

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 December 17, 2012

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

Board Members Absent – none

Guests – Mrs. Genevick, Mr. Farley, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Mobley, Russell Wade, Mr. Keeley, Gary Jones, Mr. Haff, Ron Smith, Jen Farley, Paul Rogers, Ms. Stewart and Ms. Lourie.

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge– Mr. Getty, Board of Education President at 7:00 pm

2.0 Prayer – Mr. Getty

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

3.1 Student Recognition – There are a number of student recognitions to go through this evening. First, is the recognition of the Varsity Girls' Volleyball Team, which won the Section 2 Class D Title, won the State Regional Title and semi-finalists in the state tournament. Members of the Team were: **Aron Galusha, Sarah Godnick, Gwenn Harsha, Heather LaCross, Rachel Liebig, Molly Spear, Morgan Wicks, Jaelyn Lavin, and Alison Parrott**. In addition the following 10th Graders were brought up for sectionals: **Sarah Bowen, Maria-Faith Olsen, and Ashley Yarter**. **Coach Wendy Harrington, Assistant Coach Kristilyn Breault and Scorekeeper, Jen Morgan-Aubin**.

In addition to the above accomplishments, the volleyball team members excelled in the classroom and received **NYS PHSAA Scholar Athlete Team** Recognition. I would ask that the following come forward for their pin and certificate: **Rachel Liebig, Sarah Godnick, Alison Parrott, Molly Spear, Heather LaCross, Gwenn Harsha, Morgan Wicks, Aron Galusha and Jaelyn Lavin**.

In addition to the team recognition, several of the team members received individual honors as well: **Sarah Godnick** was named as a Second Team Adirondack League All Star; **Gwenn Harsh** was All State Class D First Team, Adirondack League MVP and Hartford Central School MVP; **Rachel Liebig** was First Team Adirondack League All-Star Selection and HCS MVP; **Morgan Wicks** was All State Class Team Second Team, NYS Class D All Tournament Team, Adirondack League 1st Team All Star and HCS MVP.

Jaelyn Lavin received Adirondack League Honorable Mention and Hartford CS Most Improved Player.

Members of this year's Varsity Soccer Team also received recognition for their efforts this year: **Shane Rogers** was selected as a 1st Team Adirondack League All-Star and First Team Post Star; **Brent McCarthy** was named as a 2nd Team Adirondack League All Star and Honorable Mention Post Star. Receiving Adirondack League All-Star Honorable Mention were **Thaddeus Jones, Dylan Jones, Cameron Farley and Donovan Farley**.

3.2 Public to be Heard – Paul Rogers asked the Board if in the future there could be a coach or some representative from the school at the Section Sports Banquet. Mr. Keeley wanted to know "How secure was the school?" Mr. Abraham said that we were reviewing the safety plan and all of the

safety issues were up to par. Another question from Mr. Keeley was with regards to substitutes – “Do the substitutes have a plan that they have to follow, because his children tell him that they are on their cell phones often.” Mr. Wade wanted to know what time the teachers had to be in the school. Mr. Abraham said that depending on if they were full-time or not. If they were full-time than they would be in the school close to 8 am.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

- ***4.1 Minutes from the November 19, 2012 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the November 19, 2012 meeting. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. 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 Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

- ***5.4 Budget Transfers** – There are a number of transfers that need to be approved by the board this month. The transfers being recommended are result of correlation with BOCES Codes and the movement of remaining material/ supply amounts to the general code for budget purposes. – The Board of Education approved and authorized the requested budget transfers. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

6.0 Superintendent’s Report

- ***6.1 Regionalization Final Report** – CASDA has published the final results of the regionalization study and the recommendations. A copy of the report is in your packet for your perusal.

- ***6.2 Regionalization Study** – Public Presentation On November 29th, Representatives from CASDA presented their findings in a power point presentation to the public. There were an estimated 150 - 200 individuals present representing boards of education, administration, teachers and the public. There was an opportunity for those present to ask question at the end, but no question were asked.

- * **6.3 Hartford Post Office** – As the US Postal Service struggles with a significant deficit, they have been exploring ways to cut expenses. Decision being made by the postal service will affect Hartford. The current proposal that will be adopted is to have only four hours of operation at the post office. The actual hours are yet to be determined though it would seem logical to have the hours coincide when most people would be able to access the system. This would seem to be 1pm to 5pm. In addition, Saturday service which runs until 11:30 am will continue as is. In addition, the Postal Service will make alterations to the Post Office Box area allowing access through most of the day. It is strongly believed this is only the first step to actually closing the Hartford Office.

I have included a letter to the Postal Service for your review from the office of Chris Gibson.

- ***6.4 Board of Regents State Aid Proposal** – I have enclosed a copy of the BOR proposal for state aid. You can see they are requesting a \$709 Million increase in foundation aid, which is a nice thought. What they really should be concentrating on is fixing the inequities in foundation aid.

- ***6.5 Summary of December 11th Legislative Meeting** – On Tuesday December 11th, most of the Superintendents of the BOCES Component Districts attended a meeting with Assemblyman Jordan, Assemblyman-Elect Stec, and Senator Little. Discussions with the legislators centered on the need for the legislator to follow-through on mandate relief that was promised when the 2% tax cap went into effect.

The legislators indicated they recognized there are significant issues with state aid funding and formulas. Indicated they understood the financial stress districts are under due to the reduced funding formulas, gap elimination and unfunded mandates. However, they quickly informed us that there would probably not be adjustments to state aid formulas, aid would not increase significantly and as far as addressing the three main costs to districts (Triborough, Health Insurance and Pensions) the legislature would not be addressing any of them. It appears they do not want to face the backlash

from public unions and as far as the Governor; he has washed his hands of the issues and feels it is the responsibility of the legislature to address the issues.

The legislators are fully cognizant of the impending insolvency of many of the districts in the state, but there are no solutions in sight. The continuation of reductions in state aid and increased mandates will force boards of education across the states to make the hard decisions regarding programmatic cuts, extra-curricular cuts or both.

***6.6 Power Point from the State Education Department** – This power point presentation clearly indicates the track the state is on regarding assessments, common core standards and moving to on-line testing. As you review the information, one can infer the state education department is adopting a model followed by Charter Schools without the requisite relief and flexibility.

***6.7 Informational Packet** – There are several items for your review this month.

Item #1 – School Law Bulletin

Item #2 – Can't Get There from Here – This is the second annual Financial Survey of Superintendents by NYSCOSS. It is pretty clear that districts across the state will begin to have financial problems in the very near future.

Item #3 – Legal Notes for Education

Item #4 – Comptroller's Newsletter

Item #5 – Commissioner's Decisions

Item #6 – Board of Regents Action Items – There are a series of proposals the BOR is acting on this year. Some of it is mundane, some interesting.

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

7.0 Principals' and Department Supervisor's Reports

7.1 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix –

11/30: HS Language Club held a movie afternoon for grades 3-5 (approx. 20 students stayed after school). 12/4: K-5 Assembly – *Customs of Christmas Past* with Elizabeth O'Leary from the Old Fort Museum 12/10 and 12/11: PTA held their annual Holiday Shop for students. 12/13: Elementary Winter Concert – Tanager Voices, 5th Grade Recorders and Logan Smith on the piano. Excellent job Mrs. Dougher, Mrs. Cosh and performers! Pre-K Parent-Teacher Conferences were Friday and today. All, but 2 parents, attended. *Chronicle* Entries - Kayla Sage (grade 5) and Hannah Lawrence (grade 4). *The Hartford Star* Fall Edition. Star Reporter – Brandon Harrington, Honorable Mention – Luke LaRose, Kailey Gayton and Arianna Scott. The Star Reporter award of the first edition goes to a hard working reporter who has shown that he/she is creative and has the ability to complete their articles before the deadline. They are eager and always do a fantastic job. He also volunteered to assist others. I am pleased to announce the star reporter on the first edition is Brandon Harrington. For their hard work and positive attitude "Honorable Mention" goes to: Luke LaRose, Kailey Gayton and Arianna Scott. Keep up the good work reporters!

7.2 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook – Tuesday, November 20th was the annual FFA Chicken BBQ; Winter sports are in full gear; I would like to again congratulate the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team on a successful season; including a scholar athlete team! Thursday, December 20th is the Jr./Sr. Band/Chorus Concert at 7:30p.m. – This is following the senior class Dime-A-Dip. Dinner and a show! January Regents week is scheduled for January 29th through February 1st. This is the first exposure to "high-stakes" exams for our teachers and the new administration procedure. We also have to have a discussion on mid-term exams for teacher SLOs. The Hartford Holiday Helper program was able to help a total of 31 families, and 75 students, to have a better Christmas. Gifts were donated by faculty/staff, community members, student clubs, and local parishioners. A food drive was held by the Hartford Key Club. Thank you for everyone who participated and to Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Harrington for their efforts organizing the event. Three Hartford students; Bianca Martin, Rose O'Neil and Abigail Robbins, performed with the Glens Falls Symphony on December 9th at the Glens Falls High School. The concert, titled Season for Singing, incorporates the Glens Falls Children's chorus. The concert will be aired on North Country Public Radio on December 24 from 7-8:30.

7.3 Buildings and Grounds Report – Mr. Jones – Repaired, painted all of the Dugouts and garage. I was able to get 300 Master Locks with warranties for approx. \$6,000. Still working to get emergency lights replaced again. The installer thinks it might be the poor quality. We have used about 3 loads to heat for November. Chip Tec will be coming to look at the Gasifier. It seems to have a lot of condensation.

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, if there are any questions regarding any of the recommendations, the item in question 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 Mrs. Thomas by. Approved 5-0

***9.2 First Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy #822 – Capital Assets** – This policy is being proposed as a result of our Internal Audit. – The Board of Education approved the first reading of Proposed Board of Education Policy #822 – Capital Assets with corrections. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.3 First Reading Proposed Board of Education Policy #823 – Recording of Capital Assets** – As with the previous policy, this policy is being proposed as a result of the Internal Audit – The Board of Education approved the first reading of Proposed Board of Education Policy #823 – Recording of Capital Assets with corrections. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.4 Establishing Dates for Budget Workshops** – The Board of Education established February 4th as the date for Workshop #1, February 25th for Workshop #2, March 4th for workshop #3 and March 11th for Workshop #4. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.5 Extra-Curricular Activity Appointment** – The Board of Education appointed Mrs. Jennifer Lawrence to the position of girl's modified basketball timekeeper. Stipend will be per Contract of Agreement. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. 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 7:53 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – Board returned to open session at 8:44 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty indicated the board discussed specific personnel issues while in Executive Session. No further action was taken by the board.

Board adjourned at 8:45 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk