

**VOORHEESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Voorheesville, New York 12186**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 12, 2007**

**David M. Gibson, President**  
**High School Cafeteria**

**Page 1**

**Board Members Present:**

David M. Gibson, President  
 C. James Coffin, Vice Present  
 Richard K. Brackett  
 Gary A. Hubert  
 Kevin Kroencke  
 Thomas McKenna  
 Paige Pierce

**Board Members Absent:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Linda Langevin, Sarita Winchell, Mark Diefendorf, Michael Paolino, Kenneth Lein, Theresa Kennedy

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Robin Jacob, Erica Cacciotti, David Adkins, Margaret Adkins, Michael Snyder, Waldo Greene, Linda Pasquali, Melissa Green, Jane Loomes, Linda McHenry, Grace Barone, Alison Voglein, Pam Standish, Steve Relyea, Kathy Fiero, Kathleen Wissing, Pam Hamlin, Lynn Goyer, Chris Allard, Sharon Cillis, Mary Ann Jones, Donna Fitzgerald, Sara Hotopp, Cynthia Abelseth, Brian Stumbaugh, Michael Goyer, Lisa Myers, Barbara Blumberg, Rachel Dutil [*The Altamont Enterprise*], Dorothea Pfliederer

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 with the exception of Ms. Pierce. Ms. Pierce arrived at 7:38 p.m.

Call to Order:  
 7:35 p.m.

**Item 2: Budget**

Mrs. Winchell said that an in-depth budget presentation was given on Monday, March 5, and copies of the budget and PowerPoint slides were available for anyone wishing to review the information. Budget information is also available on the District website. The Board will hold another special budget meeting on Monday, March 26, and the final budget will be adopted at the regular April 2 meeting.

Budget Discussion

**Item 3: Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Kroencke, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of February 12, 2007, the special meeting of February 15, 2007, and the special budget meeting of March 5, 2007, and the special meeting of February 5, 2007.

Approval of Minutes:  
 02/12/07;  
 02/15/07;  
 03/05/07

Mr. Gibson asked if there were any additional items from the Superintendent. Mrs. Langevin noted the following agenda changes:

- Item 5.2 Addition: retirement letters from Richard Freyer and Linda Spina
- Item 8.2 Addition: update on meeting with Wayne Vander Byl by Mr. Kroencke
- Item 10.2 Addition: Elementary School enrollment discussion

Additional items from Superintendent

Mr. Gibson offered the students in the audience an opportunity to address the Board. There were no responses.

Mr. Gibson offered the public an opportunity to be heard.

- Erica Cacciotti addressed the Board regarding a special education concern.
- Margaret Adkins requested that information about budgeting for legal fees be made available at the special meeting scheduled for March 26.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard:

On a motion by Mr. Hubert, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the following action items were approved:

**APPROVED**

**Item 5.1.1 – Accepted the treasurer’s reports as presented in the enclosure.**

The Audit Committee met before the BOE meeting and reviewed 500 checks with only two exceptions. All expenditures were reasonable and the Committee recommended approval of warrants and payrolls.

*Treasurer’s Reports*

**Item 5.1.2 – Accepted the following warrants and payrolls:**

*Warrants*

Warrants:

General Fund Warrant #15	\$ 1,254,216.54
General Fund Warrant #16	\$ 559,757.15
Trust & Agency Fund Warrant #7	\$ 1,142,740.35
School Lunch Fund Warrant #7	\$ 29,805.97
Federal Aid Fund Warrant #7	\$ 81,749.71
Capital Fund Warrant #6	\$ 225,367.00
TE Fund Warrant #1	\$ 2,938.00

PayrollsPayrolls:

Payroll #18	\$	441,634.69
Payroll #19	\$	431,933.67

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Kroencke and carried unanimously, the following action items (5.2 – 5.7)

**Item 5.2: Resignations**Resignations:

Accepted the following resignations:

*J. Wysocki*

Janice N. Wysocki, Mathematics Teacher (35 years of service)

Effective: June 30, 2007

Reason: Retirement

*R. Freyer*

Richard Freyer, Science Teacher (36 years of service)

Effective: June 25, 2007

Reason: Retirement

*L. Spina*

Linda Spina, Elementary School Teacher (32 years of service)

Effective: June 30, 2007

Reason: Retirement

Long-Term Substitute:**Item 5.3: Long-Term Substitute Appointment**

Approved the appointment of Susan Beemer, as long-term substitute teacher (Grade 2).

Effective: February 26, 2007 through June 22, 2007

Salary: 1/200 of Step 1 (BA) of VTA Contract

*Mrs. Beemer will replace Mrs. Kniss during her parental leave*

*S. Beemer*Permanent Custodial Appointments**Item 5.4: Permanent Custodial Appointments**

Approved permanent appointments for the following probationary Custodial Workers. All have met the six-month minimum and there is no change in salary.

Robert Hathaway, Custodial Worker

Date of probationary appointment: May 9, 2006

Effective permanent appointment: March 13, 2007

Anthony Praga, Custodial Worker

Date of probationary appointment: June 26, 2006

Effective permanent appointment: March 13, 2007

Allan Winch, Custodial Worker

Date of probationary appointment: June 26, 2006

Effective permanent appointment: March 13, 2007

BOCES Substitute Registry**Item 5.5: Substitute Teacher Appointments from BOCES Substitute Registry**

Approved substitute teacher appointments for the 2006-2007 school year as presented by the Capital Region BOCES Substitute Registry as outlined in memo dated March 1, 2007 in the enclosure folder.

CSERecommendations**Item 5.6: CSE Recommendations**

Approved recommendations by the *Committee on Special Education* as outlined at meetings held on January 19, 2007, January 25, 2007, February 6, 2007, February 8, 2007, and February 9, 2007.

**Item 5.7: Coaching Appointments**

Approved the following coaching appointments for the 2006-2007 school year.

*(Salaries in accordance with the VTA Coach Salary Schedule)*

Coaching Appointments

Andrew Karins

Modified Track

Year 1 @ Step 1 = \$1,356

Sandra Vorse

Varsity Girls' Volleyball

Year 5 @ Step 7 = \$2,841

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Ms. Pierce and carried unanimously, the following actions items were approved (5.8 – 5.11)

Out-of-Town Student Field Trips**Item 5.8: Out-of-Town Student Field Trip Requests**

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

Key Club Convention

Destination: Monticello, New York

Date: Friday, March 16 – Sunday, March 18, 2007

Cost: \$189.00 per student (8 students attending)

Requestor: Sherry Burgoon

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to American Museum of Natural History

Destination: New York City  
Date: Friday, May 11, 2007  
Cost: \$45.00 per student  
Requestor: John Curran

Spanish 5 Field Trip

Destination: New York City  
Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2007  
Cost: \$56 + meal(s)  
Requestor: Robert Streifer

**Item 5.9: Non-Resident Student Admission Requests**

Approved the following requests for admission of non-resident students for the 2007-2008 school year:

Non-Resident  
Students

Conor Cashin, Grade 10  
Requestor: Christine Cashin

Brianna Nicole Lee, Grade 8  
Requestor: Deborah Lee

Sawyer Cresap, Grade 8  
Requestor: Robin Jacob

Noah Justin Robinson, Grade 3  
Requestor: Lori Farrell

Lindsey Dembo, Grade 12  
Requestor: Barbara Blumberg

Austin Zielinski, Grade 5  
Requestor: Thomas Kurkjian

Kiera Ann Wissing, Kindergarten  
Requestor: Kathleen Wissing

Troy Tracey, Grade 4  
Requestor: Lauren Tracey

Garrett Wineinger, Grade 10  
Shawn Goyer, Grade 6  
Requestor: Michael Goyer

Meaghan Conley, Grade 4  
Amanda Conley, Grade 1  
Requestor: Christine Conley

Colin Kelly, Grade 9  
Cara Kelly, Grade 8  
Erin Kelly, Grade 6  
Requestor: Mary E. Kelley

Michael Kelley, Grade 12  
Camryn Kelley, Grade 4  
Alicia Kelley, Grade 1  
Jayden Kelley, Grade 1  
Requestor: Timothy Kelley

**Item 5.10: Contracts**

**5.10.1** Approved the contract for health services provided to 15 students residing in the Voorheesville School District and attending schools located in the South Colonie School District. Contract includes a cost justification sheet and invoice in the amount of \$6,311.85 (\$420.79 per student).

Contracts:

*Health Services*

**5.10.2** Approved the contract for health services provided to 8 students residing in the Voorheesville School District and attending schools located in the Bethlehem Central School District. Contract includes a cost justification sheet and invoice in the amount of \$5,051.76 (\$631.47 per student).

**5.10.3** Approved the contract for health services provided to 8 students residing in the Voorheesville School District and attending schools located in the Guilderland Central School District. Contract includes a cost justification sheet and invoice in the amount of \$4,061.04 (\$507.63 per student).

**Item 5.11: Surplus / Obsolete Items**

Declared items provided on the inventory list in the enclosure folder surplus/obsolete and delegated to the Business Official disposition of said items in a manner consistent with current laws and regulations.

Surplus/Obsolete  
Items

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Item 6.1: Senior Studies: Internships**, *Brian Stumbaugh*.

Mr. Stumbaugh addressed the Board as a follow-up to his presentation on senior studies on January 8, 2007. He reviewed how the program would work and added that after a four-week internship, students would present a final thesis. It is anticipated that a maximum of 20 students would participate. Mr. Diefendorf added that the Board will receive another update in April.

SPECIAL  
REPORTS

*Senior Studies*

**Item 6.2: Transition Report**, *Mark Diefendorf, Kenneth Lein, Theresa Kennedy*

Mr. Diefendorf explained that the administrative staff and guidance staff have met for the purpose of developing ideas to strengthen student transition from elementary school to middle school and from middle school to high school. He discussed areas of concern and steps that would be taken to ease the transition for students. Mr. Diefendorf requested the addition of a .5 FTE social worker next year to support the guidance counselors in dealing with at-risk students.

*Transition Report*

ADMINISTRATIVE  
REPORTS

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Item 7.1: Elementary School Report, *Kenneth Lein***

*K. Lein*

- Mrs. Scott's second grade class displayed their Arctic projects in the main hallway.
- Students in Mr. McCormick's physical education class have been learning ballroom dancing.
- Received a check for \$6,000, a mini-grant, from the School Health Initiative. The money will be used to purchase 48 pairs of snow shoes and 48 pairs of cross country skis.
- Six elementary teams participated in Odyssey of the Mind with two second-place finishes.

**Item 7.2: High School Report, *Mark Diefendorf***

*M. Diefendorf*

- Mr. Diefendorf announced that the High School Drama Club would be performing the musical "Grease" on Friday, March 23 through Sunday, March 25. Advance tickets can be purchased until Friday, March 16.

**Item 7.3: Middle Level Report, *Theresa Kennedy***

*T. Kennedy*

- A successful teen night was held on Friday, March 9.
- The Scholastic Book Fair, sponsored by the Student Council, raised \$1,500.
- Mr. Iannotti has been working with middle level students on a paper recycling program. The Student Council will provide bins and coordinate the collection of paper.
- Student Council raised \$151.50 on "hat" day. The money will be donated to children with cancer.
- Mrs. Bradshaw received a Best Buy grant for \$2,500. The money will be used to purchase 12 digital cameras, 2 photo printers, 5 memory cards, and rechargeable batteries. These items will be shared by middle school students for a variety of projects.
- In an effort to promote the arts and showcase students' talents, Mrs. Hyatt and Ms. Jendrzejczak are working with middle level students to provide music in the Middle School lobby on Fridays from 7:20 to 7:35 a.m.
- Mrs. Lobel received a *Creative Connections Grant* from Arts in Education. The money will be used to provide three additional days of the annual Middle School Medieval Festival. The presentations by Bells and Motley will be expanded from two days to five days. The festival will end with the Medieval Feast on Friday.

**Item 7.4: Assistant to the Superintendent for Business, *Sarita Winchell***

*S. Winchell*

- A recommendation for the Clerk of the Works is being finalized.
- The report on the walk-through at the Elementary School shows items that needed attention and what action has been taken.
- Fiscal Advisors will help with planning the bond issue.
- The Facilities Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m.

**Item 7.5: Operations, Maintenance, and Transportation Report, *Michael Goyer***

*M. Goyer*

- Commended the custodial staff for the excellent job they did clearing snow after the February 14 storm.
- Acknowledged the Village and County for their help in clearing snow at the end of the Elementary School driveway, which improved visibility when exiting the parking lot.

**Item 8.1: Building Project and Facilities Committee Report, *R. Brackett, C. J. Coffin***

BOE Committee  
Reports

- The committee has been looking closely at candidates for Clerk of the Works for the upcoming capital project.
- Committee members have been invited, along with Mrs. Langevin, to the April 19 PTA meeting to discuss the capital project and answer questions.
- The New York State Education Department has given final approval on the capital project.

**Item 8.2: Curriculum Committee, *D. Gibson, K. Kroencke, P. Pierce***

- The committee will meet with Wayne Vander Byl on Thursday, March 8 to continue the development of procedures in hiring and evaluation teachers.
- From now on, the Curriculum Committee will focus on the review of curricular proposals and concerns. They will meet four times a year, more frequently during the budget process, if necessary. Two elementary faculty members were invited to join the committee.
- A new committee, the Standards for Teaching Quality Committee (STQ) will be created to work with Mr. Vander Byl in the development of a revised faculty evaluation instrument.

**Item 8.3: Planning & Governance Committee, *D. Gibson, C.J. Coffin, T. McKenna***

- The Planning & Governance Committee will meet on March 22 to review more policies. The Tobacco Policy will be reviewed with feedback from the Health & Wellness Committee. The Planning & Governance Committee hopes to present this for a first reading on April 2.

**Item 8.4: Audit Committee, *D. Gibson, G. Hubert, C.J. Coffin***

- The Audit Committee reported under Item 5.1. No further comments.

**Item 8.5: Negotiations Committee, *C.J. Coffin, Kevin Kroencke***

- The first negotiating session with the VTA will be held on Wednesday, March 14. Both sides are eager to begin and hope to bring the contract to closure as soon as possible.

**Item 9.1: Approval of Proposition re: Purchase of Buses**

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Kroencke and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following resolution for the purchase of buses:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Voorheesville Central School District is hereby authorized to pay the cost of the purchase of school buses, including incidental expenses, at a maximum estimated cost of **\$207,470**, and that said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

**Item 9.2: Special Board of Education Meeting: April 23, 2007**

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Ms. Pierce and carried unanimously, the Board approved the date of Monday, April 23, 2007, for a special meeting to elect BOCES Board members and vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget: 7:30 a.m.

**Item 9.3: Standardization of Small Vehicles for Transportation (Chevrolet Suburbans)**

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. McKenna and carried unanimously, the Board approved the standardization of small vehicles for the transportation of students to Chevrolet Suburbans for the purpose of joint bidding of vehicles in 2007. Bidding will be conducted by the cooperative bidding service at BOCES in which the District is already a member. The full resolution is provided in the enclosure folder.

**Item 9.4: Tech Valley High School Tuition**

A motion was made by Mr. Coffin and seconded by Ms. Pierce to approve tuition for one student from Voorheesville Central School District, selected by lottery system, to attend Tech Valley High School during the 2007-2008 school year. This resolution would be effective pending approval of the 2007-2008 school budget presented for voter approval on May 15, 2007, and the cost would be \$18,000.

After discussing this item, the Board concluded that they would need further information before making a decision. It was suggested that a representative from Tech Valley High School attend the March 26 or April 2 Board meeting. Item 9.4 was tabled.

**Item 9.5: Resolution re: Purchase of Music Lockers**

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. McKenna and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following resolution:

*Whereas*, the preservation of property is of the utmost concern to the Board of Education, and

*Whereas*, there are not adequate music lockers to safeguard District owned music instruments, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Board of education approve the purchase of music lockers to safeguard instruments up to an amount of \$9,500 plus shipping, and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Board approve the transfer of funds from A5540.449 to A2110.200.3.1 to support this expense.

**Item 10.1: Draft 2007-2008 Voorheesville School Calendar, Discussion**

The first day of school is later than usual on the proposed 2007-2008 calendar. Students would begin one week after Labor Day. A later starting date would be beneficial to the capital project which will be underway. Mrs. Langevin pointed out that Capital Region BOCES will review the regional calendar on March 19. Mrs. Langevin hopes to present the Voorheesville District calendar for approval on March 26 or April 2.

**Item 10.2: Elementary School Enrollment, Discussion**

Elementary School enrollment was tabled for discussion at the special March 26 meeting.

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Kroencke and carried unanimously, the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing current litigation, the employment history of particular individuals, and negotiations.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 11:18 a.m.

On a motion by Mr. Kroencke, seconded by Ms. Pierce and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Board of Education

APPROVED:

Proposition:  
*Purchase of Buses*

Special BOE Meeting:  
*BOCES Vote*

Cooperative Bidding:  
*Suburbans*

Tech Valley H.S. Tuition  
TABLED

Purchase of Music Lockers

Discussion:  
*2007-2008 School Calendar*

Elementary School Enrollment  
TABLED

Executive Session:  
*9:50 p.m.*

Regular Session:  
*11:18 p.m.*

Adjournment:  
*11:20 p.m.*