

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:

Alan R. McCartney, Mark Diefendorf, Edward Diegel, Theresa Kennedy, Michael Paolino, Sarita Winchell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Molly Belmont (Altamont Enterprise), Gary Hubert, Kevin Kroencke, Mike Goyer, Rose Mary Wargo, C. Raderman, David Gibson, Kathy Martin, Claudia Burtman, Michelle Flynn (Spotlight), Kristin Huntsman, Deb Baron, Kathy Fiero, Deann DellaPenta.

Mr. Baron called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and gave the proper procedure to evacuate the building in the event of a fire emergency. He noted all Board members were present.

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2003.

Mr. Baron asked if there were any additional items from the Superintendent. There were none.

Mr. Baron offered the public an opportunity to be heard. No one responded.

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Pofit and carried unanimously, the action items were approved in their entirety with an amendment to item 4.2 – the date of Mrs. Decker’s retirement is February 28, 2004.

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

Warrants:

General Fund Warrant #4	\$1,100,746.65
School Lunch Fund Warrant #4:	6,375.78
Capital Fund Warrant #1:	145,000.91
Trust & Agency Warrant #2:	15,028.75
Federal Aid Fund Warrant #4:	15,028.75
Non-Expendable Trust (TE) Warrant #1:	100.00

Payrolls:

Payroll #7:	\$226,259.27
Payroll #8:	377,191.80
Payroll #9:	379,513.54

- Accepted the following resignations:

Joan Decker, Bus Driver

Effective: February 28, 2004 Reason: Retirement

Florence Bradon, Bus Driver

Effective: September 23, 2003 Reason: Retirement

George Nugent, Custodial Worker

Effective: October 14, 2003 Reason: Accepted permanent bus driver position

- Approved the following requests for parental leave of absence:

Megan M. McMahan, elementary school teacher, for parental leave commencing on or about November 21, 2003, and ending September 1, 2004. Mrs. McMahan reserves the right to extend the leave until September 1, 2005, with notification to the District no later than April 1, 2004.

Meeting Call to

Order:

7:37 p.m.

Approved

Minutes:

9/8/03;

Opportunity for

Superintendent

to be heard

Opportunity for

Public to be

heard:

Action Items

Treasurers

Reports

Warrants

Resignations:

J. Decker

F. Bradon

G. Nugent

Parental of

Absence:

M. McMahan

M. Coppola Marie Coppola, music teacher, for parental leave commencing on September 29, 2003, with an expected return to work on January 30, 2004. Mrs. Coppola will use her accumulated sick leave and requests Family Medical Leave from December 8, 2003 through January 29, 2004.

Part-time
Temporary
Appointments:

- Approved the following part-time/temporary appointments:

M. Barcus Mandy Barcus, Temporary Music Teacher [*Middle School/High School*]
Effective: September 23, 2003 – January 29, 2004
Salary: Step 2 of VTA Contract

N. Russell Nancy Russell, Temporary Biology Teacher
Effective: October 21, 2003
Salary: \$250 per day

Probationary
Support Staff
Appointments:

- Approved the following probationary support staff appointment:

G. Nugent George Nugent, Bus Driver
Effective: October 14, 2003
Probationary Term: Six months
Salary: Step 2 of UEV Contract

M. LaRock Mark LaRock, Custodial Worker
Effective: October 21, 2003
Probationary Term: Six months
Salary: Step 4 of UEV Contract

Extracurricular
Appointments

- Approved the following extracurricular appointments for the 2003-2004 school year:
[per VTA Extracurricular Salary Schedule]

<u>Denise Jadick</u>	School Store Advisor	Step 1
<u>Jessica Bradshaw</u>	Envirothon Co-Advisor	½ of Step 1

Coaching
Appointments

- Approved the following coaching appointments for the 2003-2004 school year:
[per VTA Coaching Salary Schedule]

<u>Robert Crandall</u>	Boys' Varsity Basketball	Step 4
<u>Donald Catellier</u>	Boys' JV Basketball	Step 4
<u>Scott Murray</u>	Boys' Freshman Basketball	Step 4
<u>Scott Murray</u>	Girls' Modified Volleyball	Step 5
<u>Thomas Gladd</u>	Varsity Golf	Step 6
<u>Jon McClement</u>	Girls' Varsity Basketball	Step 8
<u>Dennis McCormick</u>	Girls' JV Basketball	Step 7
<u>James Duncan</u>	Varsity Bowling	Step 8
<u>Thomas Kurkjian</u>	Boys' Varsity Volleyball	Step 8

Change in FTE
Appointments:

- Approved the following changes in FTE appointments:

M. Kemp Martha Kemp, .4 FTE to .6 FTE School Psychologist
[Funding for 20% of this appointment – IDEA Section 611 2003-2004 Federal Funds]
Effective: September 1, 2003

E. Murphy Emily Murphy, .6 FTE to .65 FTE Art Teacher
[Extra duty for BOCES art class – funding covered by BOCES Ancillary payments to the District]
Effective: September 19, 2003

Substitute
Teacher
Appointments

- Approved the substitute teacher appointments for the 2003-2004 school year as presented by the BOCES Substitute Calling Service in a memo dated October 9, 2003.

CSD
Recommendations

- Approved the recommendations of the *Committee on Special Education* as outlined at meetings held on September 4, 2003, September 26, 2003, September 29, 2003, September 30, 2003, October 7, 2003, and October 8, 2003.

- Approved the following out-of-town conference requests:

Annual New York State Association of School Nurses Conference

Lake George, New York: Friday, November 7 – Sunday, November 9, 2003

Requestors: Colleen Brackett, Mary Ann Jones

NYS Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Conference

Buffalo, New York: Wednesday, November 19 – Saturday, November 22, 2003

Requestor: Sandra Vorse

- Approved the following out-of-town student field trip request:

Journalism Workshop: Helderbarker Field Trip

Columbia University, New York City: Monday, November 3, 2003

Requestor: Alynn McTighe, *Advisor*

8th Grade Career Skills Class: Six Flags New England

Springfield, MA: Sunday, November 2, 2003

Requestor: Kristen Williams

Administrative Reports

MR. DIEGEL:

- Reviewed the new brochure for the Elementary School and explained that the brochure was for parents new to the area for a quick overview of the school. Dr. Mary Teresa McCormick created the brochure and the picture on the front is a picture of the painting done by her husband, Dennis McCormick.
- “Safety Week” was a success at the Elementary School. Some of the students were given videos of fire safety to bring home and review with their parents. Kristen Huntsman will be working with the teachers to help them communicate with the children.
- Voorheesville Mobil helped the elementary school in receiving a grant for the 3rd year in a row. This year, the \$500.00 will be used to purchase a printer for the computer lab.

MR. DIEFENDORF:

- Reviewed the results of the Math “A” Regents Exam. The new matrix is in place and it has helped the pass/fail ratio to turn completely around. There has been discussion about dropping the required passing grade for a diploma from 65 to 55. School districts must request a waiver to change the passing grade to 55. The conclusion of the discussion was that in January, the same test would probably be given with the “diluted” matrix. Hopefully, in June a new test will be in place and given to the students. The board agreed that the district should do what it needs to do to protect its students until the State can correct the problem.

MR. PAOLINO:

- Reviewed the parking situation and informed the board that not only have all the qualifying seniors been given a parking place, but all juniors requesting parking permits have been granted some form of permit.
- Mr. Paolino also called the Board’s attention to the wall of the commons that displays this month’s honorees for the Character Education Program – the word for the month was courage. Four students from the middle school, four from the high school, and two faculty members chose the honorees. When asked to define the word courage, Mr. Paolino explained that there were many different uses of the word. It could have been from suffering a loss and coming back to school and catching up on schoolwork or trying out for a sport that you may not be the best at. Mr. Diefendorf interjected that it could also be for informing the faculty of something that is going on, standing up to your peers and doing the right thing.

MS. KENNEDY:

- The teen night scheduled for October 24 has been cancelled due to lack of music. It had already been rescheduled once. The next teen night will take place in November.
- The eighth grade field trip to New York City was a big success. Students went on the Big Onion Tour, ate a variety of foods, and learned many historical facts. The students behaved very well and should be commended.
- The final totals for the Scholastic Book Fair held at the middle school are not available yet. However, the most recent figure is over \$2,000, which is over the \$1300 from last year. The proceeds will be used to purchase middle school books for the school library.

MRS. WINCHELL:

- Reviewed her report in detail with special attention to the cost of future bus purchases and the cost of fuel. In the discussion that followed the presentation of the five-year comparison of state aid factors, Mr. Coffin asked if the safe and harmless districts were under attack this year. Dr. McCartney went on to explain agenda item 6.6.1 (NYSCOSS POLICY REPORT). He feels that the legislature has three options: Raise taxes, move money around, or do nothing and let the Supreme Court handle it. This may not be advantageous to any school and especially Voorheesville. It may become the same situation as they have in the New Jersey or California School Systems.

Out-of-Town
Conference
Requests

Out-of-Town
Student Field
Trip Requests

Administrative
Reports

Mr. Diegel

Mr. Diefendorf

Mr. Paolino

Ms. Kennedy

Mrs. Winchell

- Mrs. Winchell then briefly explained why she included the Insurance Claim Summary from Utica National, item 6.5.2. Although none of these instances have occurred at the Voorheesville Central School District, it is the reason that rules and proper procedure must be strictly adhered to and enforced at all times.

DR. MCCARTNEY:

Dr. McCartney

- Presented the Voorheesville website. He showed the many different links that will be useful to visitors. The most common mistake that people make is with the address to the website, <http://vcsd.neric.org> - it is not preceded by “www” as most sites are.

MR GOYER:

Mr. Goyer

Mr. Goyer was asked to give a brief update on the bus problems discussed at the last meeting.

- He reported that although the construction was still a problem, the schedule seems to be smoothing out. On October 16, the Sheriff’s Department conducted project Safe Start. This is when a sheriff’s car follows a school bus and tickets cars that don’t stop at the bus signals. Mr. Goyer informed the board that there were no tickets issued in the Voorheesville District.
- They are currently working with Albany County in the planning of a possible NAPA parts store at the county garage.
- On the Operations and Maintenance project, Turf Grass has spread fertilizer and soil samples were sent for testing. Those reports were not available at this time.
- There will be new signage at the remote fields thanks to some of the custodians and some paint. The Elementary School Playground, in coordination with Mr. Diegel, was closed so the custodial staff could re-seal the equipment. The playground is approximately 12 years old, but seems to be holding up very well. The life expectancy for this type of playground is 15 to 20 years if well maintained.

Discussion Items

*Facilities/
Building Project*

The building project and facilities are going through a final checklist. Back payments are being held from some of the contractors until the work is completed satisfactorily. The elementary school floor has been installed and ready for a punch list to be compiled and reviewed with the contractors. The goal is to have everything completed by the first of the year. Kathy Fiero asked if the painting of the interior was in the budget for this year. Dr McCartney said that the plans were to complete the punch list this year and that painting and new ceiling tiles would be in the budget for next year. He feels that the ceiling tiles would brighten the interior considerably.

*Professional
Development:
Teacher
Evaluation*

Mr. Thorpe reviewed Professional Development regarding the teacher evaluation system. He handed out a brief memo and described what the intention of the committee was. Mr. McKenna said that the committee did not want to get in the middle, but wanted to address some issues they felt were important. The intention was not to target any specific teacher, but to streamline the system. Mr. Coffin said the objective of the committee was to “fill in” some holes to improve the system and make it work better – in other words, to clean it up. After a brief discussion, it was noted that the current evaluation process is extremely time consuming and department heads find it difficult to meet deadlines due to the class loads they carry. Mr. Cole said that we should not substitute brevity for the sake of ease. Representatives from all interested parties will meet to decide on a “plan of attack”, to be presented to the Board by the December 8 meeting. It will include a timeline and objectives of the group.

*Independent
Audit Report*

The Independent Audit Report has not been received, so this has been tabled until the November Board of Education Meeting.

*BOE Meeting
Calendar:
Change of Date*

The Board reviewed the 2003-2004 Meeting Calendar to determine what to do about the April 5, 2004 meeting, which coincides with Passover. Because of the holiday and the need to adopt the 2004-2005 school budget, it was decided to move the April 5 meeting to March 29, 2004. The Board will not meet in April unless a need arises.

Mr. Baron opened the floor for members of the board to be heard.

Mr. Thorpe asked that e-mail addresses for Board members, teachers and administrators be included on the website. He felt that this would open the door of communication so parents could e-mail teachers at their convenience. Dr. McCartney said that he was currently working on an “Ask the Superintendent” place on the website.

Mr. Baron reminded everyone that the November board meeting is being held on the 10th in the Elementary School Cafeteria.

**Information
Items:**

The following information items were noted:

- CASDA Newsletter [**September 2003**]
- CAPSBA Meeting Notice
- BOCES Early Edition Newsletter [**October 2003**]
- Middle Level News Notes
- Personnel and Activities Fact Sheet: 2003-2004
- Weekly Dose of Humor: NCLB – *No Cow Left Behind*

On a motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. McKenna and carried unanimously, the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Pofit, seconded by Thorpe and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Executive Session:
9:05 p.m.

Adjournment:
9:32 p.m.

President

Clerk

Recording Secretary