

VOORHEESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Voorheesville, New York 12186

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

**Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 6, 2009**

**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
Cheryl L. Dozier
Lisa A. Henkel
Gary A. Hubert
Kevin T. Kroencke

Board Members Absent:

None

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Raymond Colucciello, Sarita Winchell, Edward Diegel, Patrick Corrigan, Theresa Kennedy, Michael Goyer, Robin Jacob

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kathryn Martin, Robin Burch, Justin C. Brusgul, Steve Relyea, Jean Mackay, Happy Scherer, Gerard McGreevy, Mike Burns, Kathy Fiero, Mary Ann Jones, Dave Adkins, Margaret Adkins, Cassie Sanchez, Anna Onderdonk, Robert Denman, Donna Fitzgerald, Ed Hampston, Chris Allard, Adam Katz, Lara Norman, Tony Thanopoulos, Pam Standish, Colleen Brackett, Deb Baron, Cynthia Abelseth, Alan Warner, Arielle Smith, Seneca Gray, Dorothea Pfleiderer

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:31 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:

7:31 p.m.

Item 2: Presentations/Special Recognitions

Donation in Memory of William Childs

Mr. William Childs, a long time District resident and member of New Scotland Kiwanis, passed away in November 2007. He was concerned about the aesthetics of the entrance to the High School, and wrote a letter to the school a few days before he died on his desire to see something done about it. In honor of his memory, New Scotland Kiwanis and Elemental Landscapes, Inc. (owned by Jerry Parmenter, also a Kiwanis member) have agreed to donate the design, labor, and equipment for landscaping the entrance. Mr. Parmenter offered a brief presentation on his design for the entrance. The estimate for the materials (trees, shrubs, pavers, plants) is \$4,500 which the District will pay for out of the Operations and Maintenance budget. Board approval of the donation of landscaping design, labor, and equipment and approval to purchase materials will be presented under Item 8.5 on the agenda.

Special Recognitions

Donation in memory of William Childs

National History Day Second Place Winners

Mr. Thomas Gladd introduced Fannie Liu and Adam Katz (Seniors) and Robert Stefan and Dan Whitely (Juniors) the second place winners at the regional level of National History Day. Fannie and Adam created a Web site about a local rabbi named Shraga Arian, while Robert and Dan made a documentary film on Richard Nixon. Both groups have qualified for the state competition, which will be held on Friday, May 1, in Cooperstown.

National History Day Winners

American Field Services Intercultural Exchange

Happy Scherer, our local representative for American Field Services (AFS) Intercultural Exchange, addressed the BOE with information about her organization and introduced two exchange students attending school at Voorheesville this year: Wit Umbua from Thailand, and Filippo Lau from Italy. Both students greeted the Board in their native language, then described their experiences as students in Voorheesville, comparing education in America to their homelands.

American Field Services Intercultural Exchange

Summer Fellowship in Seoul, South Korea

Social studies teacher, Anne Lyons, has been awarded one of 20 slots for a Summer Fellowship in Seoul, South Korea, sponsored by The Korea Society. This 17-day program of intensive study, in and around Seoul, is sponsored by the Korea Society. In addition to acquiring firsthand experience with Korean culture and history, Ms. Lyons is required to create several lesson plans based on her experience and studies. As a result, her students will benefit directly from her participation in this opportunity. The Board requested that Ms. Lyons present a report on her experiences in Korea at the September or October Board meeting.

Summer Fellowship in Seoul, S. Korea

Odyssey of the Mind

Jean Mackey, Advisor, and team member, Alex Relyea, addressed the Board as representatives of the middle school Odyssey of the Mind Team, which competed in the State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament over the weekend in Binghamton. The team won first place in the tournament with their project, "The Lost Labors of Heracles", and will go on to the World Championships in Iowa at the end of May. Mrs. Mackey said the team would welcome any support the district could provide to help offset the cost of going to the championship. The Board congratulated the team and said they would consider assisting the team.

Odyssey of the Mind

Approval of
Minutes:03/09/09
03/23/09
03/27/09**Item 3: Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Kroencke, seconded by Mr. Blow and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the regular March 9, 2009 meeting; the special budget meeting of March 23, 2009, and the special meeting of March 27, 2009.

Item 4.1: Opportunity for Students to Address the Board

Members of the high school Student Council gave an update on their activities:

- On March 23, the Council, held their second day-long American Red Cross Blood Drive of the year. Sixty-seven units of blood were collected, which was 129% of their goal.
- The Council organized a three-week "Pennies for Patients" campaign, in which they collected \$1,000 in pennies and spare change from students and staff to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Opportunity for
Students to Address
the BOEOpportunity for
Public to be Heard:**Item 4.2: Opportunity for the public to be heard**

There were no comments.

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

Treasurer's Report:**Item 5.1.1: Treasurer's Report**

The Board accepted the Treasurer's Report as presented in the enclosure folder.

Warrants**Item 5.1.2: Warrants**

The following warrants were accepted:

<i>Warrant:</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multifund Warrant #36:	February 27, 2009	\$ 515,432.79
Payroll Covering Warrant #37:	February 25, 2009	\$ 490,115.74
Multifund Warrant #38:	March 16, 2009	\$ 281,136.65
Payroll Covering Warrant #39:	March 11, 2009	\$ 447,924.48

Resignations:**Item 5.2: Resignations**

Accepted the following resignations:

D. Frender

Dorothy Frender Bus Driver (20 years of service)
Effective: August 30, 2009
Reason: Retirement

D. Russel

Donna Russel Teaching Assistant (15 years of service)
Effective: August 30, 2009
Reason: Retirement

M. Spooner

Molly Spooner Music Teacher
Effective: June 30, 2009
Reason: To continue graduate studies

Leave Extension:

J. Hemming

Item 5.3: Extension of Leave

Approved the request of Jennifer B. Hemming (Special Education Teacher) to extend her parental leave until September 1, 2009. Mrs. Hemming originally expected to return to work on May 4, 2009.

Long-Term
Substitute
Extension

S. Domermuth

Item 5.4: Long-Term Substitute Extension

Extended the appointment of Sarah Domermuth as long-term special education substitute teacher from May 1, 2009 until June 30, 2009. Ms. Domermuth will replace Mrs. Hemming during her parental leave.

Salary: Step 1 of VTA Contract (prorated)

Long-Term
Substitute

M. Szumowski

Item 5.5: Long-Term Substitute – 7th Grade Science

Approved the appointment of Melanie Szumowski as long-term substitute for 6th grade science effective April 6, 2009. Ms. Szumowski will replace Mrs. Bradshaw during her parental leave.

Salary: Step 1 (BA) of the VTA Contract

Substitute
Appointments-
BOCES Registry**Item 5.6: Substitute Teacher Appointments from BOCES Substitute Registry**

Approved Capital Region BOCES Substitute Registry appointments for the 2008-2009 school year as presented in the enclosure folder.

CSE
Recommendations**Item 5.7: CSE Recommendations**

Approved the recommendations by the *Committee on Special Education* as outlined at the meetings held on February 4, 2009, March 9, 2009, March 10, 2009, March 12, 2009, March 16, 2009, and March 25, 2009. The Board designates the Superintendent as signatory for health service contracts related to special education students' IEPs.

Item 5.8: Learn-to-Swim Assistant Instructors

Approved the following Learn-to-Swim assistant instructor appointments:

<u>Margaret Scatena</u>	\$8.50 per hour	<u>Sean Malloy</u>	\$8.50 per hour
<u>Reynalyn Canchela</u>	\$8.50 per hour	<u>Corinne Chatnik</u>	\$8.50 per hour
<u>Rachel Degnan</u>	\$8.50 per hour		

Learn-to-Swim
Assistant Instructors

Item 5.9: Non-Resident Student Admission Requests

Approved the following requests for admission of non-resident students for the 2009-2010 school year:

Armine Kurkjian, Grade 10
Requestor: Thomas Kurkjian

Non-Resident
Student Admission
Requests

Item 5.10: 2009-2020 Kids' Club Agreement

Approved the agreement with The Kids' Club, Inc. in the amount of \$10,500 for rental of space at the Voorheesville Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year as outlined in the proposed contract as presented.

2009-2010 Kids'
Club Agreement

Item 5.11: Declaration of Obsolete Items

Declared the elementary school cafeteria stove and ovens obsolete and delegated to the Business Official disposition of said items in a manner consistent with current laws and regulations.

Obsolete Items

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS**

Item 6.1: Elementary School Report, Edward Diegel

- The Science Fair, held on April 2, was extremely successful with 145 students participating and 110 demonstrating their projects.
- Olivia Suozzo, 1st place winner of the VCS D Spelling Bee, held on February 3, represented the district at the 27th Annual Capital Region Spelling Bee Competition at Proctor's Theatre on March 16. Olivia finished in 11th place out of 96 students competing.
- The grand opening and dedication of the school garden named "The Blackbird Paradise" by 5th grader Tommy Gallagher, will take place on Wednesday, April 22 at 2:00 P.M.
- The elementary Drama Club will present *Willy Wonka Jr.* on April 24, 25, and 26.

E. Diegel

Item 6.2: Middle Level Report, Theresa Kennedy

- The Builders Club has sponsored "Shoes for Uganda", a program to collect gently used sneakers and sandals to donate to needy people in Uganda. So far, 400 pairs of shoes have been collected. Eighth grader, Alex Singh, suggested this project and will attend the May 11 meeting to address the Board and answer questions.

T. Kennedy

Item 6.3: High School Report, Mark Diefendorf

- The high school Drama Club performance of *Flowers for Algernon* on March 27, 28, and 29 was a great success.
- Third quarter report cards were sent home on April 9.

M. Diefendorf

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

- Mrs. Winchell did not have any additions to her Friday reports.

S. Winchell

Item 6.5: Operations, Maintenance, and Transportation Report, M. Goyer

- Grants are available from NYSERDA for diesel oxidation catalysts. This is a federal program that will benefit anti-idling. Mr. Goyer will apply for the grant.

M. Goyer

Item 6.6: Superintendent's Report, Raymond Colucciello

- Dr. Colucciello did not have any additional information. He and Mrs. Winchell will report on the budget.

R. Colucciello

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION
COMMITTEES**

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

The committee met on March 31 to discuss a few outstanding items that need to be resolved in order to complete the building project. They discussed other problems that will need to be addressed in the future, including the bus garage, land, and land use. Mrs. Winchell is working on a Facilities Committee charter which will be presented in the near future.

*Building &
Facilities Committee*

Item 7.2: Curriculum Committee, C. Dozier, L. Henkel, K. Kroencke

The committee has met with representatives from the elementary, middle, and high schools to establish curriculum goals. The document will soon be finalized.

*Curriculum
Committee*

Item 7.3: Planning & Governance Committee, C. J. Coffin, D. Gibson, K. Kroencke

The committee met on March 25 to discuss Dr. Colucciello's tasks for the remainder of the school year and the transition plan for the new superintendent. Discussions between Dr. Colucciello and Dr. Snyder have already begun.

*Planning &
Governance
Committee*

Item 7.4: Audit Committee, T. Blow, L. Henkel, G. Hubert
Audit Committee The committee met prior to this evening's meeting to review a proposal from a local firm to provide internal auditing services to the district. The Audit Committee will meet again in June for a pre-audit conference with Bonadio & Co., LLP, the Board appointed external auditors.

Item 7.5: Evaluation Committee, C. Dozier, K. Kroencke, L. Henkel
Evaluation Committee The committee had nothing to report at this time.

DISCUSSION: Odyssey of the Mind
Discussion: Odyssey of the Mind The Board discussed the Odyssey of the Mind's request for help from the district to attend the World Championship in Iowa. Mr. Gibson suggested that the Planning & Governance Committee should discuss implementing a policy for providing financial assistance to students or teams to participate in special events. He asked for a sample policy, which Dr. Colucciello agreed to provide.

APPROVED
Financial Support to attend Odyssey of the Mind World Championship A motion was made by Mr. Blow and seconded by Dr. Henkel to provide support to the Middle School Odyssey of the Mind Team and pay \$2,500, one-half the registration fee, for the coaches and team members. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Item 8.1: Board of Education Policy 9520.2 - Amendment
BOE Policy 9550.2 Family and Medical Leave
Tabled pending further review The recommendation to approve the amended policy 9520.2, Family and Medical Leave Act was tabled pending further review by the Planning & Governance Committee.

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

Item 8.2: Board of Education Policy 5152 - Amendment
BOE Policy 5152 - Amended Admission of Non-Resident Students
A motion was made by Mr. Kroencke and seconded by Dr. Henkel to approve the amended Policy 5152, Admission of Non-Resident Students. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

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

Item 8.3: Acceptance of Donation: Humanities
Acceptance of PTA Donation: Humanities The Board gratefully accepted a donation of \$3,375.00 from the PTA for the Elementary School Humanities Program.

Item 8.4: Budget Amendments
Budget Amendments Amended the 2008-2009 budget to allow for the expenditure of the following gift donation to the Voorheesville Central School District in the amount of \$3,375.00; and to increase the revenue code A2705 to reflect the receipt of these funds. Budget code to be amended is:

Elementary School
Elementary Humanities Program \$3,375.00 A2110.416-01-19

Item 8.5: Donation of Landscaping Design, Labor, and Equipment
Donation: Landscaping, labor & equipment for W. Childs memorial Accepted the donation of new landscaping design, labor, and equipment at the entrance of the Voorheesville Middle School/C.A. Bouton High school, from New Scotland Kiwanis and Elementary Landscapes, Inc., and authorized Assistant Superintendent for Business, Sarita Winchell, to purchase up to \$4,500 in landscaping materials to complete the project. The donations are being made in memory of Mr. William Childs.

Item 8.6: Approval of the 2009-2010 School District Budget
Discussion and Approval: 2009-2010 School District Budget Dr. Colucciello and Mrs. Winchell discussed the proposed 2009-2010 school budget and outlined the sequence of events over the last year that have influenced the development of the budget. Due to the restoration of Foundation Aid, most of the staff reductions that were previously discussed have been restored; however, cuts that were made due to decreasing enrollment, change in delivery of service, and teacher aide time have not been restored. There is no increase in the proposed 2009-2010 budget from the 2008-2009 budget. The tax levy will increase due to the total decrease of \$290,691 in State Aid.

On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Mr. Hubert and carried unanimously, the Board of Education approved the 2009-2010 School District Budget in the amount of **\$21,662,438**.

Item 9.1: Opportunity for the Board to be Heard
Opportunity for the Board to be Heard Mr. Gibson commented on Board of Education policies stating that many are accompanied by an administrative regulation which provides more detail than the actual policy. The two documents can lead to misinterpretation, and he would prefer to have one document. He will discuss this with the Planning & Governance Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Item 10: Miscellaneous

The following miscellaneous items were noted:

- Middle Level News Notes
- Budget Status Report: 02/01/09 – 02/28/09

Miscellaneous

Item 11: Anticipated Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Kroencke and carried unanimously, the Board entered into Executive Session at 9:33 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular individual.

Executive Session:
9:33 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Blow and carried unanimously, the Board returned to regular session at 10:20 p.m.

Regular Session:
10:20 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Dr. Henkel and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Adjournment:
10:25 p.m.

President, Board of Education

Clerk, Board of Education