

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

Special Board of Education Meeting
June 22, 2009

David M. Gibson, President
High School Cafeteria

Page 1

Board Members Present:

David M. Gibson, President
C. James Coffin, Vice Present
Timothy E. Blow
Lisa A. Henkel
Gary A. Hubert
Kevin T. Kroencke

Board Members Absent:

Cheryl L. Dozier

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Raymond Colucciello, Sarita Winchell, Mark Diefendorf, Edward Diegel, Patrick Corrigan, Michael Goyer, Robin Jacob, Theresa Kennedy, Joseph Sapienza, Nadine Bassler

OTHERS PRESENT:

Deb Baron, Thomas Reardon, Kathy Fiero, Gary Bates, David Adkins, Mary Ann Jones, Brenda Zeh, Dan Chaize, Erin Christner, Jason Windsor, Laura Minnick

Mr. Coffin 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 Cheryl Dozier.

Call to Order:
7:35 p.m.

*Presentations/
Special
Recognitions*

Item 2.1: Sabbatical Leave Presentation

Mr. Tim Kelley, Guidance Counselor, described his sabbatical leave taken the second semester of 2009. He visited eighty colleges and welcomed all to visit his Blog which described his visits. The colleges he visited varied in size. Seven of the eight Ivy League Colleges were visited. Highlights included a week long tour of colleges in Vermont along with other Guidance Counselors. He indicated that becoming active in Guidance Organizations would be of value to counselors. Mr. Kelley said that the economy has effected where students apply. Private schools are going to be less attractive due to cost, although Ivy League Colleges can still be generous. Acceptances have never been more competitive. With common applications, individual students are now applying to between 10 and 15 colleges. He interviewed ten counselors from ten very competitive high schools. He believes, due to his visits, he will be able to implement new ideas including a College Planning Guide, to be used by students. According to Mr. Kelley, overall, it was the best professional experience he could have had.

*Sabbatical Leave
Presentation*

Item 2.2: Mandarin Chinese Evaluation

Ms. Kennedy described the Mandarin Chinese Pilot Project evaluation. She presented a student survey regarding their assessment of the course. The responses of the students were all positive. The responses by the parents were marginal. 89% of the students agree or strongly agree they would take the course again. One issue with why students dropped out was due to the many conflicts students have with activities after school at the Middle School level.

*Mandarin Chinese
Evaluation*

Recognition Plaque

Mr. Gibson read the inscription on a recognition plaque given to Ms. Kennedy for her service to the Voorheesville School District. She received applause from the audience. (Resolution to be attached to minutes).

*Recognition of
Theresa Kennedy*

Item 2.3: Extracurricular Code of Conduct

The proposed changes to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct were described by Mr. Sapienza and Ms. Bassler. The changes described are in the area of technology, performance enhancing drugs, and clarifying the levels of responses to infractions of the code. These recommendations, related to the conduct of athletes, were being recommended by several organizations related to athletics. Also, the proposed Code calls for the removal of the phrase "on school premises" and the addition of two infractions on cyber policy. The DRAFT Code of Conduct policy will be placed on the web site for public view and comment. It must be presented to the Board in July in order to be approved and prepared for distribution to students in August.

*Extracurricular
Code of Conduct*

Item 2.4: Guidance Plan

The K-12 Guidance Plan has been updated by a committee of staff members grades K-12. The last update was completed in 1988. There is a need for an annual review of the Guidance Plan. In order to prepare the draft, several sample plans from other school districts were reviewed. The Board of Education needs only to accept the Guidance Plan and it needs to be submitted to the State Education Department. The Plan will be placed on our district website in order that district residents may submit their reactions. Board members were requested by President Gibson to submit suggested changes to Dr. Colucciello as soon as possible.

Guidance Plan

Item 2.5: Accomplishments / Open Items

Dr. Colucciello presented a listing of 38 Accomplishments completed over the last ten months. He credited the Board of Education for their support and leadership and the staff for their involvement in completing the accomplishments. He also listed the "Open Issues" that will be ongoing under the leadership of Dr. Snyder. (Listing is attached).

*Accomplishments /
Open Items*

Opportunity for
Students to Address
the BOE**Item 3.1: Opportunity for students to address the Board**

There were no comments.

Opportunity for
Public to be Heard:**Item 3.2: Opportunity for the public to address the Board**

There were no comments.

Communications**Item 3.3: Communications**

Recognition of Mr. Henry Binzer

Recognition of
Henry Binzer

Mr. Gibson read a letter of appreciation for Mr. Binzer's work as an internal auditor. Mr. Gibson indicated that Mr. Binzer "tightened up" various systems and he personally "slept better at night" due to Mr. Binzer's work. Mr. Coffin indicated that Mr. Binzer reported directly to the Board of Education with his findings.

Middle School
Principal**Item 4. Middle School Principal**

This item was deferred for Executive Session.

Deferred

A motion was made by Mr. Blow to move items 5 thru 17.2 with the exception of item 13. Mr. Hubert seconded the motion. Mr. Kroencke questioned the Art teacher assignments (item #9). He wondered if there would be issues with credentials by having Ms. Wells teach at both schools. Dr. Colucciello assured the Board that there is no issue with credentials. Art teachers are certified K-12. Mr. Gibson recommended that the administration work out the details of the assignments. Mr. Kroencke questioned the enrollment levels for the Summer Programs. Dr. Colucciello informed the BOE that all classes are still accepting students. The motion was unanimously approved.

Appointment
Corrections**Appointment Corrections****Item 5.1 Probationary Appointment**

S. Brockley

Amended the probationary term of Susan Brockley, appointed as a mathematics teacher on June 8, 2009. The effective date of appointment is September 1, 2009, with a probationary term of two years due to the fact that Mrs. Brockley received tenure in another district prior to being employed by VCSD.

Item 5.2: Summer Special Education Appointment

M. Bruno

Amended the summer special education appointment of Megan Bruno as occupational therapist. Mrs. Bruno's hourly rate should be \$37.03 instead of \$33.73 as approved on June 8, 2009.

Appointments:**Appointments****Item 6.1: Social Studies Appointment (.6 FTE)**

N. Strevell

Approved the appointment of Nicole Strevell as high school social studies teacher (.6 FTE) effective July 1, 2009.

Salary: .6 of Step 1 (MA) of the VTA contract

Item 6.2: Mathematics Appointment (.6 FTE)

K. Cusato

Approved the appointment of Karen Cusato as .6 FTE mathematics teacher effective September 1, 2009.

Salary: .6 of Step 6 (MA) of VTA Contract

English Teacher
Appointment:**English Teacher Appointment****Item 7.1: High School English (.6 FTE)**

L. Kelly

Approved the appointment of Lynn Kelly as .6 FTE high school English teacher for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 1, 2009.

Long-Term
Substitute -
English:

L. Kelly

Item 7.2: Long-Term Substitute – English (.4 FTE)

Approved the appointment of Lynn Kelly as .4 FTE Grade 6 English long-term substitute effective September 1, 2009 – January 29, 2010. Mrs. Kelly will replace Ms. Zeh during her parental leave.

Reduction in Hours**Item 8: Reduction in Hours**

S. Vitelli

Approved a reduction in hours for Stacy Vitelli, elementary art teacher, from 1.0 FTE to .7 FTE for the 2009-2010 school year.

Increase in Hours:**Item 9: Increase in Hours**

K. Wells

Approved an increase in hours for Kristen Wells, art teacher, from .7 FTE to 1.0 FTE for the 2009-2010 school year.

Summer Student
Appointment:**Item 10: Summer Student Appointment**

K. Reynolds

Approved the appointment of Kathleen Reynolds as Package Clerk (Year 1), June 22 - August 31, 2009 at the rate of \$7.50 per hour. Hours will vary with delivery schedules.

Item 11: Summer Program Appointments

Approved the following instructional appointments for the summer program. Final enrollment numbers will determine if the program will run or not:

Summer Program Appointments:

D. Baron

Robotics Class	Daniel Chaize	\$1,000
	Joseph Iannotti	\$1,000
Video Streaming	Daniel Chaize	\$ 750
Mandarin Chinese	Shih-Chia (Nikki) Thompson	\$ 450
Keyboarding	Mary Anne Milano	\$ 500
8 th Grade Online Science	Jessica Bradshaw	\$ 251.60 / diem

Item 12: Coaching Appointments: 2009-2010

Approved the following coaching appointments for the 2009-2010 school year:

Coaching Appointments:

2009-2010

<u>Brenna Autrey</u>	Varsity Girls' Swimming	Step 8
<u>Thomas Kurkjian</u>	Varsity Girls' Tennis	Step 8
<u>Robert Baron</u>	Varsity Girls' Basketball	Step 4
<u>Lynn Kelly</u>	Fall Cheerleading	Step 8
<u>Andrew Karins</u>	Head JV Football	Step 3

Item 13: Whiteman Osterman & Hanna – Annual Retainer

Voted on as separate item (below)

Item 14: Teacher Aide Appointments: 2009-2010

Approved the following hours per work day for the aides for the 2009-2010 school year as follows:

Teacher Aide Appointments:

2009-2010

Elementary School:

Amy Ghovanloo	5.5hrs./day
Haidee Smith:	5.25 hrs./day
Chris Pettograsso:	5.25 hrs./day
Kim Becker:	4.75 hrs./day
Tamara Yingling:	4.5 hrs./day
Kirsti Lloyd:	4 hours/day
Lori Dollard:	3 hrs./day + late bus (avg. 3.3 hrs./day)
Christine Doto:	2.25 hrs./day

Middle/High School:

Debbie Frederick:	7 hrs./day
Diane Grandy:	7 hrs./day
Anita Kershaw:	4 hrs./day
Doris Turcotte:	4 hrs./day
Kathy Martin:	4 hrs./day
Anne Marie Guido:	4 hrs./day

Item 15: Substitute Appointments

Approved the following substitute appointments effective June 23, 2009:

Substitute Appointments:

Roger DiBona, Substitute Bus Driver (*upon successful completion of training and licensing*)
Rate of Pay: Step 1 of UEV Contract

R. DiBona,
Bus Driver

Charles Sullivan, Substitute Custodial Worker
Rate of Pay: Step 1 of UEV Contract

C. Sullivan,
Custodial

Item 16: Out-of-Town Student Field Trip Request

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

Out-of-Town Student Field Trip Request

Torch (Yearbook Club)

Destination: Taylor Yearbook Company Summer Workshop; Canandaigua, NY
Date: Tuesday, June 30 – Wednesday, July 1, 2009
Cost: None. The cost of the trip will be underwritten by the Torch Club
Requestor: Karen Finnessey, Susan Gruss

Item 17.1: Creation of Technology Assistant Position

Created the position of Technology Assistant, an open competitive position under Albany County Civil Service, and approved the salary schedule included in the enclosure folder. The position shall be covered by the United Employees of Voorheesville bargaining unit. This position replaces a teaching assistant position.

Creation of Technology Assistant Position

Item 17.2: Creation of Teaching Assistant (Special Education)

Approved the creation of an additional teaching assistant position (for Special Education) to be funded by Federal ARRA Section 611 funds. This position is to support special education students in kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year.

Creation of Teaching Assistant

Special Education

Item 17.3: Resolution re: Repair Reserve Fund

Approved the resolution to establish a Repair Reserve Fund as presented in the enclosure folder.

NOTE: This item was initially tabled until the July 13 meeting. Mrs. Winchell will contact our attorneys and ask them to review the funding of the Reserve Fund. Mr. Blow amended his motion to include all of 17 (through 17.6). The Repair Reserve Fund will be established. Mrs. Winchell will discuss with the attorney the proper funding of this fund and report to the Board at the July Meeting.

Resolution:

Repair Reserve Fund

Resolution:
*Unemployment
Reserve*

Item 17.4: Resolution re: Unemployment Reserve

Approved the resolution to increase the unemployment reserve as presented in the enclosure folder.

Acceptance of
Donation

Item 17.5: Acceptance of Donation

Gratefully accepted a donation of \$215.95 from the Student Association Senior Class for the purchase of a picnic table.

Budget Amendment

Item 17.6: Budget Amendment – Gifts and Donations

Amended the 2008-2009 budget to allow for the expenditure of the following gift donation to the District in the amount of \$215.95; and to increase the revenue code A2705 to reflect the receipt of these funds. Budget code to amended is:

Middle School/High School

Ground Supplies	\$215.95	A162155204
-----------------	----------	------------

Item 13: Whiteman Osterman & Hanna Retainer

Whiteman
Osterman & Hanna
Retainer

Mr. Blow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kroencke to approve the annual retainer with Whiteman Osterman & Hanna (WOH). Discussion was held regarding the increase in our annual retainer with WOH and the types of cases and instances for which we use legal counsel. The advice we received for the Anaphylaxis Policy alone was estimated at \$14,000. Mrs. Winchell felt we would pay over \$35,000 if we were not under retainer. We consult 3 or 4 attorneys at WOH, depending on the subject. Mr. Blow questioned the 25% increase from this year to next year. Mr. Coffin stated he feels this is money well spend but we should keep an eye on this. Mr. Gibson asked that this item be tabled and the attorneys be contacted to see if they will hold the line on the contract, considering these economic times. As BOE President, Mr. Gibson offered to contact the firm and report back to the other Board members. This item will be discussed at the July 1 meeting and action will be taken.

Discussion:
*Tech Valley High
School*

Item 18.1: Tech Valley High School treated like other BOCES programs, Discussion

Dr. Henkel asked what benefits we derive by belonging to Tech Valley. It was reported that some teachers visit Tech Valley over the summer to observe. Mr. Gibson asked Mr. Diefendorf to report at the July 13 meeting on this subject. Mrs. Margaret Adkins asked what information the teachers bring back to our school community and do we make use of this information. This item will be placed on the July 13 agenda as a discussion item by Mr. Diefendorf.

Opportunity for the
Board to be Heard

Item 18.2: Opportunity for the Board to be heard

Mr. Gibson thanked the team that worked on the Kindergarten issue. He stated we should maximize the ½ day program and encourage staff development. Some discussion regarding the Kindergarten survey ensued. Approximately 30 parents responded to the survey.

Dr. Colucciello said the Guidance Plan and the new Code of Conduct will be posted on our website. If anyone has any comments on these documents, please contact Dr. Snyder. The Code of Conduct must be approved at the July 13 meeting. It will be distributed to students this summer.

Executive Session:
9:20 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Dr. Henkel and carried unanimously, the Board moved into executive session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individuals.

Return to Public
Session:
11:37 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 11:37 p.m.

Middle School
Principal:
Brian Bailey

Item 4: Middle School Principal

On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board approved the appointment of Brian Bailey as middle school principal effective July 1, 2009, for a three-year probationary term.

Resolution to
Extend VTA
Contract:
2010-2011

Item 20: Action on Tentative Resolution to Extend VTA Contract One Year through 2010-2011

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Hubert and carried by a 6-0 vote, the Board approved the changes outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement between the Superintendent and the Voorheesville Teachers Association and authorized the funding necessary to implement the agreement. The effective date of the agreement is July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Adjournment:
12:15 a.m.

On a motion by Mr. Kroencke, seconded by Mr. Blow and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

President, Board of Education

Temporary Clerk, Board of Education