

New Paltz Central School District Board of Education
Minutes – February 15, 2017 Business Meeting –District Office 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Aimee Hemminger, Board President.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

QUORUM CHECK

Brian Cournoyer
Alison Easton
Steven Greenfield
Aimee Hemminger
Michael O'Donnell
Sophia Skiles
Matthew Williams

ALSO PRESENT:

Maria Rice, Superintendent of Schools
Michelle Martoni, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs
Dusti Callo, District Clerk
Members of the Public

ROLL CALL The roll was called as reflected above.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PLEDGE

AGENDA CHANGES

AGENDA CHANGES

Motion made by Alison Easton and seconded by Sophia Skiles to accept the changes to the agenda as presented in the revised agenda at this meeting. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise Mazzei of New Paltz commented on the policy for home-schooled students.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

- New York State Board of Regents Lack of Response to New Paltz Central School District Board of Education Position Statement

Members of the board, Superintendent Maria Rice and Assistant Superintendent Michelle Martoni discussed possible next steps regarding the lack of response to correspondence by the board from the New York State Board of Regents. The members agreed to the exploration of inviting the district's local regent Josephine Finn and Chancellor Betty Rosa and possibly other districts to meet and discuss the aspirational goals of the regent as well as current and future concerns of the district.

MINUTES OF MEETING

MINUTES

Motion made by Alison Easton and seconded by Matthew Williams 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 Workshop Meeting of February 1, 2017. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Treasurer's Report-January 2017

Motion made by Alison Easton and seconded by Michael O'Donnell that the Treasurer's Report for January 2017 be accepted. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

PERSONNEL

Motion made by Alison Easton and seconded by Brian Cournoyer that the Board of Education approve the following personnel (consent agenda) resolutions, items 8.1 through 8.7 and New Business item 9.1:

8.1 Appointment of School Social Work Intern

Recommendation - that the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Marie Shultis as a non-paid Lenape Elementary School Social Work Intern effective February 16, 2017 through May 26, 2017.

8.2 Home Tutor

Recommendation - that the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint the following employee for the 2016-2017 school year:

Name

Joseph Dolan (retroactive as of February 7, 2017)

8.3 Non-Instructional Appointments - Substitutes

Recommendation – that the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint the following employees:

Name	Title	Effective Date	Salary
Suzette Neita-Turner	Substitute Teacher Aide	02/01/2017	\$11.00/hr
Sandra Lowe-Marx	Substitute Teacher Aide	02/01/2017	\$11.00/hr

8.4 Non-Instructional Appointments

Recommendation – that the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint the following employees:

Name	Title	Effective Date	Salary
Sierra Pullman	School Bus Attendant	02/16/2017	\$13.50/hr
Angelo Baglieri	School Monitor	02/16/2017	\$10.66/hr

8.5 Administrative Leave of Absence

Recommendation - that the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve an unpaid leave of absence for the following administrative employee:

Name	Title	Effective Dates
Tracey Shaffer	Director of Technology	2/7/17 – 3/17/17

8.6 Request for Approval of Settlement Agreement

Recommendation - that the following resolution be approved:
BE IT RESOLVED that the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the terms of and authorizes its Superintendent of Schools to execute a Settlement Agreement dated February 15, 2017 between the District and Employee No. 01839 as presented to the Board at this meeting. A copy of said Settlement Agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

8.7 Instructional Appointment-Substitute

Recommendation that the New Paltz Central School District 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 13, 2016 Organizational Meeting:

Name	Effective Dates
Charles Murray III	2/16/17 – 6/30/17

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

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

Recommendation - that the following resolution be approved: 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: 14508, 14544, 12754, 12922, 13424, 12644, 14566, 14232, 14242, 14206, 14567, 10754, 12219, 10524, 12019, 14557

Motion to approve Personnel items 8.1 through 8.5 and New Business item 9.1 carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

Motion made by Steven Greenfield and seconded by Sophia Skiles to enter into executive session at 7:16 PM for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting. Motion made by Sophia Skiles and seconded by Brian Cournoyer to move out of executive session and return to public session at 7:28 PM. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

9.2 First Reading of Policy 8470 Home-Schooled Students

2009 2017

8470

1 of 3

Instruction

SUBJECT: HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS

From time to time, parents will choose to instruct their children at home. Although New York State law does not recognize home schools as private elementary or secondary schools, the School District will attempt to cooperate with parents who wish to provide home schooling for their children realizing that the child who is ~~educated at home~~ **home-schooled** should receive an education in a manner consistent with an educational plan and at least substantially equivalent to that given to students of like age and attainments in the local public schools. The required subjects should be taught in a competent, systematic, and sequential manner, specifically in relation to the required courses as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulation Section 100.10.

Primary responsibility for determining compliance with Commissioner's Regulations addressing home instruction rests with the Superintendent of Schools of the school district in which a home-instructed student resides.

Provision of Services to Home-Schooled Students

Home-schooled students ~~instructed at home~~ are not awarded a high school diploma. A high school diploma may only be awarded to a student enrolled in a registered secondary school who has completed all program requirements set by the Board of Regents, the school or the District.

a) Extracurricular Participation

Home-schooled students ~~instructed at home~~ are *not* eligible to participate in interscholastic sports. Commissioner's Regulations mandate that only students enrolled in the public school are allowed to participate in interscholastic sports. However, the School District *does* permit **home-schooled** ~~instructed~~ students to participate in intramural and other school-sponsored extracurricular activities **that are held entirely after the academic school day. Home-schooled students are not permitted to participate in any school-sponsored intramural or extracurricular activity that holds all, or some meetings, practices or other gatherings during the academic school day.**

b) Textbooks and Materials

The District *shall not* provide textbooks and other materials to **home-schooled** ~~instructed~~ students.

c) Health Services

The School District is *not required* to furnish health services **to home-schooled students.**

d) Remedial Programs

The District *is not responsible* for providing remedial programs **to home-schooled students.**

e) Occupational and Vocational Education Programs

The District is not authorized to provide, by law, Occupational and Vocational Education programs or programs for the gifted to **home-schooled** ~~instructed~~ students.

f) Special Education Services

Home-schooled ~~instructed~~ students *may not participate* in the instructional program of the School District except for special education programs and services the District is required to offer.

The District *shall offer* a **home-schooled** ~~instructed~~ student with disabilities the special education services as addressed in the approved Individualized Education Program (IEP) by the Committee on Special Education. *However, there is no requirement that such services be provided in the student's home.* Further, the District shall

conduct a census and register of students with disabilities who reside in the District in accordance with Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations.

For school-aged home-schooled students with individualized home instruction plans (IHIP) determined to be in compliance with the Commissioner's Regulation who are students with disabilities, the Committee on Special Education (CSE) will develop an individualized education services program (IESP) for the **home-schooled** student. The IESP will be developed in the same manner and have the same contents as an individualized education program (IEP). An IESP is developed in consideration of the parents' decision to home school their child.

In order to receive services, the parent must request special education services in writing to the board of education of the school district of location by June 1 preceding the school year for which the request for services is made. However, for a **home-schooled** student who is first identified as a **home-schooled** student with a disability after the first day of June preceding the school year for which the request is made and prior to the first day of April of such current school year, the parent must submit the written request for services within 30 days after the **home-schooled** student was first identified. A request may also be submitted within 30 days of a change in the **home-schooled** student's school district of residence. Home-schooled students may receive such services during the regular school year only.

Special education services will be provided to home-schooled students on an equitable basis as compared to special education programs and services provided to other students with disabilities attending public or nonpublic schools within the district.

Parents of home-schooled students who disagree with the IESP recommendation of the CSE will be entitled to due process pursuant to Education Law section 4404. ~~just as parents of nonpublic students are.~~

The location where special education services will be determined by the CSE/CPSE and could include the site of home schooling.

g) Use of School Facilities

Home-schooled students ~~instructed at home~~ shall not be allowed to use school facilities, except as provided for community organizations in Policy #3280 -- Community Use of School Facilities, Materials and Equipment.

Ref: Chapter 217 of the laws of 2008 8NYCRR 100.10
Education Law Sections 3204, 3205, 3210(2), 3212(2),
3240-42, 3602-c and 4402
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR)
Sections 100.10, 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(b)(2) and 200.2(a)

Adopted: 7/16/08
Revised: 10/21/09
Revised:

Members of the board discussed recommended changes to the first reading of Policy 8470 Home-Schooled Students. Recommended changes will be implemented and appear for a second reading of Policy 8470 Home-School Students on the March 1, 2017 board agenda.

9.3 First Reading of Policy 1511 Board Member Communications

Following discussion by the members of the board, Board President Aimee Hemminger remanded Policy 1511 Board Member Communications back to the Policy Committee for additional work.

2008 2017 1511

1 of 4

By-Laws

SUBJECT: BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

The Board of Education acknowledges the importance of clear lines of communication and authority to promote transparency, consistency and responsiveness among themselves and with the public. Board of Education members will communicate primarily through the Board President and Superintendent of Schools.

The Board further acknowledges that effective communication requires knowledge of the means and methods of communication and how to use them responsibly. Along with traditional media and print communication tools, communication may be made through video, electronic/digital means, and Internet-based vehicles (e.g., social media).

In recognition of the myriad and changing communication platforms, technologies and on-line communities available, and the changing behavioral norms they bring, this policy will provide Board members with the tools to communicate effectively and responsibly on behalf of the District.

1. Communication as an Individual, not as a Representative of the Board: Members of the Board have legal authority only when acting as a body at a properly convened meeting. Individual Board members have no authority over District affairs unless the Board has explicitly delegated such authority. The Board President shall have the authority to speak on behalf of the Board. This authority may be delegated to another Board member on a specific issue. Individual Board members are free to speak publicly about District matters but must not divulge confidential information and must clarify that their statements reflect their own views and not necessarily the official position of the Board. The Board will not be bound in any way by an individual’s statement or action unless the Board, through an adopted policy or by a majority vote of Board membership, has delegated this authority to the individual member. Without the above statement, any individual Board member’s statements would be deemed as outside the scope of his/her office and the individual Board member may be denied statutory defenses and indemnification.

2. Quorum of the Board. The Board of Education shall conduct its deliberations and voting upon resolutions and policies only during a duly convened public meeting, except as provided by law. Board members may confer with one another regarding School District business by telephone, via mail or electronic mail as long as such communications do not result in a collective decision. The use of telephone conference calls, instant e-mail or communications in a chat room among a quorum ~~or more~~ of members of the Board of Education for deliberation or decision making regarding School District business is strictly prohibited.

~~The Board of Education shall review this policy, and examples of compliance and non-compliance, with all newly elected members and, from time to time, the Board shall evaluate communication practices for consistency with this policy.~~

3. Email/Digital Communications. Board members must assume that all email/digital communications are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law, may be subject to disclosure in litigation and are subject to the records retention requirements of the District. Board members, therefore, are required to use the District’s designated email system, including the District provided email address for all emails regarding District business. Email communications between and among Board members may be used for housekeeping purposes, including but not limited to communicating agenda items, meeting times or dates, requesting or communicating factual information, analyzing information, etc.. The Board prohibits the use of email by Board members for communicating information or making inquiries regarding District personnel, contractors or students because of the risk of improper disclosure of confidential information.

4. Direct Complaints or Concerns Complaints about District personnel, programs and operations must be handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible. Therefore, District staff should be given every opportunity to consider issues and attempt to resolve problems prior to Superintendent or Board of Education involvement, if possible. Any complaint or concern made to a Board member, whether verbally, in writing, through electronic/digital means or social media technologies, should be directed to the Superintendent or other appropriate administrator.

5. **Opinions on Pending Matters.** It is expected that the Board of Education, when hearing grievances or other disputes, will be neutral, will listen to all viewpoints and will make a decision based upon all available information. If, for example, a Board member posts comments or opinions on social media or other forms of communication, prior to the Board having deliberated and made a decision, the Board member's neutrality will be called into question. This is particularly important where an appeal to the Board is available to the complainant and would require that the Board member recuse him/herself from the decision making process.

6. **Community Input.** Community input is one important facet of communication and information for the Board. When information is presented to or made known to a Board member, including information posted on a social networking site, the information should not be considered as factual. Board members should not react to such comments, statements, or opinions and should follow the chain of command. The Board member should bring the information to the Board President and Superintendent so that it may be investigated. If appropriate, the issue may be deliberated by the Board at a duly convened public meeting.

7. **Confidential Matters in Executive Session or Board Packet Materials.** It is imperative that Board members post/share only content that has already been released to the public such as information discussed at or presented at a public meeting or that is posted on the District website. It is appropriate to use links to the District website when posting information. A breach of confidentiality regarding a matter that legitimately may be discussed in executive session could result in the Board member's removal from the Board.

8. **Official Record of the Board Meetings.** Only the official District video of the Board meeting and the approved Minutes of the Board meeting are official records of the District.

9. **Board Members Conduct.** Every interaction and communication by a Board member with the public, whether in person, on the telephone or through electronic/digital communication, may be construed as representing the District and will reflect on the Board and the District. The same standards of decorum and civility that are expected at Board meetings and with interactions with the public apply to social media sites. If behavior is inappropriate at the Board meeting or professional workplace, it is also inappropriate on a social media site. Posting information that has not been verified and made public by the District and outside posting anonymously about District business is prohibited. The Board member's postings would be deemed as outside the scope of his/her office and the Board member may be denied statutory defenses and indemnification.

10. **Reporting Harassing or Defamatory Communications.** If a community member circulates a potentially offensive, harassing or defamatory comment or depiction The Board member must not republish the comment or depiction, by forwarding the post to any third party. The proper procedure is to first print the screen to document the matter and then remove the content, if possible. The Board member should immediately notify the Board President and Superintendent of Schools. If appropriate, law enforcement authorities will also be contacted.

11. **Loss or Theft of a District-Issued or Personal Electronic Device** Board members must safeguard all electronic devices used to receive or send information related to the District and its operations, whether provided by the District or a personal electronic device, to ensure that all District information received by the Board member is secure. It is imperative that Board members immediately report to the District any potential security breach so that proper steps can be taken to minimize the impact and provide any necessary notification to affected persons.

12. **Acceptable Use Policy** Any use of the District's technology, including but not limited to, the District's network and electronic devices, must be in accordance with the District's Acceptable Use Policy and any applicable laws, regulations and policies.

Cross-Ref: Policy #1110, School District Legal Status
Policy #1120, Board of Education Authority and Membership
Policy #3110, News Media Relations
Policy #3230, Complaints and Grievances
Policy #6110, Code of Ethics for All District Personnel
Policy #6111, Board-Staff Communications
Policy #6471, Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Adopted: 7/16/08

Revised:

ADJOURN

ADJOURN

Motion made by Alison Easton and seconded by Brian Cournoyer that the Board adjourn at 8:19 PM.
Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dusti Callo
District Clerk