formal notification from the Commissioner of Education that the District's APPR Plan was reviewed and approved. A copy of the letter from the Commissioner is in your packet.

6.3 Information from the Adirondack Area School Boards Meeting – On Wednesday November 7th, Mrs. Thomas and I attended the Adirondack Areas School Boards Association meeting at the Queensbury Hotel. The featured speaker was Rick Timbs, who is an expert on school funding practices and the issues that will be facing Districts across the state within the next few years. He was able to point out the fiscal inequities of the state aid distribution, the problems with the Gap Elimination Formula, and the excess use of fund balance to balance school budgets.

***6.4 Informational Packet**

Item #1 – Business First Area School Rankings – The organization ranks schools based on several different criteria including assessment results, tax information, business opportunities in the district, school salaries (oddly enough if teacher salaries are low and administrative salaries are low they actually negatively affect the eventual ranking). Hartford is ranked 56th in the survey which is an improvement over the previous year.

Item #2 – Business First Superintendents' Salary Rankings – This is a companion piece to the story above and ranks the salaries of all the superintendents in NYS. Hartford's data puts the ranking at 370th in the state and sixth out of seven in the county.

Item #3 – Commissioner's Decisions

Item #4 – Letter From Comptroller's Office – This letter acknowledges receipt of the Corrective Action Plan that was outlined in the Audit Review.

Item #5 – Board of Regents Action Plan – This information outlines the legislative agenda for the Board of Regents and as always is a pie in the sky approach. The Regents also address the issue of state aide, which the legislature will tend to ignore as always.

Item #6 – School Law Bulletin

Item #7 – Notification from the Comptroller's Office – This is formal notification the Corrective Action Plan filed with our Audit has been accepted.

Item #8 – Request for Consideration – A proposal has been submitted for your consideration regarding the redesign of the softball field.

Item #9 – Joint School Boards Meeting – In your packet there is an announcement regarding a joint meeting between the Adirondack Area School Boards Association and the Saratoga Area School Boards Association. The meeting is scheduled for South Glens Falls.

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

7.0 Principals' and Department Supervisors Report

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 quarterfinals and lost to Fort Ann who was a state semi-finalist. Our varsity volleyball team was a scholar athlete-team, Section 2 Champions, Regional Champions, and a state semi-finalist. Thank you to the Hartford Faculty Association for sponsoring the Fall Sports Dessert reception this past week. In particular, I would like to thank Mr. Capone, Mr. Farley, Mr. Whitney and Mrs. Smith for all their help. Mr. Farley's senior Government class sponsored a mock election on November 2nd. All students were invited to participate and the results were: President Obama being re-elected with 195 votes to Governor Romney's 185 votes. The annual 6th grade Pig-Roast was held on Friday, November 16th – thank you to Mrs. Burch and Ms. Harke for all their hard work organizing this event for the students and their families. I would like to thank Mrs. Dougher, Mrs. Hemsing, Ms. Curran and Mrs. Durling for volunteering to chaperone the Homecoming dance. Their dedication of time is greatly appreciated. The All County Festival was November 9th and 10th at Whitehall Central School. Out of 22 students selected, only 10 were able to attend due to the

Homecoming Dance and Rodeo conflict. All monies collected from the concert are used for scholarships and summer lessons. Last year, Bianca Martin was awarded the \$200 award and took lessons over the summer. This is an amazing opportunity for our student's and I believe it was a very rewarding experience. The students who attended were: Elementary Chorus: Rylie Liebig, Lucas Casey and Diahjane Walker. Junior Chorus: Brianna Getty, Bianca Martin, Janice Whiting, Abigail Robbins, Samantha Whitney, Abigail Roy-Raia and Michael Whitney. Winter Sports have started and the first games are December 1st for the Boys and December 5th for the Girls. Tomorrow is the annual FFA Chicken BBQ with a special chef. Some interesting statistics: 36% of Juniors and Seniors are currently participating in A.P. or College-Level courses; 25% Juniors, 58% Seniors and 53% of students in grades 6-12 made an academic honor list from the Quarter 1 grades.

7.2 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix – 10/19 Halloween Party sponsored by PTA was very well attended. Thanks to all you helped out! We had over 100 students. Week of October 22nd was *Bus Safety Week*. Mark Miller, Chip Baker, Stacey Tyler, Maggie Cosey and Connie Knights volunteered their time to present bus safety information to our K-5 students. 10/23-31 was Red Ribbon Week: Promoting a Drug-Free Life. Students and teachers participated in daily themes. 10/24 Pumpkin Decorating with Tricia Stewart and some of her students - Grade 1 - 10 students participated. 11/6 and 11/7 were *Tanager Pride* parties, recognizing students for positive behavior. 86% of our elementary students qualified for the party (80% attended) – 52 students. 11/14 Turkey Trot for grades 3-8 - 35 elementary students. 11/16 Harvest Fest. Donated Supplies from Washington County Correctional Facility for *Make a Difference*. Ashton McFarren's grandmother has made winter hats and mittens for all of Mrs. Talmadge's class. 2012 Harvest Fest Stations: Station 1: Using Dye to create a unique bandana with Nan Travers. Station 2: Learning about *Medicinal Plants* from Elizabeth O'Leary (Old Fort House Museum). Station 3: Learning about the process of making *Maple Syrup* through literature and a video (coloring books donated by Leader Evaporator Co.). Station 4: *Grinding Corn* into cornmeal, identifying oats and flour with Joan Prouty and volunteers from Washington County Farm Museum. Station 5: Learning and watching how cotton candy is made and sampling *Maple Cotton Candy* with Mrs. Laurie Grattoli. Station 6: Making and tasting *Butter* with Mr. Prouty and a volunteer from the Washington County Farm Museum.

7.3 Transportation Report – Mr. Rogers – This is a brief overview of the Transportation Dept operation since September 2012. We have had thirteen D.O.T. Inspections of our fleet, 12 passed with no issues, 1 failed because of a boost pump was seeping fluid, the pump was replaced and re-inspected. Our regular 30-day inspections/1,000 miles continue on each unit per D.O.T. regulations. Every Bus/Van receives a Brake Inspection at 10,000 miles/1 year, 6 have been done since September. This Inspection includes complete removal of the brakes and associated parts, checked for meeting specs and recorded, replace if needed. An average day there is 10 regular runs, 5 parallel runs, and 3 special runs. We have 15 Full/Part time Driver's and 3 substitutes at this time. Extra-curricular Run's at this point we have done 59 Run's. The new Bus is expected to be here on November 27, 2012, Bus #64 will be removed from the fleet at that time. We should continue buying at least one per year to keep the fleet in a 10 to 12 year cycle. Currently, we are operating with 1 spare bus and all the vans are in use every day. The Diesel pump continues to be an issue with the meter; this has been replaced three time's due to leaks/accuracy. This pump is not designed to pump the amount of fuel we are putting through it. I would suggest an up grading the system in the future.

8.0 Old Business – No Old Business to Conduct

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 regarding any of the recommendations, the item or items 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 4-0

***9.2 Resignation – J.V. Basketball** – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mr. Paul Cournoyer as the J.V. Basketball Coach. The resignation is effective immediately. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.3 Appointment – J.V. Basketball Coach** – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Rob Leise as the J.V. Basketball Coach for the 2012-13 School Year. Stipend will be per Contract of Agreement with the Hartford Faculty Association. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.4 Resignation For Retirement – Teacher Aide** – After twenty-three years of service to the district, Mrs. Donna Petteys has submitted her resignation in order to retire. – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mrs. Petteys with regret and gratitude for her years of service. The resignation is effective January 11, 2013. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.5 Extra-Curricular Activity Resignation – Tanager Voices** – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mrs. Gwynne Cosh as co-advisor to Tanager Voices. The resignation is to effective December 31, 2012. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.6 FMLA Request** – Mrs. Gwynne Cosh has submitted a leave of absence request under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act. The leave is consistent with the requirements as outlined in the FMLA process. – The Board of Education approved the leave request of Mrs. Gwynne Cosh under FMLA. The leave is to commence on or about March 8, 2013 and terminate on or about May 20, 2013. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.7 Surplus Excess Property** – There are five pieces of equipment that are no longer useable or serviceable to the district and the request has been submitted to declare the items excess surplus property. – The Board of Education declared the items listed as excess surplus property and allow for proper disposal. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.8 Appointment of Substitute Custodian** – Mr. Jones has submitted an application for a substitute cleaner on behalf of Kevin Lee Goodspeed. – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Kevin Lee Goodspeed as a substitute cleaner to be called on an as needed basis by Mr. Jones. The appointment is contingent upon Mr. Goodspeed clearing the required fingerprinting and background check. 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 8:11 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – Board returned to open session at 9:00 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0. Mrs. Thomas announced the board discussed personnel issues and legal matters. No further action was taken.

Board adjourned at 9:01 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk