

MEMBERS PRESENT: DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
DIANE LYONS
LISA ROSENTHAL (left 7:37 pm; arrived 7:44 pm)
LAURA SCHULKIND
RICHARD WALKER (arrived 7:30 pm)

MEMBER ABSENT: DEIRDRE BURNS

OTHERS PRESENT: JOSEPH PHELAN, THOMAS BURNELL,
EDWIN DAVENPORT, JOHN
KEMNITZER, BRETT KING, MEMBERS
OF THE PUBLIC, MEMBER OF THE
PRESS

EARLY EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm.

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, the Board voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of specific persons.

**VOTE: 5 AYE (d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind);
0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (Burns, Walker)**
MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, the Board appointed Joseph Phelan as Clerk Pro Tempore.

**VOTE: 5 AYE (d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind);
0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (Burns, Walker)**
MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, the Board voted to return to Regular Session and adjourn to the BMS/RHS Library at 7:28 pm.

**VOTE: 5 AYE (d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind);
0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (Burns, Walker)**
MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Schulkind, seconded by d'Albertis, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2016 Regular Meeting.

**VOTE: 5 AYE (d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Schulkind, Walker);
0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (Burns, Rosenthal)**
MOTION CARRIED

3.0 Public Comment
None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Annual Independent Audit Report (T. Thomas)*

Mr. Tim Thomas from the accounting firm of Toski & Co. reported that the audit report identifies the work performed by the auditors and their responsibilities as well as the District's responsibilities. Mr. Thomas reported on the assets, liabilities, and equity of the District.

Ms. Rosenthal arrived at 7:44 pm.

Mr. Thomas reported that the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) is overfunded and the Employees Retirement System (ERS) is nearly fully funded. He suggested that the District work with the TRS for a lower rate. One piece of good news is that most districts have a negative net position but the Rhinebeck District is in the positive. Mr. Thomas cautioned against the District's low unassigned fund balance and suggested the District take steps to bring that figure up. Mr. Thomas went over the expenditures and explained that the unforeseen special education costs contributed largely to the deficit in the unassigned fund balance. He explained that regulations state that districts can keep 4% of the budget in the unassigned fund but the District currently has 0.3%.

Mr. Thomas went over the management letter with the Board that contains the following suggestions:

- the District create an Equity Management Plan that outlines a 5-year budget plan for programs including how to manage reserves
- the District create a vacation tracking management system
- the Extra classroom funds are only supposed to be for MS/HS. Although the District has an elementary school yearbook fund, it should not change it as a practical matter
- that District look at ways to save in operating costs (for example - solar/wind mills)
- that District should borrow for capital projects sooner rather than later due to the higher cost of borrowing money.

4.2 Annual Interscholastic Athletics Report (S. Boucher)*

Mr. Boucher reported that the NYSPHSAA classification for Rhinebeck in the 2016-17 school year will be as follows:

- "B" school for baseball, basketball, soccer, softball
- "C" school for cross country, field hockey, lacrosse, volleyball

Mr. Boucher reported a big change on the state level was the adoption of a statewide ball (Spaulding). The adoption by Spaulding should off-set costs.

Section IX/MHAL has updated the process of combining teams (i.e. Football). This past fall a few schools tried a merger for swimming. The District's football merger with Pine Plains is underway now. The Section has adopted the anaconda ball.

The Boys and Girls soccer teams did a nice job at the MHAL Division Championship. In the fall, 54 students were recognized as MHAL Academic athletes. All Fall teams were recognized as NYS Scholar Athlete Teams.

Mr. Boucher reported that he would like to pursue a football merger again with Pine Plains for 2016-17. He reported that the District had 7 students in varsity and 10 students in the modified team. Pine Plains is excited to have us back next year.

Mr. Boucher reported a possible change of date for the Andy Bennett Tournament to the Columbus Day weekend and hopes to make it more of a school wide day.

4.3 Principal Reports

Chancellor Livingston Elementary

Mr. King reported the following:

- Science Night Out on January 27 – students will experience the magic of science through experiments sponsored by RSF and partnering with Bard students
- BLPT will be updating the themes of the “Common Language for All” program to include components from the core values section of MVCV.
- Grade 3 has been working on the Folk Heritage Program with a performance for K-2 on January 28
- Martin from the Harlem Wizards visited our lunch periods in anticipation of the February 4 event.
- Young Rhinebeck invited 26 students to participate in the Spring Session of after school LLL Program
- Mr. Frischknecht and BMS students visited First Grade classes to make their own mancala boards (connected to the first grade study of Kwanza earlier in the year). The BMS students were engaging, well prepared and absolutely amazing in their presentations.
- Students in Ms. Peters' class earned a Star Wars themed day. The amount of preparation that went into the day was absolutely astonishing with learning centers that addressed all subject areas, themed music playing in the background, as well as incorporating AIS, Special Education, and OT.

Upcoming Events:

- Spirit Day – February 26 – Mismatch Day
- Harlem Wizards vs. Rhinebeck Faculty Hawks – Feb 4
- As part of moral building effort: First Annual CLS “Snow Day” Winter Event at Jiminy Peak – Saturday, February 20

Bulkeley Middle School

Mr. Kemnitzer reported the following:

- 8th grade ELA classes are finalizing their project titled Taking a Stand: Civil Rights in America. An art installation to honor those who have taken a stand throughout history will be on display on February 9.
- As Mr. King previously reported, members of the Peer Leadership Club spent the day presenting to each of the 1st grade classes regarding Madagascar traditions and culture.
- Members of the Anthropology Club traveled about town filming local historical and cultural sites as they prepare to make a documentary about the culture of Rhinebeck to be shared with children in Madagascar.
- 8th grade students worked with Bard College professors and students as part of the Day of Science program.
- BMS computer teachers working with consultant Laurie Keating to develop a scope and sequence for computer instruction grades 6-8. During the second half of the school year, this will include a number of collaborative projects with grade level core content teachers.
- Four BMS students have been selected to participate in the Dutchess County Music Educator's Association Jr. High All-County Festival. Two BMS 6th grade students have been selected to participate in the DCMEA Elementary All-County Festival.

Upcoming Events:

- BMS Choral Concert on Thursday, January 28.
- Rhinebeck/Red Hook Science Fair at Bard College on February 20.

Rhinebeck High School

Dr. Davenport reported the following:

- In AP Biology the students performed a gel electrophoresis and bacterial transformation lab during the all-day field trip.
- The Board of Elections will be registering our students to vote in February
- Students in Ms. Green's Writers Workshop will be submitting work to the student-run, national literary magazine for high school students, Polyphony. Regardless of whether or not the pieces are selected for publication, the editors read over the work and send pieces back to students with specific comments. This is a great opportunity for students to have their work edited/commented on by esteemed individuals who are passionate about art and the written word.
- Three high school students have been accepted to participate in the DCMEA Junior High All County Festival on January 29-30
- Band students will visit Marist College to work with two of their directors, Arthur Himmelburger and Johan deMeij.
- Two Senior students will compete in a Juried Art Show presented by Columbia Greene Community College.
- High school students in Drawing class collaborated with Mrs. Yearwood's 2nd grade class in coloring polar artic animals using I pads

- Student Council will be sponsoring Spirit week and pep rally on February 5
- Mr. Moor's Model UN Club's International Food Day was well attended and the high school will be hosting a UN Conference in the Spring with 5-6 local schools attending.
- Tech crew attended the 4Wall New York event in New Jersey on January 30 for mini-classes on LEDs, moving lights, consoles, color theory and more. The classes are intended for students, parents and teachers who are interested in the stage/theatrical lighting field. The event is free.
- Drama Club recently had Rabbi Daniel Victor from Temple Beth El come and speak to the cast and crew about the issues that are raised in Fiddler on the Roof and about Jewish traditions in Russia in 1905. The play will be presented April 8, 9 & 10. Plans are in the making to present the play to grades 3-5.
- Gender Equality Club will be sponsoring a showing of Miss Representations.

4.4 2016-17 Budget Development Update*

Superintendent Phelan reported that the District continues to work with building administrators to look at budgets with a fine tooth comb. The Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents sent a sample BOE resolution for full restoration of the GEA and for an increase to Foundation Aid for school districts to consider adopting. The resolution makes the point quite strongly. The Board agreed that the time to speak is now and often.

4.5 Board Committee Reports (School Start Time, Audit, CDEP)*

School Start Time Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the School Start Time Committee discussed that the revised draft schedule (with parent, student, faculty, and administrative input) has many additional benefits including a more reasonable hour for BMS/RHS first lunch period and that the CTI schedule would be positively affected due to additional time for RHS classes. President Fleischhauer expressed concern for a 3-minute passing time between periods. A communication to parents, students, and staff will outline the current version of the revised draft schedule for additional input. The Committee is brainstorming possible measures to assess whether the change in school start time has been beneficial.

Audit Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the Audit Committee reviewed the internal payroll/personnel audit and found that overall the files were well-organized with some suggestions for streamlining and ease of use. The Committee discussed the possible need to refill the position of personnel clerk as well as the security of banking and sensitive personal information.

The Committee reviewed the checklist provided by Mr. Jensen, who essentially performed the Information Technology Audit based on the Comptroller's IT Governance documents. Mr. Jensen and Mr. Burnell will review the areas of concern and report to the Committee in March.

CDEP Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the CDEP Committee reaffirmed the goal to have a final CDEP document ready by the end of the school year. The Committee discussed and voted unanimously to support the draft Mission, Vision, Core Values (M-V-CV) document that will drive the CDEP process.

The professional faculty will meet on the February 12 Superintendent Conference Day to work on CDEP planning facilitated by Dr. Lloyd Jaeger.

4.6 New York State School Boards Association Board Achievement Award

(Deirdre Burns), Board Excellence Award (Deirdre d’Albertis, Mark Fleischhauer, Diane Lyons), and Board Mastery Award (Laura Schulkind).

Superintendent Phelan presented various members of the Board with awards from the New York State School Boards Association for their dedication to professional development as school board members.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Ms. Rosenthal reported that the Technology Club is involved in interesting work on behalf of the community by refurbishing computer equipment to provide to underprivileged children as well as participating in an open technology session for the community. The Board wished to thank the club for what they are doing for the community. Mrs. Lyons reported that the HS chorus concert was amazing.

5.2 Old Business

None

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

The Board discussed why Rhinebeck has, for the first time, appeared in “moderate stress” in a fiscal stress report. Mr. Burnell explained that the report was based on the low fund balance due to unanticipated expenditures (i.e. Special Education).

6.0 Action Item

6.1 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, 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 approve the Treasurers’ Report (General Fund, December 2015; Extra Classroom Fund, December 2015).*

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

6.2 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the CDEP Mission/Vision/ Core Values statement to inform the ongoing work of the District’s CDEP Committee in developing a strategic plan to be presented to the Board of Education later this year for approval.*

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

6.3 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve additional Spring coaches for the 2015-16 school year:

Crew:	Girls’ Varsity	Ralph Bosco	\$4,487
	Boys’ Varsity	Doug Mulqueen	\$4,487
	Girls’/Boys’ Novice	Ken Anderson	\$3,105
Lacrosse	Varsity (defense/goal)	TBA	\$3,548
Track:	Varsity (sprinting/jumping)	TBA	\$3,992
Softball:	Junior Varsity	TBA	\$2,809

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

6.4 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve as a final reading the adoption 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: 6 AYE (d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Burns)
MOTION CARRIED

6.5 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the three year probationary appointment of Isobel Usawicz to the position of Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, assigned to the Bulkeley Middle School/ Rhinebeck High School, effective February 1, 2016, in the tenure area of Home Economics-General, at a salary of Step 8 MA+3 (\$72,073, prorated), in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2015-16.*

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

6.6 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the list of additional

emergency conditional substitute non-instructional staff for the 2015-16 school year.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.7 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve additional Mentors beginning during the 2015-16 school year.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.8 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of additional Enrichment Program advisors for Chancellor Livingston Elementary School for the 2015-16 school year. (See attached.)*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.9 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of a grade level chair, effective January 4, 2016, for the duration of a maternity/child care leave (See attached.)

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.10 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the selection of Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut, Random House (1999) as a textbook for English 11.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.11 +Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the Independent Auditor's report for the 2014-15 school year.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.12 +Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to adopt the GEA Foundation Aid Resolution reviewed this evening.

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

6.13 +**Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to establish a special meeting on February 16, 2016 for the purpose of a presentation of the School Start Time proposal of the School Start Time ad hoc committee to the public at 7:30 pm.

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

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

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

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, the Board voted to adjourn at 9:35 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore