

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**DEIRDRE BURNS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
DIANE LYONS (arrived 7:35 pm)
LISA ROSENTHAL
LAURA SCHULKIND
RICHARD WALKER**

MEMBER ABSENT:

DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting.

VOTE: 5 AYE (Burns, Fleischhauer, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker);

0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (d'Albertis, Lyons)

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Lyons arrived.

3.0 Public Comment

None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Principals Reports

Chancellor Livingston Elementary

Mr. King reported:

- Spirit Days are coming up: Team Day, Mismatch Day, Read a Shirt Day, and Grade Level Color Day.
- Impact Education worked with Grades 1 and 3 to learn about the Web of Life; students became links in the Hudson River food chain using props. Impact Education will be working with Grade 4 on March 15 regarding the Water Cycle.
- Northern Dutchess Paramedics worked with Grade 5 on CPR/AED training
- Kevin Yarnell attended the NYSAHPERD (New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance) Conference and brought back countless activities to add to the ever expanding CLS PE Department. He was a presenter at the conference and received a standing ovation from over 100 PE Professionals in attendance. As a result, he was approached by the Chair of the SUNY Cortland PE Dept. to present at their mini-conference in January.

- CLS Grade 5 Chorus was invited to the Annual Winter Songfest Concert at Bard College on Sunday, December 13th.
- Community Outreach:
 - *Turkey Trot Food Drive*: PE Dept. collected 620 food items for local food pantry, filled food baskets for 4 CLS Families and 36 Community Families
 - *Hands Helping Hands Initiative*: Currently collecting new mittens, gloves, heavy socks, and knit hats for the Astor Home for Children
 - *Holiday Donation Drive sponsored by Morgan LoBrutto and the CLS Peer Mediators*: Currently collecting books, board games, arts and crafts, sporting goods, stuffed animals, and gift certificates for Astor Services for Children and Families
 - *Winter Coat Drive* (organized by HS student Liza Goldstone): Currently collecting warm coats and outer wear to be donated to local homeless shelters

Upcoming Events include early dismissal for students on December 1 and 3 for parent teacher conferences. Grade 4 and 5 Winter Concerts for parents will be held on December 15.

Bulkeley Middle School

Mr. Kemnitzer reported:

- 8th grade ELA students completed a unit about the universal experiences that refugees around the world face in fleeing their homes and seeking safe shelter. Students wrote their own historical fiction and free verse poems which were on display in a gallery exhibit.
- Veterans Day Assembly was a great success, with 190 veterans honored and more than 50 guests. Mrs. Bonnie Schweppe, a district resident and parent, was the keynote speaker who shared her experiences as a member of one of the first graduating classes from West Point which included female cadets.
- Grade 7 classes worked with improvisational artist Denny Dillon, along with Pat Sexton, and Martha Tobias, on the topic of the Salem Witch Trials. Reenactments of the trials were attended by parents and Grade 5 students.
- Three students were recognized in the “Catching Kids Caring” program sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Kiwanis Club. The program is designed to improve school climate by recognizing students for demonstrations of positive character and leadership.
- BMS will recognize students by grade level on a quarterly basis through the high honor roll and honor roll, as well as for effort and improvement, and for skill and achievement shown in the each of the special area classes.
- BMS Anthropology Club made its final trip to Bard College to work with Dr. Lindner and his students on an archeological dig discovering and studying local Native American artifacts.

Service Learning Projects:

- Student Council: Held its annual food drive earlier this month in partnership with the RSF and the PTSO.

- Peer Leadership: Students participated in the Zara Aina technology drive for Madagascar.
- Art Club: 6th Annual Knit for the Needy campaign – Participation included 38 students and 10 adults. Blankets are being knitted and will be donated to the Vassar NICU on Christmas Eve.

Upcoming events include: Parent/Teacher conferences next week; BMS students will participate in a Hour of Code during Computer Science Week (Dec 7-11) through fun, hands-on tutorials; BMS Band Concert will be on December 10; students will work with Bard students and professors in the areas of Math, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Computer Science for the Day of Science on January 26; and the BMS Science Fair will be held on February 20 in collaboration with Red Hook Schools.

Rhinebeck High School

Dr. Davenport reported:

- English Dept. along with the Center for Civic Engagement and IWT from Bard College will be partnering to present a Writer's Day.
- Student work from the Olana field trip has been posted in the case outside of Room 107.
- Physical Education Department. is concluding their Project Adventure unit—in addition to learning safe climbing techniques, students develop skills in teamwork and in providing a supportive educational environment.
- The Writing Center is available four periods during the day with 260+ sign ins thus far.
- Chorus had a successful field trip to Broadway to see Kinky Boots. One of the ushers complimented our students on their comportment.
- Seven students from chorus and band participated in the Area All State festival at Dover High School.

Co-curricular activities updates:

- French Club had its inaugural meeting on November 3
- Technology Club had its inaugural meeting on November 12
- Model UN participated in Model UN Conference hosted by Bard College on November 14
- Auditions began for the Spring musical, Fiddler on the Roof
- Environmental Club raised \$650 for the elephants. The Environmental class weeded around and mulched the four “bird bushes” (produce berries and offer shelter) outside of room 125. The bird feeders have been filled and are being maintained.
- Science Club had its first fund raiser. They received about 70 orders for slime putty for Halloween and made about \$300.
- Art club is working on Sinterklaas panels
- First edition of the newspaper has been published
- Spanish Club fundraiser will be watching a video soccer FIFA tournament

Upcoming events include parent/teacher conferences on December 3-4. A new format for conferences will include the first day by appointment and the second day in an “office hours” format to allow more opportunities for parents to meet teachers. National Honor Society Induction will be held on December 2 and the RHS Band concert on December 9.

4.2 Board of Education Obligations Under New York Law Sec. 1125*

Superintendent Phelan reviewed with the Board of their obligations under the law to report any suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect in the educational setting. The Board briefly discussed this topic as part of the District health curriculum.

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

Policy Committee

Ms. Rosenthal reported that the Policy Committee had a full discussion around the Cafeteria Meal Charges Policy. Mr. Burnell will give the Committee an update in early 2016 for potential modifications. The Committee continues to discuss the proposed changes to the transportation policy series. The Committee discussed a workshop given at the NYSSBA Convention regarding the use of social media as it might impact schools. After a thorough discussion, the Committee asked Superintendent Phelan to confer with legal counsel regarding this matter.

Communication Committee

Ms. Burns reported that the Communication Committee spent a bulk of their meeting discussing input to the Common Core Task Force and asked Board members for input by November 30. Board members discussed one of the points in the draft Statement to the Common Core Task Force relating to the elimination of the tax levy cap. Board members suggested that the Statement be shared with community members, as well as Assemblymembers Cahill and Barrett, Senator Serino, the local press, the RSF, PTSO and district staff.

The Committee discussed various opportunities to advocate for our schools. Several Board members are meeting on December 8 with State Education Commissioner Elia. Board members discussed the importance of the larger community having a broader understanding of the financial impact of legislation upon the District. President Fleischhauer reiterated that it is critically important that parents write letters to the legislature in order to effect some change because it appears that they are tuning out school boards.

School Start Time

Mrs. Lyons reported that the Ad Hoc School Start Time Committee looked at the staff survey results and was pleased with the thoughtful responses. The Committee then turned to work on the public presentation for the December 8 meeting. The Committee continues to gather information and feedback, and reported that it has not made any decisions as to any recommendations to the full Board.

4.4 NYSSBA Professional Development Reports

None

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Ms. Rosenthal reported that the Rhinebeck Science Foundation's (RSF) Discovery Festival was a great success and relayed that the RSF Board wanted the District to know how crucial the participation of parents, teachers and students was to the success of the festival. Mrs. Schulkind reported that she attended the BMS Salem Witch Trials presentation and thought the program was incredible. Students really got into their characters.

5.2 Old Business

Ms. Rosenthal reported that during the RSF Board meeting, they discussed the upcoming District budget cycle and shared that the RSF stands ready to help the District consistent with the RSF Mission Statement. Superintendent Phelan reported that the APPR Hardship Waiver had been filed and approved. He expressed frustration with NYSED that the District continues to wait on key information necessary to close out APPR negotiations.

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

Superintendent Phelan canvassed Board members regarding attendance at the Advocacy Workshop hosted by DCSBA on Thursday, December 3, 2015. Superintendent Phelan reported that a seat on the Thompson Trust Park Committee continues to be available, and asked if a Board member might be interested. Superintendent Phelan reported that he and the other Dutchess superintendents had a productive meeting with Senator Serino regarding the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), the tax cap, and the decoupling of the Common Core State Standards from student assessments and teacher evaluations. The Senator relayed that the Legislature would be "getting rid of the GEA".

6.0 Action Items

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 Treasurer's Reports (General Fund – October 2015; Extra Classroom Fund, October 2015).*

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

MOTION CARRIED

6.2 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept a grant award from the Rhinebeck Science Foundation in support of the implementation of the Fun With

Energy grant, as submitted by Mr. William Morrissey in the amount of \$700, as stipulated.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.3 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to make a correction to the approval of the probationary appointment of Marissa Foti to a four (4) year probationary appointment to the position of English as a Second Language teacher, assigned to the Bulkeley Middle School, effective September 1, 2015, in the tenure area of English as a Second Language, at a salary of Step 1 MA+6 (\$58,383), in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2015-16.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.4 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Bill

Carney as Head Basketball Chaperone for the 2015-16 Winter sports season, at a stipend of \$460, in accordance with the RTA salary schedule for 2015-16.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.5 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve additional coaches/advisors for the 2015-16 school year, in accordance with the 2015-16 RTA salary schedule:

Boys Basketball: Varsity Assistant William Hoynes Volunteer*

**VOTE: 5 AYE (Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker);
0 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN (Burns); 1 ABSENT (d'Albertis)**

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.6 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the revised 2015-16 school tax bills totaling \$10,874.25 in reduction adjustments and to make appropriate refunds to the property owner, if required. (See attached.)*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.7 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve additional non-unit salaries (cafeteria) for 2015-16. (See attached.)*

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

6.8 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of an additional CSE/CPSE parent member. (See attached.)*

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

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:03 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person and a vendor.

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

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

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

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 10:27 pm.

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

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:28 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore