

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 April 16, 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, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Haff, T Stewart, J. Lawrence, V. Vanier, J. Lourie, A. Stoddard, S. Farley and students from Mr. Farley’s class. (Families of student recognition for awards)

1.0 Call to Order – Mr. Getty – Board of Education President – 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0 Prayer – Mr. Getty

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

***3.1 Student Recognition** – Members of this year’s Boy’s Basketball Program received team and individual recognition for their efforts this season. The team was a Class D Sectional Finalist so this evening we recognize the basketball squad for that effort: **Phil Cassella, Nick Cassella, Cameron Farley, Ethan Farley, Travis Goodspeed, Delos Jackson, Tad Jones, Denis Mullins, Cody Palmer, Thomas Yarter.**

As I indicated there were also individual honors received by some members of the team this year. **Phil Cassella** was the **Class D Scholar Athlete for Section II**, was named to the **Class D All Tournament Team**, as well as **Adirondack League 1st Team All Star**, and **Post Star 3rd Team** selection. **Ethan Farley** was named to the **Class D All Tournament Team**, **Adirondack League 2nd Team** and **Post Star Honorable Mention**.

Coach **Caleb Sutliff** was named **Post Star Coach of the Year**.

In addition to sports awards, we have an individual being recognized this evening for his work in the community. As you will hear later in the board meeting, our local BOCES has a recognition dinner where students of the component districts are recognized for their community service. Hartford’s recipient this year is **Robert Petit**.

3.2 Public to be Heard

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the March 19, 2012 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes as presented. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

5.0 Financial Reports

***5.1 Treasurer’s Report**

***5.2 Warrants**

***5.3 Cafeteria Report** – The Board of Education approved the financial reports. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***5.4 Budget Status** – This status is given for your review and inquiry. – No Action Necessary

6.0 Superintendent's Report

- ***6.1 Community Service Award and Recognition Dinner – May 10, 2012** – Each year, our BOCES recognizes students from each of the component schools and the local BOCES for their service to their community. The dinner is set for May 10, 2012 and we need to confirm reservation.
- ***6.2 Letter from Edgar Alvarez, Costa Rican Ambassador** – As the board is aware, students from Hartford travelled to Washington as part of their Latin American Studies Course through Plattsburgh State College. The enclosed letter is from the Ambassador from Costa Rica who met with our students while they were in Washington, DC.
- ***6.3 School Report Card** – The most recent school report card is enclosed in your packets for your review and inquiry. As you can see from the report, they continue to maintain our status as a school in good standing by meeting all of the state benchmarks for annual yearly progress or safe harbor.
- ***6.4 Informational Packet** – There are several items in your packet for your review this month.
 - Item #1 – NYSCOSS Letter to the Board of Regents** – This correspondence to the BOR is a request from the New York State Council of School Superintendents asking for flexibility and more mandate relief (neither of which will come any day soon).
 - Item #2 – Ed Week Editorial** – What's With the Campaign Against Education
 - Item #3 – The Pattern on the Rug** – Another editorial corresponding to Item #2.
 - Item #4 – School Law Bulletin (2)**
 - Item #5 – Ensuring the Integrity of NYS Testing** – This outlines the steps being taken to ensure our testing and assessment program is safeguarded.
 - Item #6 – Computer Testing Program** – As the State Education Department runs into financial issues surrounding the publishing and sending out of state assessments, the department is exploring ways to reduce costs and expand the testing program. Apparently, they are moving toward putting all assessments on line. My big concern is the cost to district to upgrade hardware to meet this program.
 - Item #7 – Memo to the Commissioner from the Special Investigator** – The special investigator was hired by the State Education Department to investigate complaints regarding testing integrity. This memo outlines what he believes is his charge of duties.
 - Item #8 Decisions of the Commissioner**

6.5 Board of Education Questions, Comments and/or Concerns

7.0 Principals' Reports

7.1 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix – 3/16 PTA held their first Movie Night in the cafeteria - very well attended (approx. 70+ people) – 4/30 Talent Show - Thank you to Barbara Miner for her involvement this year! 11 elementary talent acts that were great. – 4/16 Ball Caps for Babies - organized by Wendy Harrington raised \$147 for March of Dimes (students donated \$1 to wear a hat that day) – March was PARP month (Magic Theme this year): 91 out of 185 students read all 4 weeks (49%). – Iroquois Reading Council Writing Contest: 5 interview questions you would write to Steve Jobs - Alicen Barker (grade 5) was a winner – Alex Wade (grade 5) received Honorable Mention – Clayton McCauliffe (grade 1): prize winning 11 ½ inch perch caught at Glen Lake – Congratulations to Mrs. Lawrence (grade 2) for being selected as 100.3. The Point's Teacher of the Week (week of April 2nd) – State Testing begins tomorrow (ELA) and Math next week – Reminder: Kindergarten Round-Up is scheduled for May 3rd – The Star Reporter award of the second edition goes to a reporter who has shown that he is creative and has the ability to complete his articles before the deadline. He is an independent hard working student that does a fantastic job. He is always smiling and pleasant to work with. This month the star reporter is Brennan Card. Honorable Mention goes to: Hunter McCane, Reid Robbins. Keep up the good work! March was a busy month reading and encouraging third graders to participate in PARP. Students read a chapter book and completed a creative book report in the classroom. Students were asked to share the book report so others could hear some great reviews about third grade reading material and be inspired to read more. Third graders also read Reader's Theater's to Mrs. Simmons kindergarten class and had one group of Kindergartens read a Reader's Theater to our students, Ms. Stewart sent students to read about seeds and plants and gave all students seeds to grow in a small bag. Some students were able to get their seed to start growing roots. Mrs. Vanier class also had 3 parent volunteers to be Mystery Readers including Mr. Fish, Mr. Robbins and Mrs. Sesselman. Mrs. Mobley's class enjoyed hearing stories from Mr. Aubin, Mrs. Lawrence and Ms. Harke. In Science third graders did a unit on nutrition and being healthy.

In Social Studies students read about Australia and learned new facts about this continent. Of course we continued to prepare third graders to take the upcoming ELA and Math test. We found time to play a third grade kickball game and Mrs. Vanier and Mrs. Mobley were impressed with the excellent sportsmanship the students displayed!

7.2 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook - The third quarter officially ended on April 2nd. As a result of third quarter grades, 119 students qualified for an academic honor; including 32 students on principal's select. This signifies that 45% of our students qualified for an academic honor. State ELA testing begins tomorrow for students in grades 3-8. The math exams begin next week. I would like to take a minute and thank Mrs. McCane for all her hard work in organizing the exam period. This is a tremendous undertaking. April 4th was the annual Senior Class play. I would like to congratulate the senior class on a wonderful production. Also, a big thank you to Ms. McGuirk and Ms. Miner for all their help in directing and organizing the event. March 30th was the annual Senior Class Talent Show. I thought this years' event was extremely well done and I would like to thank Ms. Stoddard, Mrs. Dougher, and Ms. Miner for all their hard work. The 6th grade recently completed their "Important People of Hartford" book – a big thank you to Mrs. Burch and Ms. Harke for all their hard work with the students. A special thank you to Panera Bread for their donations to the breakfast. The Key Club blood drive is scheduled for May 15th to coincide with the District's budget vote. Field-trips: LAS / Senior Class / FFA. Upcoming Events: April 19th – Baila Dance Contest; April 24th – "Strive-4-Five" Event; May 2nd – National Honor Society Induction Ceremony; May 3rd – National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony; May 10th – Jr./Sr. Band and Chorus Concert – Student Community Service Dinner; May 22nd – Spring Fun Run; May 24th – National Honor Society Dinner

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 concerning a recommendation or recommendations, the item 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 5-0
- *9.2 Overnight Field Trip Request – FFA – NYS Convention** – The FFA has submitted a request asking the Board of Education allow members of the FFA to attend the New York State Convention at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill from May 3 through May 4, 2012. – The Board of Education approved the request of the FFA for an overnight field trip May 3-4, 2012, which will allow the members to attend the state FFA convention. Approval is contingent upon adherence to all Board of Education Policies and Procedures. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.3 Overnight Field Trip Request – FFA – Camp Oswegatchie** – The FFA has requested permission to attend Leadership Training at Camp O for the period of July 22-27, 2012. – The Board of Education approved the request of the FFA for trip to Camp Oswegatchie for leadership training. Approval is contingent upon adherence to all Board of Education Policies and Procedures. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- *9.4 Transportation Request** – A request for school district transportation to a private school has been received by the district within the timeframes allowed by policy and state regulations. – The Board of Education approved the request of Ms. Lori Franchini for transportation to St. Mary's/St. Alphonsus for her son Joseph Franchini for the 2012-13 School Year. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.5 Transportation Request** – A request for school district transportation to a private school has been received by the district within the timeframes allowed by policy and state regulations. – The Board of Education approved the request of Ms. Roberta LaBrum for transportation to Kingsbury Seventh Day Adventist Christian Church for her son Dakota Clippinger for the 2012-13 School Year. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.6 BOCES Administrative Budget Vote and Board of Education Election** – Each year the board is asked to vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget and cast a vote for those members of the BOCES Board of Education who are up for election. The Administrative Budget is enclosed for your review and as you can see there is a very slight increase budget to budget. – The Board of Education approved the BOCES Administrative Budget and cast one ballot for each of the board members indicated. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

***9.7 Excess Surplus Property** – There are two pieces of equipment that the PE/Athletic Department has requested be declared surplus property. – The Board of Education declared the broken pitching machine as excess surplus property as well as the hula hoop/jump rope cart and allow of proper disposal of the items. 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 7:52 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – Board returned to open session at 8:50 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty indicated the board had discussed matters pertaining to negotiations and specific personnel issues. No further action taken by the board. Board adjourned at 8:51 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk