

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 8, 2015
School Start Time Presentation
Regular Meeting

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, MEMBERS
OF THE PRESS**

SCHOOL START TIME PRESENTATION

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in the BMS Cafeteria. The School Start Time Ad Hoc Committee (Deirdre d'Albertis, Diane Lyons, and Laura Schulkind) has been researching and collecting feedback on the topic of school start time since the Fall of 2014. This is an informational session for the community as the Committee continues to gather input with a focus on the health and wellness of District students. Ms. d'Albertis explained that the medical and scientific communities have become increasingly aware of sleep deprivation among adolescents. In the last two years, major nationwide organizations as well as the Center for Disease Control have made official recommendations that schools align schedules to the biological sleep rhythms of adolescents.

The District set the following parameters for the Committee to keep in mind while researching the possibility of a change in school start time.

- Any recommendation must be cost neutral;
- All extra and co-curricular programs for all students should be maintained; and
- Any recommendation should be piloted for one year and effects should be assessed throughout the year

Ms. d'Albertis reviewed data on student participation in school clubs and sports and the discussions with various stakeholders.

Superintendent Phelan reported on the five different options contemplated by the School Start Time Ad Hoc Committee with the understanding that some of these options are not cost neutral.

- Single trip for all K-12 students
- "Flip flop" BMS/RHS and CLS
- "Flip flop and Shift" BMS/RHS and CLS
- Shift BMS/RHS 30 minutes and CLS 5-7 minutes
- Maintain current start and end times

Ms. d'Albertis then reviewed the parent, teacher, and student survey results.

President Fleischhauer opened the floor for public comment. Community members in attendance expressed their comments and concerns as follows:

- Consideration be made for parents and their responsibilities, especially working parents
- Burden of additional costs to district families for before and after school care
- Caution on the survey results from adolescent students because they would naturally want to come in later
- Shift of start time for students to get extra sleep and the slight impact on activities at no additional cost seems the best option
- Educate parents to enforce media curfews
- Many parents expressed appreciation to the Board for taking on this issue and doing such a comprehensive and thoughtful review of all options
- Board consider the circadian rhythm of adolescents, where the desire to go to bed switches to a later time and to wake later
- Do not let the pursuit of the perfect be the enemy of the good enough
- Suggestion as to why this is not a regional conversation addressed by BOCES in order to get all school districts in sync
- Concern for working parents; not everyone has the luxury of a flexible schedule
- Educate the community of parents on sleep deprivation and recommended sleep times
- Children are involved in many activities and not just at school
- Concern that if students know they don't have to go in until later they will just stay up later the night before

The Committee re-iterated that they are not leaning toward any particular recommendation as they continue to explore and gather feedback. Additionally, Superintendent Phelan stated that the District does not provide before or after school care for students at taxpayer expense. The District does host a program run by a local not-for-profit which parents make take advantage of at an additional cost. It is a possibility to continue that relationship with the current not-for-profit should the school start time change.

Superintendent Phelan stated that the presentation will be available on the District's website.

President Fleischhauer concluded the School Start Time Presentation at 8:08 pm

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

Following the School Start Time Presentation, President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order in the BMS Cafeteria at 8:20 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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

3.0 Public Comment

A parent asked about the process of looking into other possibilities for student transportation. She asked if it was a possibility to create a committee to look at transportation with a parent member and minutes posted on the website.

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Board Committee Reports (Finance, Facilities, School Start Time)*

Finance Committee

President Fleischhauer reported that the Finance Committee discussed getting a district credit card and reviewed a sample policy. The Committee discussed the preliminary 2016-17 budget. Mr. Burnell shared the latest projections that the tax levy cap could be as low as 0.31%. Although there is a projected savings in the TRS, the current budget gap is about \$500,000. If the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) is eliminated this year, as indicated by Senator Serino, this would result in an additional \$235,000 in aid, reducing the gap to \$250,000. The Committee discussed possible alternatives to cutting programs and services as well as possible cuts due to declining enrollment.

Facilities Committee

President Fleischhauer reported that the Facilities Committee discussed the draft Building Conditions Survey. Mr. Tieder reviewed the Survey with the architect and they are working on modifications to the report. Mr. Sheldon shared a list of high-priority items with the Committee in detail.

School Start Time

The Board briefly discussed the presentation given earlier in the evening. Board members expressed various concerns around transportation being rock solid for any possible school start time change and that a segment of the community is not being reached for feedback. The Board does not wish to cause hardship on families not represented in the meetings and surveys. The Board will be surveying parents again after the presentation to offer another opportunity for feedback.

4.2 NYSSBA Professional Development Reports

Ms. Burns shared with the Board a presentation by Ronald Ferguson, an economist from Harvard University, on the influence of teaching on student agency. Dr. Ferguson surveyed tens of thousands of teens and has concluded that there is way to measure a students' sense of agency to become voluntary life-long learners. The second presentation by Dr. Ferguson was on the hidden role of youth culture in classrooms. Ms. Burns encouraged board members to review the information in their packets and explore the links provided.

Superintendent Phelan reported on the Advocacy 101 presentation by the NYS School Boards Association. He reported the importance of the timing of advocacy with particular focus on the upcoming Governor's Budget and State of the State address in January and suggested that the Board consider composing a letter to the Governor and legislators lobbying for the full restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment, an increase of foundation aid, and equitable funding in context with the brutally low tax levy cap this year. Superintendent Phelan will arrange for Board members to meet with legislators after the Governor's address to discuss the funding and the decoupling of the APPR to student assessments. The Board briefly discussed the importance of parent groups advocating on behalf of the District.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Ms. Burns reported a great turn out at basketball games. Superintendent Phelan reported that he and Mr. Kreps attended the RSF Thank You Get Together for donors and stated that it was a pleasure to represent the District. Ms. d'Albertis reported that the new parent/teacher conference format in the high school was a great success. National Honor Society inducted 19 new students.

5.2 Old Business

None

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

Ms. Schulkind appreciated the Rigor Redefined article in the Board packet and suggested that the Curriculum and CDEP Committees take it up in discussion. Ms. Burns reported that new NYS Education Commissioner Elia met with school Board members throughout the region. The Commissioner spoke on many topics facing New York State schools and is making an effort to hear feedback from all stakeholders.

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 CSE and CPSE recommendations.*

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 a grant award from the Rhinebeck Science Foundation in support of the implementation of the STEM Fair grant, as submitted by Ms. Alison Vaccarino in the amount of \$1,765, as stipulated.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Board thanked the Rhinebeck Science Foundation for their continued support.

- 6.3 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the list of additional emergency conditional substitute teachers and non-instructional staff for 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 additional non-unit salaries (confidential) for 2015-16. (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

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:24 pm for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the Rhinebeck Administrators Association.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 9:52 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 9:53 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

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore