

MEMBERS PRESENT: **DEIRDRE BURNS**
DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
STEVE JENKINS (arrived at 7:34 pm)
DIANE LYONS (arrived at 8:00 pm)
LISA ROSENTHAL
LAURA SCHULKIND

OTHERS PRESENT: **JOSEPH PHELAN, THOMAS BURNELL,**
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, MEMBER OF THE
PRESSS

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order in the RHS/BMS Library 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 March 7, 2017 Regular Meeting*

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

3.0 Public Comment

Kathy Giles shared with the Board what the Art Department is doing and the skills that are taught to students. She noted that as we move into a more visual society, it is time to move from STEM to STEAM. A student has expressed an interest in starting a design club, combining technology and art. She added that many new courses have been added to the art curriculum over the years.

Katelin Grande shared the efforts being made in the ELA Department, such as developing an integrated approach to teaching grammar, developing new courses based on polls by students such as reading and film, and public speaking. The Department is committed to expanding offerings and is working with Dutchess Community College on a course that will carry into college.

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 2017-18 Budget Development Update*

Superintendent Phelan reported that the District has been working on developing the 2017-18 budget since mid-December. This is the fifth year of the tax levy cap which constrains the Board to develop a budget that results in a tax levy that does not exceed a fairly low threshold. The tax levy regulation was implemented by the Governor as a strategy to suppress the increase of property taxes in NYS. Last year, the tax levy cap for Rhinebeck was a little over 1%; this year it is a little over 2%.

At this time, the District is currently \$571,000 short of being at or below the tax levy cap. A number of factors have resulted in the gap at this point: the increase of health insurance cost for employees, a significant uptick over the last several years in special education costs; and the low increase of state aid the school district is slated to receive under Governor's proposal (+\$18,000). The State budget is due to be finalized by April 1, which could bring additional funding, but likely not the amount needed to close the gap completely. The last thing the District wants to do is cut programs, but the District needs to economize wherever it can; the tax levy cap is really hurting the District. At the April 18 Board meeting, the Board is scheduled to adopt a budget and go to the community with a budget vote on May 16.

Superintendent Phelan invited the community to attend a budget workshop this Saturday, March 25.

Deirdre Burns stated that should the District put up a budget that exceeds the tax cap, it will need to be approved by a super-majority (60%) of the voters. Superintendent Phelan noted that past budgets have passed with healthy 70+% passing rate when the budget stayed within the tax cap. Should the District put up a budget that exceeds the tax cap, we may not get the same results. Should the budget not pass, the District has an opportunity to put up a second budget. If that budget doesn't pass, then the District would be required to operate under a contingency budget, a 0% increase to the tax levy, which would mean over a \$1 million gap. Historically, in NYS, when districts' seek a super-majority vote, the passing rate is very low.

The Board has found it especially difficult to bridge the gap over most recent years balancing the wish to not negatively affect programs but still come in below the tax cap so as not to burden tax payers unnecessarily. In the past, the District has used fund balance and savings from retirements, but that is not sustainable. The NYS Comptroller's office has deemed the District to be in moderate fiscal stress because the fund balance is so low. It may be that this is the year that the District has to choose between the programs and staffing or staying below the tax cap. Board members asked viewers and community members for suggestions and ideas to help find the way through this dilemma. Several Board members encouraged voters to write/contact the governor and their legislators. We are told that the tax cap is very popular in New York State.

4.2 Principal Reports **Chancellor Elementary School**

Brett King reported:

- STEM Enrichment Program
- CLS Press – March issue includes a recipe for berry pie, an interview with Kari Mahoney and Melissa Lehane about the Scholastic Book Fair, and a reminder

about the CLS Press box which allows students to submit articles/ideas for the paper.

- Book Fair and Ice Cream Social – Brett thanked the PTSO and reported great attendance
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Initiative) – making progress toward the PBIS initiative. New “Brag Tag” called CLS H.E.R.O (Honesty, Encouraging, Responsible, Outstanding role model) for students getting caught performing acts of kindness.
- Crabgrass Puppet Show – Jack and the Beanstalk for Grades K-2 (thanks to Encore Performing Arts for the show, and Sandy Kane and Arts in Ed grant committee for securing funding)
- Hyde Park PE Visit – meeting cancelled due to weather but hoping to reschedule the collaboration between the CLS PE Dept and their counterparts in PE.
- Get Moving NY Video Grant Contest – CLS PE is hoping to win PE equipment and reminded people to get online and vote
- In Memory of Theo Alves – CLS staff raised over \$400 to donate to the Pediatric Cancer Child Life Program at the Bernard and Millie Duker Children’s Hospital at Albany Medical Center

Bulkeley Middle School:

John Kemnitzer reported:

- Taking a Stand project - Curtis Schmidt, a reporter for the ND News, ran a feature article on the project and is also the chairperson of the Millbrook Literary Festival. Mr. Schmidt has invited Mrs. Kaake and a group of her students to display their work at the Millbrook Library for two weeks in mid-May prior to presenting the project and their work as part of a panel discussion during this year’s Literary Festival and to submit their artist’s statements to be published as part of the Young Writers Showcase.
- Rhinebeck-Red Hook Science Fair held at Bard College – Grade 8 students presented their research projects to a panel of judges to compete for prizes and a bid to the County Science Fair. Esther Murray was selected as the winner and will be presenting her project at Dutchess Community College.
- Art, Creative Writing, and Anthropology clubs – Grade 7 students have been working through the process of creating historical comic book pages.
- Peer Leadership club worked with 4th grade classes teaching them about the takeover of New Netherlands by English forces in 1664 as part of their Dutch History Unit.
- 8th Annual Top Chef Competition on April 3 - This activity encourages healthy choices, balanced nutrition, serving size awareness, and label reading; to bridge students with members of the local culinary community and; to develop a sense of team work, bonding and community amongst students with a similar interest.

- Grade 7 ELA is starting “The Outsiders” unit where students examine common themes of bullying and social isolation through student facilitated discussion in literature circles.

Rhinebeck High School:

Ed Davenport reported:

- Social Studies department – faculty attending Social Studies Association conference to stay abreast of best practices in pedagogy and proposed changes in the social studies curriculum. Students in our Business Law class have been invited by Judge Forman of Dutchess County Supreme Court to attend his criminal court calendar
- The AP Biology class had their second all-day field trip focusing on thermos-regulation, enzyme activity and human physiology.
- Science department - participating in the Science Lab Initiative sponsored by Assemblyman Cahill and the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz
- Math department - several faculty members spent a day shadowing peers at Lake Placid high school who have successfully flipped their classrooms.
- HS Band & Percussion Ensemble will be going to Marist College for a workshop with their band. A one day Masterclass for Rhinebeck students.
- Band students to attend the Broadway performance of “On Your Feet”
- BLPT working on a proposed day of service for ninth graders
- The Science Club provided science demos/and hand-on activities to the Grade 3 students
- The Model UN will be travelling to the Dalton school Model UN conference
- The Gender Equality club will be conducting a fundraiser in support of the Grace Smith House
- The National Honor Society is selling tickets for the Senior Citizen prom

Lisa Rosenthal stepped out at 9:00 pm

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

Curriculum Committee

Deirdre d'Albertis reported that the Curriculum Committee is studying the kindergarten entrance age and will continue to assess the possible impact of changing the cut-off date.

Lisa Rosenthal returned at 9:02 pm

Brett King reported to the Committee the highly successful implementation of the K-5 health curricula by the Center for Prevention of Child Abuse in Dutchess County. The Committee discussed with Mr. Kreps the impact of keeping the budget line for curriculum/professional development steady for 2017-2018. Mr. Kreps anticipates that a lot of work can still get done with that level of funding,

although, he is uncertain of the landscape relating to curriculum development due to the moratorium on Math and ELA at the State Education Dept.

Policy Committee

Diane Lyons reported that the Policy Committee discussed various policies with most requiring no changes and others requiring minor changes. Policy #4526 - Computers and Technology Resources Staff Acceptable Use Policy is being reworded by Lisa Rosenthal in order to be condensed.

Communications Committee

Deidre Burns reported that the Communications Committee met with Claudia Cooley, Executive Director of the Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce, to discuss strengthening school/business community ties. Steve Jensen reported that the District's mobile site is complete. Additionally, he reported that the District is performing their due diligence to be ADA compliant. Superintendent Phelan reported that several community members wanted to share ideas on how the District communicates their strengths – not just STEM but also STEAM. The Committee discussed developing a RCSD brochure and will brainstorm ideas at the next meeting.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

The Board was appreciative of teachers attending the Board meeting and reporting on the wonderful work that happens at school. The Board wished to thank Sheldon Tieder and his staff on the great cleanup of the school grounds after the recent blizzard.

5.2 Old Business

The Board wished to update the website with the current budget materials and send out an e-blast with budget information.

5.3 Public Comment

Lisa Hackett, PE Teacher at Rhinebeck High School, explained the importance of physical education for students. She also expressed that CLS does not currently meet the mandate in physical education regulations. She suggested that a teacher from the high school can meet that need in order to not lose staff.

5.4 Other

Lisa Rosenthal reported that May 16th will be the last day of her term as a Board of Education trustee. Should the Board agree, she would like to participate in the superintendent electronic evaluation process to give some input. Additionally, she expressed her willingness to attend the May/June Facility Committee meetings in whatever capacity so there's continuity.

Several Board members asked for legal advice regarding the notification of the newly elected board member to start duties in May.

Deirdre Burns stated that she will not be running for her seat on the Board this May..

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Motion by d'Albertis, 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 approve the Treasurers' Report (General Fund, February 2017; Extra Classroom Fund, February 2017).*

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

6.2 Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the resolution directing the District Clerk to give notice of the Annual School District Public Hearing on the Budget, the Annual School District Election, and the Vote on the School Budget. (See attached.)*

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

6.3 Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to adopt the proposed Rhinebeck Central School District 2017-18 school calendar.*

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

6.4 ***WITHDRAWN*******

*Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the plan for proposed changes to the 2016-17 school calendar through the scheduling of remaining unused emergency closing days, if any.**

6.5 Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve a leave request from Jackie Dedrick, with such leave to be taken as unpaid leave from September 1, 2017 through the end of the 2017-18 school year, concluding on June 30, 2018.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.6** +**Motion** by d'Albertis, 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 2016-17 school year.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.6** **Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to appoint additional 2016-17 CLS Before-School Enrichment Program instructors. (See attached.)*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.8** **Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to award the Geotechnical Survey and Engineering RFP to Dente Engineering, P.C. in the amount of \$10,730.00.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.9** +**Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the emergency conditional appointments of additional Spring coaches/advisors for the 2016-17 school year:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Lacrosse: JV | Justin Albertson | \$2,837 |
| Baseball: Modified | Dan Edwards | \$2,308* |

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

MOTION CARRIED

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:32 pm for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 10:05 pm.

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

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:06 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Torres
District Clerk

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore