



THE ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY, NY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: February 15, 2012
Type of Meeting: WORKSHOP
Location: Doyle Middle School (at PS12)
6:00 pm Public Session

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 6:00 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds called the meeting to order. This was the first workshop held under the new BOE meeting structure. There were action items requiring approval prior to the next business meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mrs. Anne Wager-Rounds, President
Ms. Mary Marro-Giroux, Vice President
Mrs. Ilene Clinton
Mrs. Carol Harvin
Mr. Tom Mayo
Mr. Bill Strang
Mr. Schofield
Mr. Michael Tuttmann

Member Absent: Ms. Martha Walsh

Also Present: Dr. Brian Howard, Interim Superintendent
Mr. John Carmello, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Mary O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Ms. Kathy Culligan, Human Resources Director
Ms. Kathy Ahearn, School Attorney

Citizens Advisory Committee: Mary Ellen Adams
Laura Bevevino
Lynne Dubray
David Heyward
Ken Hughes
Tom Meyer
Jeannie Steigler

III. STUDENT PRESENTATION

Doyle Middle School students recently competed in Future City competition at HVCC. Jonah Sadowski, Swetha Thiagarajan and Giorgian Borca-Tasciuc presented their model city and noted the benefits of geothermal energy.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS - PROGRAMS (Reviewed by J. Carmello)

Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Items 1-3 as a Consent Agenda.

Second: Mr. Mayo
Carried: 8-0

1. Out of State Conference

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves an out-of-state conference for Holly Lockrow and Jessica Maloney to attend "Handwriting Without Tears" on March 2, 2012 in Hartford, Connecticut at a cost of \$250 each to be paid from 611 Grant funds.

2. Committee on Special Education Placements

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Special Education has submitted to the Board of Education the following students having the registration numbers as listed below in classes for students with special needs:

<u>Amendment Agreement No Meeting</u>	<u>Reevaluation Transfer Student</u>	<u>Requested Review Transfer Student</u>
154955	051050	379390
994112	099318	987419
999718 Charter School	988392	990987
	995603	994456
<u>Annual Review</u>	997829	997828
988632	998362	1000338 Non-Resident
	998947	1000798
<u>Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting</u>	999413	1000843
987526 Ineligible	1000633	1000846
991535	1000806	1000867
997680	1000848	1000882
1000737 Charter School	1000859	
<u>Program Review</u>	<u>Requested Review</u>	
986895	992106 Charter School	
989149	992794 Charter School	
989267 Non-Resident	993385	
989771	994614 Declassified	
990896	994633 Declassified	
992238	994956	
993036	995036	
993943	995455 Declassified	
994302	995466 Charter School	

995565
995775
998124
998402
999828 Charter School
1000781

999730 Charter School
Transfer Student-Agreement No Meeting
998295 Charter School

3. Committee on Pre-School Special Education Placements

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Special Education has submitted to the Board of Education the following pre-school students having the registration numbers as listed below in classes for pre-school students with special needs:

<u>Amendment Agreement No Meeting</u> 999786	<u>Requested Review</u> 999638 999762	<u>Reevaluation Transfer Student</u> 1000820
<u>Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting</u> 999917 1000301 1000719 1000764 1000777 Ineligible 1000789 1000822	<u>Requested Review</u> 999779 999814 999830 999853 999918 999981 1000059 1000311 1000671	<u>Requested Review Transfer Student</u> 1000870

V. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

A. BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

(1) Universal Free Breakfast

Doug Wolfe reported on results of free breakfast offered to students in month of December. Student participation was high overall but sales did not increase in January when prices resumed. School 16 sales increased by 30% because their menu is different; their students can go to cafeteria for breakfast. Other buildings have breakfast in the classroom. Mr. Wolfe stated that food service is up for bid as required by State Ed; profits are minimal for Chartwells. District has used Chartwells since 2000; and under a different subsidiary since 1980.

(2) Financial Reports

Kathy Cietek, Treasurer, reported on January financials. Treasurer's Report - all accounts reconciled. There were 480 warrants in January with a total of \$4.8 approved. General fund - state aid is down due to not maximizing aided categories; excess cost aids also decreased due to submissions not complete. Questar is assisting us in this area. School lunch fund- revenues have increased from this time last year due to slight increase in federal reimbursement rate from last year.

(3) Budget Draft 3

Mary O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Business, presented Draft 3 of the 2012-13 Budget. It is a reduction of \$673,428 from Draft 2. Savings in due to 5 anticipated retirements, reduction of 8 FTE, reduction in substitute costs and increase in estimated health insurance costs. There are no changes in revenue; we are still waiting for legislative proposal. Estimated allowable tax levy is calculated at 3.89% but we need to get final interpretations of calculations from the State. District needs to reduce budget by \$2 million to stay under the allowable tax levy.

(4) Reading Teachers

Dr. Howard explained that District is considering a reduction in reading teachers because Troy has the higher numbers than any other district but we have not met AYP for two consecutive years. After taking a closer look at reading programs, the most effective model is Response to Intervention (RtI) for best practices. Dr. Howard has met with reading teachers and they are very dedicated. He will compare master schedules. If reading teachers are reduced, then elementary teachers will be added. He recommends a consultant with reading expertise to confirm RtI findings before making any decisions. RtI consultant could cost up to \$12,000 for 96 hours but projected savings would be approximately \$400,000. Board members were supportive of Dr. Howard moving forward with consultant. Mrs. Harvin was not in favor of any expenditure that may take away from something in the current budget. Futures Education is currently conducting an independent study strictly focused on special education programs.

(5) Retirement Incentive

Retirement incentives can save money from beginning salaries to top salaries. This is a reasonable way to reduce costs with minimal impact on staffing. Dr. Howard met with union leadership about possible incentives. Ms. O'Neill recommended capping at a certain level based on this year's budget.

B. PUBLIC INPUT

(1) Michael O'Brien (teacher) - Thank you for teacher assistant support at CHS as many of his students are below reading level. He is concerned about possible cuts in reading teachers and sees other ways for savings.

(2) Noreen Bennett (teacher) - Why do we need to spend so much money on outside RtI study? Dr. Howard responded that we need someone with international experience. He is aware of the trends but wants best research in country.

(3) Mark Walsh (TTA President) - We need to keep someone in the grants position after retirement of current person. Grants are competitive. We need to lobby legislatures regarding budget cuts to education. Dr. Howard responded that we have 30 days to complete grants which are for large sums of money. These are federal and state funds that have nothing to do with the District's budget.

(4) Stacy Sadowski (parent/employee) - We have had large class sizes and low scores. Class sizes should be reduced so parents do not go to charter schools; keep honors programs.

C. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Ms. O'Neill proposed changes to the current Student Transportation policy no. 8414. The policy does not address non-public students who should be held to the same registration requirements as public students. All students will need to show proof of residency when requesting transportation. Revisions to this policy will be approved at March 7th BOE meeting. A charter school accepted 5 students who were age 5 after December 1st and before December 31st; we will continue to provide them with transportation until the end of the school year.

D. NEW DISTRICT VISION AND GOALS

The Board has taken a leadership role with new goals for the District which will be measurable and the Superintendent will be held accountable. These goals will fit into APPR plan. Goals will be presented to the public next month.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

- (1) Executive Session - February 15, 2012 (following Workshop)
- (2) Business Meeting - March 7, 2012 (School 1)
- (3) Workshop Meeting - March 21, 2012 (School16)

VII. MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:05 pm, Mrs. Rounds made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and move to Executive Session for the purpose of a 3020a disciplinary matter. Dr. Howard, Mr. Carmello, Ms. Culligan, Ms. Ahearn and Mrs. Bruno attended.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Beth Bruno
Clerk of the Board