

# THE ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY, NY

**TODAY'S  
STUDENTS.**



**TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS.**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: February 27, 2013  
Type of Meeting: **WORKSHOP**  
Location: School 1

## MINUTES

### I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 6:00 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds, President, called the meeting to order.

### II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mrs. Anne Wager-Rounds, President  
Mr. Bill Strang, Vice President  
Ms. Ilene Clinton  
Ms. Elizabeth Denio  
Mrs. Carol Harvin (arrived at 6:30 pm)  
Mr. Tom Mayo  
Mr. Jason Schofield  
Mr. Michael Tuttman  
Ms. Martha Walsh

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Brian Howard, Interim Superintendent  
Mr. John Carmello, Assistant Superintendent  
of Curriculum and Instruction  
Ms. Mary O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Ms. Kristen Miaski, Human Resources Director  
Ms. Erin O'Grady-Parent, School Attorney

Citizens Advisory Committee: Mr. David Heyward  
Mr. Ken Hughes  
Mr. Tom Meyer  
Mrs. Jeannie Steigler

CAC Absent: Mrs. Mary Ellen Adams  
Mr. Richard Ellis

III. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mary Marro-Giroux (former BOE member, THS parent) - She congratulated the Board on obtaining a permanent superintendent who is dedicated to giving Troy students the best education. She encouraged the Board to continue to seek talent from within our faculty who deserved to be moved up through the ranks.

ACTION ITEMS

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Staff Matters - Unclassified (Reviewed by J. Carmello)

**Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion for Consent Agenda for Items A(1) and B(1).**

**Second: Mr. Strang**

**Discussion: Mrs. Rounds welcomed Ms. Nadia Carey, new Executive Secretary to the Superintendent.**

**Carried: 9-0**

1. Unclassified Employee - Section 913

RESOLVED, that pursuant to §913 of the Education Law, the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy hereby authorizes Dr. Melvin J. Steinhart to serve as school medical inspector for purposes of conducting a medical and psychological examination of the employee listed on Confidential Schedule "A", for the purpose of determining said employee's fitness to continue to perform the duties of her position.

RESOLVED, pursuant to the authority of §913 of the Education Law, the employee listed in Confidential Schedule "A", is hereby directed to submit to a medical and psychological examination at the office of Dr. Melvin J. Steinhart on Monday, March 4, 2013, at a time that will be provided to the employee listed in Confidential Schedule "A", to determine her fitness to continue to perform the duties of her position.

B. Staff Matters - Classified (Reviewed by K. Miaski)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, NY, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following classified personnel actions:

1. Classified Employee

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>% SERVICE</u>	<u>ASSIGN</u>	<u>PROB START DATE</u>	<u>PROB END DATE</u>	<u>SALARY RATE</u>
Nadia Carey	Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools	100%	District	2/25/13	8/26/13	\$49,000

V. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

**Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve B(1).**

**Second: Mr. Schofield**

**Discussion: Mrs. Harvin stated that Mr. Carmello will do a good job as Superintendent but she is not in support of his appointment. Mrs. Harvin said that past Superintendents, including the Interim Superintendent, were interviewed. She feels that procedures were not followed. Board did not seek other candidates or hold interviews. Other individuals should have been given the opportunity to apply. Mr. Mayo stated is proud and honored to vote on tonight's Superintendent's appointment. Mr. Carmello has done a wonderful job over the past eight years. He has been very committed, has high integrity and has consistently proven himself. Mr. Schofield said Mr. Carmello 's work at Troy High has been excellent and he established a Sunset Program which allowed hundreds of students to aet a high school diploma.**

**Carried: 8-1 (No - Mrs. Harvin)**

1. Appointment of Superintendent of Schools

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy hereby appoints John Carmello as Superintendent of Schools for a term of four years, commencing July 1, 2013, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the written agreement between the parties and hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

**Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to withdraw Item 2.**

**Second: Mr. Schofield**

**Carried: 9-0**

2. Unclassified Employees - Create Positions (WITHDRAWN)

POSITION TITLES

ASSIGNMENTS

Principal Assistant	Troy High School (2)
Principal Assistant	Doyle Middle School (1)

**Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Item 3.**

**Second: Mr. Strang**

**Carried: 9-0**

3. Amendment to MOA - CSEA Retirement Incentive (BOE 2-6-13) (Addendum I)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, NY hereby approves an amendment to Memorandum of Agreement between the District and Civil Service Employees Association for a special one-time retirement incentive for retirements effective August 31, 2013 only.

## NON-ACTION ITEMS

### VI. BUSINESS FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer's Report - Kathleen Cietek, Treasurer, reported on January 2013 financial statements. The majority of the budget transfers were salary related. The internal claims auditor reviewed 368 payment checks totaling \$9.5 million. General funds are on track and spending has been cut off. We anticipate using \$1.239 million of the appropriated fund balance but this could change throughout the year if the revenue comes in higher. Special aid grants have been approved. The request for funds has been submitted to SED for grants that qualify. All accounts have been reconciled in the Treasurer's Report.

### VII. 2013-14 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Assistant Superintendent's Statement - Mr. Carmello requested to make a statement regarding his appointment as Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Carmello thanked Dr. Howard for his mentorship over the past year and a half. Mr. Carmello thanked the Board for this opportunity and said he was very humbled and honored. He has enjoyed the past eight years in the District and is looking forward to working with the entire school community to make Troy the best district in New York State.

Budget Presentation - Mr. Carmello gave a power point presentation regarding budget development. He reviewed the starting point in Draft 1 with \$99,998,448 and levy increase of 15.27%. In Draft 2 more changes were made to reduce levy to 10.90%. This is still not where we want to be so additional cuts are proposed tonight.

Mr. Carmello will continue to analyze and prioritize all other requests by Administration as well as all current programs. He reminded the Board that the District has already endured significant cuts of over 140 faculty and staff over the last several years so there is not much room for more staff reductions.

State aid is not known at this point so we have left increase at \$1,259,539 shown in Draft 1. Dr. Howard and Mr. Carmello will meet with legislators on March 11th and will invite them to see the students who will be impacted. We are looking for parent and public support of lobbying efforts.

Transportation - Jeannie, Steigler, CAC member, had requested Transportation changes to distance required for bus transportation be researched for potential savings. A progression showing the distance we could extend busing was shown in four scenarios and discussed. Savings range from \$2,532,469 to \$1,013,497. Currently Troy provides transportation at .6 of a mile for elementary; 1 mile for secondary students. Lansingburgh distance is 1.5 miles for Grades K-12). State requirements are 2 miles for elementary; 3 miles for secondary students.

Concerns were expressed regarding crossing major streets such as Hoosick. New York State sets up safety zones that do not have a sidewalk. Ms. Sawyer is familiar with areas where students cannot walk.

Scenio 4 reduced number of monitors for savings and showed a savings of \$1,013,497. This includes transportation for Grades 6-12. There will be separate drop off for 6th Grade students, 7/8 Grades and High School. There will be assigned seating and monitors on all buses.

Any changes to distance would require voter approval and a special vote would be necessary. We are required to give 45 days notice of a special vote which could be done on April 23. Special election would cost approximately \$4000.

Proposed timeline to change transportation distance: Board will decide on transportation scenario at 3/6 meeting; 4/23 special vote and 4/30 budget due to State. Dr. Howard would like the Board to consider any change very carefully. It is important to engage the public and make them aware. There may be some worthwhile savings that would be a better option than reducing staff. There is an RFP open for joint bid w/ Lansingburgh; we will know savings in the next few weeks.

Discussion - Mrs. Harvin asked how many students would be impacted by change (this will be included in the Friday report). Mrs. Harvin suggested we purchase our own buses but there would be significant up-front costs and employee expense. Ms. Clinton suggested we lobby the State to reduce busing expenses. Mr. Tuttmann asked about the impact of reducing transportation on State aid received (we would be reduced by 80% of aid). Ms. Walsh and Mrs. Rounds were concerned that the public may not pass a budget if they are angry about transportation. Transportation has been discussed year after year; next year we should make it a priority and begin process in November. BOE agreed to put transportation changes on the calendar for next Budget.

Mrs. Harvin said the School 12 community wants to know about the use of School 12 when Middle School is relocated to Burdett Avenue. Central Offices will be moved to School 12, Alternative Learning Program and (4) PK sections. We are currently looking for buyers for School 1. Dr. Howard is happy to meet with Neighborhood Watch Committee in South Troy and Mrs. Harvin will arrange this.

Mrs. Wager-Rounds asked for update on charter school address verification. The majority of charter schools are working with us but Troy has overpaid \$600,000 for students who are not actually attending charter schools. We have talked to SED about this without success and may want to consider legal action. Mr. Strang asked for update regarding savings from Futures study. Savings has been factored in this budget and Mr. Carmello speaks with Kathy Burns in Pupil Services on a weekly basis. We are working to reverse the trend for our students to go out of the district for special ed services.

Mr. Tuttmann stated he has become a proponent for special education and is worried about cuts. Ms. O'Neill stated no cuts in this area have been made at this time.

Technology - There is a new program resulting from Microsoft settlement called "NYS School Technology Voucher Program". Microsoft is required to give money back to schools with 50% or more free/reduced lunch. Troy is also eligible for \$176,746 from \$87M state-wide. There are many needs in technology yet to be addressed. We would like the Board to consider a small Capital Project in the fall to support Technology.

Retirement Incentive - Deadline is March 1st. As of this meeting, there are 6 employees from TTA and 2 from CSEA. Confirmed totals with savings will be in Draft 3.

Sequester Cuts - There will reductions in federal money for New York; \$45.2 million in Title 1 funds and \$38.6 million in Special Education. This would take effect next school year.

## VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- March 6, 2013 (PS18) - Business Meeting at 7 pm
- March 20, 2013 (PS1) - Workshop at 6 pm

## IX. MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:05 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter regarding personnel. This was seconded by Mr. Strang and carried 9-0.

X. MOVE TO PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:20 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to return to Public Session. This was seconded by Mr. Strang and carried 9-0.

XI. BOARD RESOLUTIONS (green sheet)

**Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Item 1.**

**Second: Mr. Tuttman**

**Carried: 8-1 (No - Mr. Mayo)**

1. Settlement Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy hereby approves a settlement agreement concerning the subject employee indentified on confidential schedule "A", and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the written settlement agreement.

**Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Item 2.**

**Second: Mr. Schofield**

**Carried: 8-1 (No - Mr. Mayo)**

2. Staff Matters - Unclassified (Reviewed by J. Carmello)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, NY, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following unclassified personnel

A. Unclassified Employee - Probationary Appointments

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TENURE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>ASSIGN</u>	<u>PROB APPT</u>	<u>PROB APPT</u>	<u>CERT</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>		<u>START DATE</u>	<u>END DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>RATE</u>
Wendy Ryan	ithematics	100%	DMS	3/4/2013	3/3/2015	Mathematics, Professional	\$48,200 (prorated) (S-5, Col E)

XII. MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:25 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to go back into Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter. This was seconded by Mr. Strang and carried 9-0. Invited in were Dr. Howard, Mr. Carmello, Ms. O'Neill, Mrs. Miaski and Mrs. O'Grady-Parent.

XIII. ADJOURN

At 8:15 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Schofield and carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Beth Bruno  
Board Clerk