

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 7, 2008

David M. Gibson, President
High School Cafeteria

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Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

None

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kathryn Martin, Steve Relyea, Margaret Flanders, Gary Bates, Colleen Bates, Laura Minnick, Tanya Hansel, Robert Gentner, Richard Brackett, Deb Baron, Chris Allard, Donna Fitzgerald, Tony Thanopoulos, Edward Hampston, Mary Cole, Emily Cole, Shari Hoffman Simsek, Brenda Clair, Erin Christner, Steve Tracey, Mike Bates, Mary Ann Prendergast, Macky Lloyd, Evan Christner, Pam Standish, Brittany Vogel, Kate Prendergast, Heather Bates, Heather Nolan, Glenn Simsek, Ilyssa Simsek, Lucille Windsor, Jason Windsor, Cynthia Abelseth, Michael Clark, Sara Hotopp, Martha Mackey, Charles Calisti, Dave Lewis (*The Altamont Enterprise*), Dorothea Pfeleiderer

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.

Call to Order:

7:35 p.m.

Item 2.1: Introduction of Winter Athletic Teams

Mr. Sapienza introduced the winter athletic teams. Several students from each team gave an overview of their season and discussed the accomplishments of the team. The students thanked the Board for supporting their efforts.

PRESENTATIONS

Introduction of Winter Athletes

Item 2.2-2.5: 2006-2007 Program Analysis and New York State School Report Card Review

Mrs. Langevin presented an overview of the importance of using assessment for making educational decisions. She discussed the use of data to set goals, instruct students, and create a plan to improve student performance.

2006-2007 Program Analysis and NYS School Report Card Review

Mr. Stumbaugh and Mrs. Fitzgerald, MSHS and ES Data Coordinators respectively, offered a presentation on the New York State Testing Program for Grades 3-8. The percentage of VCSD students scoring at levels 3 and 4 is consistently high, and the district is doing very well compared to other districts in New York State. The goal is to see more students score at level 4, the Mastery Level. Mr. Stumbaugh presented regents exam data for grades 9-12. The students have scored well in all areas. It was noted that this data includes scores for special education students.

Mrs. Langevin concluded with a discussion on value added assessment. In summary: (1) The assessment cycle includes examining what is taught, how it is taught, and the children's success in school. (2) Formative and summative tests are used to meet the needs of all students. (3) Achievement data and progress data help to achieve the goal of meeting student needs.

Item 2.6: 2008-2009 Proposed School Budget Summary

Mrs. Winchell discussed the three components of the proposed 2008-2009 budget: Administrative, Capital, and Program Budgets. There is no growth in the Administrative Budget; the Capital Budget will increase by 5.29% (\$206,511) due to Operations & Maintenance and debt service expenses. The Program component is the largest portion of the budget and will increase by 2.5% (\$386,127) in 2008-2009.

2008-2009 Budget Summary

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Coffin and seconded by Mr. McKenna to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 10, 2008, and the special budget meeting of March 24, 2008. Mr. Blow and Mr. Gibson noted two inaccuracies in the March 24 minutes. The corrections were duly noted and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes:

03/10/08;
03/24/08

Item 4.1: Additional Items from the Superintendent

Mr. Gibson asked if there were any additional items from the Superintendent. Mrs. Langevin noted the addition of Item 8.4, Resolution re: Non-Resident Status.

Additional items from Superintendent

Item 4.2: Opportunity for Students to Address the Board

Ilyssa Simsek addressed the Board regarding Tech Valley High School. She stated that TVHS offers a great opportunity for our school district, as well as individual students, and asked that the Board approve the tuition for a second Voorheesville student to attend next year.

Opportunity for Students to be Heard

Opportunity for
Public to be
Heard:**Item 4.3: Opportunity for the Public to be Heard**

Items/Concerns discussed:

- Tech Valley High School and options for funding tuition for this program outside of the school district.
- The resignation of John Curran: what information is the community entitled to with regard to this matter? Mrs. Langevin said that legally she is not permitted to discuss personnel matters at a public meeting. The evaluation process is in place for measuring teacher performance. The Evaluation Committee will report to the Board at the June 9 meeting.

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

ACCEPTEDTreasurer's
Reports**Item 5.1.1: Treasurer's Reports**

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

Item 5.1.2: Accepted the following warrants and payrolls:

Warrants

Warrants:

General Fund Warrant #16	\$ 1,550,564.71
General Fund Warrant #17	\$ 590,225.01
Trust & Agency Fund Warrant #8	\$ 1,610,668.29
School Lunch Fund Warrant #8	\$ 34,488.42
Federal Aid Fund Warrant #8	\$ 65,828.90
Capital Fund Warrant #8	\$ 82,299.07

Payrolls

Payrolls:

Payroll #20	\$ 428,848.84
Payroll #21	\$ 550,542.64

APPROVED:Resignations:**Item 5.2: Resignations**

Accepted the following resignations:

J. McAssey

James J. McAssey, School Bus Driver; District Internal Claims Auditor

Effective: September 9, 2008

Reason: Retirement

J. Curran

John F. Curran, Grade 6 Science Teacher

Effective: June 30, 2008

Reason: Personal

M. Sloman

Michael Sloman, Special Education Teaching Assistant

Effective: June 30, 2008

Reason: Personal

Parental Leave
Request:**Item 5.3: Parental Leave Request**

Approved the request of Kille C. Lewis, Special Education Teacher (MSHS), for parental leave to commence on or about September 5, 2008, with an expected return to work on October 29, 2008. Ms. Lewis requests use of 35 days of accrued sick time. She also reserves the right to extend her leave until January 31, 2009, or if more time is needed, the leave would be extended until September 1, 2009, in accordance with Article 8.9.4 of the current VTA contract.

K. Lewis

BOCES Substitute
Registry Appts**Item 5.4: 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.

School Lifeguard:**Item 5.5: School Lifeguard**Approved the appointment of Yvonne Cardinal as lifeguard for the Voorheesville School District effective April 8, 2008.

Y. Cardinal

Salary: \$8.50 per hour

Item 5.6: CSE Recommendation

Approved the recommendation by the *Committee on Special Education* as outlined at the meeting of March 5, 2008, March 11, 2008, March 12, 2008, March 17, 2008, March 19, 2008, March 20, 2008, March 24, 2008, and March 25, 2008.

CSE
Recommendations

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

Item 5.7: 2008-2009 Kids' Club Agreement

Approved the agreement with Kids' Club, Inc. in the amount of \$10,000 for rental of space at the Voorheesville Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year as outlined in the proposed contract presented in the enclosure folder.

2008-2009 Kids'
Club Agreement

Item 5.8: Out-of-Town Student Field Trip Request

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

S.H.I.P. Yorkers Convention

Destination: Corning, New York
Date: Thursday, May 8 – Saturday, May 10, 2008
Cost: \$185.00 per student
Requestor: Jamie McPherson

Spanish 104 Class Field Trip (*Repertorio Español performance of La Casa de Bernarda Alba*)

Destination: New York City
Date: Thursday, May 22, 2008
Cost: \$70.00 per student
Requestor: Robert Streifer

Out-of-Town
Student Field Trip
Requests

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS**

Item 6.1: Elementary School Report, *Kenneth Lein*

- Discussed the literacy program and the work being done with the Community & School Foundation grant. The grant money has helped to fund enrichment opportunities for students and staff including storytelling and writing workshops.
- The PTA Fun Fest held on March 15 was well attended. Mr. Lein thanked the many volunteers who made the event possible.
- The Read-a-Thon sponsored by Kiwanis was a great success. Seventy students raised \$1,100 through pledges.
- The Science Fair took place on April 3 with 117 students entering projects.
- The 5th Grade will present the play “Aladdin” on May 2, 3, and 4.

K. Lein

Item 6.2: Middle Level Report, *Theresa Kennedy*

- The Middle School Teen Night held on April 4 was sponsored by Natural Helpers. The middle level students enjoy interacting with students in the upper grades. The evening was a great success.
- The Scholastic Book Fair, sponsored by the Middle School Student Council, was very successful. Ms. Kennedy thanked Mrs. Jessica Bradshaw for helping to coordinate this event.
- The Medieval Feast was held on April 4 and was enjoyed by the students.

T. Kennedy

Item 6.3: High School Report, *Mark Diefendorf*

- A group of students, mostly 9th and 10th graders, attended the Model UN at Cornell University on April 3-6. This was a good introduction to the Model UN program for these students.
- The Drama Club performed “The Secret Garden” on March 28-30. The play was enjoyed by packed houses, and Mr. Diefendorf thanked Mrs. Hubert for her efforts in making the production a success.
- High School coaching staff/faculty members are scheduled to compete against the CYO in a basketball fundraiser on April 8.
- The Superintendent’s Conference Day on March 28 went very well. Due to the success of team teaching in grades 6-9, the high school faculty has proposed the implementation of a similar program for grades 10-12.

M. Diefendorf

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

- Displayed the School Safety Excellence Award presented to the District by the Utica National Insurance Group on March 25. The District received the Titanium Award this year, the highest honor, which included a prize of \$500. Mrs. Winchell said the money would be used for signage. She thanked the Safety Committee and gave special recognition to Mrs. Susan Arditi who coordinated the documentation and award application.
- Discussed the development of the property at the corner of Routes 85 & 85A in New Scotland and recent reports of a proposal to build a big box store at that location. Mrs. Winchell provided information on residential assessments and how such a proposal would affect tax rates for district residents.
- On the recommendation of Henry Binzer, Industrial Appraisal did a full appraisal of district properties. A statement of values will be received by late June and checked against our insurance policy to ensure that the district is adequately insured.

S. Winchell

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

- In addition to his written report, Mr. Goyer reported that on March 27, the district experienced the first test of the energy curtailment program. With only 24-hours notice, the district cut back on as much lighting as safely possible and shut down computers and printers for one hour. Energy needs were reduced by 1/3. By getting involved in this program, we are doing our part to conserve energy and assist our State in avoiding blackouts. The district also earned \$2,000 by participating in this program.

M. Goyer

Discussion:

Odyssey of the Mind Discussion

Odyssey of the Mind

The Board discussed the Odyssey of the Mind program. Seven students will be going to the World Finals being held at the University of Maryland. The team will need to raise \$5,300, which does not include transportation. The Community & School Foundation will fund a portion of the trip.

A motion was made by Mr. Coffin and seconded by Mr. McKenna to use \$2,500 of the \$50,000 grant-in-aid money received by the district last year to pay for the students' registration. Grant-in-aid funds may be used for any general purpose approved by the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

BOE COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building Project & Facilities

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

No report.

Curriculum

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

No report. The committee will meet again on April 22.

Planning & Governance

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

The committee will meet with the Administrative Cabinet on April 23 for a follow-up discussion on budget concerns, Operation Graduation, and probationary teacher evaluation summaries. In addition, the committee will review Policy 5460, Child Abuse in a Domestic Setting, and pending special education policies.

Audit

Item 7.4: Audit Committee, D. Gibson, G. Hubert, T. Blow

The committee met prior to the meeting to discuss Mr. McAssey's imminent retirement and the process to replace him. They also asked Henry Binzer to audit the extracurricular fund accounts. He will report to the Audit Committee at a later date.

Negotiations

Item 7.5: Negotiations Committee, C. J. Coffin, K. Kroencke, T. Blow

Contract negotiations have started with the Administrator's Association and the United Employees of Voorheesville.

Evaluation

Item 7.6: Evaluation Committee, D. Gibson, K. Kroencke

The Evaluation Committee met on March 18 to review the draft evaluation instruments for teachers and special service providers. The teacher evaluation form has been distributed to the administrative staff for pilot usage. The committee will meet again on May 19 for feedback on the teacher evaluation instrument and final review of the special services instruments. The documents will be presented to the BOE at the June 9 meeting.

APPROVED

BOE Policies:

Item 7.7.1: BOE Policies – First Readings

On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board approved the first reading of the following policies:

First Readings

- Policy 4321: Programs for Students with Disabilities under the IDEA and New York's Education Law Article 89
- Policy 4321.1: Provision of Special Education Services in the Least Restrictive Environment
- Policy 4321.3: Allocation of Space for Special Education Programs
- Policy 6131: Online Banking Services

Second Reading

Item 7.7.2: BOE Policy – Second Reading

On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Mr. McKenna and carried unanimously, the Board approved the second reading of the following policy:

- Policy 0115: Harassment, Hazing, or Bullying

2008-09 School District Budget:

\$21,662,438

Item 7.8: 2008-2009 School District Budget

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board approved the 2008-2009 School District Budget in the amount of **\$21,662,438**.

Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant

Tabled pending further investigation

Item 8.1: Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant

Discussion was held regarding the shared municipal services incentive grant. The recommendation authorizing the Superintendent and Charles Voss to apply for a grant to purchase a generator at the Middle / High School was tabled pending further investigation of the district's options relating to the grant. It was noted that the application is not due until December 2008.

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

APPROVED

Item 8.2: Gift Donations

Gratefully accepted a donation in the amount of \$3,750.00 from the Voorheesville Parent and Teacher Association for the Humanities Program.

Gift Donations

Gratefully accepted a donation in the amount of \$300.00 from OLD SONGS, INC. for the Humanities Program.

Item 8.3: Budget Amendments

Amended the 2007-2008 budget to allow for the expenditure of the following gift donations to the District in the amount of \$4,050.00 and to increase the revenue code A2705 to reflect the receipt of these funds. Budget codes to be amended are:

Budget Amendments

Voorheesville PTA – Gift of \$3,750.00 Humanities H.S.	\$3,750.00	Code: A2110.416.02.19
OLD SONGS, INC. – Gift of \$300.00 Humanities H.S.	\$ 300.00	Code: A2110416.02.19

Item 8.4: Resolution re: Non-Resident Status (Lauren Tracey)

Approved the resolution to grandfather the enrollment of Lauren Tracey's children and allow them to continue to attend the District schools as non-resident students under District Policy 5152 as outlined in the enclosure folder.

Resolution re:
Non-Resident Status

L. Tracey

Item 9.1 Opportunity for the Board to be Heard

Thomas McKenna announced that he would not seek re-election as a member of the Board of Education. Mr. McKenna has served two five-year terms.

Opportunity for
Board to be Heard

Item 10: For the Good of the Order

Mr. Gibson noted the following miscellaneous items:

- Middle Level News Notes
- Budget Status Reports: 7/1/07 – 02/29/08

Miscellaneous Items

Item 11: Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Blow and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

10:30 p.m.

President

Clerk, Board of Education