

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**DEIRDRE BURNS
DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
DIANE LYONS
LISA ROSENTHAL
LAURA SCHULKIND
RICHARD WALKER**

OTHERS PRESENT:

**JOSEPH PHELAN, THOMAS BURNELL,
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, MEMBER
OF THE PRESS**

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2015 Regular Meeting.

**VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker);
0 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN (Fleischhauer); 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED**

3.0 Public Comment

Janet Sistare, PTSO President, reported that coordinators at CLS are very excited about having the Harlem Wizards play against the Rhinebeck teacher team in a fund raising event on February 4. Ms. Sistare reported that the PTSO is finding that they are getting fewer volunteers and experiencing less fundraising. The PTSO has found that creating experiences for the community is a better fundraiser than selling goods. To that end, the PTSO has planned upcoming events such as a pancake breakfast and color run at CLS, the CLS Talent Show, Book Fairs, and Fall Festival.

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Mid-Year Review of 2015-16 Board Goals*

Superintendent Phelan reported that each year, the Board has a mid-year review of the goals set for the year.

Mrs. Schulkind reported that in relation to the first goal, the Comprehensive District Educational Planning (CDEP) has been a tremendously collaborative process. This morning, the Mission, Vision, Core Values (MVCV) subcommittee met to discuss the proposed changes to the MVCV. The sub-committee will meet again on Thursday to add the finishing touches to the document with the hopes of a finalized document for Board approval on January 26. Once the document is approved, the

District can move ahead with the planning. Additionally, the level of buy-in among all stakeholders is high and very encouraging.

In relation to the second goal, Program Support Under the Tax Levy Cap will be further discussed as the next item on the agenda.

In relation to the third goal, Advocacy, the Board feels that the District has expanded the arenas where the District has advocated from in the past and that advocacy efforts are going well. The Board briefly discussed how to measure advocacy effectiveness and whether it can be measured. Parents writing letters to legislators has a strong impact on educational policy.

4.2 2016-17 Budget Development Update

Superintendent Phelan reported that the first draft budget has many placeholders for which actual figures are currently unknown, and is very conservative. The draft budget does not show any increase in state aid pending the Governor's upcoming State of the State and Budget address.

Mr. Burnell reviewed the first draft budget, which shows a 4.01% budget to budget increase over last year. Mr. Burnell went over various increases in expenditures such as increases in equipment, contractual salaries, a vehicle purchase, and health insurance. The largest increase in expenditures is in Special Education services due to high cost out-of-district student placements. The District will realize some savings on fuel oil, central data processing, textbook costs and retirement contribution rates. The tax levy limit is 1.09%, resulting in a shortfall of \$1,010,432 in order to stay below next year's tax levy cap.

4.3 Board Committee Reports (Curriculum, School Start Time, Communication)* Curriculum Committee

Ms. d'Albertis reported that the approved Curriculum documents are available online. The Committee reviewed BMS' "Innovation In Technology Explorations" project. Mr. Kreps reported to the Committee that all the hardware and software goals in the BMS lab have been realized. Thanks to the generosity of the Rhinebeck Science Foundation, District students have a tremendous resource in most likely one of the best labs in the county. Curriculum development is still underway, as Laurie Keating continues to work with computer teachers who in turn work with their colleagues to integrate technology into all subjects.

The Committee has just begun discussing the current health curriculum, specifically the query with regard to the prevention of sexual abuse.

School Start Time Committee

Ms. d'Albertis reported that the School Start Time Ad Hoc Committee discussed critical questions raised by CLS teachers and parents about the impact of

lengthening the day for elementary school students. Mr. King is working with Ms. Lox to think creatively about scheduling challenges. In the meantime, Mrs. Lyons is working on a mock-up of the schedule for each building for the proposed “shift” option for further discussion.

Communication Committee

Ms. Burns reported that the Communication Committee reviewed website usage and is encouraged to see that over one third of teachers have updated their websites since January 1. The Committee discussed the various platforms teachers use and the benefit of familiarity with different technology environments. The Committee discussed the need for K-12 Curriculum documents to be located in a dynamic, collaborative environment that teachers can work with. The Committee also discussed the possibility of a password-protected secure location for confidential Board documents that can be archived and searched.

The last part of the meeting was devoted to advocacy. Superintendent Phelan sent a letter to Governor Cuomo and various public officials regarding public school funding. The Committee also discussed outreach to parents to encourage them to contact public officials when we have more information on where state aid might be heading.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

The Board commended the PTSO on their creative ways to raise support for programs. Ms. d’Albertis expressed gratitude to the guidance office for their continued support of District families with students going to college that was exemplified by having a recent workshop on financial aid.

5.2 Old Business

The Board will be having a “Coffee with the Board” meeting on January 19 on the topic of school finance. Advocacy meetings with Assemblymembers Barrett and Cahill and Senator Serino have been scheduled.

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

The Board briefly discussed sending the Prospective School Board Member Workshop information to the community in the event someone is interested in Board membership. Ms. Rosenthal stated that she is not seeking re-election to her current seat on the Board and encouraged community members to consider joining the Board. Mrs. Schulkind stated that she will be seeking re-election.

Superintendent Phelan asked Board members to consider having one member serve on the hiring committee for the new Special Education Director.

At the request of a parent, Superintendent Phelan will be putting together a schedule of how the District will give back unused snow days.

6.0 Action Item

6.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the following consent items:

6.1.1 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the CSE and CPSE recommendations.*

6.1.2 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to declare the attached items as surplus for disposal.*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

6.2 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept grant awards from the Rhinebeck Science Foundation, in support of funding for the Citizen Science Day at Bard grant, as submitted by Ms. Kristin Koegel in the amount of \$340, and in support of partial funding for the Fifth Grade Field Trip to Norwalk Aquarium grant, as submitted by Ms. Jill Simmons in the amount of \$3,836, both as stipulated.*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

The Board wished to thank the Rhinebeck Science Foundation for their continued generosity and the fifth grade teachers for organizing the field trip.

6.3 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve a leave request under the Family and Medical Leave Act from Laura Natalie, to commence on or about June 8, 2016, with such leave to be taken as paid medical leave through the period of disability as certified by a physician in writing, to the extent of her accrued sick leave and, thereafter, such leave to be taken as unpaid child care leave through the conclusion of the 2015-16 school year.*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

6.4 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve as a first reading the consideration of modifications to Board Policies #8410 – Student Transportation, #8414 – School Bus Safety, #8414.1 - Bus Driver Qualifications, Training, and

Conduct, #8414.2 - Alcohol and Drug Testing of Bus Drivers, #8414.6 Bus Accidents and #8415 – Field Trip and Extracurricular Activity Transportation, and Special Uses of School Buses.*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

Prior to the vote, Mrs. Schulkind raised several questions and pointed out several corrections.

- 6.5 Motion** by Burns seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the negotiating teams for the District and the Rhinebeck Administrators Association (RAA) executed a Memorandum of Agreement on January 6, 2016, calling for the creation of a three-year successor Collectively Negotiated Agreement to the one that expired on June 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, legislative approval is required by the Board of Education in order to implement the funding of said Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Rhinebeck Administrators Association (RAA), covering the period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018, and authorizes the funding of those monies necessary to implement the provisions of the 2015-2018 Collectively Negotiated Agreement. A copy of the Memorandum of Agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.6 Motion** by Burns seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve additional Rhinebeck High School activity advisors for 2015-16. (See attached.)*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.7 Motion** by Burns seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to award the 2002 Ford Windstar Van bid to George Williams for \$127.15. (See attached.)*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

There were no matters before the Board requiring an Executive Session.

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 9:45 pm.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk