

Elementary Principal – Bethellen Mannix
Middle/High School Principal – Brian George

HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hartford, New York

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting January 13, 2014

Board Members Present: Mr. Brian Getty, President, Mrs. Janine Thomas, Vice-President, Mr. Philip Jessen, Mr. Adam Fish and Mr. Ronald Smith

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Dana Haff, Russell Wade, Elizabeth Emblidge and Phi Gibson

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
 - President, Board of Education
2. Prayer
 - Mr. Jessen
3. Welcome
 - 3.1 Public to be Heard – Nothing
4. Review and Approval of Minutes
 - 4.1 Minutes from the Regular Meeting of Board of Education held on December 16, 2013. – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the December 16, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0.
5. Review and Approval of the District’s Financial Reports
 - 5.1 Treasurer’s Report
 - 5.2 Warrants
 - 5.3 Cafeteria Report
 - 5.4 Budget Summary

The Board of Education approved the financial reports as presented. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0. – *The board also approved the paying of the Health Bill that will come after this “early” board meeting so that we can keep on track.*
6. Superintendent’s Report
 1. Solar Panels: With the board’s permission, I would like to formally begin investigating the possibility of installing solar panels in the district for the purposes of generating electricity. Informally, I have some conducted some research and spoken with other area Superintendents about this process. From my understanding, there is no upfront cost to the district. The selected company will install the panels and then the district purchases the generated electricity from the company at a discounted rate. Currently, there are three districts that are working through this process or have already implemented panels: Cambridge, Queensbury, and Warrensburg. – *The board gave Mr. Cook permission to formally begin investigating the possibility of installing solar panels in the district for the purposes of generating electricity.*
 2. Veteran’s Exemption: Chapter 518 of the Real Property Tax Laws extends an existing tax exemption for veterans to school taxes. Prior to this revision, the exemption was only allowed for county, city, town, and village taxes. In order to accept this exemption, the district would have to hold a public hearing on the matter and then adopt a formal resolution. This proposal has the possibility of pitting schools against one another; For example: Hartford does not allow for the exemption but school district “A” does.
 3. Washington County Consortium Meeting: Thursday, January 16th is the next meeting of the Washington County Consortium.
 4. Cloud Technology: You may have seen an article in the “Post Star” a week or so ago that discussed the use of cloud technology in schools. Hartford is taking part in this initiative and will be bringing Chromebooks to the district to be used with Google apps. One professional development class has already taken place for the faculty and additional opportunities will be scheduled as needed.

5. Wednesday, January 8th Governor Cuomo offered the “State of the State” address. Within the address he discussed a number of topics, including education. Some of the more prominent education topics included:
 - a. Tax relief: The Governor reiterated the need for a property tax relief and specifically called for a property tax freeze and then instituting a subsequent circuit breaker program. However, he did not specifically address how this would affect school districts. The Governor is proposing a freeze on property taxes if the local government can stay under the tax cap. As proposed, this could present difficulties for school districts.
 - b. Prekindergarten: The Governor is promoting establishing a universal, full day Pre-K program throughout the state; although there was no mention on how the funds would be raised for this program. There is an implication that some money for this program could come from a bond act, but no details as of yet.
 - c. “Smart Schools” Initiative: The Governor is seeking public approval for a \$2 Billion education technology bond specifically designed to fund technology upgrades in schools. Each school district would be allocated funds to create “state of the art classrooms” that include tablets, interactive whiteboards, district servers, new computers, WiFi, etc. How schools would be able to apply for these monies and what the state guidelines are for implementation have not been published.
 - d. Full Scholarships: The Governor is proposing providing full scholarships to SUNY and CUNY institutions for New York high school seniors who graduate in the top 10% of their class and go on to major in math, science or technology programs. The program would also require those students to work in New York State for five years following graduation from a SUNY institution.
 - e. “Teacher Excellence” fund: This program would allow teachers who are rated as highly effective to be eligible for up to \$20,000 in supplemental compensation. Although not formalized, it appears as though specific districts will be chosen for participation based upon a number of variables, including whether they are encouraging highly effective teachers to work in struggling schools.
 - f. Merging: Governor Cuomo is again encouraging the merging of local governments and school districts. However, he is now also discussing shared services and the inherent benefits of sharing among municipalities.
 - g. Mandatory Reporter Law: The Governor is proposing a law that would require school officials to report to NYSED and, when appropriate law enforcement, any instances related to discrimination and harassment. Further, he is proposing changes to the Human Rights Law, which would make school districts civilly liable for patterns of discrimination or abuse, remedying a 2012 Court of Appeals case.

Most of the items discussed above were short on detail and are subject to legislative approval. However, it is important that we are fully aware of the Governor’s intentions. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the items, please feel free to see me.

6. AASBA: February 6th is the next meeting of the Adirondack Area School Boards Association. If you are interested in attending, please let me know and I can complete the registration form.
7. Building Principals and Department Supervisor Reports
 - 7.1 Custodial Report: Mr. Gary Jones
 - The kick board has been rebuilt and will be repainted in the summer
 - The outside scoreboard was replaced with the help of Rob Leise and Leise’s Welldrilling boom truck.
 - Softball and baseball fields were leveled and redressed with slate dust.
 - Mulch was added to the playground over Christmas break.
 - The wall in the kitchen was repaired and repainted.
 - The wood pallet in cooler was removed and replace with a plastic pallet per DOH recommendations.
 - I am in the process of discussing with Mr. Cook and Mrs. Searles the feasibility of ordering new folding chairs and tables to replace broken ones.
 - Trash can holders will be purchased for all fields and play area.
 - When asked what Mr. Jones might wish for in the future his reply was fencing around campus which has not been addressed in years
 - 7.2 Middle/High School Report: Mr. Brian George
 - We had over 30 students compete in the math meet this month.....it was a tough one but we did earn a few points and are still in the running.

- After learning about businesses, Financial Applications students wrote their own business plans and then presented them to potential investors in the format of the TV show, Shark Tank. The students and the "sharks" (including Mr. Cook, Mr. George, Mr. Flower, Miss. Stewart, and Miss. Lourie) had a lot of fun.
- On January 10th, Miss Lourie and 4 Algebra 2/Trig Students attended IMPACT at Siena College. IMPACT is a day where students are introduced to different parts of the Computer Science world. Students learned cool facts like how programming is only 20% of what a Computer Science major does, or that next year alone there will be 150 million computer science jobs but only 400,000 people to fill them, as well as how to program a pac-man game.
- On December 19th the Hartford FFA had two very well attended Middle School and High School lunch meetings with the NYS FFA President Ashley Willets (from Lowville) and the District 3 FFA President Gabby Jordan (from Greenwich)
- On January 8th and 9th four students (A. Parrott, K. Eastman, B. Burch & M. Boucher) attended the NYS Agriculture Societies Annual Meeting and Forum.
- This Forum included one panel of young agriculturalists (Ages 22-29) discussing "The Next Generation of Agriculturalists: Millennials' perspectives on their future in agriculture" and a panel the previous evening discussing college options for students.
- The FFA fruit sale was a huge success; thank you to everyone who supported us again this year!
- December 19th was our Winter Band and Chorus Concert was a huge success!!! Standing room only. Great job by all of our students and of course Mrs. Dougher and Ms. Smith.
- December 20th was our assembly game against Salem. Students wore black and seemed to have a great time.

Upcoming Events:

- Cheerleader Fundraiser @ Bernardo's Restaurant in Granville
- Jan. 15th – Tad Jones goes for his 1000th career point against Fort Edward - game will be broadcasted on the Adirondack Sports Network.
- Jan. 16th – Dimes-a-Dip
- Jan. 27th – Half Day except grade 11 - NYS Comprehensive ELA exam
- Jan. 27th-Jan.31st – NYS Regents Examinations- Classes still in session
- Jan. 30th – Second Quarter Ends

7.3 Elementary Report: Mrs. Bethellen Mannix:

- Student Recognition
 - Bus Riders of the Month
 - Citizens' of the Month
 - Chronicle Entries: Seth Burch, Carl Smith, Hunter McCane, Caden Venner, Grace Barber
 - Hartford Star Fall/Winter Edition (copies to hand out)
 - Tanager Pride Parties held in November (pictures attached)
- Class Recognition
 - Top 3 classes to sell iPad raffle tickets (Kelly, Babson, Dupuis) - lunch, Battenkill Chocolate Milk and White Chocolate dipped Oreos
 - Box Top Contest Winners (Roxanne Peck's class will be providing a breakfast treat to these classes):
 - Babson (1,973)
 - Thomas (1,261)
 - Ward (1,101)
- Classroom News:
 - After school Enrichment starts this week (grades 3-6)
 - Make-a-Wish raised \$83 this year – Sue Brown organized this again
- Upcoming Events
 - Monday, January 27th: 11:30 dismissal for K-12 (except those students who have to take Regents Exam)
 - Friday, February 14th: Parents' Breakfast
- Junior Achievement (Social Studies curriculum)
 - Looking for volunteers

8. Old Business: *There is no old business to conduct*

9. New Business

- 9.1 CPSE/CSE/504 Recommendations – 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 Financial Reserves: As part of the District office’s initial long-term fiscal planning strategy, at the October 21, 2013 regular meeting of the board of education, the members of the board approved the creation of reserves in two fiscal categories that can handcuff the budget in any given year: ERS and Unemployment. – The Board of Education approved the transfer of funds from the district’s fund balance into the established financial reserves in the following amounts:
➤ \$50,000 to the Unemployment Reserve;
➤ \$150,000 to ERS Reserve.
Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0.
- 9.3 Employment Appointment: Bus Driver: With the retirement of Mrs. Connie Knights, the district is in need of a fulltime replacement. Utilizing the preferred eligibility list, Mrs. Stacey Tyler is the most senior substitute driver and is next in-line to be recalled as a fulltime driver. – The Board of Education recalled Mrs. Stacey Tyler as a fulltime bus driver. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0.
- 9.4 School Tax Refund: Included within the board packet is a letter from Laura Chadwick, the Director of Real Property Tax Services, indicating that parcel ID 638-000-9999-760.700-1883 is entitled to a refund of \$1,384.33. – The mended Action: See attached resolution (Voice Vote required) – The Board of Education approved the refund. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0. *Voice Vote:* Mr. Getty, Yes, Mrs. Thomas, Yes; Mr. Jessen, Yes; Mr. Fish, Yes; and Mr. Smith, Yes.
- 9.5 Overnight Field-trip Request: Ms. Tricia Stewart has submitted a request for the FFA to attend the Farm Bureau Government Awareness Institute in Albany, NY from February 10th through the 11th. – The Board of Education approved the FFA field trip request contingent upon the compliance with all Board of Education policies and procedures related to overnight fieldtrips. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0.
- 10.0 Executive Session – Recommend the Board of Education adjourn at 7:40 pm to Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel and contract negotiations. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Thomas. Approved 5-0
- 11.0 Adjournment – 8:25 pm motion by Mr. Jessen and second by Mr. Smith to return to open session. No further action would be taken by the Board of Education Board adjourned at 8:26 pm on a motion from by Mr. Jessen and second by Mr. Fish. Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk