

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 2, 2007

David M. Gibson, President
High School Cafeteria

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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:

Susan Podgorski, Christi Podgorski, Tim Blow, Sherry Burgoon, Kathy Fiero, Andy Huth, Jen Hampston, Pam Standish, Chris Allard, Steve Relyea, Dave Adkins, Steve Gatt, Cameron Macdonald, Linda Pasquali, Barbara Blumberg, Michael Goyer, Rachel Dutil [*The Altamont Enterprise*], Dorothea Pfleiderer

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 Mr. McKenna. Mr. McKenna arrived at 7:33 p.m.

Call to Order:
 7:30 p.m.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Kroencke, seconded by Ms. Pierce and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of March 12, 2007, the special budget meeting of March 26, 2007.

Approval of Minutes:
 03/12/07;
 03/26/07

Item 3: Visitors and Communication

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

Additional items from Superintendent

- Item 4.8 Addition: conference requests
- Item 5.3 Addition: early release for elementary school students
(Report by Mr. Lein with the addition of agenda item 8.2 for approval)
- Item 7.8 Addition: Status of Settlements with Drs. McCartney and Marturano, *Discussion*
- Item 8.3 Addition: Special BOE meeting to approve bids for capital project – *April 17, 2007*
- Item 8.4 Addition: Approval of two BOE members for Standard of Teaching Quality Committee

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. Robert Burns asked for an update on the settlements with Drs. McCartney and Marturano. Mr. Gibson said the Board would discuss the settlements under item 7.8 on the agenda.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard:

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

APPROVED

Item 4.1.1 – Accepted the treasurer’s reports as presented in the enclosure.

Treasurer’s Reports

Item 4.1.2 – Accepted the following warrants and payrolls:

Warrants:

General Fund Warrant #17	\$ 1,129,283.80
General Fund Warrant #18	\$ 540,151.49
Trust & Agency Fund Warrant #8	\$ 1,131,265.17
School Lunch Fund Warrant #8	\$ 49,988.74
Federal Aid Fund Warrant #8	\$ 20,812.72

Warrants

Payrolls:

Payroll #20	\$ 415,373.01
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Payrolls

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

Parental Leave Request:

Item 4.2: Parental Leave Request

Approved the request of Marie Coppola, Music Teacher, for a leave of absence beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008. This request complies with Article 8.8.5 of the VTA Contract.

M. Coppola

BOCES Substitute
Registry**Item 4.3: 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 23, 2007 in the enclosure folder.

CSE
Recommendations**Item 4.4: CSE Recommendations**

Approved recommendations by the *Committee on Special Education* as outlined at meetings held on March 1, 2007, March 8, 2007, March 13, 2007, and March 19, 2007.

Out-of-Town
Student Field
Trips**Item 4.5: Out-of-Town Student Field Trip Requests**

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

International Club Trip

Destination: Boston, Massachusetts
Date: Wednesday, May 2, 2007
Cost: \$12.00 + Transportation (Chartered Coach - \$40 to \$55 depending on enrollment)
Requestor: Robert Streifer

Budget Amendment

Item 4.6: Budget Amendment

On a motion by Mr. Kroencke, seconded by Mr. Hubert and carried unanimously, the Board approved amendment of the 2006-2007 budget to allow for the expenditure of the following grant, in-kind, and gift donations to the District in the amount of \$11,908.68, and to increase the revenue code A2705 to reflect the receipt of these funds:

For the Elementary School: \$1,914.34

Life Touch for Elementary School:	\$982.00	code A210.501.01.00
Target/Take Charge of Education:	\$271.75	code A2110.501.01.99
Reimer Donation to Elementary Library:	\$75.00	code A2610.501.01
General Mills/Boxtops for Education:	\$510.50	code A2110.501.01.99
Verizon rebate on parents' billing:	\$75.09	code A2110.401.01.99

For the Middle/High School: \$1,694.34

Book Fair for Library:	\$1,495.33	code A2610.599.02
PTA for Library books:	\$199.01	code A2610.521.02

For Humanities Programs: \$8,300.00

Friends of Music:	\$300	code A2110.416.02.19
PTA - Elem. School Program:	\$4,000	code A2110.416.01.19
PTA - Middle/High School Program:	\$2,000	code A2110.416.01.19
Arts Center of the Capital District:	\$1,850	code A2110.416.02.19
	\$107.50	code A2110.501.02.19
	\$42.50	code A2110.140

2007-2008 School
District Calendar**Item 4.7: 2007-2008 School District Calendar**

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Ms. Pierce and carried unanimously, the Board approved the 2007-2008 school district calendar as presented in the enclosure folder.

Out-of-Town
Conference
Requests**Item 4.8: Conference Requests**

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Ms. Pierce and carried by 6-1 vote, the Board approved attendance at the conference listed below. Mr. Brackett voted no.

Conference Title: 15th Annual Model Schools Conference
Location: Washington, D.C.
Date: June 30 – July 3, 2007
Cost: Registration \$510.00 per person
Lodging \$209.00 per night
Travel \$257.30 per person [US Airways]
Requestors: Pamela Christian, Brook Zayle, Patricia Nadratowski, Lynn Goyer

SPECIAL
REPORTS**SPECIAL REPORTS****Item 5.1: Middle School Update, Theresa Kennedy**Middle School
Update

Ms. Theresa Kennedy, assisted by several middle level teachers, presented “*Our Emerging Middle School, Part II*”. They discussed the characteristics of a high performing middle school and ways to strengthen the current middle school program to develop the “whole” child. Ms. Kennedy concluded her presentation with video clips of the middle level students in their day-to-day routines.

Energy Education
Update**Item 5.2: Energy Education Update, Andrew Huth**

Mr. Andrew Huth presented an update on the Energy Education program covering a 17-month period: September 2005 through January 2007. The energy savings to date is \$104,622 or 14%. Mr. Huth gave a detailed analysis of the savings and said it was all a result of the measures taken by the staff to conserve energy.

Item 5.3: Early Release for Elementary Students on June 21, 2007, Kenneth Lein

Mr. Lein discussed the proposal to release the Elementary students at 11:50 a.m. on Thursday, June 21. Early dismissal will allow the teaching staff time to pack up the contents of their classrooms in preparation for capital project beginning on Monday, June 25. Board approval of this recommendation is presented under item 8.2 on the agenda.

Early Release of
E.S. Students – June
21, 2007

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS**

Item 6.1: Elementary School Report, Kenneth Lein

- The Elementary School Science Fair was held on March 29. The exhibits were amazing and the students did a marvelous job in presenting scientific explanations of their projects.

K. Lein

Item 6.2: High School Report, Mark Diefendorf

- Spring break begins on April 5.
- On April 3, the Student Government will hold a blood drive, the second one this year. Each year the blood donations have exceeded the expectations of the American Red Cross.
- The Dionysians' presentation of "Grease" was a great success.

M. Diefendorf

Item 6.3: Middle Level Report, Theresa Kennedy

- On March 29, a group of students, teachers, parents and administrators attended the Youth Leadership Summit at Russell Sage College.
- Morning Music at the Middle School has begun. The musicians will perform on Wednesday instead of Friday this week due to the Spring Break.

T. Kennedy

Item 6.4: Assistant to the Superintendent for Business, Sarita Winchell

- The Health Insurance Committee will be looking at Requests For Proposals for a dental plan. Any recommended change in the dental plan will come to the Board at the May meeting.
- The District received a Safety Award from Utica National Insurance.
- In response to Utica National's safety assessment of our District, the Safety Committee is working on a bullying policy. The committee expects development of the policy will take several months.
- The School Lunch Fund is still in the red but continues to improve. Henry Binzer will provide a detailed update at the May 7 Board meeting.

S. Winchell

Item 6.5: Operations, Maintenance, and Transportation Report, Michael Goyer

- Transportation requests have started coming in. The deadline for submission is April 1.
- Michael Goyer and Paul Relyea attended a pesticide training course and have been recertified in pesticide management.

M. Goyer

Item 7.1: Building Project and Facilities Committee Report, R. Brackett, C. J. Coffin

- The Facilities Committee met on March 29 to discuss the capital project. Donald Van Cott, the newly appointed Clerk of the Works, was in attendance.
- The Board members, district representatives, and the project architects will meet with the PTA at 7:00 p.m. on April 19 to discuss the capital project and answer questions.

**BOE
COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

Item 7.2: Curriculum Committee, D. Gibson, K. Kroencke, P. Pierce

- The Curriculum Committee will meet on May 16 to discuss new curricular proposals.

Item 7.3: Planning & Governance Committee, D. Gibson, C.J. Coffin, T. McKenna

- The committee met on March 22 with the administrative team to discuss the status of each building. These meetings will continue on a quarterly basis. The next meeting is scheduled for early July.
- The committee will also continue to develop new policies and review existing policies. The Tobacco Policy will be presented for a first reading under item 7.6 on the agenda.

Item 7.4: Audit Committee, D. Gibson, G. Hubert, C.J. Coffin

- This committee will meet again on May 7. Henry Binzer will be in attendance to continue discussion of the School Lunch Fund.

Item 7.5: Negotiations Committee, C.J. Coffin, Kevin Kroencke

- The committee had a first meeting with the VTA on March 28. Proposals were exchanged, and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25.

Item 7.6: Board of Education Policy 9330: First Reading

A motion was made by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Brackett to approve the first reading of the Tobacco Policy as presented in the enclosure folder. Mr. Brackett suggested that under the headings "School Property" and "School Grounds" on page 2, a measurement should be specified.

First Reading:
Tobacco Policy

Ms. Pierce said that students should not be penalized for having an addiction. After discussion, it was decided that the last line of paragraph 2 under Disciplinary Measures [page 3] should read, "Students will be offered the opportunity to complete a smoking cessation program at the first incident of violation of the policy." Mr. McKenna amended his motion, seconded by Mr. Brackett to approve the first reading of the Tobacco Policy with the revision. The motion was carried unanimously.

Budget Discussion

Item 7.7: Approval of the 2007-2008 School District Budget

The Board discussed the addition of a full-time social worker to the 2007-2008 school budget. Originally, the addition of a .5 social worker was budgeted; however, the administrative staff is dealing with an increasing number of student issues along with a full load of administrative responsibilities. Hiring a full-time social worker would add another \$33,944 to the budget. The hiring of a full-time social worker was approved by a 4-3 vote as follows:

APPROVED

Full-Time Social
Worker for
2007-2008

Richard Brackett	YES	Gary Hubert	NO
Thomas McKenna	YES	David Gibson	NO
Paige Pierce	YES	Kevin Kroencke	NO
C. James Coffin	YES		

BOE APPROVED
2007-2008 School
Budget

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Ms. Pierce and carried unanimously, the Board approved the 2007-2008 School District budget in the amount of **\$21,073,101**. This budget will be presented for voter approval on Tuesday, May 15, 2007.

Status of
Settlements

Item 7.8: Status of Settlements with Drs. McCartney and Marturano, Discussion

Mr. Gibson announced that the litigation with Dr. McCartney has been settled. A Stipulation of Discontinuance has been signed and the District no longer has an action against Dr. McCartney. Litigation in the action against Dr. Marturano continues. He has brought action against the District and the negotiations are ongoing.

A. McCartney

A. Marturano

Mr. Gibson also stated that an update on the legal costs will be given at the May 7 meeting.

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

Bonding Schedule
Bond Sale of
\$4,880,000

Item 8.1: Bonding Schedule re: Bond Sale of \$4,880,000

In consideration of the type of bonding schedule for the upcoming bond sale of \$4,880,000, the Board approved the amortization of that debt at a declining debt schedule.

Early Dismissal for
Elementary School:
June 21, 2007

Item 8.2: Early Dismissal for Elementary School: June 21, 2007

Approved a day of early dismissal (school day ending at 11:50 a.m.) for Elementary School students on June 21, 2007, to assist the teachers in final packing and the custodians in the moving of their classroom contents to the storage area. Construction will begin on Monday, June 25, 2007, in the Elementary School.

Special Meeting
April 17, 2007

Item 8.3: Special Meeting

Approved the date of Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. for a special Board meeting to approve bids for the upcoming capital project.

Location: Middle School/High School Cafeteria

Item 8.4: Standard of Teaching Quality Committee

On a motion by Mr. Kroencke, seconded by Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously, the Board approved the creation of an ad-hoc Standard of Teaching Quality Committee to create district criteria that will serve as a standard for our educational system. Committee membership will include: David Gibson, Kevin Kroencke, Mark Diefendorf, Ken Lein, Tony Thanopoulos, Kathy Fiero, Sheila Lobel, and Linda Langevin. The consultant for this committee is Wayne Vander Byl.

Executive Session
10:25 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Pierce, seconded by Mr. McKenna and carried unanimously, the Board entered into Executive Session at 10:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing current litigation and the employment history of particular individuals.

Regular Session
11:30 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 11:30 p.m.

Adjournment:
11:40 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Pierce, seconded by Mr. McKenna and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

President

Clerk, Board of Education