

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 11, 2013

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

Board Members Absent – None

Guests – Sean Farley, Corie Quattrocchi, Heather Holl, Darleen McCane, Andrea Stoddard, Jeff LaVoie, Nicole Wicks, several of Mr. Farley’s government class.

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

2.0 Prayer – Mr. Fish

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

3.1 Public to be Heard

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

***4.1 Minutes from the January 21, 2013 Regular Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the January 21, 2013 Regular Board of Education Meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen 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 tabled the financial reports until all BOE members could review bills. Motion to table made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

6.0 Superintendent’s Report

***6.1 Governor’s Budget Proposal and Aid to Education** – As you are all aware; the Governor has proposed his budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget calls for an increase in aid to education of approximately \$600 million. In the first run of the aid rates, Hartford is scheduled to see an approximate increase of \$271,000. While the increase is welcomed, the final appropriation will be subject to final budget negotiations. In addition, the amount we are receiving brings the school back to approximately the 2009-10 School Aid ration. Foundation, which is the largest part of state aid, is once again frozen. In addition, the district was assessed approximately 800,000 in Gap Elimination.

Two proposals outside of the general aid to education was the Governor’s statement regarding the rising pension costs and a form of merit pay. He briefly proposed an additional 1% of aid to schools as Pension Stabilization Funds. The proposal recognizes the significant increase in the TRS and ERS Assessments and attempts to address the issue. Very little has been said about this idea since the initial statement. Should something be forthcoming, it would be subject to negotiations with the state legislature.

The governor suggested there should be additional funds placed in the state budget to be used as merit pay for exceptional teachers. As with the first idea, this idea has not received much additional coverage or been discussed in length.

6.2 Follow-up on Emergency Lighting – The company admits there is a problem with the lights.

However, they do not have a unit to replace the existing fixture. They believe the problem is with the mother board/ control panel, which has been redesigned. They are willing to install new boards at no cost to the district. I have accepted the proposal. There has been no further communication with the company.

6.3 Follow-up On Building Security – The electronic locks have been completed and are functioning.

Simplex has submitted a proposal for consideration regarding the electronic swipe cards. As you are aware, the cost is quite high. Due to the cost, it is not something that I can approve for this year (actually based on BOE Policy I cannot authorize the expenditure of funds in the amount of the proposal – only the board can). However, I did have another company come in to review our needs and is in the process of working up an estimate.

***6.4 Health Consortium Information** – I have enclosed in your packet two pieces of information relating to our Health Consortium Trust. The first item is a power point presentation outlining the impact of the Affordable Care Act on the costs of premiums. The second piece addresses the issue of what a Cadillac Plan is and what the costs are associated with plans that are declared Cadillac Plans. As you can see from the information provided, the ACA will have a serious financial impact on the current health care plans.

***6.5 Informational Packet** – As always, there are several items for your review this month.

Item #1 – Letter from Washington County Board of Elections – This is formal notification on an issue that we were aware of several months ago. The communication indicates the legislation allowing schools to use lever machines through December 2014 has been approved. You may remember the legislation was sponsored by Senator Little and based on communication I had with her regarding the issue.

Item #2 – Finalized Settlement Documents – Town of Hebron Assessment

Item #3 – Commissioner's Decision

Item #4 – Letter from the U.S. Department of Education – The communication stresses the need for districts to insure access to extra-curricular activities for disabled children.

Item #5 – NYSCOSS Summary of Governor's Budget Proposal

Item #6 – School Law Bulletin (3)

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

7.0 Principals' and Department Supervisor Reports

7.1 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix – Today was the 100th Day of School – The enrichment classes were a big success this year – Exploring Music, Algebra Fun, Spanish, Let's Dissect the Newspaper, Graphing Fun, Vision Boards, Book Trailers – The winter edition of the "Hartford Star" was published – Upcoming events are Feb 14th is Parents' Breakfast starting at 7:30 and March 1st there will be early dismissal.

7.2 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook – An update on our "Regional Test Correcting": we worked with Fort Ann, Fort Edward, Whitehall, and Granville. Overall, things went ok. However, I think the biggest concern that I received was the number of exams that need to be corrected. As a result, we are going to look at "partnering" with another school so that we correct their exams and they correct ours. As the result of our second quarter grades, we had 48% of students reach an academic honor: 25 Students on Principal's Select, 50 Students on Honor Roll, and 48 Students on Merit Roll. Wednesday, February 6th was on Middle School "Strive-4-Five" event. We had over 60% of Middle School students qualify for the event and I would like to thank Mrs. Harrington and Mrs. Shaw for organizing the event, and Mr. Whitney, Mr. Sutliff, Mr. Cournoyer, Mrs. Bryant, Ms. Boucher, and Nurse Rock for all their help chaperoning and volunteering at the event. A special thanks to Mrs. Charlene Whitney who came out of retirement to help out! Our senior night for our senior student-athletes was this past Thursday. Sectional seedings should be announced on Wednesday. The Winter Sports Awards night is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30p.m. Spring sports begin Monday, March 3rd. The Yearbook (Ms. Lourie and Ms. Stewart) are sponsoring a "Winter Olympics" competition for our students. Student teams, and one faculty team, will compete in volleyball, a

basketball shooting competition, a pie-eating contest, a 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' game, and charades.

7.3 Transportation Department – Mr. Rogers – Current Fleet Review – 13 buses and 4 vans – Our oldest bus is a 2002 model was put in service in the fall of 2001 the current mileage is 101,079 miles and should be replaced to stay on our replacement schedule. The vans range from 2005 to 2011 model; two of them have in excess of 100,000 miles on them. The projected miles on the 2005 van will be 186,000 and the 2007 van will be 110,000 miles by the end of this school year. The 2005 van needs to be replaced to maintain reliable transportation for the school. The estimated cost for a 2013 model 7-passenger van is not to exceed \$22,500 which includes rust proofing, radio, etc. The estimate for the bus with the same options as the previous bus is \$111,999.19 without any trade in. The major increase from last year is the ten-year extended engine warranty. I expect the trade-in value for Bus 63 will be about \$5,000.

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 is required, should there be any questions or concerns about a 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 Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0
- *9.2 Appointment of Elementary Substitute** – As the Board is aware; Mrs. Gwynne Cosh is expected to go on an FMLA leave in March. Mrs. Mannix and the fifth grade teachers conducted interviews in late January. – The Board of Education appointed Ms. Corie Quattrocchi as a substitute teacher effective on or about March 8, 2013 and terminating upon the return of Mrs. Cosh. Ms. Quattrocchi will be paid on a per diem basis. If her stay surpasses 40 days, she will be put on Step 1 with appropriate credit for graduate work. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.3 Approval of Overnight Fieldtrip** – Mr. Farley has submitted a request for an overnight fieldtrip to Washington D.C. for March 7-8, 2013. The fieldtrip will allow the Latin American Studies Class to travel to the Jamaican Embassy in Washington. – The Board of Education approved the request of Mr. Farley and allows the LAS Class to travel to Washington D.C. March 7-8. Approval is contingent upon all Board of Education policies and procedures being followed. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.4 Recommendation for Tenure** – The Board of Education granted tenure in Foreign Language tenure and certification area to Mrs. Elizabeth Emblidge. Tenure will become effective September 1, 2013. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- *9.5 Resolution for Cooperative Bid – Cafeteria Products** – Each year, the Board of Education approves a resolution to participate in cooperative bidding through the local BOCES. The resolution that is enclosed deals specifically with items for the cafeteria. – The Board of Education approved the resolution for cooperative bidding for the products listed. (***Voice Vote Required***). Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0 (Voice Vote: Mr. Fish – Yes, Mr. Jessen – Yes, Mr. Getty – Yes and Mrs. Steves – Yes, Mrs. Thomas – Yes).
- *9.6 Overnight Fieldtrip Request – H.S. Key Club** – The Key Club has submitted an overnight fieldtrip request for 3/22-3/23/13 in order to attend leadership training in Albany. – The Board of Education approved the Key Club's request and approved the overnight fieldtrip for March 22-23 to Albany. Approval is contingent upon all Board of Education policies and procedures being followed. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.7 Extra-Curricular Appointment** – 8th Grade Class Advisor – The Board of Education appointed Ms. Katelyn Boucher to the position of 8th Grade Class Advisor for the 2012-13 School Year. Stipend is per Contract of Agreement. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

***9.8 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 1-3. 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. Steves. Approved 5-0

5.0 Review and Approval of Financial Reports – The Board of Education un-tabled approval of the financial reports. Motion to un- table made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0. Motion to approve made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0

10.0 Executive Session – Recommend the Board of Education adjourn at 7:40 pm to Executive Session to discuss issues related to negotiations with the Non-Instructional Assoc. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0

11.0 Adjournment – 7:51 pm motion by Mr. Jessen and second by Mrs. Thomas to return to open session. Approved 5-0. Mr. Getty indicated the Board of Education discussed negotiations information related to Non-Inst. Association. No further action would be taken by the Board of Education Board adjourned at 7:52 pm on a motion from Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jessen. Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk