

Minutes – Workshop Meeting – Board of Education – New Paltz Central High School – September 15, 2010 – 7:00 PM

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Donald Kerr, Board President.

CALL TO ORDER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathleen Tobin Flusser
Steven Greenfield
Donald Kerr
Robert Rich
Edgar Rodriguez
Daniel Torres

QUORUM CHECK

ALSO PRESENT:

Maria Rice, Superintendent of Schools

EXCUSED:

Patrick Rausch

ROLL CALL

The roll was called as reflected above.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Robert Rich and seconded by Daniel Torres that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:31 PM for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular individuals.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Motion carried 6 - 0 with 6 members voting.

Out of Executive Session - Motion made by Donald Kerr and seconded by KT Tobin Flusser that the Board return to Public Session at 7:00 PM.

Motion carried 6 - 0 with 6 members voting.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION/CALL TO ORDER

Members returned from Executive Session, and the meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Kerr.

CALL TO ORDER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathleen Tobin Flusser
Steven Greenfield
Donald Kerr
Robert Rich
Edgar Rodriguez
Daniel Torres

QUORUM CHECK

EXCUSED:

Patrick Rausch

ALSO PRESENT:

Maria Rice, Superintendent of Schools
Richard Linden, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Debora Banner, Assistant Superintendent
Connie Hayes, Assistant Superintendent Pupil Personnel Services
Elena Maskell, District Clerk
Barbara Clinton, High School Principal
Richard Wiesenthal, Middle School Principal
Debra Hogencamp, Principal Duzine Elementary School
Michelle Martoni, Principal Lenape Elementary School
Members of the Public and Press

ROLL CALL

The roll was called as reflected above.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

AGENDA CHANGES

President Kerr announced the following Addendum to the Agenda:

AGENDA
CHANGES

<i>ADDENDUM</i>			
10.8 Instructional Part-Time Appointment			
That the New Paltz Central Schools Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint the following part-time instructional employee for the 2010-2011 school year:			
Name	Title	Effective Date	Salary
Amy Strickland	Speech Language	9/16/10 – 6/30/11	(.6) MA Step 5, \$70,330 (pro-rated)

Motion to accept addendum as presented was So Moved by Mr. Torres and seconded Ms. Tobin Flusser All in favor with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAM - HIGH SCHOOL – Alexandra Nneji, Participation in Government Report
Principal Barbara Clinton introduced Alexandra Nneji and student Lucas Dempsey. Ms. Nneji stated this project was collaboration between the school and CREEO at SUNY New Paltz with Ms. Tobin Flusser and Gerry Benjamin. Ms. Nneji stated there was a grant issued to develop methods for children to get in touch with their local government.

The Board requested copies of any responses the group may receive from local agencies. Ms. Tobin Flusser noted she was impressed at the creativity and ability of the students to tackle the issues. Maria C. Rice noted that the information they received would be responded to by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC
COMMENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| William Weinstein, New Paltz | South Putt Corners Road |
| Ira Margolis, New Paltz | Tax issues in New Paltz |
| Kevin Barry, New Paltz | Comments on Code of Conduct |
| Ed Burke, New Paltz | Comments on Board Roles |
| Linda Geary, Gardiner | The Court of Public Opinion |
| Kevin Barry, New Paltz | Comments on Code of Conduct |

Ms. Tobin Flusser reiterated that school counsel was contacted, and no actionable items exist, according to the school attorney, that would qualify as standing to remove the President of the Board from his position.

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - Andrew J. Arias, CPA – Cooper, Niemann & Co. (15 minutes)

Mr. Kerr made motion to move the External Audit Report up the agenda. Motion seconded by Mr. Torres. All were in favor with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0.

Andrew J. Arias, CPA, from Cooper Niemann & Co. presented the trustees with a presentation regarding the external audit. Revenue Allocation was provided. Mr. Arias spoke of Expenditure Allocations, Fund Balances, and other balances such as school lunch fund, reserved for debt funds, and capital reserves. Mr. Arias noted that the general fund balance increased \$783,000. This money was used to set up an unemployment reserve and an additional \$500,000 was designated in 2011 budget for a total designation of \$1.8 million. Mr. Arias noted that the district’s fund balance is within the 4% limitation, and he noted this is a sound place for the district to be in.

Mr. Arias noted there was extensive single audit work required and all ARRA programs were classified as “high risk”. There were no significant deficiencies noted.

Mr. Arias spoke to the Board regarding GASB 45 and the Retiree Health insurance. This represents the present liability that the district has for retirees and current employees. Mr. Aria noted there were not written comments as a result of the audit, and there were minor issues discussed verbally with the Audit Committee. Mr. Arias noted that a clean unqualified opinion was received. Mr. Arias wanted to inform the Board that in the future there will be five different classifications of fund balance.

Mr. Arias noted the district has a strong Business Office. He commented that the staff is quite knowledgeable and they help to make his job easier. He thanked the staff for all of their assistance.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Lucas Dempsey & Julie Apuzzo

Julie Apuzzo, a New Paltz High School senior, appeared for an update for the Board. She informed the Board that student schedules were available early in the summer, and this gave students ample time to contact advisors and avoid potential issues. She stated this helped in a smooth transition with students and their schedules. Ms. Apuzzo stated there is a new Glee Class that is being offered to students this fall, and it is going well. Ms. Apuzzo stated that MPZ is the morning radio show for the high school, and it was up and running on the first day. Ms. Apuzzo stated the week before school started Peer Leadership had a Freshman Orientation, which went really well. Ms. Apuzzo noted that there were many students late last year, so this year something new was implemented. The first 10 minutes of school students are still considered, but students no longer have to go through the attendance office if they are tardy within the 10-minute time frame. They can go directly to their first period, and this avoids a delay in time getting to class. Student Government implemented this.

Lucas Dempsey noted this Friday is Constitution Day, and students have been interviewed on the constitution and their rights. Mr. Dempsey stated ID Cards were handed out to students for safety reasons. Mr. Dempsey stated students have to have an ID Card to access the school. Maria C. Rice stated this is for a single point of entry.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPT REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Maria C. Rice noted Suzanne Worth is a Physical Education teacher in Lenape. She decided to coordinate participation in Denim Day, which this year will fall on October 8, 2010. This is a yearly event, and Superintendent Rice stated over \$1,400 was donated last year. Superintendent Rice stated over 211 people have taken part in the event, and over time \$16,000 has been donated to Cancer Research. She commended those involved and publically thanked Suzanne Worth for her fundraising efforts.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2009-2010 STATE OF THE DISTRICT REPORT

At the next Board meeting members will be going through this with a presentation from the leadership team.

BUILDING ACTION PLANS – Principals

Barbara Clinton, Principal of the High School came to present information on the Action Plan for the High School. Mrs. Clinton noted that their needs statement is a work in progress, and every year they make improvements and make their smart goals better so the public and the student know the expectations.

Mrs. Clinton noted that success is going to be determined by measured by a 10% growth in learning. Mrs. Clinton stated 100% of the students will be involved in authentic assessment activities. Mrs. Clinton noted that 100% of the educational staff will be involved in using technology as a role in learning.

Dr. Wiesenthal presented his plan next. He stated all schools have similar smart goals. Dr. Wiesenthal noted that the middle school has been focusing on 21st century learning. Dr. Wiesenthal noted that in lieu of final exams they gave authentic assessments, and this had amazing results. Mr. Wiesenthal stated one goal is to collect baseline data on the authentic assessment with strengths and weaknesses. Another goal is peer review of teachers. Dr. Wiesenthal stated they will be looking at the ELA assessments and breakdown of broad scores and item analysis, and designing assessments at the grade level. Dr. Wiesenthal noted the BLT will be reconvened, and more study groups will be continued. Dr. Wiesenthal noted the PRIDE survey will be given in October, and the data will be analyzed.

Debra Hogencamp and Michelle Martoni gave a joint presentation on action plans for Duzine and Lenape. Ms. Hogencamp stated that teachers will have peers to confer with during their prep time to improve efforts. Ms. Hogencamp stated that data analysis is important and they are looking into a more periodic review of the collected data. Measureable goals will be set, and the data will drive instruction throughout the year. Ms. Martoni noted that the common planning time is moving into a

learning community. Ms. Martoni noted that they had data received by Ms. Banner and they are working on analyzing the data.

President Kerr stated cohesive and inclusive culture is being created with the efforts of the administrators. He commended the teachers and the superintendent and the Board for their collaborative efforts. Mr. Greenfield echoed those comments and noted that much of what they have heard speaks volumes to what the administration accomplishes.

Maria C. Rice stated that the administration provides exemplary support to live up to the educational standards.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE – Superintendent Rice

Mrs. Rice noted this year is unique because there has been a large influx of new students. Mrs. Rice noted the class sizes are a little larger than hoped, but still within the ranges that were set. The Superintendent stated 31 students exited 95 students were added. Superintendent Rice stated that Pre-K is 15 with max 16. The first grade range is between 19-21, the second grade range is 18-21, the third 19-21, fourth is 20-22, and fifth is 18-22. The Superintendent stated currently the district has 2320 students.

Maria C. Rice noted that there is a big influx regarding students coming in from private schools.

TAX LEVY & THE TAX BILL – Assistant Superintendent Linden

Mr. Linden noted that the tax levy is the total amount the school district will collect in taxes. This year it was a 2.95% increase. Through equalization and assessments tax bills can vary. Mr. Linden noted that values of properties are going down. Mr. Linden stated the total value of properties went down \$15 million dollars. Due to fluctuations, six out of seven towns in the district decreased. New Paltz was the one town that increased.

Mr. Linden stated overall the tax levy was 2.95%, but New Paltz's share of the tax levy went up on average 4.64%. Gardiner's levy was up, but all of the other towns decreased in their tax levy. Mr. Linden stated there was a reassessment in the Town of New Paltz this year. Mr. Linden stated about 1/3 properties decreased, 1/3 stayed about the same, and 1/3 increased.

School tax levy rate per thousand was higher than the 2.95%. Mr. Linden stated that distribution between the towns is based on the portion of the entire district. Discussion ensued.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

BD COMMUNICATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Rich and second by Mr. Torres to approve the following:

7.1 Request for Approval to Accept the External Audit Report for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accept the 2009-2010 External Audit Report as presented by the accounting firm of Cooper, Niemann & Co., LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

All in favor with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Kerr noted that there was a request by the BOE President to individual members to submit their goals. One trustee responded, and all of his items were placed on the comeback list. Mr. Kerr requested if anyone else has any individual goals please hand them in and they will be dealt with according to input received. Mr. Kerr noted that he would like a comeback list into every board packet.

CROSSING GUARD UPDATE – KT Tobin Flusser

Ms. Tobin Flusser went to the Village Board meeting last week regarding a Crossing guard for Manheim and Main St. Ms. Tobin Flusser noted the Village immediately decided to fund the position, and they placed an ad in the paper. It is in Village Law that they are required to place someone at the intersection, and they are doing same based on the need.

SOUTH PUTT CORNERS ROAD UPDATE – KT Tobin Flusser

Ms. Tobin Flusser stated that the people of New Paltz asked the County to move this project up their priority list. Originally it was scheduled to commence work in 2014. The community reacted, including the Board of Education, and County Executor Michael Hein placed this back on the project list for work to commence as a priority. In 2011 it will be in planning and development, and the County stepped up and the possible finish date is 2014.

Mr. Greenfield thanked Bill Weinstein advising the community and assisting in the efforts to get this project as a priority. Mr. Greenfield stated Mr. Weinstein was in the forefront of this project and performed a great deal of the work.

In response to a public comment, Maria C. Rice will contact CSArch to see if their building survey assessed noise as in the cafeteria and gymnasium.

There was discussion on Policy 1510, the Policy on Public Comment.

Mr. Kerr noted there was a press conference by Michael Hein, County Executive to remove tobacco advertising any place where children can view it. This is a county-wide initiative, but a press conference took place at Lenape School.

COMMITTEE CHARGE FOR INPUT COMMITTEES & FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Steve Greenfield
Mr. Greenfield stated the Facilities Committee held a special meeting yesterday to discuss the comprehensive facilities planning. Mr. Greenfield noted there is a hand out with information and they are recommending the full Board review and support the contents. The information dealt with stakeholder groups, a larger facility committee, and gave them guiding questions to follow.

Discussion ensued regarding the two-meeting rule and the urgency of this information. Maria C. Rice noted that there are two meetings occurring within the next two weeks. The schedule is approved and the consultants are following the schedule, and it was based upon consultation and advice from CSArch after much discussion. CSArch presented much of this material already outlined. A Motion was made by Mr. Greenfield and seconded by Mr. Rich to accept the Community Committee Charges. Mr. Kerr requested that the press release be sent to Channel 23 e-mail address bulletin board.

KT Tobin Flusser requested the press release be sent to her at SUNY New Paltz, and also to all BOE Members. Any press releases regarding this project will be sent to the BOE. Ms. Tobin Flusser also requested the Scope of work from RFP be sent to her as well.

All were in favor with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0.

NYSSBA RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Tobin Flusser noted that she has reservations on numbers 4, 5, and 6. Regarding the resolutions not recommended, Ms. Tobin Flusser supports #12. Ms. Tobin Flusser stated there are not a lot of opportunities for structural change, and a constitutional convention could provide a venue to discuss property tax for K-12 education. Mr. Greenfield noted the ones that are potential examinable there isn't enough content to make an objections.

Mr. Kerr noted that the Board is generally comfortable with resolutions and recommendations that encompassed the packet. It was the Board's consensus to allow Mr. Rausch to vote with NYSSBA's recommendations.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPTS

- AUDIT COMMITTEE – Patrick Rausch (No Report)
- FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Steven Greenfield (No Report)
- POLICY COMMITTEE – KT Tobin Flusser (No Report)
- HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Daniel Torres (No Report)
- LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Daniel Torres (No Report)

9. MINUTES OF MEETING

MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Torres and second by Ms. Tobin Flusser to approve the following:

That the New Paltz Central Schools Board of Education accept the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of September 1, 2010.

All were in favor. No members were opposed, but Mr. Rich abstained due to absence at the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

10.7 Non-Instructional Leave of Absence

That the New Paltz Central Schools Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve an unpaid leave of absence for the following non-instructional employee:

Name	Title	Effective
Vivian Figueroa	School Bus Driver	9/8/2010 to 2/28/2011

10.8 Instructional Part-time Appointment

Recommendation - that the New Paltz Central Schools Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint the following part-time instructional employee for the 2010-2011 school year:

Name	Title	Effective date	Step/Salary
Amy Strickland	Speech Language	9/16/10 – 6/30/11	(.6) MA Step 5, \$70,330 (pro-rated)

All were in favor with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0.

11. OLD BUSINESS OLD BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Request for Approval of Committee on Special Education Recommendations and Student Placements

Motion made by Mr. Torres and second by Ms. Tobin Flusser to approve the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District approve the Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) recommendations and student placements: 12164, 11173, 12157, 11510, 12312,12338, 12337, 10804.

All in favor with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Rich and seconded by Ms. Tobin Flusser to approve the following:

12.2 Request for Approval of Textbook for the New Paltz High School

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following textbook for use at the New Paltz Central High School:

High School

Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry – Bettelheim, Brown, et al. Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning

All in favor with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Ms. Tobin Flusser and seconded by Mr. Torres to approve the following:

12.3 Request for Approval to Establish Student Scholarship Award

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Maria C. Rice, does hereby approve the establishment of the James M. Wells Memorial Football Scholarship in the amount of \$350.00, and directs the District Clerk to send a letter of appreciation from the Board of Education to Patty Karamanos for funding this scholarship.

All in favor with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0.

13. FINANCIAL REPORTS

14. OTHER DISCUSSION

Mr. Greenfield stated October 3, 2010 is fire prevention week. Mr. Greenfield asked if an invitation could be extended to the New Paltz Chief Weeks to go to the elementary schools FOR fire prevention education. Item will be added to the October 6, 2010 BOE Meeting agenda.

Ms. Tobin Flusser would like to have a school board dodge ball team. Item will be placed on the Comeback List.

Mr. Kerr stated several years ago the BOE supported a dialogue in the community regarding drug and alcohol abuse. He would like to obtain a report regarding this with the intent to hearing about that process. Nancy Schneiderwind.

Community Groups of Interest put on comeback list. Mr. Rodriguez would like invites extended to community partnership.

The BOE Vice President will direct District Clerk on how to handle material handed to the Clerk by a member of the community.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Kerr stated several people came to make comments but had to leave, so he informed the BOE of the following: One person wanted to address Cyber bullying, a student was coming to thank the Board for maintaining AP Classes and not making cuts, and another member of the public wanted to discuss the fact that the financial investment we make in our students is in the middle of the county, but the performance is far above the median.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION – SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

17. ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Torres and seconded by Robert Rich to adjourn the Board of Education meeting. Five members were in favor with one trustee, Mr. Rodriguez opposed. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elena Maskell, District Clerk