

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 10, 2008

David M. Gibson, President
High School Cafeteria

Page 1

Board Members Present:

David M. Gibson, President
C. James Coffin, Vice Present
Timothy E. Blow
Gary A. Hubert
Kevin Kroencke
Thomas McKenna

Board Members Absent:

Paige A. Pierce

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Linda Langevin, Sarita Winchell, Mark Diefendorf, Theresa Kennedy, Ken Lein, Michael Goyer, Patrick Corrigan, Robin Jacob, Joseph Sapienza

OTHERS PRESENT:

Richard Brackett, Deb Baron, Chris Allard, Sarina Fiero, Kathy Fiero, Alana Fiero, Joan Byrnes, Steve Relyea, Adam Duncan, Maria Cotzaino, Lindsey Dembo, Heather Fiato, Robin Burch, Dave Burch, Tony Thanopoulos, Ed Hampston, Amanda Hooker, Elsa Farooq, Cassie Sanchez, Theresa Davies, Melissa Hale-Spencer (*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.

Call to Order:

7:35 p.m.

Item 2.1: Student Presentation: Anti-Tobacco Public Service Announcements

Grade 6: *Elsa Farooq, Alana Fiero*; **Grade 7:** *Cassie Sanchez, Theresa Davies*

The students presented two anti-smoking public service announcements, a collaborative effort between two grade levels under the supervision of Sandra Vorse (Health) and Kyle Turski (Technology). Amanda Hooker, Coordinator for the Albany County Tobacco-Free Health Schools Policy Program, congratulated the students on their presentation and the district for being the first in Albany County to approve a tobacco policy. Ms. Hooker is hoping to arrange for the announcements to be shown in several small local movie theaters.

Student Presentation:

*Anti-Smoking
Public Service
Announcements*

Item 2.2: Energy Education Report, Andrew Huth

Mr. Huth presented an update on energy education after 29 months in the program. To date, the district has saved \$201,590 (16%). He discussed the factors that have made the program a success including: teamwork, data analysis, on-site training, and comprehensive facility audits. The projected energy savings over ten years is expected to over one million dollars.

Presentation:

Energy Education

Item 2.3: 2008-2009 Budget Presentation: Review of Budget Numbers

Mrs. Langevin reviewed the budget presented on March 3, 2008. Since that meeting, the administrative staff worked to find additional revenues (\$146,250) and expense cuts (\$175,618) for a combined reduction of \$321,868. The new total budget is \$21,662,438, a 2.80% increase. Mrs. Winchell said that without the bond issue, the budget would increase by 1.67%. The tax levy was discussed, and with the revisions to the budget, the levy would increase by 3.92%. These numbers would put the district further below the contingency cap.

2008-2009 Budget Presentation:

BOCES Services

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Blow and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2008, and the special budget meeting of March 3, 2008.

Approval of Minutes:

*01/14/08;
01/28/08
02/04/08*

Item 4.1: Additional Items from the Superintendent

Mr. Gibson asked if there were any additional items from the Superintendent. Mrs. Langevin noted that the only addition to the agenda was the special presentation by the students under Item 2.1.

Additional items from Superintendent

Item 4.2: Opportunity for Students to Address the Board

There were no comments.

Opportunity for Students to be Heard

Item 4.3: Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

There were no comments.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard:

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Kroencke and carried unanimously, action items 5.1.1 through 5.8 were approved:

ACCEPTED

Item 5.1.1: Treasurer's Reports

Accepted the treasurer's reports as presented in the enclosure folder.

*Treasurer's
Reports*

Item 5.1.2: Accepted the following warrants and payrolls:WarrantsWarrants:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| General Fund Warrant #14 | \$ 1,352,789.37 |
| General Fund Warrant #15 | \$ 471,336.18 |
| Trust & Agency Fund Warrant #7 | \$ 1,154,228.54 |
| School Lunch Fund Warrant #7 | \$ 34,395.99 |
| Federal Aid Fund Warrant #7 | \$ 49,519.06 |
| Capital Fund Warrant #7 | \$ 120,420.99 |

PayrollsPayrolls:

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Payroll #18 | \$ 427,720.85 |
| Payroll #19 | \$ 428,320.41 |

APPROVED:School TreasurerAppointment:

R. Burch

Item 5.2: District Treasurer

Approved the appointment of Robin Burch to the position of District Treasurer effective July 1, 2008 at an annual salary of \$43,000.

CoachingAppointments:**Item 5.3: Coaching Appointments**

Approved the following coaching appointments for the 2007-2008 school year:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Ashley Tremblay</u> | Modified Track | Year 1 @ Step 2 - \$1,414 |
| <u>Andrew Karins</u> | Boys' Freshman Basketball | Year 2 @ Step 2 - \$1,936 |

Learn-to-SwimAppointment:

V. Sotola

Item 5.4: Learn-to-Swim Appointment

Approved the appointment of Vaclav Sotola as pre-competitive II swimming instructor effective March 11, 2008.

Salary: Salary based on pre-competitive / competitive pay scale

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

Approved Capital Region BOCES Substitute Registry appointments for the 2007-2008 school year as presented in the enclosure folder.

Substitute BusDriver Appts:

L. Zautner

J. Markham

Item 5.6: Substitute Bus Driver Appointments

Approved the following substitute bus driver appointments effective March 20, 2008, pending successful completion of their road tests:

Lisa ZautnerJennifer Markham

Salary: Step 1 of UEV contract (\$12.52 per hour)

CSERecommendations**Item 5.7: CSE Recommendation**

Approved the recommendation by the *Committee on Special Education* as outlined at the meeting of February 6, 2008.

The Board designates Superintendent, Linda M. Langevin as signatory for health service contracts related to special education students' IEPs.

Out-of-TownStudent Field TripRequests**Item 5.8: Out-of-town Student Field Trip Request**

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

Cornell Model United Nations

Destination: Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Date: Thursday, April 3 – Sunday, April 6, 2008

Cost: \$225.00 per student

Requestor: Susanne Hudacs

Non-ResidentStudent AdmissionRequests

Postponed for
Review by P & G

Item 5.9: Non-Resident Student Admission Request

The recommendation to approve the request of Lauren L. Tracey for non-resident admission of her children for the 2008-2009 school year was postponed. This item will be reviewed by the Planning & Governance Committee at their next meeting.

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

2008-2009 SchoolCalendar**Item 5.10: 2008-2009 School Calendar**

Approved the 2008-2009 school calendar as presented in the enclosure folder.

Surplus/ObsoleteItems**Item 5.11: Declaration of Surplus / Obsolete Items**

Declared the items on the inventory list provided 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.

Item 5.12: Request for Non-Public School Transportation

Approved a request for non-public school transportation for one (1) additional student to private school for the 2007-2008 school year as follows:

Loudonville Christian School Jordan N. Seaburg, Grade 7
(Note: The district will now transport a total of 77 students to private school for the 07-08 school year)

Request for Non-Public School Transportation

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Item 6.1: Elementary School Report, Kenneth Lein

- The Elementary School book fair was rescheduled due to snow. The fair was held on an alternate day with great success.
- The NYS Math tests were given the week of March 3. Due to illness, many students were not able to take the exams that week. Mr. Lein thanked Mrs. Fiero for helping to arrange make-up exams for those students.
- Seventy 4th grade students joined the 5th grade for the Activity Night held on March 7.
- Complimented Laura Bye for her efforts at creating additional science lab activities for 1st grade students.

K. Lein

Item 6.2: Middle Level Report, Theresa Kennedy

- The Middle School dance was canceled due to weather concerns. The dance has been rescheduled for March 27.
- A Teen Night is planned for March 14. Ms. Kennedy reported that she has an abundance of chaperones for this event.
- The NYS Math tests were administered and went very smoothly.

T. Kennedy

Item 6.3: High School Report, Mark Diefendorf

- The History Club has invited a guest speaker for grades 9-12 on March 20. Topic: "So you say you want a revolution", a special presentation on the Beatles and their impact.
- The annual Dodgeball Tournament will be held on Tuesday, March 25.
- The High School Drama Club is presenting *The Secret Garden* on March 28 through 30. The students and staff have been working hard on this production.

M. Diefendorf

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

- Discussed the school lunch fund. Mrs. Winchell called the Board's attention to the four-year history attached to her report and noted that the lunch program is losing money. There are two ways to remedy this: (1) Present a proposition to the voters to "wipe the slate clean" and put the lunch fund in the black by using unappropriated fund balance. There would be no cost to the taxpayers using this option. (2) Interfund transfer. It would take 4+ years to wipe out the debt using this option.

S. Winchell

The Board supported the first option and asked that a resolution to subsidize the school lunch fund using unappropriated fund balance be presented on the March 24 meeting agenda.

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

- Work on the second floor of the 1963 wing has been completed. Water softeners will be installed in both buildings during April break.
- The recent heavy rain caused no flooding problems at the Elementary School. The cistern has been working well.
- After further review of the school bus purchase plan, it has been determined that the district could make better use of two 28-passenger buses and one 60-passenger bus. This will reduce the proposed bus purchase by \$37,000 in addition to a reduction in maintenance costs.

M. Goyer

Item 6.6: Superintendent's Report, Linda M. Langevin

- Reviewed upcoming presentations on March 24 and April 7.
- Thanked Andrew Huth for his report and his work as Energy Educator.
- Discussed the Fiscal Accountability Report and the comparison between VCSD and similar schools in NYS. Special mention was given to the Special Education program. Expenditures per pupil are less at VCSD than at similar schools. Mrs. Langevin thanked Mrs. Jacob for her excellent fiscal oversight while offering a first-rate program.

L. Langevin

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 7.1: Building Project & Facilities Committee, C. J. Coffin, G. Hubert

Mr. Coffin discussed the recent building tours. He is very impressed with the HVAC system at the elementary school. The thermostats are in one degree of each other. Jobs at the high school are being completed and everything looks good.

Building Project & Facilities

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

No report. The committee will meet again in April.

Curriculum

Planning &
Governance

Item 7.3: Planning & Governance Committee, C. J. Coffin, D. Gibson, T. McKenna
The committee will meet on March 17 and continue to review policies including a long list of special education policies.

Audit

Item 7.4: Audit Committee, D. Gibson, G. Hubert, T. Blow
No report. The committee will meet prior to the regular April 7 Board meeting.

Negotiations

Item 7.5: Negotiations Committee, C. J. Coffin, K. Kroencke, T. Blow
The VTA contract has been settled. Both sides are satisfied and the settlement was overwhelmingly supported. Negotiations are under way with the Administrators' Association; UEV negotiations will begin shortly.

Evaluation

Item 7.6: Evaluation Committee, D. Gibson, K. Kroencke
No report. The committee will meet on March 18 for a final review of draft evaluation instruments for teachers and special service providers.

APPROVED

Creation of
Curriculum
Coordinator
Position

Item 8.1: Creation of Curriculum Coordinator Position
A motion was made by Mr. Coffin and seconded by Mr. Kroencke to approve the creation of the position of Curriculum Coordinator (K-8) for the 2008-2009 school year and inclusion of the cost related to this position in the proposed 2008-2009 school budget.

The Board discussed whether to approve this recommendation specifically as a K-8 position. It was decided that the K-8 designation should be removed, and it would be the responsibility of the Superintendent to assign job responsibilities. Mr. Coffin amended his motion, seconded by Mr. Kroencke, to approve the Curriculum Coordinator position with the removal of the K-8 designation. The motion was unanimously approved.

Proposition re:
Purchase of Buses

Item 8.2: Proposition re: Purchase of Buses
On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Hubert 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 **\$189,000**, 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.

Special BOE
Meeting Date:
April 21, 2008

Item 8.3: Special Board of Education Meeting Date – April 21, 2008
On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Blow and carried unanimously, the Board approved the date of Monday, April 21, 2008, for a special meeting for the purpose of conducting an election for BOCES Board members and vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget: **7:30 AM**

Proposition to
Reduce Board
Terms

Item 8.4: Reducing Board Terms, Discussion
The Board discussed reducing Board terms from the current five-year term to a four-year term. In her opinion letter, the school attorney stated that the Board has two options: delay the proposition requesting a decrease in the term of office for three years, until 2011 (effective with the next Board members election in 2012); or present the proposition in 2008 and make the change in term of office effective July 1, 2008.

On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board asked the Superintendent to work with the school attorney on a proposition to reduce Board terms from a five-year term to a four-year term. If the Board approves the proposition on March 24, it will be presented to the voters for approval on May 20, 2008.

Opportunity for
Board to be Heard

Item 9.1 Opportunity for the Board to be Heard
There were no comments.

Miscellaneous
Items

Item 10: For the Good of the Order
Mr. Gibson notes the following miscellaneous items:

- Middle Level News Notes
- Budget Status Reports: 7/1/07 – 01/31/08
- Health Service Contract

Bethlehem Central School District

Nine (9) students @ \$811.43 per student = \$7,302.87

Executive Session:
9:50 p.m.

Item 11: Anticipated Executive Session
On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular individual and the preparation, grading, or administration of student examinations.

Item 12: Return to Regular Session

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

Return to Regular Session:

11:30 p.m.

Item 13: Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Blow and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

12:00 a.m.

President

Clerk, Board of Education