

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBER ABSENT:

MARK FLEISCHHAUER

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

Vice-President Burns called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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

3.0 Public Comment

None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Model UN Update

Students from the Model UN Club presented to the Board what a Model UN Club is, how it works, and how they research different countries in order to write positions papers. The Club has 35 members and is looking to grow. Students in the Club attended a Bard Model UN Conference in November and will be attending the Dalton Conference in NYC this coming Spring. The students are planning an International Foods Day event in January that will be open to students, parents, and staff.

4.2 Principals Reports

Chancellor Livingston Elementary

Mr. King reported:

- 2nd Annual CLS Holiday Get Together was a big success - 51 people attended
- 2nd Annual Pot-Luck Holiday Luncheon today – staff included recipes of their dishes – planted the seed to possibly put together a CLS Staff cookbook.
- CLS Grade 5 Chorus was invited to the Annual Winter Songfest Concert at Bard College.

- The Hands Helping Hands Initiative collected 147 items (new mittens, gloves, heavy socks, and knit hats) which were delivered to Astor Head Start
- Mrs. Fleischhauer and students from her class performed a production of *The Three Little Pigs* for their peers.
- After School Programs at CLS highlighted in the Dec 9-15th issue of *Northern Dutchess News*: Rhinebeck Electives (sponsored by our PTSO) and *With Flying Colors* Art Program were featured in the *School of the Week* section of the paper. In addition, they also paid tribute to Val Nikolatis for her themed artwork that beautifully graces the Greeters desk.
- For several years, CLS has participated in an initiative called *Book Angel* by the merchants of Montgomery Row. Through *Book Angel*, 28 students were chosen to receive a book according to their interests, age, and gender.

Upcoming Events:

- Spirit Day – January 14th *Support your favorite Team*
- Science Night Out – sponsored by RSF and partnering with Bard students

Bulkeley Middle School

Mr. Kemnitzer reported:

- Grade 8 ELA classes have begun the *Taking a Stand* project. Students will determine what it means to “take a stand” and impact the lives of others through research of people, groups, and events throughout American history.
- Grade 7 Social Studies classes have been investigating the precursors to the Revolutionary War by participating in station work run by high school students.
- Mr. Blass has created his own youtube channel titled “*8th Grade Math Homework Helper Series*,” which contains 116 videos that coincide with every homework assignment during the 8th grade year. Each video runs 5-6 minutes long, during which Mr. Blass systematically takes the viewer through a guided demonstration.
- Annual Knit-for-the-Needy campaign is just ending, with more than 50 students, faculty members, parents and grandparents making handmade blankets to be donated to the Vassar Hospital NICU on Christmas Eve.
- BMS participated in the *Book Angel* project with 18 students receiving books
- BMS was recognized at a celebrity fund raiser held in NYC for our participation in Zara Aina’s Tech Drive. Mr. Frischknecht attended the event and was pleased to report that the donated items are headed to Madagascar.

Upcoming Events:

- Peer Leadership Club will be presenting to each of the 1st grade classes regarding Madagascar traditions and culture on January 14.
- Day of Science at Bard College on January 26.
- BMS Chorus Concert on January 28.

Rhinebeck High School

Dr. Davenport reported:

- All fall teams were named as scholar athlete teams. This means all teams had at least a composite team average of 90.

- The revised parent teacher conference format was well received and the BLPT will continue with perhaps a few adjustments. The BLPT continues to review senior exit surveys.
- First draft of the Program of Studies is being completed with a review of some new course suggestions for potential inclusion.
- Environmental Science students completed a lab in which they measured the amounts of proteins in different foods in order to determine what would be the best to support/donate.
- Physics students are testing their engineering skills in designing protective packaging for eggs which they will get to propel against a wall to determine who has the best design.
- Deputy O'Brien (along with his partner "Libby") spoke to our forensics classes regarding the use of dogs in forensics work.
- Thanks to the RHS Concert Band, Jazz Band, Steel Drum Band, and Percussion Ensemble for their winter concert
- Men's and Women's Choruses performed for the Chamber of Commerce and gave five performances for residents of the Thompson House.
- Creative Writing Club sponsored our first Annual Poetry Out Loud competition.
- Nineteen students were inducted into the Alice C Daly chapter of the National Honor Society.
- RHS participated in the Claudio Cares Food Drive. There was an inter-class competition, and the freshman class donated the most with 300 items.
- The band is collecting Ipods and mp3 players to donate to residents of local nursing homes.
- HS Technology Club will be sponsoring a tech drive.
- French Club sponsored a day of peace.
- Diversity Club wrote holiday letters to children of Astor Home.
- Spanish Club is tutoring on Tuesdays
- Auditions have taken place for the school musical.

Upcoming Events:

- Financial Aid Night for juniors and seniors on January 5
- Winter Choral Concert on January 21

4.3 2016-17 Budget Development Update*

Mr. Burnell shared the roll-over budget for 2016-17 with the Board. Mr. Burnell reported that the allowable levy growth factor is projected to be approximately 0.12% pending a final figure within the next month. The district's rollover expenditure budget is at 2.36% and the additional tax levy is 1.09% with a gap of approximately \$460,000. Superintendent Phelan stated that these figures are very preliminary and more information is yet to come.

4.4 Board Committee Reports (Communication, Audit, School Start Time, Facilities, Policy, Finance, Personnel)*
Communication Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the Communication Committee discussed sourcing images from photographers who have for-profit businesses and possible restrictions.

The Food Service section of the website is under development. Mr. Jensen was pleased to report that the website seems to be in the cleanup phase and he continues to work on professional development videos for teachers on developing their websites. The Committee discussed communications with the Governor and elected officials relating to the full restoration of the GEA, increased Foundation Aid, and equitable funding for all schools in NYS. The Committee discussed the best way to engage and inform the community about these issues and how to encourage people to advocate. Under consideration is an online petition or a draft letter that people can modify for the state government.

Audit Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the Audit Committee was joined by Tim Thomas of Toski & Co. who reported that the District has a clean audit. Mr. Thomas will report before the full Board in January. Due to unforeseen special education costs in 2014-15, the fund balance is very low. Mr. Thomas recommended that the District develop a 5-year spending plan for budgeting purposes in order to better withstand unforeseen expenses. The State Comptroller's office has been auditing districts with a particular focus on Information Technology. Mr. Burnell suggested that this be the next priority for the 2015-16 internal audit, with a review of policies regarding computer security, disaster recovery, disposal of equipment, and employee security awareness. Mr. Burnell explained the history and current status of the over-billing of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). This is no fault of NY school districts, as the money goes directly into the fund from the state. Mr. Burnell suggested that the best way to "correct" this is for the TRS to lower the contribution rates for schools.

School Start Time

Mrs. Lyons reported that the School Start Time Committee met to debrief from the public presentation at the December 8 BOE meeting. The committee felt that three of the five options that would cost additional money are not viable options, given the financial climate this year. The Committee would like to further explore the shift option with the possibility of little or no change to the CLS schedule. The Committee asked for the Board to weigh in on the information thus far and to direct the Committee on next steps. The Board agreed to continue examining the best way the District can help the secondary students without impacting the elementary students, keeping in mind the number of students in before/after school care and working parents.

Facilities Committee

Mrs. Lyons reported that the Facilities Committee reviewed the priority list line by line from the draft Building Condition Survey with the Tetra Tech engineers. The current draft list has a rough estimate of approximately ten million dollars. However, Mr. Burnell will be working with fiscal advisors on a potential bond referendum to see how this might be acceptable to District taxpayers.

Policy Committee

Mrs. Lyons reported that the Policy Committee reviewed transportation policies to go before the Board for a first reading in January. The Credit Card Policy is to be reviewed by the Finance Committee. The policy on Use of Computers by Staff and Students has been reviewed by legal counsel and Mr. Jensen. The Committee discussed whether there is a need for a policy on how to handle suggestions or information that may raise concerns sent to the Board. The Board briefly discussed a course of action.

Finance Committee

Ms. d'Albertis reported that the Finance Committee discussed much of what has already been touched upon by Mr. Burnell during his report on the 2016-17 Budget Development update.

Personnel Committee

Ms. Rosenthal reported that the Personnel Committee discussed RAA negotiations, which will be further discussed in executive session. The Board briefly discussed a recent article in the Poughkeepsie Journal that appeared to reflect the District's usage of short-term substitute teachers having greatly increased over the previous year. The District provided both short and long term substitute data through a Freedom of Information Law request from the Poughkeepsie Journal. However, the newspaper failed to tease out the long term substitutes from the short term substitutes. In actuality, the District's usage of short-term substitutes declined from the prior year.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Ms. Rosenthal reported that the high school band concert was terrific, with many great music selections.

5.2 Old Business

None

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

Superintendent Phelan reported on the very successful 2015-16 football merger with Pine Plains, and that the district is pursuing a merger application with Pine Plains, which is required annually, for 2016-17.

The Board also thanked Tanya Davis for her service to the District and wished her well on her future endeavors.

6.0 Action Item

- 6.1 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, 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 Treasurer's Reports (General Fund – November 2015; Extra Classroom Fund, November 2015).*
 - 6.1.3 Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to declare the attached items as surplus for disposal.*
 - 6.1.4 +Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to accept the resignation of Tanya Davis from the position of Personnel Assistant, effective January 11, 2016.*
VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Fleischhauer)
MOTION CARRIED
- 6.2 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to appoint Kenneth Silvern as a .43 FTE Teaching Assistant, assigned to a 3 hour per diem position with a Rhinebeck student at Dutchess BOCES, at the pleasure of the Board of Education, at a salary of Step 1 BA+24 ($\$52,390 \times .5 = \$27,155 \times .43 = \$11,638$), pro-rated, effective January 4, 2016 in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2015-16.*
VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Fleischhauer)
MOTION CARRIED
- 6.3 +Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Debra Verde as a long-term substitute in the position of Elementary Teacher at the Chancellor Livingston Elementary School, at the pleasure of the Board, effective January 4, 2016 through June 23, 2016, at the salary of Step 9 Masters (\$73,837, prorated), in accordance with the 2015-16 RTA Salary Schedule. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence granted to Brenda Palmatier, Elementary Teacher at the Chancellor Livingston Elementary School.*
VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Fleischhauer)
MOTION CARRIED

6.4 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve Spring coaches for the 2015-16 school year:

Track:	Varsity (distance/hurdles)	Chris Sneed	\$3,992
	Varsity (sprinting/jumping)	TBA	\$3,992
	Varsity (throwing/pole vault)	Justin Randall	\$3,992
	Modified (distance/throwing)	Dave Aierstok	\$2,453
	Modified (sprinting/jumping)	Marc Burg	\$2,453
Tennis:	Varsity	David Jutton	\$2,915
Baseball:	Varsity	George Nikolatos	\$3,848
	Junior Varsity	Bill Carney	\$2,809
	Modified	Todd Martin	\$2,285
Softball:	Varsity	Scott Stiverson	\$3,848
	Junior Varsity	TBA	\$2,809
	Modified	Jennifer Raymo	\$2,342
Crew:	Girls' Varsity	TBA	\$4,487
	Boys' Varsity	TBA	\$4,487
Lacrosse	Varsity (offense)	Jan Bonanza	\$3,548
	Varsity (defense/goal)	TBA	\$3,548*

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

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

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:32 pm for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining negotiations with the RAA.

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

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, the Board appointed Joseph Phelan as Clerk Pro Tempore.

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

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 10:22 pm.

VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker);

0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Fleischhauer)

MOTION CARRIED

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:23 pm.

VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker);

0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Fleischhauer)

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore