

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 May 21, 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: – Mr. Smith, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Wade, Mr. Keeley, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Baker, S. Brown, A. Ward, Mr./Mrs. Frye, Mr./Mrs. Cassella, S. Farley and students from Mr. Farley's class.

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

2.0 Prayer – Mr. Jessen

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

***3.1 Student Recognition** – It is my privilege and honor to announce the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2012. The Valedictorian of the Class of 2012 is Philip Cassella. The Salutatorian for the Class of 2012 is Katherine Frye. Congratulations to both students.

3.2 Public to be Heard – Mr. Farley had 3 students relay their experience with the Costa Rica Ambassador in regards to the Model for Modern States program. This program is worth ½ of the Government grade. Katherine Frye, Phil Cassella and Britney Brayman shared their experiences in Washington DC stating that they had a wonderful time.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the April 16, 2012 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the April 16, 2012 Regular Board of Education Meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. 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 Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

***5.4 Budget Line Item Transfers** – There are a few transfers for the Board of Education to consider this month. – The Board of Education approved the transfers as presented. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

6.0 Superintendent's Report

***6.1 Budget Referendum and Transportation Proposition** – On Tuesday, May 15, 2012, Hartford residents went to the polls to vote on the 2012-13 School Budget, one board seat and a transportation proposition. The news from the polls was all positive. Voters approved the school budget by a vote of 148 yes to 52 no; Mr. Jessen running unopposed received 167 votes and the transportation proposition passed 142 yes to 56 no. The yes votes represented a 73% approval rate for the budget.

***6.2 Board Resignation** – This was taken off the table

6.3 Additional State Assessments – As the board is aware, students in grades 3-8 took assessments in English Language Arts and Math. Students were tested for each assessment over a three day period.

In addition to losing the six days of instruction, an additional day of instruction was lost due to required correcting.

Recently, we received a letter from Pearson (publisher of the assessments) indicating Hartford has been selected to participate in the sixth grade field test for English Language Arts. The field tests are scheduled to occur over a three day period in early June.

This will result in another three days of instruction being missed. The issue with the field tests is that field test questions were imbedded in the original state assessments for each of the grade levels to now issue a separate field test is over kill. I filed a complaint with our Board of Regent Member (Jim Dawson), who responded he agrees with my premise and will use my e mail as the basis for discussions with the Board of Regents at their May meeting.

As you will see later in this meeting, this is not the first issue being raised with Pearson and state assessments.

***6.4 Boy's State Letter** – As the Board is aware, the Glens Falls American Legion has requested transportation for area students to Boys' State. The Legion will pay all expenses involved with the trip. We provided the Legion with a bus last year and will do so again this year. The letter from the American Legion is in your packet.

***6.5 Informational Packet** – There are a number of items for your review this month.

Item #1 – Legal Notes for Education

Item #2 – Future State Aid Crystal Ball – This article tries to examine the direction of state aid to education. As you can see based on legislation that was approved on how any increase in state aid is to be determined, it would appear there will be a slight increase in aid for 2013-14 beyond that any attempt to determine what will happen is not really possible. The other issue is, while there may be an increase, how the increase is distributed is a completely different matter.

Item #3 – CASDA Announcement – As the Board is aware, our local BOCES is working with CASDA to look at regionalization. There will be visitation of the various schools. Exactly what will come out of the study is anyone's guess.

Item #4 – Tech Valley Smart Alliance Announcement

Item #5 – Education Aid Law Suit – A number of years ago, New York City won a lawsuit against the state for inequitable distribution of school aid. The state has never paid up the amount that was determined due to the economy hitting bottom. However, as you can see from the enclosed article, small city schools have won the first round of a lawsuit against the state related to inequitable distribution of state aid. What the final outcome will be is still in question, but the basis of the lawsuit has been developed along the same lines as the successful NYC lawsuit so small city schools stand a very good chance of winning.

Item #6 – Board of Regents Action Items – There are a number of initiatives the BOR will be examining this month. One is the resolution supporting legislation that will call for regional high schools. The second is Concussion awareness requirements for High Schools. Another outlines the consideration for various pathways for High School Diplomas, and the last is a consideration to strengthen safety nets for students with disabilities.

Item #7 – Newsletter from the Comptroller

Item #8 – School Law Bulletin

Item #9 Letter From Commissioner King – Challenges for the future and the importance of supporting education.

Item #10 – Appointment of Education Reform Committee – There are two news articles on this topic. The first is the actual announcement of the creation of the committee by the Governor. He is requiring a report back from the committee by December.

The second article is an editorial on the fact the governor did not include anyone other than the commissioner from the field of education and that the chair of the committee is a bank executive. This is a clear indication the committee will submit a report supporting the governor's position on educational reform.

Item #11 – News Article on Reductions in Force Across the State – This article clearly examines the statistical data related to staffing cuts in administration.

Item #12 – Buffalo Teacher’s Union Challenges State Evaluations – The Buffalo Teacher’s Federation has launched a challenge to the way in which the state calculates the growth grade assigned to teachers related to assessments. As you can see, one of the biggest issues is the state does not use student attendance as a factor to a student’s success or lack of success.

Item #13 – Invitation to SAEC Completion Ceremony

Item #14 – Pineapple versus the Hare – There has been a huge controversy regarding the reading passages on one of the state assessments related to a pineapple challenging a hare to a race (sort of a takeoff of the tortoise and the hare story). Anyways to make a long story short, the state received so many complaints about the reading passage it was withdrawn from the test as part of the overall assessment. Your packet contains the letter from the Pearson Corporation justifying the reading passage that was eliminated. Apparently, the students had to determine the moral of the story and come to some conclusion. The story of course has the animals of the forest betting on the pineapple because he must have some secret up his sleeve. Unfortunately, the hare wins and the animals eat the pineapple.

As Pearson attempts to point out, pineapples don’t have arms so there could be nothing up the sleeve. Pineapples also don’t have legs and could not win a race with a hare and worst yet pineapples, hares and animals do not talk so the entire story is irrelevant.

And just think, the state paid Pearson \$32 million to develop these assessments.

Item #15 Commissioner’s Decisions – There were only two commissioner’s decisions this past month and both were dismissed.

Item #16 – Letter from the New York State Department of State Committee on Open

Government – This letter is a quick attempt to backtrack and cover one’s posterior. Earlier in the month one of the individuals who can give opinions released an opinion that private e mail addresses given to Lake George Central School should be subject to FOIL. With the possibility of litigation looming Robert Freeman, Executive Director came out to clarify the situation indicating the release was only an opinion of one of the Commission’s staffers and opinions are just that opinions. None of the opinions issued by the Commissioner are binding or enforceable.

6.4 Board of Education Questions, Comments and/or Concerns

7.0 Principals’ Reports

***7.1 Secondary Report** – Mr. Cook reported on the results on state assessments from last year’s testing period. There was a lengthy discussion with the BOE regarding and explaining the exam results. Mrs. Thomas would like to see better results. The feeling is that the reading and writing skills of students might be the key to better results. Friday, April 20th was the annual Prom-crash simulation drill, hosted in conjunction with Fort Ann CSD. This is an extremely moving event that is held each year in the hopes that our students will realize the dangers of distracted driving and make good decisions while and before they drive. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped arrange and organize this event. I am always amazed at the number of volunteers who donate their time and energy for this event. April 24th was our second “Strive-4-Five” event of the year. We had 78 middle school students qualify to attend, which was an increase from the past event. I would like to thank all the faculty members who helped make this event such a success: Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Bryant, Mrs. Burch, Mrs. Emblidge, Ms. Reardon, Ms. Harke, Mrs. Phillips, and a special thank you to Mrs. Whitney who came out of retirement to help. May 2nd and 3rd were the induction dates for the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society. I would like to congratulate all the new members on their accomplishments and Mrs. Capone for her hard work in organizing the ceremony. The induction dinner is scheduled for this Thursday. May 10th was the Jr./Sr. Band and Chorus concert. Congratulations to all our student performers, Mrs. Dougher, and Ms. Smith for an excellent concert. May 11th and 14th we administered AP exam in US History and Biology. Thank you to Mrs. Dougher for proctoring the exams and good luck to all our students. May 22nd is the annual “Spring Fun Run.” June 11th is the MS/HS Awards Assembly. The ceremony will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the gymnasium. This is also the date for our middle school field-day in the afternoon. June 12th is the last day of classes for students in grades 7-12; this is a half-day. Regent’s exams begin on June 13th and graduation is on June 22nd. The Class of 2015 (freshmen) held a bake sale at the Hartford Fish & Game Chicken BBQ event. They exceeded their goal by selling 24 pies, raising over \$281 dollars! They will be having another bake sale event at the June 10th chicken BBQ, so plan ahead to pick up a pie to go with your chicken! The Outings Club had a challenging, yet enjoyable day at Adirondack Extreme Adventure in Bolton Landing on Saturday, April 21st. The kids were amazed (and perhaps slightly embarrassed) that the bus driver, Bruce, was able to finish the entire set of 5 courses while some of them were

not! The Outings Club will be travelling next to Lake George on Tuesday, June 19th for the Taco Tuesday Dinner Cruise aboard The Mohican. Felicity Jones, a graduate of HCS, is working with Proctor's Theatre and was involved in the design lay-out for this flyer. Girls on the Run: June 2nd

7.2 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix - Junior Achievement Volunteers (free program that incorporates Social Studies curriculum at each grade level) Grade K - Tammy LaPointe; Grade 1 – Mrs. Mannix; Grade 2 – Jennifer Nims; Grade 3 – Jodi Robbins; Grade 4 – Charlene Euber; Grade 5 – Chris Jones. SUNY Adirondack Touring Theatre for Children; Put on a performance for our K-3 students on April 25th (free of charge) Art Club - Special thanks to the 4-5 Art Club students who participated in the Washington County Fair "Just Down the Road: 1850-1910" Art Contest. The work of: Gavon Darfler, Thomas MacDuff, Lucas Casey, Kayla Sage, Calvin Howard, Kayleigh Wade, Cory Colvin, and Mia Duval Jenkins' are currently on display at the Washington County Farm Museum. It can be seen there through October. Special congratulations to Calvin Howard and Lucas Casey who earned the recognition of Honorable Mention for their work, and to Kayla Sage who achieved Third Place in her age division. Hooray! I am so proud of all of you! Intramural's Write-Up from Mr. MacDougall. The final session of the intramural program concluded this month with 22 participants. Activities included slow-pitch softball and mat ball. Overall, the intramural program had 37 participants this year. Intramurals is an after school program for boys and girls in grades 4-6. A three week session is offered each marking period and is designed to engage students in organized physical activity and play. I feel very fortunate to have been able to serve as the intramural director the past nine years and know the program will be missed by many next year. Child obesity and bullying are two very important issues schools are dealing with today. Intramurals has been a successful after school program for a number of years that promotes physical activity and play with an emphasis on teamwork and sportsmanship. The program has helped students in their maturation and development by promoting the importance of daily physical activity and positive peer relations. Also, as academic rigors and pressures of classroom achievement continue to increase, the intramural program has provided an after school activity for kids to have fun. I hope the children of HCS will one day have an opportunity to participate in intramurals again. "Muffin's for Moms". May 14th – Grade K. The Kindergarten invited moms in to celebrate Mother's Day on May 14th. Both classes made cards and flowers to give to the moms. Mrs. Simmons' class recited a poem and performed a short reader's theatre called "The Fourth Little Pig." Mrs. Genevick's class sang a song and showed moms around the room. There was a great turn-out and the mom's had a wonderful time. "Donut's For Dad" will be in June. Cub Scout Event was held on 5/19/12 with a Rain gutter regatta. It is a boat race which you have to blow on it to get the boat moving. There were 7 boys participating and they all had a great time. Learning Club Write-Up - Learning Club has had another wonderful school year! Working together, students in Learning Club have learned about many new topics and explored these topics quite thoroughly. For example, during the course of the school year, students created their own tessellations utilizing mathematical patterns. They have completed special projects including a memory book and snowflake craft. Students not only enriched their own learning and creativity, but helped other students as well. The students read with second grade students as part of a "Buddy Reading" program. We think this act of volunteering was probably the highlight of the year for club members! The students in Learning Club had a terrific year and truly demonstrated a love of learning! We hope to have even more students join us in the fall. We are thankful for the opportunity to assist students in this after school program. Kindergarten Screening (25 registered) on May 3rd. Movie Night sponsored by PTA on May 4th had about 40 participants total. MS/HS Concert and Art Show on May 10th were well attended – Jillian Smith did a nice job especially for her first concert! Elementary Concert and Art Show - June 5th at 6:00. Local Spelling Bee was held on May 11th gift ice cream certificates were given to all participants from the PTA - Savings Bond to winner and runner-up; Last year's winner and runner-up: Anna Ward (currently a 7th grader), Kevin Cass (currently a 7th grader), Regional Spelling Bee - Wednesday, June 6th at 7:00pm at Skidmore College Palamountain Hall in Saratoga Springs. Grades 4-8 participating. Basic Rules: Students use microphone when spelling words and move to front of stage when it is your turn. All students will stand. Students will need to sit if word is misspelled. Additional rules from Mr. Cook. Grade 4 (Mrs. Babson) - Roberta Clairmont, Abby Holcomb, Alternate: Hannah Monroe; Grade 4 (Mrs. Kelly - formerly Ms. Donohue) - Kathryn Smith Calvin Howard, Alternate: Cory Colvin; Grade 5 (Mrs. Cosh) - Robert Wilson, Jr., Rylie Liebig, Alternate: Lucas Casey; Grade 5 (Mrs. Dupuis) - Diahjanae Walker, Rosemary Huntington, Alternate: Brendan Petit; Grade 6 (Mrs. Burch and Ms. Harke) - Jared Nix, Rosie Maguire, Alternate: Lexie Boucher; Janice Whiting, Sophia Olsen, Alternate: Adam Mitchell; Grade 7 (Ms. Reardon) - Anna Ward, Danielle Aubrey, Alternate: Kevin Cass, Natasha Arno, Brianna Bultman, Alternate: Damien Jay; Grade 8 (Ms. Reardon) - Trent Paradis, Jenna Norton, Alternate: Dillon White, Brianna Getty, Ethan Tyler, Alternate: Seth Goodspeed. Grandparents' Breakfast was held last week on May 15th and 18th. Grading - Committee: Kerry Babson, Maggie Donohue (Kelly), Sue Brown, Gwynne Cosh, Shelley Dupuis, Kristy Genevick, Jenn Lawrence, Amy Thomas. For 2012-13 school year, 1-4 grading for K-2 and numerical grading for grades 3-5. Most likely, teachers will use rubric scoring for writing on the report card (beginning, developing, consistent, exemplary) Grading Research Findings: Include: weekly reading, spelling and

math tests; science labs and test grades, vocabulary, projects, checklists; classroom assignments; grades below a 50% should be recorded as a 50%. Exclude: homework scores; binder or table of content checks; refusal to participate; late assignments; behavior; remember what you are assessing! Third grade has been busy learning about plants. We are growing a plant called the Wisconsin Fast Growing Plant that is used in elementary, high school and colleges across the country to learn about the plants life cycle and diseases of plants. In just one day the plant sprouts and by 5 days the plant is about 5 cm tall. Bees are also part of this unit and students try to find the different parts of a honey bee by using a dried bee and hand lenses. In Social Studies student are learning about South America. Students are reading about the people and land and have used both nonfiction and realistic fiction to help students get a better understanding of this great continent. Students are also using the mini computers to research South American animals. Anthony Jones in Mrs. Vanier's class won a drawing contest his class participated in put on by Cassella Waste Management. His drawing will be used for Cassella's upcoming calendar. Anthony was one of 12 students whose drawing was picked from 354 entries and a total of 14 school participated. The Division Manager will be coming to Hartford CSD to present Anthony a copy of his entry framed and a TD Bank Gift Card on May 31st.

8.0 Old Business – No Old Business to Conduct

9.0 New Business

- *9.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations** – With Annual Reviews underway, there will be an increase in recommendations in this agenda item. As always should there be a question regarding any of the recommendation, the item or items should be tabled for discussion in executive session. – The Board of Education accepted the recommendations of the CPSE/CSE Committee. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.2 Municipal Agreement with the Town of Hartford** – As the board is aware Supervisor Haff and I have had discussions regarding the development of additional athletic fields on the property that was purchased by the school.

A municipal agreement has been developed and reviewed by attorneys representing both entities. The agreement has been approved by the Town Board. A survey of the property has been completed and federal wetlands have been clearly marked. With the board's approval of the municipal agreement, the project can move forward. – The Board of Education approved the municipal agreement between the Hartford Central School District and the Town of Hartford. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0. After the agreement was approved Mr. Abraham thanked the Town of Hartford (members of the board), the State of NY (the approval agencies) and the Youth Commission for all for the corporation so that the additional athletic fields can have the go ahead.
- *9.3 Resignation – Teacher Aide** – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mrs. Muriel Brosseau effective June 30, 2012. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.4 Excess Surplus Property – Cafeteria** – The cafeteria has approximately 30 trays that have been in storage for a number of years and that are no longer of use. Mrs. Howe is requesting the trays be declared excess surplus property. (We do have a buyer for the trays at approximately \$1 per tray). – The Board of Education declared the trays as indicated as excess surplus property and allows the Cafeteria Manager to properly dispose of the trays. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.5 Certification of Graduates** – Each year, the Board of Education is required to certify that all of the students receiving diplomas have successfully completed local and state requirements. I have included a list of the potential graduates for the Class of 2012. – The Board of Education certified the individuals on the provided list for graduation at the 2012 Commencement Ceremony. Certification is contingent upon the students completing all state and local graduation requirements. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.6 Requested Memorial** – The family of Betty Brayton (long-time district employee) has requested board approval to plant a memorial tree at the school. They would like to plant the tree along the lower field area so that in the future the tree could provide shade for people watching soccer and baseball games. – The Board of Education approved the request of the Brayton Family to plant a memorial tree. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

- *9.7 First Reading Board of Education Policy #130 – Child Abuse in A Domestic Setting** - This policy is being proposed to formalize employee responsibilities regarding this particular matter. – The Board of Education approved the first reading, with corrections, of the proposed policy on Child Abuse in A Domestic Setting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.8 First Reading Board of Education Policy #131 – Child Abuse in an Educational Setting** – The Board of Education approved the first reading, with corrections, of the proposed policy on Child Abuse in an Educational Setting. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- *9.9 2012-13 School Breakfast Prices** – I have included a comparison list of area schools regarding breakfast prices. Currently and for the past few years, Hartford’s student breakfast price has been \$0.85. As you can see from the menu I have provided, the cafeteria loses money on some of the items sold. Not factored in to the costs that are indicated are labor prices or the impact of being required to provide fresh fruit with breakfast. It has been four years since the last increase in breakfast prices. The cafeteria manager has requested you consider a slight increase of five cents for the breakfast student charge. – The Board of Education tabled the breakfast prices to be increase discussion. Motion made by Mr. Fish and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.10 Excess Surplus Property** – Two lists have been submitted by the computer coordinator regarding outdated or irreparable parts and outdated textbooks. The request is the items listed be declared excess surplus property of allow for appropriate disposal. – The Board of Education declared the items on the submitted list as excess surplus property and allow for proper disposal. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- *9.11 Employee Request for Non-Resident Student Attendance** – Per Board of Education Policy, Mrs. Carrie Bryant has requested that her son, Keegan, be allowed to attend Hartford Central School. Keegan would be enrolling in the Kindergarten program. As per board policy, the attendance would be tuition free. – The Board of Education approved the request of Mrs. Bryant and allows her son Keegan to attend Hartford Central School District for the 2012-13 School Year. Motion made by Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0
- *9.12 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. Marguerite Cosey for transportation to Truthville Christian Academy for her son Lucas Bannon for the 2012-13 School Year. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.13 Resolution for B.A.N** – As the board is aware, the District has all of its bus purchases under one Bond Anticipation Note. Due to this circumstance, the note must be renewed annually to reflect the changes - either a bus purchase expiring or a new bus being added. A resolution has been attached for your action as has the legal notice that is a requirement for the renewal. – The Board of Education approved the resolution as provided. (***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)

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 8:52 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – Board returned to open session at 9:50 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty indicated the board had discussed specific personnel issues. No further action taken by the board. Board adjourned at 9:51 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk