

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert J. Baron, President  
C. James Coffin, Vice President  
Richard K. Brackett  
John A. Cole  
Thomas McKenna  
Joseph F. Pofit  
Thomas M. Thorpe, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Mark Diefendorf, Edward Diegel, Theresa Kennedy, Sarita Winchell

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Martin Bannon (*The Spotlight*), Kevin Kroencke, Molly Belmont (*The Altamont Enterprise*), Michael Goyer, Gary Hubert, Nancy Rucks, Linda Pasquali, David Gibson, Kathy Fiero, Colleen Schultz, RoseMary Wargo, Rich Wargo, Candy Raderman, Steve Relyea, Carey Hatch, Claudia Burtman, Fran Gorka, Chris Reohr, and Deann DellaPenta

Mr. Baron called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and gave the proper procedure to evacuate the building in the event of a fire emergency. He noted all Board members were present with the exception of Mr. McKenna. Mr. McKenna arrived at 7:38 P.M.

Mr. Baron asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. William Vinson, the fourth grade teacher who passed away suddenly last week.

On a motion by Mr. Thorpe, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2004.

Dr. McCartney mentioned that the meeting would be according to the Supplemental Agenda.

Mr. Baron offered the public an opportunity to be heard. Ms. Rucks read a letter commending the teachers, counselors, and support staff of the district for the way they handled the death of Mr. Vinson. She also asked them to be supportive of the transition period and that since Mrs. Bub has established relationships with the students, that she be a part of that transition. (A copy of the letter is attached) Mr. Diegel assured Mrs. Rucks that they would make the transition as smooth as possible for the children and that if she had any further concerns, to feel free to contact him.

On a motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Pofit, and carried unanimously, the action items were approved in their entirety.

- Approved the Treasurer's Reports as presented in the enclosure folder.
- Approved the following warrants and payrolls:

Warrants:

General Fund Warrant #15:	\$944,333.05
School Lunch Fund Warrant #13:	13,588.11
Trust & Agency Warrant #7:	1,449,167.21
Federal Aid Fund Warrant #8:	7,280.01

Payrolls:

Payroll #16	\$401,660.79
Payroll #17:	380,096.25

- Accepted the resignation of Leslie King-VanArnam, Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2004.  
Reason: Retirement
- Approved the medical leave request of Jacqueline Jackson, Teaching Assistant.  
Effective: February 23, 2004 – April 16, 2004
- Approved the parental leave request of Megan Bruno, Occupational Therapist, commencing April 2, 2004, with an expected return to work on January 1, 2005.
- Approved the part-time/temporary appointment of Kyle Turski, Technology Teacher [.6 position].  
Effective: January 30, 2004 – June 25, 2004  
Salary: .6 of Step 1 of VTA Contract

Meeting Call to Order:  
7:35 p.m.

Approved Minutes:  
01/12/04

Additional items from the Superintendent

Opportunity for Public to be heard: N. Rucks

Action Items

Treasurers Reports

Warrants

Payrolls

Retirement:  
L. VanArnam

Medical Leave:  
J. Jackson

Parental Leave:  
M. Bruno

Part-time/Temporary Appointment:  
K. Turski

Spring Driver Ed. Appis:

- Approved the following persons as Spring Driver Education instructors:

J. Young

Jeffrey Young

Effective: February 26, 2004 – June 11, 2004

Salary: \$4,500 [3 car sections @ \$1,100; a classroom @ \$1,200]

W. VanAlstyne

William VanAlstyne

Effective: February 26, 2004 – June 11, 2004

Salary: \$3,300 [3 car sections @ \$1,100]

BOCES Substitute Appointments

- Approved 2003-2004 substitute teacher appointments from the BOCES Substitute Calling Service as presented in a memo from Michael Paolino dated January 29, 2004.

CSD Recommendations

- Approved recommendations of the *Committee on Special Education* as outlined at meetings held on January 14, 2004 and January 15, 2004.

- Approved the following requests for non-residential tuition status for the 2004-2005 school year:

Sawyer Lily Cresap, Grade 5

Requestor: Robin Jacob

Brian Wissing, Kindergarten

Requestor: Kathleen Wissing

Todd Dembo, Grade 12

Lindsay Dembo, Grade 9

Requestor: Barbara Blumberg

Nazely Kurkjian, Grade 8

Armine Kurkjian, Grade 5

Requestor: Thomas Kurkjian

Austin Zielinski, Grade 2

Requestor: Judith Zielinski

Alex Barsky, Grade 10

Requestor: Brooke Lengfellner

Conor Cashin, Grade 7

Requestor: Christine Cashin

Noah Justin Robinson, Kindergarten

Requestor: Lorraine Robinson

Garrett Greenwood, Grade 12

Requestor: Patricia Greenwood

Michael Kelley, Grade 9

Camryn Kelley, Grade 1

Requestor: Timothy Kelley

Katherine A. McHenry, Grade 9

Requestor: Linda L. McHenry

Troy L. Tracey, Grade 1

Requestor: Lauren Tracey

Surplus/Obsolete Items

- Declared the following items surplus and delegated to the Business Official disposition of said items in a manner consistent with current laws and regulations:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Check Signer	Hedman – Continuous Form Signer	EDP 2000	Good
Form Burster	Formax	FD 636	Good

Decrease in Hours:

K. Williams

- Approved a decrease in FTE hours for Kristen Williams, Business Teacher, from 1.0 full-time to a .6 part-time position.  
Effective: February 23, 2004

Part-time/Temporary Appointment:

K. Fuller

- Approved the part-time/temporary appointment of Kathleen Fuller, Business Teacher [.4 hours/day].  
Effective: February 23, 2004  
Salary: .4 of Step 8 of VTA Contract

Administrative Reports

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Elementary School

Mr. Diegel

- Mr. Diegel reported that the staff is still somewhat in shock over the recent passing of Mr. William Vinson. He complimented the parents and Mrs. Bub for the way the situation was handled. The parents were contacted early in the morning, asked to inform their children and drive them to school that morning for a special meeting that included Dr. McCartney, Mrs. Lysenko, and Mrs. Bub.
- Letters were sent to 146 elementary school students commending them for perfect attendance during the first semester. This is twenty-nine percent of the students. With all the illness going around in schools, this is a great percentage.
- The spelling bee was held this afternoon and it was a great competition. Unfortunately the Middle School was the winner, but the Elementary School put up a great battle.
- Mr. Diegel handed out the Classroom Support chart and briefly reviewed it with the board members.

High School

- Mr. Diefendorf reported on the Model UN trip to Yale University. Matt Zimmerman was awarded the golden gavel. The trip was considered a success. Cornell University is scheduled for February 19–22. Cornell is considered very similar to the Brown University trip.
- Report cards will be going out February 12.
- Out of respect for Mr. Vinson and his family, the faculty showcase was postponed until April 24.

Mr.Diefendorf

Middle School

- Ms. Kennedy spoke on this month’s character recognition for *Perseverance*. There were five students from the high school, five students from the middle school, and three teachers awarded this honor. The theme for February will be *Leadership*.
- The teen night held on January 16 was a great success. The next Teen Night will be held on February 27. The pool was a great success and will, hopefully, be used for future teen nights.

Ms. Kennedy

School Business Official

On a motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Coffin, and carried unanimously; the board approved paying John Lopez \$25.00 per hour for his services as Light and Sound Supervisor for the Performing Arts Center. They also approved paying student helpers at the prevailing New York State minimum wage. Paid students will be limited to one each per soundboard, with a third student paid to provide stage help, if necessary.

Mrs. Winchell

Mrs. Winchell briefly discussed the Business Administrator’s Report with special attention to the new exemption scale presented by the Town of New Scotland. It was decided that an in depth discussion with a vote to adopt the amendment will take place at the next regular board meeting.

Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. McCartney spoke on the impact of the mandates imposed on school districts. Several points and possible solutions were brought to the attention of the Board and the public including: giving districts time to add to the budget to be prepared, not duplicating or overlapping the mandates, and removing the mandates that no longer apply.
- Dr McCartney gave his presentation on the 2004-2005 school budget. It was noted that the majority of the increase was in ERS, TRS and Health Insurance contributions. Mr. Coffin noted that for many years there were no contributions to the retirement fund and that couldn’t be expected to last forever.

Dr. McCartney

Regarding the building project and facilities, a punch list was provided. Concerns regarding the list and the building project, should be directed to Mrs. Winchell.

Facilities

Staff evaluation information will be ready for the March Board Meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. McKenna, and carried unanimously; the board approved the Resolutions in Recognition of Service of Joan T. Decker and Florence R. Bradon.

Resolutions in Recognition of Service:  
J. Decker  
F. Bradon

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Thorpe, and carried unanimously the board approved Recertification of the District Wide Plan for School Based Planning and Shared Decision Making (Section 100.11 of Commissioner’s Regulations) as adopted by the Board on July 12, 1993.

Approved:  
Recertification  
Shared Decision-Making

Mr. Baron offered the Board members an opportunity to be heard. Mr. Brackett asked that the new voting procedures be advertised. If the public is to bring identification with them, they should be aware of that beforehand. Dr. McCartney briefly described the new voting procedures and informed the board that the public would be informed.

Opportunity for Board to be Heard:  
R. Brackett

The following information items were noted:

- Middle Level News Notes

Information Items

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Coffin, and carried unanimously the board moved into executive session at 9:16 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 10:18 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Cole, and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Adjournment:  
10:22 PM

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President

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Clerk

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Recording Secretary