



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: April 1, 2015
Type of Meeting: **REGULAR MEETING**
Location: Troy Middle School

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 6:00 pm Mr. Schofield called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Jason Schofield, President
Mr. Bill Strang, Vice President
Mrs. Ann Apicella
Ms. Elizabeth Denio
Mrs. Carol Harvin
Ms. Mary Marro-Giroux
Mr. Tom Mayo
Mr. Michael Tuttman
Mrs. Anne Wager-Rounds

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. John Carmello, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Terry Blanchfield, Interim Superintendent for Business
Mrs. Kristen Miaski, Director of Human Resources (Executive Session only)
Ms. Kathy Ahearn, School Attorney

Citizens Advisory Committee: Mrs. Mary Ellen Adams Absent: Mr. David Heyward
Mr. Ken Hughes
Mr. Tom Meyer

Also Absent: Dr. Donna Watson, Assistant Superintendent
of Curriculum and Instruction

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Schofield made a motion at 6:00 pm to move to Executive Session regarding 3020-a disciplinary matter of a tenured employee. Invited in were Mr. Carmello, Mr. Blanchfield, Mrs. Miaski, Mrs. Bruno and Ms. Ahearn.

IV. PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:00 pm Mr. Schofield called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

VI. 2015-16 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT/DRAFT 3 - J. CARMELLO

Mr. Carmello reviewed the District's budget goals to be fiscally responsible and educationally sound. It has been a difficult process because of so many changes with State. Recap of previous presentations: Draft 1 of budget \$112,959,916 with 27.14% tax levy increase (correction to 17.37%); Draft 2 of budget \$111,662,983 with 19.34% tax levy increase.

Mr. Carmello presented Draft 3 budget of \$108,253,850 with tax levy increase of 2.75% and no budget gap. State Aid runs came in this week with an increase in Foundation Aid and restoration of our GEA. This was good news and allowed for Draft 3 to have total savings \$5,870,204. There are no cuts or reductions in the budget. School Lunch Fund had a significant balance and we received the OK from the auditors to make a \$200,000 budget transfer into the General Fund.

Administrators have requested to add positions in their respective schools and departments in order to help all students reach their full potential and achieve success. Proposed additional staff includes social workers, reading teachers, ESL teachers (state-mandated), elementary teachers, special ed teachers, math teachers (THS and TMS), teacher assistants, as well as 2 monitors (TMS, ALP) and 1 secretary (for Athletic Office). Mr. Carmello explained that Troy has experienced a 10% increase in enrollment in the elementary schools so more staff is needed to keep average class size at the current levels.

Discussion: Ms. Marro-Giroux asked if there is room at School 18 for additional classes. Mr. Carmello: Yes. Mrs. Wager-Rounds asked if elementary schools were at maximum capacity; especially CHS. Space for quiet reading area could be a problem. Mr. Carmello: We will be reviewing the space issues at each of our elementary schools. Mr. Mayo asked if we could consider increasing the food quantity served at the Middle School. Mr. Carmello: Portions are regulated by the federal government but he will look into this. Mrs. Wager-Rounds added that all Troy students get a free breakfast and lunch. There is no longer a stigma on who receives a free lunch but parents do need to complete the form.

Charter Schools: Troy Prep will be increasing a grade. Brighter Choice is closing their Middle School. We have savings from Ark charter school closing last year. We have budgeted tuition for 705 students and paying for 600 at this point. State Aid Update: Additional State Aid is \$2,239,180 (revenue); Foundation Aid has been increased and GEA has been almost completely restored. Total savings for Draft 3 is \$5,870,204 with no gap. Changes have also been made to tenure laws and APPR regulations. We will have a property tax freeze again because Troy has stayed within our tax cap and will have an efficiency plan ready for approval. Taxpayers will get a rebate check in the fall that matches the amount of the increase in the tax bill due to the new tax levy. This effectively results in no increase in property taxes for next year. In the third year, the tax increase will take effect.

Tax Levy Options - Mr. Carmello provided the Board with several options for the tax levy: 1.99% would mean a gap of \$270,000 and reduction of modified baseball/softball programs and 3 staff from Discussion: Mrs. Adams referred to the line items for the proposed budget. She asked about increase for public information and central data processing. She is concerned that when the rebate The Board members were polled and supported a 2.49% tax levy except Mrs. Harvin who was in favor of 2.75%. Mr. Tuttmann said that we have successfully guarded our fund balance; if necessary we could use the fund balance. Mr. Carmello said using the fund balance would leave twice the deficit the following year and using one-time revenue to pay for recurring expenses is not a good idea. Mrs. Wager-Rounds said we need to be creative and advocate for social workers. She would like to see progress continue at School 2. Mr. Hughes asked if we know the tax cap for next year. Mr. Carmello: it is dependent on too many factors to predict at this early stage.

The Board will vote to approve the 2015-16 budget of \$108,163,850.00 and tax levy of 2.49% as discussed at this workshop meeting.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schofield made a motion to approve the following minutes.

Second: Mr. Strang

Carried: 9-0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, hereby approves the following minutes:

A. Board Meetings

1. March 4, 2015
2. March 18, 2015

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS - HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. Schofield made a motion to withdraw Item 4.

Mr. Schofield made a motion to approve Items 1-3 and 5-6 as a Consent Agenda.

Second: Mr. Strang

Carried: 9-0

A. Staff Matters - Unclassified (Reviewed by D. Watson)

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 actions:

1. Unclassified Employee - Leave of Absence

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TENURE AREA / POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>% SERVICE</u>	<u>ASSIGN</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
a. Margaret LeRoux	Teaching Assistant	100%	THS	3/16/15 - 3/27/15
b. Jenna Brooks	Special Ed-General	100%	TMS	3/27/15 - 4/17/15 (9 1/2 days)
c. Jessica Murray	English	100%	THS	4/13/15
d. Richard Steinbach	Social Studies	100%	THS	2/1/16-6/30/16 (sabbatical)

2. Unclassified Employee - Recall

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TENURE AREA / POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>% SERVICE</u>	<u>ASSIGN</u>	<u>EFFEC DATE</u>	<u>CERT STATUS</u>	<u>SALARY RATE</u>
a. Kelly Deskewicz (Retire - C.Casey)	Remedial Reading	100%	TMS	4/20/15	Remedial Reading, Permanent	\$55,775 (prorated) (S-12, Col E)

3. Unclassified Employee - 2014-15 Student Interns (Unpaid)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COLLEGE</u>	<u>AREA OF STUDY</u>	<u>SUPERVISOR</u>	<u>ASSIGN</u>
a. Ryan O'Connell	Russell Sage	Physical Education	George Rafferty	District
b. Ethan Quinlan	SUNY Albany	Physical Education	Brian Benner	District

4. Unclassified Employees - 2014-15 Spring Sports **WITHDRAWN**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>SALARY RATE</u>
a. Brock Renfrew	Volunteer Coach	BASEBALL -0-

5. Unclassified Employees - 2014-15 P-Tech Curriculum Planning

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TENURE AREA / PROGRAM TITLE</u>	<u>MAX HOURS</u>	<u>SALARY RATE</u>
a. Andrew Baitinger	Technology	100 hours each	\$31.00 per hour
b. Christopher Caputo	Mathematics	100 hours each	\$31.00 per hour
c. Bridget Glasser	Social Studies	100 hours each	\$31.00 per hour
d. Sara Ladopoulos	English	100 hours each	\$31.00 per hour
e. Benjamin VonEitzen	Science	100 hours each	\$31.00 per hour

6. Unclassified Employees - 2014-15 Substitutes

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADMIN</u> (\$400 / day)	<u>TEACHERS</u>		<u>TEACHING ASST</u>		<u>HOME TUTOR</u>	
		<u>Certified</u> (\$100 / day)	<u>Uncertified</u> (\$90 / day)	<u>Certified</u> (\$12.00 / hour)	<u>Uncertified</u>	<u>Certified</u> (\$31.00 / hour)	<u>Uncert</u>
Nicholas Foglia		X					
Kiersten Wilde			X				

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

Mr. Schofield made a motion to approve Items 1-4 as a Consent Agenda.

Second: Ms. Marro-Giroux

Carried: 9-0

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 - Retirements

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>% SERVICE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
a. Joyce Blais	Typist	100%	PS-2	10/30/15

(amend effective date BOE Agenda 3/18/15, page 3)

2. Classified Employee - Resignations

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>% SERVICE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
a. Mark Lewis	School Monitor	100%	THS	3/19/15
b. David Greklek	Coordinator Student Transportation	100%	District	4/13/15

3. Classified Employee - 2014-15 Substitutes

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLERK</u> (\$11 / hr)	<u>NURSE</u> (\$14 / hr)	<u>MONITOR</u> (\$10 / hr)	<u>TEACHER AIDE</u> (\$10 / hr)	<u>MAINT HELPER</u> (\$11 / hr)
Jessica Hebert			X	X	
Marisa Sorriento	X				

4. 2014-15 Volunteers

PS-16
Yenni Schwartz

PS-18
Amy Ricchiuti

District (Odyssey of the Mind)
John Rodat
Scarlett McLaughlin

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS - PROGRAMS (reviewed by D. Watson)

Mr. Schofield made a motion to approve Items 1-7 as a Consent Agenda.

Second: Mr. Strang

Carried: 9-0

1. 2015-16 School Calendar (Addendum I)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar for student attendance for the Enlarged City School District of Troy.

2. Contract - Advanced Therapy (2014-15) (Addendum II)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves a contract with Advanced Therapy for special education services, 1:1 aide, for (1) student from January 5, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at tuition rate of \$18,000.00 per student to be paid from Special Education funds.

3. Contract - East Greenbush Central School District (2014-15) (Addendum III)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves a contract with East Greenbush Central School District for special education services for (1) student from September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 at tuition rate of \$80,835.00 per student to be paid from Special Education funds.

4. Establish Robotics Club (THS) (Addendum IV)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby establishes the Robotics Club, also known as Team 5149 of FIRST Robotics, which meets the eligibility criteria set forth in Policy 5200.

5. Special Education Placements (Addendum V)

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

6. Contract - Sharon Lastique (Addendum VI)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves a contract with Sharon Lastique for (6) parent engagement sessions at School 2 from April 14 - May 25, 2015 at total cost of \$1200 to be paid from Title I funds.

7. Contract - Rensselaer County Department of Mental Health (Addendum VII)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves a contract with Rensselaer County Department of Mental Health for on-site mental health services at School 2 (M, W, Th) from January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at total cost of \$5000 to be paid from Community Schools grant.

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS - BUSINESS FINANCE (reviewed by T. Blanchfield)

Mr. Schofield made a motion to approve Items 1-3 as a Consent Agenda.

Second: Mr. Strang

Carried: 9-0

1. Financial Report (Addendum VIII)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the following financial report:

February 2015

2. Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby accepts the following donation:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Amye Speirs	School 16 field trips	\$465.50

3. Surplus of Equipment

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby accepts the following technology equipment from School 18, which is damaged and no longer functional and cannot be used for educational purposes, shall be surplus and recycled.

<u>Items</u>	<u>Tag No.</u>	<u>Model</u>
Switch	005925	WS-C3560-24PS-2
Switch	005924	WS-C3560-24PS-S
Switch	005923	WS-C2924-XL
Switch	None	WS-C2924-XL-EN
Switch	005922	WS-C29224-EX-EN
Router	None	2911
Core Switch	005921	C-5500

XI. 2015 ELECTION AND BUDGET VOTE

Mr. Schofield made a motion to approve Items 1 and 2 as a Consent Agenda.

Second: Mr. Strang

**Discussion: Mrs. Harvin said she was in favor of 2.75% tax levy but after hearing Mr. Carmello's excellent presentation, she will be voting in favor of 2.49%.
Mr. Schofield thanked the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee for their help in developing the 2015-16 budget.**

Carried: 9-0

1. Adopt 2015-2016 Budget (added to agenda following Mr. Carmello's presentation of Draft 3)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the statement of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2015-2016 school year showing a proposed budget of \$108,163,850.00 is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget proposition to be put before voters on May 19, 2015 shall read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2015-2016 school year in the amount of \$108,163,850.00 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by the law.

2. Appointment of Election Inspectors

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the District Clerk, hereby approves the following individuals as Election Inspectors, to be paid \$10 for attendance at an orientation meeting and \$125 for inspector services on May 19, 2015.

Debbie Barnes	Sandy Delamater	Jerry Roe
Richard Boland	Mary Glover	Barbara Romano
Rosemary Burns	Brenda Harrison	Alice Santandera
Flora Carr	Sandy Krogh	Mary Smulsky
Michelle Cerulli	Caroline Martin	Kathleen Tremblay
Pat Cunningham	Pat Minehan	Eric Waite
	Bonnie Roe	

XII. DISCIPLINARY MATTER (green sheet)

Mr. Schofield made a motion to approve the following resolution added to agenda.

Second: Mr. Strang

Carried: 9-0

WHEREAS the Superintendent of Schools has preferred charges against the employee named in Executive Session pursuant to Section 3020-a of the New York State Education Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined, by a vote of a majority of all the members of the Board, that probable cause exists for the charges preferred against said employee by the Superintendent of Schools;

BE IT RESOLVED that the employee named in Executive Session is hereby suspended with pay pending a hearing on the charges and the final determination thereof.

XIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

1. April 8, 2015 at TMS (6 pm)
2. April 21, 2015 at School 12 (6 pm) Tuesday

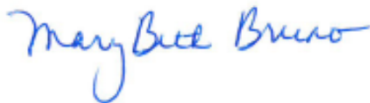
Discussion: Mrs. Wager-Rounds stated the Questar budget should be discussed (on 4/21 agenda). They have raised Special Education fees. Mr. Blanchfield responded that prices vary when buying a service. Costs fluctuate if districts pull out. Board will be voting on the Questar budget but we decide which services to purchase.

Ms. Marro-Giroux asked if Mental Health Counselors are on site other than School 2. Mr. Carmello responded not yet. Mrs. Harvin would like details regarding \$90,000 savings included in next Friday report.

XIV. ADJOURN

At 8:40 pm Mr. Schofield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Strang and carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



Mary Beth Bruno
Board Clerk