

Minutes – Business Meeting – Board of Education – High School - January 7, 2015 – 7:00 PM

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Brian Cournoyer, Board President. Maria C. Rice was appointed District Clerk Pro-Tempore for the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

QUORUM CHECK

- Brian Cournoyer
- Steven Greenfield
- Aimee Hemminger
- Dominick Profaci
- Ruth Quinn
- Timothy Rogers
- Julie Tresco

ALSO PRESENT:

- Maria Rice, Superintendent of Schools
- Michelle Martoni, Assistant Superintendent for Education Programs
- Richard Linden, Assistant Superintendent for Business

ROLL CALL The roll was called as reflected above.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Aimee Hemminger and seconded by Ruth Quinn that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:30 PM for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person and corporation. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

Out of Executive Session - Motion made by Ruth Quinn and seconded by Dominick Profaci that the Board return to Public Session at 7:02 PM. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

CALL TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Brian Cournoyer, Board President.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

QUORUM CHECK

- Brian Cournoyer
- Steven Greenfield
- Aimee Hemminger
- Dominick Profaci
- Ruth Quinn
- Timothy Rogers
- Julie Tresco

ALSO PRESENT:

- Maria Rice, Superintendent of Schools
- Michelle Martoni, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs
- Richard Linden, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Meghan Febbie, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
- Kathleen Clark, Special Education Coordinator
- Kathy Coughlin, Special Education Coordinator
- Michael Robinson, Director of Food Services
- Stephen J. Callahan, Director of Facilities & Operations
- Richard Wiesenthal, Middle School Principal
- Dusti Callo, District Clerk
- Student Representative
- Members of the Public and Press

ROLL CALL The roll was called as reflected above.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PLEDGE

AGENDA CHANGES

AGENDA CHANGES

Board President, Brian Cournoyer presented the following agenda changes:
Under **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**, add discussion about a proposed Resolution Against “Wasting Food and Taxpayer Money” Unfunded Mandate. Motion made by Ruth Quinn and seconded by Aimee Hemminger to accept the agenda changes. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAM

SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAM

- New Paltz Middle School Students, “School of Rock”, under the direction of Mr. Scott Milici and Ms. Sonja Beard

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anne Colafriedland, New Paltz-Capital Project voting date of January 2, 2015 and absentee voting.

Doug Gilmore, New Paltz-commended the Board for challenging certain members of the Town Board for unethical tactics in spreading misinformation regarding the last Capital Project vote in October 2014.

Sean Colazza, New Paltz High School Student-asked the board what the plan is if the vote for the Capital Project fails. Board President Brian Cournoyer briefly responded that the board cannot propose the same proposition in a future vote and that the board would have to regroup to decide what to do moving forward.

Steve Casa, New Paltz-Complimented the School of Rock for their performance, thanked the Board for their continued support of the school district’s arts program, commended the Board for their excellent communication to the community regarding the Capital Project, thanked the Board for the resolution created in opposition to the Town’s plans for a sewer treatment plant located near the high school.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

STUDENT REP

- Student Representative, Hannah Pratt

Student representative Hannah Pratt reported on students’ return to school after the holiday break, student government and spirit week, Interact Club, Choir, Peer Mediators, the Spring Musical, Girls Basketball, Nordic Ski Training and Mid-Term finals.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPT REPORT

- SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS
- SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS
 - Highlights of Special Education Program Review from Futures, Inc. – Michelle Martoni, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs, Richard Linden, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Meghan Febbie, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
 - Vertical Alignment Committee Snapshot - Michelle Martoni, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs and Meghan Febbie, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
 - 504 Transition Plan- Michelle Martoni, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs and Meghan Febbie, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
 - Mid-Year Special Education Snapshot – Meghan Febbie, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

BOARD COMMUNICATION

- Capital Project

Board members agreed that each member should contribute to a letter to the editor that conveys their own personal perspective and journey that lead to the consensus on the proposed Capital Project.

- Proposed Resolution regarding Wasting Food and Taxpayer Money

Board member Timothy Rogers proposed a resolution against Wasting Food and Taxpayer Money. Discussion took place by the board and Food Services Director Michael Robinson about the amount of food that is thrown away by students during lunch time and the district’s participation in the federal school lunch program. The board also discussed the lunch schedule and time allowed for students to eat. Mike Robinson and Rick Linden will meet to discuss the increase costs of fruits and vegetables and the anticipated additional revenue received from the federal government from the \$.06 per meal

reimbursement. The board agreed to revisit this topic at the January 21, 2015 board meeting. The proposed resolution will be discussed at the Legislative Action Committee meeting on January 28, 2015.

➤ **Public Comment to State Education Department on Field Tests**

The following resolution was presented for discussion by the members of the board. A motion was made by Steven Greenfield and seconded by Timothy Rogers to approve the resolution.

**New Paltz Central School District Response
to the Board of Regents’ Proposal to Mandate Field Tests**

The NYS Board of Regents is currently considering an amendment to sections 100.2, 100.3, and 100.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education to mandate that public schools participate in stand-alone field tests. In February of 2013, the New Paltz Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution calling for a reduction in testing mandates, including stand-alone field tests. There is no research to support the assertion that standardized testing will result in gains in student achievement and whereas we object to standards that have not been field tested or fully vetted, we must reject field tests that support high stakes assessments based on these experimental standards.

New Paltz Central School District believes that classroom time and student efforts should be used for instruction, not for the benefit of for-profit testing companies or to aid in the creation of tests that have not been proven to increase student achievement. Field tests are not required by federal law and we object to any state testing mandates that exceed federal requirements, especially when schools across New York State are struggling to meet the unfunded and overly burdensome mandates of Race to the Top.

Neither students nor educators receive student performance results from field tests. Therefore, we believe that these tests will yield no educational benefit for our students and that in fact, this type of assessment is in violation of Pearson’s contract with NYSED which requires that assessments adhere to the American Psychological Association’s testing standards which include the test takers right to receive a timely and understandable explanation of test results.

For all of the above reasons, New Paltz Central School District strongly rejects the use of field testing and therefore strongly objects to NYSEDs proposal to mandate field testing. Please enter this comment into the public comment record.

Motion passed 7 to 0 with 7 members voting. The board directed that a copy of the approved resolution be forwarded to the New York State Board of Regents to be entered into the public comment record, NYSCOSS, NYSSBA, Ulster County Superintendent’s Council and local media outlets. The board further directed that the resolution be posted on the District’s website where community members and parents could sign on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CMTE REPORTS

None

MINUTES OF MEETING

MINUTES

Motion made by Ruth Quinn and seconded by Dominick Profaci that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the New Paltz Central Schools Board of Education accept the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of December 17, 2014. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

PERSONNEL

Motion made by Dominick Profaci and seconded by Ruth Quinn that the Board of Education approve the following personnel (consent agenda) resolutions items 11.1 through 11.6:

11.1 Request for Approval of Election Inspectors

Recommendation - that the New Paltz Central Schools Board of Education appoint the following individuals as election inspectors for the 2014-2015 school year:

Name

- Jessica Pedro
- Laura Walls
- Marsha Massih-Varriano
- Ed Mannix
- Ronald Mironchik
- Jennifer Voorhis

11.2 Advisorships

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 instructional employees to the following advisorships for the 2014/2015 school year, with remuneration as per NPUT contract:

Name	Title	Salary
Laura Faure	All County Chorus	\$1,480
David Finch	All County Band	\$1,480
Michelle Diana	Literary Magazine	\$1,480

11.3 Non-Instructional Leave of Absence

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 employees:

Name	Title	Effective Dates
Jennifer Saladino	School Bus Driver	02/02/2015 – 02/05/2015

11.4 Instructional Appointment - Substitutes

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 substitute teachers with remuneration as per rates established at the July 2, 2014 Organizational Meeting:

Name	Effective Dates
Susan Berliner	1/5/15-6/30/15
Silvia Daole	1/8/15-6/30/15
David Kent	1/8/15-6/30/15

11.5 Instructional Leave of Absence

Recommendation 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 instructional employee:

Name	Title	Effective Dates
Jessica Fredericks	Social Studies Teacher	1/6/15-1/31/15

11.6 Request for Approval of Administrative Internship-Unpaid

Recommendation – that the following resolution be approved:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve the unpaid Administrative Internship of Alexandra Nneji, effective January 5, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

Motion to approved items 11.1 through 11.6 passes 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

Motion made by Timothy Rogers and seconded by Aimee Hemminger to approve the following resolution:

11.7 Administrative Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

Recommendation - that the New Paltz Central Schools Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent, does hereby accept the resignation of the following administrative employee for the purpose of retirement:

Name	Title	Effective Date
Jacqueline Sinatra	Building Administrator	June 30, 2015

Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting. The board expressed their best wishes to Ms. Sinatra and thanked her for her service to the New Paltz Central School District

OLD BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of 2015-2016 District Calendar

Motion made by Ruth Quinn and seconded by Julie Tresco to approve the 2015-2016 District Calendar as presented.

Motion passed 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Ruth Quinn and seconded by Julie Tresco that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

Minutes - Workshop Meeting
1/7/15

13.1 Appointment of Health Advisory Committee (HAC) Members

Recommendation – that the New Paltz Central Schools Board of Education upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent, does hereby appoint/confirm the following individual as a member of the Health Advisory Committee:

Title	Name	Term Expires
Student	Cierra Bruck	6/30/2015
Student	Morgan Cozzolino	6/30/2015

Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

13.2 Request for Approval to Waive Facilities Use Fees for Non-Profit Organization

Motion made by Steven Greenfield and seconded by Ruth Quinn that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Unison Arts Center, a not-for-profit organization, has requested an exemption from facility use fees for Crafts Fair due to their difficult financial condition at this time; and

WHEREAS, the Unison Arts Center provides programs and activities for the students of the New Paltz School District and the school community in general;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby waives the facility use fees for the Unison Arts Center’s use of the District facilities for the Crafts Fair on December 5, 6, and 7, 2014.

Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

OTHER DISCUSSION

FOILS-the board and Superintendent Rice confirmed that the district does not charge for documents provided electronically when requested through the Freedom of Information Law.

OTHER DISCUSSION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN

Motion made by Ruth Quinn and seconded by Julie Tresco that the Board adjourn at 9:14 PM.
Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Dusti Callo
District Clerk