

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 8, 2010

David M. Gibson, President
Large Group Instruction Room

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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:

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Teresa Snyder, Sarita Winchell, Mark Diefendorf, Brian Whitley, Thomas Reardon, Patrick Corrigan, Michael Goyer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Imran Abbassi, Doug Brill, Tom Sweeney, Justin Brusgal, Steve Relyea, Jen Hampston, Kathy Fiero, Erin Reeve, Laura Taggart, Patti Kundel, 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.

Call to Order:
 7:30 p.m.

Item 2: Presentation: Career & Technical Education – Frank Faber, Heather Garvey

Mr. Faber and Mrs. Garvey addressed the Board in regard to students taking Personal Finance I as a graduation requirement. Handling money is a critical life skill and statistics show that less than half the teens surveyed know how to use a credit card, read a bank statement, balance a check book, or pay bills. Fifteen states now require schools to offer a personal finance course, and thirteen states require the course for graduation. The Board asked that Mr. Faber and Mrs. Garvey find out how many other schools in New York State require this course. It was also recommended that the proposal be put onto the school website for community members' input. The proposal will be brought to the Board in April for a vote.

Presentation:

Career & Technical Education

Personal Finance I Requirement

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Blow and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of regular meeting of February 8, 2010.

Approval of Minutes:
 02/08/10

Item 4.1: Opportunity for students to address the Board

There were no comments.

Opportunity for Students to Address the BOE

Item 4.2: Opportunity for the public to be heard

There were no comments.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard:

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

Item 5.1.1: Treasurer's Report

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

Treasurer's Report:

Item 5.1.2: Warrants

The following warrants were accepted:

Warrants

Warrant:	Date:	Amount
Multi-Fund Warrant #31:	January 28, 2010	\$ 129,782.46
Payroll Covering Warrant #32:	January 20, 2010	\$ 461,621.20
Multi-Fund Warrant #33:	January 29, 2010	\$ 569.28
Payroll Covering Warrant #34:	February 3, 2010	\$ 459,782.18
Multi-Fund Warrant #35:	February 11, 2010	\$ 244,027.04
Multi-Fund Warrant #36:	February 26, 2010	\$ 466,812.56
Payroll Covering Warrant #37:	February 16, 2010	\$ 485,729.08

Item 5.2: Resignation

Accepted the following resignation:

Resignations:

Christine Pettograsso, Elementary Teacher Aide

C. Pettograsso

Effective: February 19, 2010

Reason: Personal

Item 5.3: Leave Request

Approved the request of Jeanne L. Young (*high school social studies*) for parental leave commencing on or about May 10, 2010. Mrs. Young expects to return to work on September 1, 2010.

Leave Request:

J. Young

Teacher Aide (ES): Item 5.4: Teacher Aide Appointments (Elementary School)

Approved the following elementary school teacher aide appointments effective March 9, 2010. There is no change in hourly rate of pay.

T. Yingling Tamara Yingling, 5.5 hours/day (replaces Christine Pettograsso)
P. Woodruff Paige Woodruff, 4.5 hours/day (replaced Tamara Yingling)

Long-Term Substitutes: Item 5.5: Long-Term Substitutes

Social Studies
Approved the appointment of Corey Wright as long-term social studies substitute to teach Mrs. Young's classes during her leave effective May 10, 2010 – June 24, 2010
Salary: Step 1 (MA) of VTA Contract

Music

C. Beauregard Approved the appointment of Christina Beauregard as long-term substitute to teach Mrs. Matheke's classes during her leave effective March 29, 2010 – June 24, 2010
Salary: Step 7 (MA) of the VTA contract

Provisional Civil Service Appointment: Item 5.6: Provisional Appointment

Approved the provisional appointment of Andrea Burch as Technology Support Specialist (Education) effective March 9, 2010. Ms. Burch will be required to take the Albany County Civil Service Technology Support Specialist Exam when it is offered. *Civil Service has reclassified Ms. Burch's position from Technology Assistant to Technology Support Specialist (Education).*

*A. Burch***Increase in Hours Item 5.7: Increase in Hours – Teacher Aides**

Approved an increase in hours for the following teacher aides. *Mrs. Kershaw and Mrs. Martin will return to the 4 hour/day position effective September 1, 2010*

A. Kershaw Anita Kershaw, High School Teacher Aide – from 4 hours/day to 5 hours/day
Effective: March 9, 2010 – June 24, 2010

K. Martin Kathryn Martin, High School Teacher Aide – from 4 hours/day to 5 hours/day
Effective: March 9, 2010 – June 24, 2010

Substitute Bus Driver: Item 5.8: Substitute Bus Driver

Approved the appointment of George Klapp as a substitute bus driver effective March 9, 2010.
Salary: Step 1 of the UEV Contract

*G. Klapp***Volunteers – “Go Beyond” Item 5.9: Volunteers for “Go Beyond” Series**

Approved the following volunteers to share their interests and talents with K-5 students in the “Go Beyond” Series:

<u>Dagny Alexander</u>	Yoga	<u>Don Fisher</u>	Juggling
<u>Jason Windsor</u>	Juggling	<u>Kirsten Ippolito</u>	Letterboxing
<u>Dina Fisher</u>	Juggling		

Mandarin Chinese Program: Item 5.10: Mandarin Chinese Program

Approved the Mandarin Chinese Program and the appointment of Shih-Chia (Nikki) Thompson as instructor with a recommended stipend of \$1,760, effective March 9, 2010.

*S. Thompson***BOCES Substitute Registry Item 5.11: Substitute Teacher Appointments from BOCES Substitute Registry**

Approved the new Capital Region BOCES Substitute Registry appointments for the 2009-2010 school year as presented in the enclosure folder.

CSE Recommendations Item 5.12: CSE Recommendation

Approved the following recommendation by the *Committee on Special Education* as outlined at the meeting held on February 8, 2010. Also, designated the Superintendent as signatory for health service contracts related to special education students' IEPs.

*CSE Recommendations***Summer 2010 Enrichment Program Item 5.13: Summer 2010 Enrichment Program**

Approved the proposed Summer 2010 Enrichment Program as outlined below. Fees will be charged to students taking the workshops.

Instructor fees: \$50 per workshop hour

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>STUDENT FEE</u>
Weight Training Workshop	\$ 50
Everything Art Workshop	\$ 100
Digital Photography for Elementary School Students	\$ 50
Baseball Training Workshop	\$ 75
Digital Photograph for High School Students	\$ 50
Microsoft Office Suite Workshop	\$ 50
MST Engineering / Robotics Workshop	\$ 75
Cole Writers Institute	\$ 50

Item 5.14: Non-Resident Student Admission Request

Approved the following request for admission of a non-resident student for the 2010-2011 school year:

Non-Resident
Student Admission
Requests

Kathryn H. Hammes, Kindergarten
Requestor: Tamara L. Hammes

Item 5.15: Approval of Request for Non-Public School Transportation

Approved a request for non-public school transportation for two (2) additional students to private school for the 2009-2010 school year as follows:

Non-Public School
Transportation
Request

St. Catherine of Siena Kindergarten and Grade 3

Note: We will be transporting a total of 73 students to private schools; currently 6 students are being transported to St. Catherine of Siena.

Item 5.16: Lifeguard / Swim Instructor Appointment

Approved the appointment of Hannah Doherty as lifeguard / swim instructor for the Voorheesville School District effective March 9, 2010.

Lifeguard/Swim
Instructor Appt.

Salary: \$8.50 per hour

Item 5.17: Transportation Waiver

Approved the drop-off of a special education student at the Center for Disabilities at 2518 Western Avenue to attend an after-school program. This is a one-time request for the remainder of this school year.

Transportation
Waiver

Item 5.18: High School Principal

On a motion by Mr. Kroencke, seconded by Dr. Henkel and carried unanimously, the Board approved the appointment of Imran Abbasi as high school principal for a three-year probationary term effective July 1, 2010.

High School
Principal:

Salary: \$92,500

Imran Abbasi

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS**

Item 6.1: Elementary School Report, Thomas Reardon

- Personnel appointments have been completed for two teacher aide positions and the long-term substitute for Mrs. Matheke's .7 music position.
- The "Go Beyond" series is continuing with a juggling class on March 17.
- The first annual math night for K-2 students and their parents will be held on Tuesday, March 16.
- On Saturday, March 27, a group of teachers and teaching assistants will be attending the Hudson Mohawk Valley Area Math Conference at Shenendehowa HS to improve mathematics instruction techniques.

T. Reardon

Item 6.2: Middle School Report, Brian Whitley

- The pilot MS Advisory Program will begin in the fall. This will allow 6th grade students to be free at the same as their core teachers so they can obtain extra help, if needed. If this pilot is successful, a similar program will be implemented for 7th and 8th grade students.
- Chain Links (*Rachel's Challenge*) has developed a student mentor program in which middle school students will go to the elementary school one afternoon a week to mentor the younger students on social interaction and other skills. The older students have a chance to "give back"; younger students will learn from a role model.
- Middle school students have donated \$160 for the Haiti relief effort through the *Penny Wars*.
- In an effort to implement more project based assessments, the middle school is planning a *Mission to Mars* year-end assessment tool. This project will incorporate hands-on science activities and skills at all three grade levels.

B. Whitley

Item 6.3: High School Report, Mark Diefendorf

- The high school will present a concert on Wednesday, March 10.
- The Drama Club will present the musical "Bye, Bye Birdie" on March 25, 26, 27, and 28

M. Diefendorf

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

6.4.1 Physics Classroom Renovation

- The current high school physics room was originally a chemistry classroom. This room was not renovated during the building project in 2000. A physics room needs to have open space, and the Facilities Committee has discussed how the room can be renovated. After consulting with the architects, it was determined that the classroom can be remodeled at a maximum cost of \$70,000. Mrs. Winchell proposed using \$35,000 interfund revenue from the Capital Fund and an increase of \$35,000 in Transfer for Debt – these are monies the district already has. Renovation of the physics room will generate approximately \$43,000 in State Aid in 2011-2012 (61.8% of the project cost). The renovations will not move forward until after the budget vote on May 18.

S. Winchell

6.4.2 2010-2011 Budget Presentation

- Mrs. Winchell discussed the projected NYS budget deficits over the next four years that will amount to \$61.5 billion. The Governor also proposes reverting over \$4 billion in costs to the state when federal stimulus money ceases at the end of 2010-2011. The proposed school budget for 2010-2011 is \$21,657,394, a decrease of \$5,044 or -23% from last year. The tax levy would increase \$423,122 or 2.887%. She discussed staffing changes for next year, which will amount to 1.5 FTEs. In addition, on March 22, the Board will be asked to approve a proposition for the purchase of two 60-passenger buses and one 28-passenger bus at a cost of \$255,400 – we will get money back in State Aid. The purchase of buses will be presented to the voters as a separate proposition on May 18.

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

- Snow removal from the February storms was a challenge, but the custodial staff did a great job. The drivers did an excellent job transporting the students.
- At the February 8 meeting, the Board authorized repair of a boiler at the elementary school. The repair has been done and everything is in working order.
- As the snow melts, the grounds will be prepared for spring sports.

T. Snyder **Item 6.6: Superintendent's Report, Teresa T. Snyder**

- Dr. Snyder described the process for conducting the high school principal search. Thirty-one people were involved in the process, and she was pleased to introduce Mr. Imran Abbasi as the candidate chosen to be the new principal of Clayton A. Bouton High School.
- Presented the Board with information about the AIS Plan for the Secondary Level beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.
- Discussed percentage of students who failed in the second quarter and the inconsistency between genders. The failure rate in grades 6-8 is 50% - 50%; however, there is a huge increase in males failing courses at the high school level. Dr. Snyder said this matches national outcomes and we need to work on creating a classroom environment to engage male students and keep their attention.

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION
COMMITTEES**

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities

Item 7.1: Facilities Committee

The next phase of the elementary school project has been submitted to SED. We hope to have approval by early April for boilers and site work.

Curriculum

Item 7.2: Curriculum Committee

- Met on March 4 to learn more about the mapping initiative. A group of teachers and administrators will be going to the Heidi Hayes Jacobs conference on March 22 to learn about implementing curriculum mapping.
- The reading initiative will be continued next year with emphasis on maintaining the work that has already been done.
- An elementary numeracy plan for next year was also discussed.

Policy &
Governance

Item 7.3: Policy & Governance Committee

- Met on February 25 and reviewed Policy 5281 to be presented later on the agenda.
- Discussed zero-tolerance policy in regard to student discipline and explained that the intent of reviewing this subject was to make sure that we are not locked into zero-tolerance.
- Discussed ideas for curriculum presentations to help the Board stay involved in the education process.

Audit

Item 7.4: Audit Committee

The committee had no report.

Evaluation

Item 7.5: Evaluation Committee

The committee had no report.

Communications

Item 7.6: Communications Task Force

Mr. Gibson suggested scheduling a Task Force meeting for Monday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular Board meeting.

BOE Policy:

Item 8.1: BOE Policy 5281 – Second Reading

*Second Reading
(Tabled)*

The Board discussed Policy 5281, Interscholastic Athletics Academic Eligibility. There were questions about the time for the mandatory study hall, and the Board asked for further review. On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board approved tabling this policy for further review.

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

Dental Plan
Administrator

Item 8.2: Dental Plan Administrator – Delta Dental

Delta Dental

Upon recommendation of the Health Insurance Committee and the results of an RFP for dental plan administration, approved Delta Dental as the Voorheesville Central School District's self-insured dental plan administrator effective July 1, 2010.

Item 8.3: Self-Insured Pharmacy Plan – Express Scripts, Inc.

Upon recommendation of the Health Insurance Committee and the results of an RFP for pharmacy plan administration, approve Express Scripts, Inc. as the Voorheesville Central School District's self-insured pharmacy plan administrator effective July 1, 2010.

Self-Insured
Pharmacy Plan

Express Scripts

Item 8.4: Medicare Advantage Plan – CDPHP PPO Plan

Approved the change in the offering of the Medicare Advantage plan from the Capital District Physicians Health Plan HMO plan to the Capital District Physicians Health Plan PPO plan effective July 1, 2010.

Medicare
Advantage Plan

CDPHP PPO Plan

Item 8.5: Discussion: Board of Education Goals Retreat

Discussion was held in regard to holding the annual Board retreat after the election but prior to graduation. The Board would like to develop and approve their goals before the start of the 2010-11 school year. It was agreed that the retreat would be held on a weekday evening with a facilitator to conduct the meeting and help to establish goals. The Board discussed inviting Dr. Leslie Loomis or a NYSSBA representative to assist them. Mr. Coffin and Dr. Dozier offered to look into these two possibilities and make a recommendation to the Board.

Discussion:

BOE Goals Retreat

Item 9.1: Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Patricia Kundel announced that the Middle Level Odyssey of the Mind Team had won first place in the regional competition and would be going on to compete at the State level in Binghamton, NY on March 27. She asked the Board for their fiscal support of this program if the students continue on to the World Finals in Michigan.

Opportunity for
the Public to be
Heard

Item 9.2: Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Mr. Gibson announced that he would not be seeking re-election as a member of the Board.

Opportunity for
the Board to be
Heard

Item 10: Miscellaneous

Budget Status Reports: 07/01/09 – 12/31/09

Miscellaneous

Item 11: Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Mr. Kroencke and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Adjournment:
9:55 p.m.

President, Board of Education

Clerk, Board of Education