

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 February 13, 2012

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, Ms. Andrea, Mr. Haff, Mrs. Combs, Mr. Smith, Mr. Keeley, Mr. R. Wade, Mr. and Mrs. Deyoe, Sam Irwin, Scott White, Lettie Hayes and students from Mr. Farley’s class.

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge – Mr. Getty, Board of Education President

2.0 Prayer – Mrs. Thomas

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

3.1 Public to be Heard – Mrs. Combs wondered if the budget calendar could be put on the web site. Mr. Keeley asked to have the public be able to attend the budget meetings. Mr. Haff asked if when the public attended the budget meeting, the BOE would sit so they were engaging. Mrs. Thomas addressed the public and asked them to think about “How much are they willing to go above the tax level to have a good school to educate their children?” Mr. and Mrs. Deyoe addressed the board with the question regarding recess in the school. Their daughter, who is in 2nd grade, has recess every day, where as their son, who is in 4th grade, only has it twice a week. Mrs. Deyoe read from “Discipline with Dignity” the following passage, “exercise for a student with ADHD could replace meds . . .”. She asked if there could be time set aside for recess for her son’s class. Mrs. Deyoe also wanted to know if the school could look into contacting the YMCA regarding after school programs. Mr. Deyoe asked if they could meet in Executive Session. After all discussion from the public, Mr. Getty asked the BOE to be able to accommodate the public at the budget meeting. The agreement from all was to have them attend the meeting starting March 5th.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the January 16, 2012 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the January 16, 2012 Regular Board of Education meeting, after there was a correction in typos. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Fish. 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, after several questions were raised and answered: (1) parts received at the bus garage needed to be signed for, (2) the bus # needed to be put on the invoices, so the BOE could see which bus required the part, (3) Why were bats for baseball so expensive? Mr. Cook said that the Adk. League required a certain bat and that Mr. Whitney was able to get them at a discount, also because he bought 3, he got 1 free and the last question (4) from Mr. Getty wondering who “Global” fuel was and where were they located. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

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

6.0 Superintendent's Report

***6.1 Preliminary State Aid Information** – The Governor has released his proposed budget for next year. Under his proposal, Hartford will receive approximately \$27,000 more than this year. It is important to note the \$27,000 is an increase over the current year, which was reduced by \$63,000 earlier this year. So in reality we will receive less next year than originally projected for this year. In addition to the small increase, the Governor is proposing tying the aid to teacher evaluation processes that have to be developed by the district and the Faculty Association.

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

Item #1 – School Law Bulletin (2)

Item #2 – Announcement from the State Education Department – The state education department is preparing a request for waiver from NCLB and is asking for public comment on the proposal.

Item #3 – State Education Department Waiver – The information in this mailing outlines the State Education Department's attempt to gain a waiver from the NCLB requirements do to all of the Race to the Top accomplishments.

Item #4 – Commissioner's Regulations – Dignity for All Students Act – In 2010, the legislature based the DASA with the requirement the Commissioner of Education develop regulations governing the legislation mandate. I have enclosed a copy of the regulations. Much of the required action with the regulations has been implemented.

Item #5 – Legal Notes for Education

Item #6 – Commissioner's Decisions – For the second straight month, there are no commissioner's decisions to share. The Commissioner has not issued a decision since early December.

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

7.0 Principals' Reports

7.1 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook – The second quarter marking period grades have been released and, within the Middle/High School, we had 46% of our students reach an academic honor: 33 – Principal's Select, 38 – Honor Roll, 52 – Merit Roll. Last week was our senior games for the winter season. I would again like to congratulate all our senior student-athletes and thank them for their hard work and dedication to their programs over the past few years. This evening was our cross-over games, both against Corinth; sectional seedings will be released on Wednesday which will determine when we play next. Wednesday is our bi-quarterly "Stive-4-Five" event. This year we have 78 middle school students who have qualified to attend, which is 66% of the total middle school population. I would like to thank Mrs. Harrington and Mrs. Shaw for all their hard work in organizing and arranging this event. This past Friday, the MS/HS hosted Senior Investigator Mercado with the NYS Police. Investigator Mercado has worked as an undercover agent in NYC for over 21 years and is now training and supervising undercover agents in the field. He spent the morning with our students discussing the dangers of drugs – both with the actual drugs and the violence associated with the drug trade. January 30th we conducted a "Lock-Down Drill" with the Washington County Sheriff's Office. I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Capone and Coach Sutliff for their help during the drill (all three were actors). Also on the 30th, I had the opportunity to scan Regents exams – this is not fun! But I am very grateful for all the faculty members who hurried to correct the exams in such a timely fashion so that we could adhere to NYSED policy. Many teachers are working on their classroom budgets. A large number of the faculty members are not ordering anything to try and help the financial situation. January 21st was the volleyball banquet. I would like to thank all the faculty members and BOE members who attended. I would also like to thank Mrs. Harrington for her hard work in organizing the event. March 5th Spring Sports begin – March 7th is the winter sports dessert night.

7.2 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix - I just received notification that Lucas Casey has been chosen out of 10 people in the area for his "Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag" Whitehall Elks Lodge 1491 essay contest. There were 250 applicants. Lucas Casey is in Grade 5, from Mrs. Cosh class at Hartford Central School. "Why I Am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag". *Every morning in my classroom I have the honor to stand up and pledge allegiance to our flag. I am proud to stand up and say the pledge of allegiance because it's a*

way to say thank you to our troops. Also, it represents freedom and justice. The flag represents a thank you to our troops. My dad is in the military and I thank him for doing what he does every day. He will be leaving to fight in Kuwait this year. The troops overseas are letting us keep that flag, and letting other people not to take that flag from us, so I thank them. The flag to me is freedom. That flag protects us from bad people. The stars and stripes let us do whatever we want to do. With the flag we can have fun and not always have to worry about ourselves and our safety. The flag gives us justice from bad people. Fairness means we all are treated the same. You can make decisions in the United States by yourself. In some countries you have to act the same. In the USA we have rights and we don't have to do anything we don't want to do. Our flag represents freedom, justice and a thank you to our troops. It is a symbol of protection. These are the reasons I am proud to pledge allegiance every morning in my classroom.

Victoria Vanier - Third grade students have been working on preparing for the upcoming state ELA and Math tests. Students have been reading a variety of text and focused on using many reading strategies to get a further understanding of the reading material. Mrs. Mobley's and Mrs. Vanier's students are working together in February on biographies. Students have been paired with students from either class and are reading about a famous individual of choice. They are in the process of reading and then will create a mini retell of the important events of that person's life. In math, students continue using the Math series and we have also been focusing in on multiplication. Students have been introduced to all facts between 1-12 and have had an assortment of math tricks, riddles, games and testing for students to memorize the facts. Division has also been introduced to students. In Science, students continue using the Sound Kit. Students enjoy the hands on experience and will be attempting to create a reed instrument with a straw. The sound is not lovely but students love it! In Social Studies, we're learning about Asia, specifically China, Japan and India this month. The second grade classes have begun their second science kit from BOCES. This kit deals with physical changes between states of matter. The classes will be doing experiments dealing with mixing and separating solids, changes solids into liquids and gases, seeing the effects of water on different materials, capturing gases in bags, and many other hand-on activities. We chose to do a bulletin board for the 100th day celebration. In honor of the 100th day of school, 4th grade students researched a certain topic from 100 years ago (1912). Some students chose specific events from 1912, while other chose more general topics (ex. clothing). They used the new wireless labs and/or the computer lab to research and write information about their topics. The writing and corresponding pictures are displayed outside Ms. Donohue's classroom.

Mrs. Thomas' First Grade - While reflecting on the past one hundred days of school the progress the first graders have made in the first one hundred days of school. We have moved from counting and naming numbers to adding, subtracting, and using money. In writing, we have progressed from clusters of connected words to sentences and are beginning to arrange those sentences into paragraphs. We have made great strides in reading, with students increasing, on average, three and a half reading levels just since November. Socially, our class has developed into a respectful, responsible community of learners. We are proudly displaying our choice of 100th Day creative writing, counting, or graphing.

8.0 Old Business – No Old Business to Conduct

9.0 New Business

***9.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations** – There are a few recommendations from the committee this month.

As always, should there be a question on any of the recommendations, the item or items 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 Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

***9.2 Cooperative Bid on Food Products** – Each year, we go through the process of approving cooperative bid resolutions from the local BOCES. The food stuffs to be cooperatively bid are listed on the resolution. – The Board of Education approved the resolution to participate in cooperative bidding on the food stuffs listed. (**Voice Vote Required**). Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0 (**Voice Vote – Mr. Fish – abstained, Mr. Jessen – yes, Mrs. Steves – yes, Mrs. Thomas – yes, and Mr. Getty – no**)

***9.3 Resignation – J.V. Softball** – A letter of resignation from Kristilyn Breault resigning as J.V. Softball Coach has been received by my office. – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mrs. Kristilyn Breault from her position as J.V. Softball Coach effective immediately. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

- *9.4 Appointment – Modified Girl’s Softball Coach** – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Mike MacDougall to the position of Modified Girl’s Softball Coach for the 2011-12 School Year. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.5 Detached Polygon** – The Hudson Falls Central School District has been notified of an error in assigning a piece of property to the tax rolls. The property is classified as a detached polygon and should have been part of the Hartford Central School District. – Be it resolved that the Board of Education requests the property identified by the tax map number 139.-3-6.3 that is currently assigned to the Hudson Falls Central School District be declared as a detached polygon and properly assigned to the Hartford Central School District. (*Voice Vote Required*). Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0 (**Voice Vote – Mr. Fish – yes, Mr. Jessen – yes, Mrs. Steves – yes, Mrs. Thomas – yes, and Mr. Getty – yes**)
- *9.6 Senior Class Trip – Preliminary Agenda** – The Senior Class advisor has submitted a preliminary agenda for the senior class trip. As you can see, the trip is scheduled to occur from April 9-11. There will be more specific information for final approval at the March Board Meeting. – The Board of Education granted preliminary approval for the senior class trip. Final approval will be contingent upon a finalized agenda and all board procedures and policies being implemented. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.7 Extra-Curricular Appointment – Varsity Softball** – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Duane Flower as Varsity Softball Coach for the 2012 Season. Stipend will be per Contract of Agreement with the Hartford Faculty Association. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.8 Overnight Field-Trip Request** – The High School Key Club has submitted a request for an overnight field-trip, which will allow students to attend the state leadership conference. – The Board of Education approved the request of the Key Club for an overnight field trip to Albany for the period of March 30 – April 1, 2012. Approval is contingent upon all Board of Education policies and procedures being implemented. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- 9.9 Modification of Probationary Appointment** – At the January Board of Education meeting, the board appointed Ms. Rhonda Becker to a three year probationary appointment. However, Ms. Becker was granted tenure when she worked in New York City. Therefore, the probationary appointment should have been for two years instead of the enacted three. – The Board of Education modify their action of January 2012 regarding the probationary appointment of Rhonda Becker to read a two year probationary appointment commencing on January 1, 2012 and terminating on December 31, 2013. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- 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 Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0 at 8:27 pm.
- 11.0 Adjournment** – Board returned to open session at 10:10 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty indicated the board had discussed a student matter and specific personnel matters. No further action taken by the board. Board adjourned at 10:14 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk