

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting
December 12, 2011

Timothy E. Blow, President
Large Group Instruction Room

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Board Members Present:

Timothy E. Blow, President
Cheryl L. Dozier, Vice President
C. James Coffin
Kristine L. Gravino
Lisa A. Henkel
Gary A. Hubert
Cynthia Monaghan

Board Members Absent:

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Teresa Snyder, Gregory Diefenbach, Thomas Reardon, Imran Abbasi, James Franchini, Michael Goyer, Robin Jacob

OTHERS PRESENT:

Beth Rice, Colleen Zeliph, Laura Smith, Britney Lorio, Cathy Woods, Eilish Hackett, Robin Donato, Katrina Papa, Jessica Phillips, Karin Carmody, Todd Britton, Kathy Fiero, Melanie Nasadoski, Chris Guilmette, Kelly Guilmette, Laura Minnick, Theresa Springer, Anne Kirgain, Tricia Putman, Pat Conway, Rebecca Zionts, Tara Wight, Chris Allard, Sarita Winchell, Deb Baron, Jen Hotaling, Jen Hampston, Tige Monacelli, Dorothea Pfliederer

Mr. Blow 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: Full-Day Kindergarten, Dr. Snyder

Dr. Snyder used a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate her discussion on full-day kindergarten. She discussed four points in regard to the program: 1.) Sociologically, fewer parents have the choice of staying home with a preschooler mainly due to the higher cost of living. 2.) Pedagogically, we are seeing massive changes in academic expectations. The State is looking to test students in pre-school and kindergarten for academic achievement. 3.) Economically, the district has approximately \$200,000 in State Aid for conversion to kindergarten. This is money that would benefit our budget next year. 4.) Sustainability: In order to sustain the Voorheesville School District, we must attract more families with children. With a declining enrollment, we cannot continue to sustain our program. Low enrollment affects every aspect of program: e.g. academics, music, sports, and drama productions. Dr. Snyder recommended that given the availability of conversion aid and the current expectation for academic achievement of common core standards, the district access the available conversion aid and implement full-day kindergarten in September 2012.

Presentations:

Full-Day
Kindergarten

Item 2.2: Property Tax Cap, G. Diefenbach

Mr. Diefenbach presented on the Property Tax Cap which will begin with the 2012-2013 school year budget and will be in effect at least through 2016-2017. This is not really a "cap" but sets a higher threshold for voter approval of budgets if the proposed tax levy increase exceeds the "tax levy limit." He reviewed various formulas that are used to calculate the tax levy limit. If the tax levy increase is above the tax levy limit, after accounting for exemptions, the support of a supermajority (60%) of voters would be required to pass the budget. Exemptions would include capital expenses (construction, transportation); court orders / judgments; ERS / TRS costs.

Property Tax Cap

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Dr. Gravino, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of November 14, 2011.

Approval of
Minutes:
11/14/11

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

Chris & Kelly Guilmette, Laura Minnick, Jen Hampston, Jen Hotaling, Colleen Zeliph, Kathy Fiero, Scott Ricci, Tara Wight, Beth Rice, Trina Papa, and Karen Carmody addressed the Board regarding full-day kindergarten.

Comments / Concerns:

- Half-day does not provide enough time for instruction and completion of work.
- Full-day programs do not provide any advantage and may cause behavioral problems/anxiety.
- Starting a full-day program in September 2012 does not allow parents enough time to prepare their children.
- Research does not prove that a full-day program is best for children.
- NYS is mandating more. Financially and academically, our district is impacted K-12. Voorheesville must get students prepared for the increased testing that will be mandated.
- If enrollment continues to decline, there might not be a Voorheesville CSD five years from now.
- Several parents commented that they are thinking of putting their children in a full-day program elsewhere next year if it is not offered at Voorheesville. It was noted that some people do this and never bring their children back to Voorheesville.

Opportunity for
Public to be Heard

On a motion by Ms. Monaghan 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.

Item 5.1.2: Warrants

The following warrants were accepted:

Warrants

Payroll Covering Warrant #19:	November 17, 2011	\$ 455,542.27
Multifund Warrant #20:	November 10, 2011	\$ 101,427.82
Payroll Covering Warrant #21:	November 18, 2011	\$ 485,368.04
Multifund Warrant #22:	November 30, 2011	\$ 769,002.49
Capital Fund Warrant #3:	November 30, 2011	\$ 14,580.00

Personnel Items

Resignations:

Item 5.2.1: Resignations

Accepted the following resignations:

J. Moehle

Jessica Moehle, Teaching Assistant

Effective: January 13, 2012

Reason: To complete student teaching requirements

K. Turski

Kyle Turski, PAC Co-Manager

Effective: November 21, 2011

Reason: Personal

Teacher Aide

M. Sliva

Item 5.2.2: Teacher Aide Appointment (Conditional)

Approved the appointment of Mary Sliva as an elementary school Teacher Aide on a conditional basis pending fingerprint clearance through OSPRA.

Effective: December 13, 2011 (*Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; 3½ hours/day*)

Salary: Step 1 of UEV Contract

Increase in Hours:

K. Lloyd

Item 5.2.3: Increase in Hours – Elementary School Teacher Aide

Approved an increase in hours from four (4) hours per day to four and one-half (4½) hours per day on Mondays and Fridays for Kirsti Lloyd to cover elementary school dismissal from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Effective: December 13, 2011 (*Mondays & Fridays; 3:00 to 3:30 p.m.*)

Claims Auditor:

S. Suriano

Item 5.2.4: Claims Auditor

Approved the appointment of Steve Suriano as Claims Auditor effective December 13, 2011.

Salary: \$15.00 per hour

Food Service

Helper:

V. Conde

Item 5.2.5: Food Service Helper – Substitute Cashier

Approved the appointment of Victoria Conde as substitute Cashier effective December 19, 2011.

Salary: Step 1 of UEV Contract

Swim Instructor

Lifeguards

Item 5.2.6: Swim Instructor/Lifeguard Appointments

Approved the following swim instructor and/or lifeguard appointments effective December 13, 2011.

<u>Deanna Caputo</u>	Assistant Instructor	\$9.00 per hour
<u>Jordaan VanOort</u>	Assistant Instructor	\$9.00 per hour
	Lifeguard	\$7.50 per hour

Item 5.2.7: Coaching Appointment: 2011-2012

Approved the following coaching appointment for the 2011-2012 school year:

<u>Reed Schultz</u>	Varsity Bowling	Step 8
<u>Brittany Finnegan</u>	Winter JV Cheerleading	Step 1

Coaching
Appointments

Extracurricular
Appointments:

Item 5.2.8: Extracurricular Appointments: 2011-2012

Approved the following extracurricular appointments for the 2011-2012 school year:

<u>Matthew MacArevey</u>	PAC Co-Manager	½ Step 1
<u>Michele Bintz</u>	Key Club Advisor	Step 1

Creation of
Elementary Club
Advisorsip

Item 5.2.9: Creation of Elementary Club Advisorsip

Approved the creation of an advisor position for the Blackbird Community Helpers Club (elementary school) effective through June 30, 2011. The salary for this advisorsip will be funded through a donation from Voorheesville Community & School Foundation.

Substitute Teacher
Appointments:
BOCES Registry

Item 5.3: Substitute Appointments from BOCES Substitute Registry

Approved the Capital Region BOCES Substitute Registry appointments for the 2011-2012 school year as presented in the enclosure folder.

Item 5.4: CSE Recommendation

Approved the recommendations by the Committee on Special Education as outlined at meetings held on November 8, 2011, November 17, 2011, and November 18, 2011.

The Board designated the Superintendent as signatory for health service contracts related to special education students' IEPs.

CSE
Recommendations

Item 5.5: Mid-Winter 2011-2012 Continuing Education Program

Approved the Mid-Winter 2011-2012 Continuing Education program as presented in the enclosure folder. These courses are offered only to those participants currently enrolled in the Fall program.

Mid-Winter 2011-
2012 Continuing Ed.
Program

Item 5.6: Spring 2012 Continuing Education Program

Approved the Spring 2012 Continuing Education Program and timeline as presented in the enclosure folder.

Spring 2012
Continuing Ed.
Program

Item 5.7: Out-of-Town Student Field Trip Requests

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

Out-of-Town
Student Field Trip
Requests

Annual Portfolio Art Class Trip

Museum of Modern Art, SoHo Art Galleries, 9/11 Memorial

Destination: New York City

Date: Friday, January 6, 2011

Cost to student: \$80 per student (*includes entrance fees, meals, and transportation*)

Cost to district: School bus transportation to Metro-North in Poughkeepsie

Requestor: Marie Triller

Music Class Trip – Great East Music Festival

Destination: Palmer High School; Palmer, MA

Date: Friday, May 4, 2011

Cost to student: \$68 per student

Cost to district: School bus transportation

Requestor: Brian Kaplan

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS

Item 6.1: Elementary School Report, Thomas Reardon

- On December 13, K-2 teachers will continue their professional development work in the math Common Core with Gail Sobolewski.
- Regarding this year's Gratitude theme, a speaker from the "Make-a-Wish" Foundation will address the student assembly on December 16. In addition to fundraising through loose change drives, a talent show is planned for January 20, and the proceeds will go to "Make-a-Wish" Foundation. Ninety pounds of food was collected and will be donated to local farmers to help feed their livestock.

T. Reardon

Item 6.2: Middle School Report, James Franchini

- The middle school production of "Seussical Jr." was a great success. The play was attended by 720 people. Mr. Franchini complimented everyone involved and thanked them for their hard work.
- The Builders Club collected 1000 cans of food for the Thanksgiving food drive.
- The morning announcements will soon be posted on the web page. Last names will not be communicated in order to protect confidentiality.
- The State mandated Middle School Inquiry Team attended its first training at Capital Region BOCES. The team will be trained to access, understand, and use data to identify a change in instructional practice that will accelerate learning for underperforming students. They will meet with teachers on a quarterly basis to review and help students whose grades are 75% or below.

J. Franchini

Item 6.3: High School Report, Imran Abbasi

- Congratulated the girls' varsity Volleyball team who finished the season as the Colonial Council champions. They finished the season in third place in the Class C State finals.
- The high school holiday concert was held on December 8. The Select Chorus has been selected to perform in the upcoming "Music for the Holidays" 2011 production on WMHT. The viewing schedule is on the District web page.
- The Guidance Department held a Career Cafe luncheon in November. The featured professions were in the psychology-related fields.
- Parent Portal meetings were held on December 6 and 7 with 115 parents signed up. Mr. Abbasi reported that he is starting to see positive results.

I. Abbasi

Item 6.4: Assistant to the Superintendent Report, Gregory Diefenbach

- Mr. Diefenbach is scheduling meetings with school administrators to begin the budget process.
- WeatherGuard has given a quote for replacing the roof over the gym and swimming pool. Everything has been sent to FEMA and our insurance company. We are hoping to start the roof project in the spring.

G. Diefenbach

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

Mr. Goyer had nothing to report.

T. Snyder

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

- Dr. Snyder reported that she will be going to Spencerport, near Rochester, this week to attend an International Baccalaureate Orientation Seminar. She will report back to the Board.

**BOARD OF ED.
COMMITTEES**

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit

Item 7.1: Audit Committee

- The committee met with Marvin & Co. prior to the Board meeting to discuss the results and recommendations of their risk assessment. We will get the final report at the next Audit Committee meeting.
- Met Steve Suriano, the new claims auditor. He will assume his duties on December 13.

Curriculum

Item 7.2: Curriculum/Evaluation Committee

- The committee will meet on December 19.

Facilities

Item 7.3: Facilities Committee

- The committee will meet again on January 18, 2012.

Policy &
Governance

Item 7.4: Policy & Governance Committee

- Met on December 3 to review the policies under Item 8.4 on the agenda.
- Reviewed the December 12, 2011 agenda.
- Discussed Dr. Snyder's report on full-day kindergarten.

Risk Behavior Task
Force

Item 7.5: Risk Behavior Task Force

- The committee met on November 21 to talk about mental health issues.
- Reviewed results of the student surveys pertaining, specifically, to mental health. The survey provided great feedback for moving forward.
- The committee will meet on December 20 to discuss bullying at the middle / high school

Discussion:

Item 8.1: Discussion: Full-Day Kindergarten

Full-Day
Kindergarten

Discussion was held in regard to Dr. Snyder's recommendation to implement a full-day kindergarten program starting in September 2012. This becomes an issue of the budget process and the sustainability of the District, financially and academically, is a big consideration. There were many questions:

- What is the next step and what must be done to begin in 2012?
- What additional information does the Board need to make a decision?
- How many Voorheesville students are going to private schools?
- How many children are going to private school that we do not know about?
- What are these private school parents planning for their children for next year?
- Is it possible to have students attend half-day kindergarten for the first half of the year and switch to full day in the second semester?
- Will teachers embrace changes in curriculum resulting from full-day kindergarten?

It was suggested that a survey be administered for parent feedback as soon as possible. Mr. Reardon will design the survey and send it to the BOE for their comments before posting it to the community. The Board will need to weigh the benefits vs. costs based on feedback from parents and teachers and an understanding of staffing and transportation for a full-day program.

Approved:

Northeast Health
Insurance Trust

Item 8.2: Northeast Health Insurance Trust

On a motion by Dr. Henkel, seconded by Dr. Gravino and carried unanimously, the Board approved the resolution to adopt the Northeast Health Insurance Trust Agreement between Duanesburg, Sharon Springs, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, and Voorheesville Central School Districts effective January 1, 2012.

Facilities Use
Agreement with
Northeastern
District Barbershop
Harmony Society

Item 8.3: Facilities Use Agreement with Northeastern District Barbershop Harmony Society

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Hubert and carried unanimously, the Board approved the facilities use agreement between Voorheesville Central School District and the Northeastern District Barbershop Harmony Society for use of the Performing Arts Center and classrooms for a Barbershop event being held on Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17, 2012.

On a motion by Dr. Gravino, seconded by Ms. Monaghan and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following items:

BOE Policies:

Second Reading
(5571)

Item 8.4.1: Second Reading – Policy 5571, Medicaid Compliance Program

Approved the second reading of Policy 5571, *Medicaid Compliance Program*, as presented in the enclosure folder.

Revision
(1800)

Item 8.4.2: Revision – Policy 1800, Gifts from the Public

Approved the revisions to Policy 1800, *Gifts from the Public*, as presented in the enclosure folder.

Item 8.5: Acceptance of Donations

Gratefully accepted a donation from Michaels Stores in the amount of \$600.00 for Art Supplies for the School District.

Acceptance of
Donations

Gratefully accepted a donation from the Voorheesville Community & School Foundation in the amount of \$800.00 to fund the Blackbird Community Helpers Club at the elementary school.

Item 8.6: Budget Amendment – Gifts and Donations

Amended the 2011-2012 budget to allow for the expenditure of gift donations to the District from the Voorheesville Community & School Foundation in the amount of \$800.00; and to increase the revenue code A2705 to reflect the receipt of these funds.

Budget
Amendment –
Gifts & Donations

Budget code to be amended is:

Extra Curricular	\$800.00	A2850150000000
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Item 9.1: Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

- Pat Conway addressed the Board about a report by the Middle School Site-Based Team regarding changes in the Middle School as a result of the budget. Of great concern was middle school classes that exceed the class size average of 23-24 students stated in the 2011-2012 budget and the impact of these larger class sizes.
- Kathy Fiero asked to have copies of the minutes or agendas for the Curriculum Committee now that the teachers are no longer part of the committee.

Opportunity for
Public to be Heard

Item 9.2: Opportunity for the Board to be Heard

There were no comments.

Opportunity for
Board to be Heard

On a motion by Dr. Gravino, seconded by Ms. Monaghan and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Adjournment:
10:00 p.m.

President, Board of Education

Clerk, Board of Education